

## ALLIES FOIST NEW PUPPET ON GREECE

### 'Welcome Home' Mass Meetings Planned For 12

The Civil Rights Defense Committee this week announced plans for mass meetings in New York, Chicago and Minneapolis to welcome home the 12 remaining Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners following the termination of their 16 month sentences (with time off for good behavior) at the end of this month. Six of the 18 originally imprisoned were released last October.

Preparations are already under way for the greatest CRDC mass meetings ever held in order to honor the person the courageous and Minneapolis CIO leaders who were under the "Gag" Act because of their militant defense of the rights of the workers.

The 12 to be released during the last week of January are James P. Cannon, Grace Carlson, Jake Cooper, Oscar Coover, Farrel Dobbs, Vincent R. Dunne, Max Goldman, Albert Goldman, Emil Hansen, Charles L. Jones, Felix Morrow, and the 11 men at the Stone Penitentiary, Grace Carlson, Max Goldman, James P. Cannon, Vincent R. Dunne, Henry Fruchter, National Educational Director of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, and George Novack, National Secretary of the CRDC.

Albert Goldman will be the main speaker at the Chicago mass meeting, to be held on January 24. The Minneapolis mass meeting, scheduled for January 27, will greet Grace Carlson, Vincent Dunne, Max Goldman, Charles Hudson, Emil Hansen, Carl Skoglund, Oscar Coover and Jake Cooper.

Fuller details on these meetings will be given in the next issue of The Militant.

In addition to the released ones, a number of outstanding labor and civil liberties leaders will speak, including Osmund K. Fraenkel, noted counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, Henry Fruchter, National Educational Director of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, and George Novack, National Secretary of the CRDC.

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### UNION-BUSTING CHARGED AGAINST NAVY OFFICERS

The anti-labor attitude of the brass hats is exemplified in a recently issued NLRB report which details the union-busting activities of U. S. Navy officers at the naval ordnance plant in Milledgeville, Ga. The plant is Navy-owned, but operated under lease by the Reynolds aluminum company.

According to an NLRB examiner's investigation and findings, Capt. Russell G. Sturges, Naval commander at the plant, and his assistant, Lt. Comdr. Banks, collaborated with the company in attempting to prevent the CIO United Steel Workers from unionizing the plant and tried to force the workers into a company union.

The USV-CIO sent two organizers into Milledgeville last May at the request of the workers. Immediately, the business men and city officials opened an anti-union campaign. A licensing ordinance was hastily passed which required union organizers to pay a \$500 fee and establish a 12 month residence before securing a license. Then one of the CIO organizers was promptly arrested.

The next day the plant's workers were called together and addressed by Lt. Comdr. Banks and the general manager Harry G. Smith. Banks, stating that he spoke for the commanding officer, declared that the Navy was interested only in production and that any union activity was a hindrance. He then told the workers that they were guilty of desertion and that they were being punished for it.

### Blessings of Allied Liberation



### Roosevelt's "Seizure" Order Halts Spreading Ward Strikes

By Art Preis

President Roosevelt last Thursday intervened to halt the Montgomery Ward strikes by ordering a "seizure" of company properties in seven cities where the administration previously had failed to enforce long-standing WLB directives against Open Shopper No. 1, Sewell L. Avery.

The administration's action, similar to the one which broke the Chicago Ward strike eight months ago, was taken after nearly three weeks of the bitter Detroit walkout, which spread to Chicago and Kansas City and inspired the threat of a CIO "labor holiday" in the Detroit citadel of the mighty auto workers union.

Roosevelt's statement made it clear that his "seizure" was dictated by his desire to prevent the spread of such strikes to the war industries and by the need to bolster up his wage-freezing War Labor Board's authority, seriously undermined by Avery's long and contemptuous defiance of WLB directives.

While admitting that Montgomery Ward "has waged a bitter fight against the bona fide unions of its employees throughout the war," and "for more than a year" has successfully defied "WLB directives affecting the 'seized' establishments, Roosevelt did not motivate his "seizure" order on

the fact of Avery's non-compliance in itself. In fact, the administration has tolerated this for over four years.

Roosevelt complains only because Avery's anti-labor recalcitrance has "threatened" the "confidence" of the workers in the government's "structure for the

impartial adjudication of disputes" and has led to the "distinct threat" of sympathetic walkouts of war industry workers in support of the Ward strikers. Roosevelt released a letter from WLB Chairman Davis, who gave as his first and main reason for advising government seizure the fact that Avery's "persistent non-compliance" threatens the maintenance of the "no-strike pledge in Detroit" in the forthcoming UAW-CIO referendum.

EASY ON AVERY  
It is already apparent that the latest Ward "seizure" will yield the Ward workers only the barest minimum of the WLB concessions originally granted. They will receive a raise from 39 cents an hour to 46 cents—which Avery himself had already agreed to pay as a result of the strike. But since Roosevelt's order permits wage payments only out of current revenue there is admittedly little likelihood that the Detroit Ward workers will receive some \$500,000 due them in retroactive wages. Nor is there any assurance that Roosevelt, as he did after breaking the Chicago Ward strike, will not restore control of the seized properties to Avery without the signing of a union contract.

The administration is carrying out the "seizure" order very gingerly, observing all legal precautions and making no move which might infringe on Avery's "property rights" or further antagonize the big business open-shoppers. The boldness and ruthlessness which has characterized Roosevelt's assaults on striking workers is completely lacking in his treatment of the union-busting plutocrat Avery.

There has been no spectacular removal of Avery from his Chicago offices, such as occurred

### Tresca Meeting

More than 100 prominent individuals are sponsoring a Carlo Tresca memorial meeting at Webster Hall, 119 East 11th Street, New York City, Thursday January 11. A striking bronze head of Tresca, murdered anti-fascist fighter, will be offered as a gift to the town of Sulmona, Tresca's birthplace in Italy, by his widow, Mrs. Margaret De Silver Tresca. The same day Sulmona will hold a civic ceremony to rename one of the town's principal streets in Tresca's honor.

Memorial meetings will also be held January 11 in London, Mexico City, Havana and American cities from Boston to San Francisco where Tresca is remembered for his revolutionary activities and leadership in great strikes of past decades. All Militant readers are urged to attend the meetings to pay homage to this lion-hearted fighter for labor's rights.

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### George II Appoints Bishop Damaskinos As His Regent

Churchill Orders Troops to Continue Firing On Greek Workers in Month-Old Civil War

By Joseph Hansen

Recognizing their complete inability to thrust the counter-revolutionary Glucksburg dynasty down the throats of the Greek people, British imperialism is now attempting to delude the masses into accepting a regency. After calling twice at 10 Downing Street in response to Churchill's orders, the Greek puppet king, George II, on December 30 proclaimed Archbishop Damaskinos as his regent. The British hope with this new puppet, gowned in the black

robes of the Church rather than the ermine of monarchy, to establish a stable pivot for a government that will maintain Britain's domination and imperialist interests in Greece.

The shift from king to regent changes nothing politically. Regency is a classic device of monarchy to save itself during times of stress. The regent takes over the functions of government until the mass struggle subsides or is smothered. Thereupon the regent retires and the king again steps to the forefront, sometimes with the formality of a rigged plebiscite.

King George knows the pattern well. He had to flee for his life in 1923, yet managed to return in 1935 to set up the military dictatorship of Metaxas a year later. The British put forward a regency in Greece in 1932 when they crushed the first Greek republic that was born in the democratic revolution against the Turkish overlord. That regency was followed by a monarchy whose brutality was not less than that of Metaxas.

CHURCHILL'S TRIP  
Churchill flew to Greece, not to set up a regency—that was already decided upon—but to attempt to ease the pressure from British workers angered over the slaughter of their Greek brothers. Churchill's critics in the House of Commons demanded a high-ranking minister be sent to Greece. The airplane trip was calculated to demonstrate that the Prime Minister was leaving no stone unturned in his effort to end the embarrassing Greek

One of the central points of the SWP Program of Expansion is to build up The Militant as a great national weekly, carrying the message of Trotskyism to ever-wider circles of workers. We have the perspective of securing 50,000 regular readers through a series of subscription campaigns during 1945.

The first of these campaigns, to secure 10,000 new readers, will be launched on March 1, with the participation of every branch from coast to coast. The remarkable results achieved in our 1944 subscription campaign, when a total of 7,614 new readers were secured, has given the comrades invaluable experience for the new task ahead. Now, with a lower subscription price to facilitate the campaign, we are setting a higher goal, confident that we

(Continued on page 5)

### Cut-Back Lay-Offs Provoke Walkouts

By Roy Weston

DETROIT, Dec. 28—In the past three weeks, four major strikes have hit Detroit, the issue in each case being seniority, a policy which is increasing in importance as cut-backs mount. In the last few days of November, the Graham Paige, Dodge and Briggs Mack Ave. plants were closed by walkouts which lasted for a period of 2 to 5 days. Although it took different forms in each case—in the Dodge plant the case involved the transfer of workers and in the Briggs plant the demotion of foremen—the seniority question was at the bottom of each grievance.

The most recent and perhaps the one that illustrates the attitude of the bosses most clearly is the strike of the inspection workers at the Briggs Outer Drive plant on Tuesday, Dec. 12. The Briggs Union, Local 212, UAW-CIO has a contract with the company, which states that workers on one code (classification) can "bump" workers on lower codes, providing they have 30 days more seniority and are qualified to do the particular job. The worker in question had 10 years seniority while the one he wished to bump had only one year. The Company, although they made it plain they preferred the individ-

### War Surpluses Racket Exposed

While the Roosevelt administration accelerates its anti-labor drive with a fake clamor about munitions "shortages," the daily press has been virtually silent about the Senate's Mead Committee report exposing gigantic war profiteering and waste due to "spendthrift buying" by government war agencies.

This report, deliberately buried from public view, discloses that many war procurement agencies have fed unnecessary contracts worth billions to corporations, which have secured vast profits from products which have never been used. These have been declared "surplus," to be resold at a fraction of their worth.

The Committee's report finds "the military very loathe to declare surpluses" and assails the policy of "procuring for military use and then selling as surplus solely for the purpose of maintaining the level of capacity of production facilities." Procurement agencies have been ordering unnecessarily large quantities and "ignoring expenses."

Huge profits have been realized by prime contractors through big "mark-ups" on items secured from secondary companies, which contract through the large corporations rather than the government. The Sperry Corporation, the report revealed, charged the government \$14 to \$18 for rectifier tubes bought for approximately \$8. Automobile corporations manufacturing mobile equipment added up to 32 percent on the price of replacement parts from which they merely removed a sub-contractor's label and then repackaged. Labor, materials and warehouse space has gone to the pile up surpluses for which there has been no anticipated need, but which provided handsome profits.

Behind the attempt to submerge the findings of the Mead Committee is the scheme of the big business lobbyists and their congressional agents to further emasculate the renegotiations law, whereby the government has tried to recapture some of the monumental super-profits made on war contracts. The present law expires June 30. It is already riddled with jokers. But Wall Street plans to kill it completely or make it altogether ineffective.

Big Business fears that the findings of the Mead Committee on the profiteering and waste encouraged by the methods of the war procurement agencies may arouse public demand for a stronger renegotiations law.



# TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

## Stalinist Finks in the Ward Strikes

During the past three weeks through their press and union stooges, the Stalinists have been conducting their most virulent strikebreaking campaign to date. These rats have been busily trailing their slime across the magnificent strike struggle of the Montgomery Ward workers which has won staunch support in the ranks of the labor movement.

One of the most shameful acts of treachery perpetrated by the Stalinists was the stab in the back dealt the Detroit Ward Workers by the Stalinist officials of Local 65, CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees in New York. They belong to the very same international union which has been directing the strikes in Detroit, Kansas City and Chicago.

The Stalinist stooges in this local, headed by Local 65 President Arthur Osman, issued a public denunciation of the Ward strikers. In their statement opposing the struggle of the Ward workers for a union contract and increases beyond their 39 cents an hour wages, these finks slanderously linked the Ward workers with the "treasonous activities" of Sewell L. Avery, the open-shop plutocrat who for four years has been successfully defying scores of WLB and other government agencies' orders.

These deliberate strikebreaking moves of the Stalinist stooges have of course been applauded by the Daily Worker. But these finks have become so brazen that they even boast of the praise of the bosses for their activities. In the December 24 issue of the Local 65 paper, New Voices, right next to a double-banner, double-cross headline attacking the Ward strikers, was "proudly" displayed a letter declaring "we are in complete accord with the views set forth by Mr. Osman" against the Ward workers. This statement was signed by Sidney B. Felsenfeld, Executive Secretary of the Shoe Wholesalers Employers' Association!

While the Stalinists have joined with the open-shoppers against the Ward workers, almost every other section of the labor movement, including the bulk of the URWSE-CIO members throughout the country, are giving tacit or open support to the strike. The infamous conduct of the Stalinists has aroused so much indignation that over 30 leading locals of the URWSE-CIO have issued public statements condemning their strikebreaking in the Ward situation.

Anger against the Stalinists has been simmering ever since the Chicago Ward strike last May when Harry Bridges, head of the CIO Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union, ordered the members of his organization in the company's St. Paul branch to handle "hot goods" from the struck Chicago mail-order headquarters. At the start of the Ward strike in Detroit Bridges' attorney, Douglas Hall, appeared before WLB hearings in Washington to boast that "there is no strike at St. Paul" despite Avery's "non-compliance with every directive of the Board," including directives affecting the St. Paul members of the ILWU.

While Bridges and his henchmen were pursuing their servile policies of surrender to the open-shoppers, the Roosevelt administration was prodded by the militancy of the Detroit Ward strike

into issuing another WLB "last warning" compliance order to Avery. This order also included Ward's St. Paul establishment along with those in several other cities.

Thereupon the Daily Worker had the gall to bray in a headline on Dec. 16: "Bridges wins Order on Ward Without Strike." To be sure, Bridges didn't call any strike; he did his damndest to break the strike that was going on in Detroit. But that didn't prevent him and his pack of Stalinized scabs from trying to steal a little credit for themselves by cashing in on the very Detroit strike he assailed.

The officers of Local 327, URWSE, have filed formal charges against Harry Bridges' ILWU lieutenants accusing them of direct collusion with the Ward management in an attempt to sabotage an impending strike at the Baltimore Ward plant. These charges were filed with the national CIO last week. In a letter to Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey, Maurice J. Niessadt, assistant business manager of Local 327, urged the CIO to take action against the strikebreaking Stalinist union officials.

Niessadt declared that on December 20 a committee of workers from Ward's retail store in Baltimore solicited the aid of Local 327 in a strike planned for December 22. This committee also asked assistance in securing the backing of other CIO unions in the area.

The strike had to be postponed a day because of bad weather. On the originally scheduled day, an ILWU international representative, Jas. More, "with management assistance made a personal survey throughout the entire plant questioning the workers on their attitude toward a strike." Also, that same day, the company sent an individual letter to each employee with intimidating propaganda against the projected strike.

"This act of collusion on the part of the ILWU and management completely destroyed the morale and terrorized the people in the retail store where our people had been working," Niessadt stated. He also declared that the action of the ILWU officials who were carrying out Bridges' strikebreaking policy, constituted interference with the internal affairs of another CIO union.

A final note. Last week Washington correspondents, including members of the CIO American Newspaper Guild which backed the Ward strike, interviewed a committee of Stalinists and their front men from the Stalinist-dominated Wayne County (Detroit) CIO Council. This committee had hot-footed to Washington to beg the government to halt the strike.

The committee boasted of "emphasizing" unyielding devotion to the no-strike pledge. "Do you regard the Ward strike as a breach of that pledge?" a reporter asked. W. G. Grant, Ford UAW Local 600 president, replied, "Yes."

"Did you notice," a reporter shot back, "that the WLB made an exception when it did not order the Ward strikers back to work?" Grant was taken aback. "Are you sure?" Several reporters, who had covered the WLB hearings, replied, "Absolutely." Grant could only answer feebly, "I think I'd check to make doubly sure."

As the reporters were clearly intimating, the Stalinists display a new low in finkery when they attack a strike WHICH NOT EVEN THE CORPORATION-DOMINATED WLB DARED TO CONDEMN OPENLY!

# Youngstown Branch Leads SWP Campaign To Raise \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund

## \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund

A Fitting Welcome to Our 18 Class-War Prisoners

By Rose Karsner, Campaign Director

On New Year's Eve 1943, the prison gates closed on 18 of our comrades. That was a sad day for all of us. We answered this attempt of the government to behead our party by a concrete action—the fulfillment of the \$18,000 Fifteenth Anniversary Fund in double-quick time.

New Year's Eve 1944 was an occasion for jubilation in our ranks. It ushered in a new year of activity and reminded us that the remaining 12 of our imprisoned comrades would soon be with us again. The best welcome for them would be another concrete action—the fulfillment of our quotas in the \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund in double-quick time.

Sixteen days to go, and all our imprisoned comrades will be back with us. The Militant of January 18th will carry the last Scoreboard before they return. Let us show a high score in that issue. Let us express in this way our solidarity with them.

Rush in the funds! Wipe out all the zeros!

## FROM THE BRANCHES

Milwaukee, N. Burns: "I believe that most of our comrades had Xmas expenses, but they are planning to contribute their share toward the Expansion Fund from the pay following Xmas. At any rate, we plan to have more than our quota in by January 22d." That's good news!

Seattle, Kelly: "Our branch voted at its last meeting to raise its quota in the Fund campaign from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Although no returns have been made from Seattle, you may rest assured we will see to it that we go over the top before March 1st." And when Seattle talks, it means business.

New York: "You will be interested to know how our party inspires the new workers who join us. We took in a member two weeks ago. A week later he pledged \$100 to the Expansion Fund."

Chicago: "We are planning a showing of 'Thunder Over Mexico' and some films of Trotsky to supplement our collections on the Fund. We will surely complete our quota before March 1st with as high a percentage as possible before January 22d."

Buffalo, Boston and Detroit send in their collections weekly and all say they hope to fulfill their quotas by January 22d.

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE AND FRIENDS

Rockville, member-at-large sends in \$10 and says "I will send some more."

Dayton, member-at-large encloses a check to complete his quota and says "I expect to contribute further later. If none is ahead of me, I should like to have the Gray cartoon which appeared in the Militant entitled 'Live Factories—Dead Men: Dead Factories—Live Men'." Comrade Brown will get that drawing.

Friend, down South, in a letter dated December 22d says "One month from tonight will be a very happy time for all of us. Please give my greetings to all of those I know. The enclosed \$10 is for the \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund."

A check from San Diego arrived just as we were going to press and was therefore not recorded in this week's Scoreboard. That wipes out one more zero. We hope the other three will disappear in next week's scoring.



A reader in Detroit writes us about the enthusiastic reaction of the automobile workers to Theodore Kovalsky's column, DIARY OF A STEEL WORKER: "I think I ought to mention that the most popular feature in The Militant among the workers at Ford's here in Detroit is the Steelworker's Diary. Hardly a day passes that I do not receive favorable comments on it. The workers eat it up."

The following letter from a friend in Chicago expresses the spirit in which many of our readers are selling subscriptions to their friends: "I'd like to make a resolution and a special effort to obtain subscribers to The Militant... Please send me subscription blanks. I intend to get as many subscriptions as possible in my spare time."

A reader in Alhambra, Calif., sent this note with a trial sub for his friend: "Here is a two-bit subscription for The Militant from a 'Republican booster.' He liked the pictures against Roosevelt and took them to the oil company where he works and pinned them on the bulletin board to razz the FDR 'enthusiasts.' I got him interested in other items which he agrees with and now he wants a trial subscription to the paper."

Our agent in Flint reports on subscriptions obtained by a friend there: "Here are two six-month trial subs, the result of putting the cards out to friends lately. I expect several more soon. Please send ten more cards."

Our agent in Minneapolis also reports subscriptions sold by a friend there: "These twelve trial subscriptions were obtained by a friend of ours. He sold them to some of his friends in his union."

Youngstown is concentrating on the sale of trial subscriptions with excellent results. The latest report is as follows: "Until the campaign starts officially on March 1, Youngstown is having at least one mobilization a week because events are so timely that we get a good reception. As a result of our last mobilization (1 1/2 hours) I am sending 27 new 25c subs. Please send us 100 more sub cards."

San Francisco plans to concentrate on the sale of trial subscriptions for the time being. Our agents writes: "San Francisco is going to do some concentrated sub-getting both in Oakland and this city. I believe the new rates will be of great value in helping us get subs. Also, the six-month trial period will give the new reader ample opportunity to really get acquainted with our ideas. In some cases, persons visited after three months were still hesitant, but when kept on the list for a longer period, renewed promptly. In any case, I am sure that we shall go forward tremendously in securing new readers for the paper and we will be all ready to go on to the new campaign March 1."

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Reading	75.00	35.00	47
Toledo	300.00	118.00	39
New York Local	3,000.00	1,012.00	34
Buffalo	400.00	133.00	33
Detroit	1,250.00	404.50	32
Milwaukee	100.00	25.00	25
Cleveland	250.00	45.00	18
Chicago	2,000.00	300.00	15
Bayonne	300.00	42.80	14
Los Angeles	2,500.00	350.00	14
San Francisco	1,000.00	125.00	13
Philadelphia	200.00	11.00	6
Rochester	50.00	0	0
San Diego	150.00	0	0
Seattle	1,500.00	0	0
Twin Cities	1,000.00	0	0
Members-at-large, groups and friends:	300.00	165.00	55
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,487.80</b>	<b>30</b>

## Railway Bosses Swindle Workers From Puerto Rico

Puerto Rican workers, brought to the United States by promises of 63 cents an hour for an eight-hour day (magnificent in comparison to the miserable wages paid by American exploiters in Puerto Rico), are being fleeced of their wages and forced to live under intolerable conditions, according to their complaint lodged with the Puerto Rico Commerce and Industry Association in New York.

At least 3,000 workers are involved, according to the N. Y. Times report of December 28. They have been receiving only \$1.38 a day, the balance of the promised \$5.04 being deducted for food and clothing, medical care, transportation, withholding tax, and a 25 percent allotment for their dependents at home.

The workers testified that they were compelled to live in box cars, received poor food and inadequate care, and that they resented being "treated like coolies." Their request to be returned to their homes has been brushed aside by an executive of the Baltimore & Ohio road, who said that the deductions "were in accordance with the contract," but made no comment about working conditions.

## Twin Cities Hold Sunday Forums

The Twin City Sunday Forum will be resumed Sunday, January 7, at 10 South Fourth Street in Minneapolis when Chester Johnson will speak on "Labor Looks at 1945." China will be the subject of the January 14 forum at which Warren Creel will be the speaker. With the "news behind the headlines" as its slogan, the forum will continue to interpret national and international events from a Marxist point of view each Sunday during the winter and spring months.

## Pioneer Notes

A federal indictment was recently handed down against officials of Carl L. Norden, Inc., manufacturers of the Norden bombsight, charging them with withholding information that would have enabled a subcontractor, Remington Rand, to manufacture the essential bombsight. These monopolists were out to secure the maximum profit at all costs, yet the men who flew the planes using the Norden bombsight were sworn to give up their lives rather than permit it to fall into the hands of the enemy.

This is only one recent example of big business offenses. "War-time Crimes of Big Business" by George Breitman (5c) gives the facts and figures on many other important cases that have cost the lives of soldiers and sailors. There have been no heavy prison sentences for the major crimes committed by U. S. Steel, Anaconda Wire, Curtiss-Wright Corporation and many others that are recorded in this informative pamphlet.

Praise for the latest Pioneer pamphlet continues pouring in. Our St. Paul agent writes: "Please enter our order for 25 copies of the pamphlet, 'American Workers Need a Labor Party.' It's really a swell pamphlet—colorful and bright as can be by far the liveliest pamphlet we've put out. I know we'll be ordering more—this is just a start until after January 23rd—a big day for the Twin Cities."

San Diego is equally pleased: "Needless to say, we were all very enthusiastic over this pamphlet. As a matter of fact, it very nearly broke up the meeting."

## COMRADE HARRY KANTER

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29—The Los Angeles Branch of the Socialist Workers Party today held a memorial meeting in honor of Comrade Harry Kanter, who died of a heart attack on December 23.

Comrade Kanter had been a revolutionary fighter in the Trotskyist movement since 1936. He was born in England in 1895 of a working class family, and was apprenticed to the millinery trade. At the age of seventeen he went to Australia, where while working at his trade he played a leading role in organizing the milliners' union.

In 1921 Comrade Kanter came to the United States. Here he worked to organize his shopmates in the Los Angeles area, serving as picket captain, a member of the steering committee, and later on the executive board of his union. During the milliners' strike of 1936, Comrade Kanter, who had long considered himself a socialist, met members of the Trotskyist movement and quickly took his place in the organized ranks of fighters for world socialism.

For three years he served on the Los Angeles Section Committee of the party and worked in the new San Pedro Branch of the Socialist Workers Party. In all of his party activities, he displayed enthusiasm and devotion. His place in our ranks will be hard to fill.

At the memorial meeting held in his honor tonight, Comrade Myra Tanner, Section Organizer, paid the tribute of the Los Angeles membership to a sterling revolutionary fighter, pointing out that his life was richly spent in the service of the working class. Comrade Frank Cane speaking for the National Committee of the Party that by the death of Harry Kanter not only the Los Angeles Local but the Party as a whole suffered.

As a fitting practical tribute to Comrade Los Angeles branch recruited seven new workers to the Party in the week that Harry died, places in the struggle to which he had devoted so many of his years.

## Trotskyist Youth Group Formed In New York City

In its founding meeting, held at University Place, New York City, the group officially adopted a statement of purpose to be "an organization of young workers that the solution of their problems lies in a socialist society." Their aim was stated as revolutionary socialism as exemplified by Lenin and Trotsky, and embodied in the Workers Party, and the preparation of class struggle for emancipation.

Three basic rules of organization were adopted at the meeting. The first of these stated that any youth "who agrees to participate in the activities of the Youth Group and to abide by its decisions" is eligible for membership. Low dues were set, and the election procedure for the Executive Committee was established.

The Trotskyist Youth Group began one year ago as a small discussion group meeting in the homes of its first participants. These early meetings were attended for the most part by young people who were just turning to socialism as the solution of their problems. Disillusioned with the war, whose imperialist nature was becoming apparent to them with every day's events, and convinced that capitalism could offer no solution to the problems of war, fascism and unemployment, they began to study the principles of revolutionary socialism and to examine events from the Marxist point of view.

Isolated for many months by the reaction sweeping the schools, which reduced the political activity and class-consciousness of the students to practical non-existence, the group at first had a slow growth. But the increasing revulsion against the war and the realization of impending problems of unemployment which will face youth at the conclusion of the imperialist conflict, brought more youth to the ranks of the discussion group. A few months ago the group became too large for home discussions and meetings arranged at the New York City of Social Science. Today meetings consist of about 40 persons, most of them of high school age.

The group organized classes on Marxian economics and the History of the Russian Revolution. The most active members of the group, however, decided to intensify their efforts to acquaint other youth with the ideas of revolutionary socialism and Marxism by forming a membership organization. After thorough discussion, the founding of an organized Trotskyist Youth Group was decided upon.

Future plans of the organization are being mapped out. Regular Socialist Youth Forums will be maintained, further classes established, and work in the schools will be expanded and intensified. Its members are convinced that the group will grow and train leadership for the youth who will turn more and more to Trotskyism for the solution of their problems. They believe that it is only the first of a number of similar organizations which will be set up nationally, whenever the conditions are favorable. Together with those clubs and side by side with the Socialist Workers Party, the revolutionary youth will participate in the struggle for socialism.

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# ELAS Defeats British-Backed EDES Forces

By Wells Thurber

One of the unlamented casualties of the Greek civil war is the EDES (Greek National Democratic Army) which up to the outbreak of hostilities still represented itself as a major faction of the resistance movement, contending for leadership of the Greek masses. The EDES constituted the armed body of the Greek royalists. It was opposed by the armed workers and peasants grouped around the ELAS (Greek Liberation Army) which is a military extension of the Stalinist-dominated EAM (Greek Liberation Front).

A week after the British provoked the armed conflict, General Napoleon Zervas, leader of the EDES, reported that from 15,000 to 20,000 ELAS troops were invading his stronghold in Epirus. By December 22, ELAS had taken eight villages. A December 25 United Press dispatch reported EDES forces had been reduced from "12,000 to 4,000 or 6,000 men." The UP added, "Many EDES soldiers have deserted to the ELAS . . . and not all General Zervas' losses have been casualties."

Direct evidence that Churchill deliberately fostered and armed the EDES from the beginning is difficult to obtain since such operations are carried out secretly and the British military rigidly censors reports of observers. The full story of the British role in the conflict between EDES and other factions in Greece will probably not come to light until after the war. If the opinion of informed political writers, however, can be taken as an indication of the truth, only one conclusion is possible: — EDES was deliberately created by the British as an armed instrument designed to uphold the counter-revolutionary Glucksburg dynasty.

## CHURCHILL ARMED EDES

*Newsweek*, conservative capitalist weekly, reported January 31, 1944, from Cairo: "The United Nations missions are trying to reconcile the two Greek factions with some hope of success. Meanwhile, Zervas's forces are favored in the matters of supply." Churchill now implies the arms of ELAS were provided by the British. By remaining silent about British support of EDES, he thus gives a totally false impression.

The Nation, commenting in its May 13 issue on the revolt of the Greek armed forces in Egypt, declared: "Instead of supplying the EAM with arms to the same extent as before, the British government began to favor the much weaker National Democratic Army (EDES), thus laying the basis for real civil war in Greece. The EDES would never have dared to attack the EAM had it not been encouraged by unmistakable signs of the royalist and British policy." Later, as we shall see, Churchill accused the EAM and ELAS of being the attackers.

Gaetano Salvemini, noted Italian anti-fascist and professor of history at Harvard, wrote in the September 1 *British Tribune*: "If the British Tories have to go on playing in Europe their game of the balance of power, the natives in Europe must have no peace. A second India has become necessary in Europe. Puppet kings surrounded by gangsters in the uniforms of army chiefs have to do the job . . ."

"The pattern is everywhere the same: helping discredited and powerless 'legitimist' royalist groups to come to the fore, then with the help of Stalinist agents forcing republicans to come to terms with 'royalist legitimists' and at the right moment disarming guerrillas, leaving only 'royalist legitimists'

with arms and putting them into power." The events in Greece have confirmed the accuracy of Salvemini's observations.

## SULZBERGER REPORTS

The comments of Cyrus Sulzberger, passed by the Allied censorship in Rome December 16, are particularly interesting. Sulzberger, nephew of the publisher of the *N. Y. Times*, holds the post of "chief foreign correspondent" of that mouthpiece of the House of Morgan.

At first, declares Sulzberger, British generals backed the ELAS in order to create military difficulties for the German armies occupying Greece. But the "Foreign Office, worried about Britain's favored position in Greece consistently backed the EDES. . . . Open civil war flared out between them in September, 1943.

"After a series of conferences between various officials and Mr. Eden and Mr. Churchill, British policy began to veer increasingly towards the EDES inside Greece and continued to work with the Government outside. Efforts to achieve internal harmony in Greece crystallized at a conference in Lebanon last spring when, officially speaking, all Greek groups agreed to function together under Premier George Papandreou, who had just arrived from Greece.

"It was already evident, however, that, should this accord break up, Britain would wholeheartedly support Mr. Papandreou, the regular Greek Army and the EDES and would equally strongly oppose what it felt were the EAM's attempts to seize power in a dictatorial manner."

The paternal interest of British imperialism in the EDES was indirectly confirmed by Churchill himself in his speech before the House of Commons December 8. Churchill naturally did not report how he armed and fostered the EDES, but he did go so far in his speech as to make clear in characteristic style where British imperialist interests lie: "During the years of Greek captivity ELAS devoted more attention to beating up and destroying representatives of EDES, commanded by Colonel Zervas, a man of the left by our standards but less extreme than the EAM. . . . As to ELAS they did not hesitate on occasions to help the Germans catch and kill supporters of EDES."

The fact that thousands of former members of EDES have gone over to the ELAS indicates that for a time some Greek workers and peasants did not realize the counter-revolutionary role played by Zervas. When the civil war broke out, however, and Zervas lined up on the side of British troops who are shooting down the Greeks, his role became as clear as that of the "liberating" Sherman tanks. The disintegration of the Zervas forces proves that far from being a leader with a real popular following, in actuality Zervas is nothing but a military bandit on the payroll of British imperialism.

## SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.  
234 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2  
Phone: CUN 2528.  
EDITOR: E. Grant.  
BUSINESS MANAGER: J. Graham.

# HANDS OFF GREECE Down with Churchill!

## BRITISH TROOPS ARE IN ACTION AGAINST THE GREEK WORKERS AND PEASANTS!

The Greek reactionaries aided by General Scobie have fired on unarmed men, women and children. Spitfires are mowing down the Greek people! War is being waged against the Greek people by Churchill. Churchill and the ruling class revile and slaughter those who only yesterday bore the brunt of the struggle against the Nazi occupation of Greece.

British workers conscripted to "fight Fascism" are being used to replace the E.S. in murdering revolutionary workers. They hate the job. Every British worker hates it.

The Labour movement alone can stop it. BUT WHEN THE ISSUE CAME UP IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WHAT A BETRAYAL OF THE WORKERS BY THE LABOUR LEADERS! On a motion against the Government:

30 LABOUR M.P.'S WERE ABSENT.

23 LABOUR M.P.'S VOTED FOR CHURCHILL!

33 LABOUR M.P.'S ABSTAINED!

ONLY 24 LABOUR M.P.'S VOTED AGAINST CHURCHILL!

Workers! Force your leaders out of this cowardly position! Labour must mobilise the working class against the counter-revolutionary Government.

Having used the Partisans for its own ends, the British ruling class are demanding the disarmament of these forces. At the same time they have reinforced and lavished arms upon the Greek "Regular Army" composed of Fascist thugs and murderers. Under the Papandreou clique 85 per cent of the Greek army and navy were imprisoned in Cairo. The "Security Battalions" of Greeks, armed and equipped by Hitler to repress the Greek workers and peasants, are being retained by the reactionaries as a police force.

CHURCHILL'S POLICY IS: DISARM THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS; ARM THE FASCISTS AND REACTIONARIES.

The peoples of Europe want a Socialist Revolution. Churchill prepares in advance to drown the revolutions in blood. First Italy, then Belgium, now Greece. As a man who tried to drown the Russian Revolution in blood, who used the Black and Tans in Ireland, who moved down unarmed, hungry, Indians, who played a leading role in breaking the General Strike—Churchill is an apt choice for the British ruling class.

The Communist and Socialist leaders in E.A.M. have the undoubted support of the masses of the Greek people. These leaders agreed to capitulate to the British military authorities and accept disarmament. But so great was the resentment of the masses that they are compelled to demand at least, the disarmament of the Fascists as well.

Without the backing of British bayonets, there would have been little bloodshed and the Papandreou dictatorship would have collapsed. British imperialism has intervened with tanks, machine guns, and planes against the popular democratic will of the people.

THE MASK IS OFF

IMPERIALIST WAR

The war is revealed blatantly as a gangster struggle for domination of Europe and the world by British and American imperialism against German imperialism. Not democracy and freedom, but economic, political and military domination of subject peoples in the struggle for markets, raw materials, colonies, spheres of influence, land, sea and air bases. THESE ARE THE OBJECTIVES FOR WHICH CHURCHILL IS USING BRITISH TROOPS AGAINST GREEKS.

The Trotskyists have consistently exposed this war for what it is. It is becoming clear to every worker that this is a reactionary war. The Labour leaders told us that they entered the Government in order to "destroy fascism and dictatorship", in order to "liberate Europe". Why do they stop in this Government now? A Government stained with the blood of the Greek people. The stains are on their hands too.

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Reproduction of a leaflet issued by the Revolutionary Communist Party, British section of the Fourth International, calling upon the workers to oppose British intervention in Greece, to force the Labor Party to break its treacherous coalition with the Tory government of Churchill, and to show their solidarity with the insurgent Greek masses. "Only the direct intervention of the British working class can prevent Churchill and the capitalists from destroying the workers' movement in Greece," the Trotskyist leaflet concludes. "End the coalition! Withdraw the British troops from Greece! For the immediate despatch of arms and food to the Greek workers, under the control of the trade unions!"

# Allies Impose New Puppet On Greece; Order Continued Warfare On Workers

(Continued from page 1)

situation and to calm down the mounting domestic political crisis.

Churchill continues to pursue the same principled line of avowed reaction as before his flight to Greece. On December 27 during the negotiations for a regency with leaders of the ELAS (Greek Liberation Army) Churchill brazenly declared that British armed intervention would not stop until the differences between the Greek Government and the ELAS had been settled "either by free negotiation or by increasing the use of military force."

Scobie, military representative of the Allies, is continuing Churchill's line without deviating

the slightest from the position he held before the appointment of Damaskinos. On December 31 he reiterated his ultimatum that ELAS must withdraw from Attica, hand in its arms, and disband.

The new puppet, Damaskinos, who previously supported the Papandreou cabinet, is likewise continuing Churchill's counter-revolutionary policy. On Christmas he issued a manifesto calling on the Greek workers and peasants to "fling away your arms and tear up that funeral shroud of Greece that your bloody conflict is weaving." His first official declaration as regent January 1 was to "call upon those bearing arms to agree to lay them down at once."

General Plastiras, appointed Premier January 2, has denounced the ELAS since his arrival December 12 and called on them to lay down their arms.

Most decisive of all, of course, is the continued use of Allied arms against the Greek workers and peasants. For four weeks Scobie has been "methodically clearing" the Athens area, killing and wounding thousands, taking thousands prisoner. Tanks, artillery, bombs speak the language of British imperialism more imperiously than any of the proclamations of the royal and religious puppets.

## STALINIST ROLE

The Stalinist role in this regency maneuver is as treacherous as it has been from the beginning of the conflict. Stalin aims to gain control over the elemental upsurge of the masses to prevent the further development of their revolution and to utilize this control as a card in his secret deals with the imperialist bandits.

Since the civil war broke out, the Kremlin has not said a word against Churchill's use of force and violence. Moscow did not even withdraw recognition of the Glucksburg dynasty as the official government of Greece. Churchill, Eden and Bevin have all declared that British troops entered Greece with the approval

of Moscow. Churchill emphasized this fact again on December 26 during his Athens visit: "We British . . . came here with approval of President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin."

Inside Greece, the Stalinists have consistently blocked the movement of the masses toward socialism and supported the puppet governments set up by Churchill. Before the outbreak of the civil war—and even after—they welcomed British troops. They took posts in Papandreou's cabinet and resigned only when the shooting began.

The Stalinists were the first to call for the regency. On the day the British provoked civil war, the Stalinist newspaper *Ikaspistis* published an article by the Stalinist leader, Jean Zevgos, demanding the establishment of a regency. On December 15 PM published a dispatch from Greece declaring that "Some members of the ELAS were said to be trying to persuade all parties to accept an interim government headed by Damaskinos."

The Associated Press reported the same day that the leaders of EAM (Stalinist-dominated National Liberation Front) in a proposed truce sent to Scobie called for creation of a regency. The offer was withdrawn "temporarily" to meet British insistence that it be signed by heads of the ELAS.

At the conference called in Athens December 28 by Churchill, the three delegates appearing in the name of ELAS were George Siantos, acting secretary of the Communist Party, Emmanuel Mandakis, reported to be a member of the Communist Party, and Dimitri Partalides, a Communist Party member and secretary general of the EAM. First point in the proposal these delegates placed before the British as the basis for laying down the arms of the Greek workers and peasants was establishment of a regency. All present at the conference agreed unanimously on this point.

On December 31 the Stalinist Partalides declared that he

And what of the so-called "Communist" Party now? What of their rosy pictures of a "liberated" Europe? They have deceived the workers that Churchill was fighting a "just war for democracy." And even today, in face of these bloody events, the Communist Party tries to find "two Churchills"—the good old Churchill and the bad new Churchill! THERE IS BUT ONE CHURCHILL—THE CHURCHILL OF FINANCE CAPITAL—ARCH-ENEMY OF THE WORKING CLASS.

The Anglo-American imperialists are preparing a cunning and ruthless policy for Europe. Already all food shipments to Greece have been cancelled. They hope to starve the Greek people into surrender. That is the purpose of U.N.N.R.A., to blackmail and starve the European peoples into submission to capitalist governments. Those who accept, will receive meagre rations; those who resist will receive not bread but bullets! We must defeat the fiendish plans of the British bankers and capitalists.

The Trade Union and Labour movement, the Co-operatives must organise the sending of food to Greece and any other European country threatened by British imperialist blackmail with famine and starvation.

The British Labour movement must send food, not through the reactionary force U.N.N.R.A., but under the control of the Trade Unions without conditions.

SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST WORKERS! It is our lives and the fate of the workers of Europe and the world that is at stake. The battle that is being fought by the Greek masses is our battle! Your leaders say they want to fight for democracy—then demand that they come out against the anti-democratic Churchill Government!

END THE COALITION WITH THE TORIES.

The British workers must galvanise their organisations into action. They must force their leaders to break with the reactionary capitalist class. In all the localities, in the factories and Trade Union Branches, resolutions must be passed demanding action on the part of their leaders. Councils of Action must be organised throughout the country as they were in 1917 and 1920 in the "Hands Off Russia" campaign. ONLY THE DIRECT INTERVENTION OF THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS CAN PREVENT CHURCHILL AND THE CAPITALISTS FROM DESTROYING THE WORKERS' MOVEMENT IN GREECE.

END THE COALITION! WITHDRAW THE BRITISH TROOPS FROM GREECE!

EXTEND THE HAND OF SOLIDARITY TO THE GREEK WORKERS AND PEASANTS!

FOR THE IMMEDIATE DESPATCH OF ARMS AND FOOD TO THE GREEK WORKERS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE TRADE UNIONS!

# An Open Letter To R. J. Thomas

(Reprinted from Dec. 7 issue of "Voice of Local 212," organ of Briggs Local 212, UAW-CIO, Detroit).

Dear Brother Thomas:

On November 28, the Detroit Times quotes you as follows: "Anyone who strikes today while our sons and brothers are shedding their blood on the battle fronts is a 100 percent scab. He is scabbing on his union because any strike today hurts the union; and he is also scabbing on his country because any interruption to production, no matter how slight, causes delay to our ultimate victory in the war."

Coming close on the heels of your recent speech before a Kiwanis club, where you glorified free enterprise in a manner worthy of an official of the National Manufacturers Association, your unqualified condemnation of war workers as "scabs" makes many of us in the UAW wonder whose side you are on.

You say that "any interruption of production, no matter how slight, causes delay to our ultimate victory in the war." This means that if ten workers engage in a three-hour stoppage, (no matter how instigated by management), they would be guilty of the most vicious kind of scabbing, according to you. Are you aware that in the past two months the Briggs Manufacturing Company laid off no less than 5000 workers? Among those laid off, especially among the women, there are hundreds who are still out of work because they can't find jobs in industry. And if you think such sweeping layoffs have taken place only at Briggs, you should inquire at Packard, Fords, General Motors and other plants in this area. How about the tens of thousands of man-hours lost to war production because of these layoffs, Brother Thomas?

Why is it that you are so silent about this? Why is it that you go out of your way to lash at strikers, but make no demonstrative protest whatever over these mass layoffs? Why is it that you do not take management and government to task for the complete lack of any plans which would preclude wholesale layoffs?

## Grievances of the Auto Workers

Do you know what these layoffs entail, Brother Thomas? They hurt not only those directly affected, but also scores of others who are transferred, shifted to inferior jobs, demoted to lower-paying codes. Are you aware that in the hectic confusion attending these layoffs, supervision has not been above trying to discriminate against women and Negroes? Moreover, Brother Thomas, stewards with enough guts and militancy to protest against such discriminatory practices are at times picked off and fired. Such goadings on the part of supervision have been at the bottom of most wartime walk-outs. If by any chance you think this has been true only in Briggs, ask the workers in other auto plants, ranging in size all the way from Bower Roller Bearing Company to Ford and GM.

Maybe you don't know about these things, Brother Thomas. Maybe you are too busy hobnobbing with government brass hats and members of business men's clubs to keep in touch with what's taking place in the shops. It is only natural that when one spends most of his time in the company of government bureaucrats and industrial executives, one sooner or later begins to see things from their point of view.

Certainly industrial executives must have read your blast against strikers with great satisfaction and encouragement. If they were in the habit of putting the heat on workers, before, they will have every inducement to do so to an even greater extent now, especially since your statement clearly implies that workers who strike, REGARDLESS OF THE PROVOCATION ON THE PART OF THE COMPANY, will be regarded as scabs by their ranking International officials.

Workers don't relish being classed as scabs, Brother Thomas. In their language a scab is the most despicable specimen of humanity—a traitor to the working class. Workers do not violate union policy by walking off the job for the fun of it. They do so because the company takes advantage of our no-strike pledge to thumb its collective nose at our bargaining procedure, to speed-up production, discriminate against certain workers, stall endlessly on honest grievances, and fire our most militant stewards on the slightest pretext.

As long as the no-strike pledge lasts the companies will continue to do those things, because labor will be deprived of its only effective weapon. Your uncompromising support of the no-strike pledge can mean only one thing: You desire that labor shall continue to be deprived of its most potent weapon. Presumably your blast against strikers as "scabs" was timed to affect the results of the forthcoming referendum on the no-strike pledge.

If the auto workers are to continue being denied the right to strike, and if the highest officer of our nation continues to castigate workers for stoppages, while glossing over the company provocations which inspire the stoppages, then, Brother Thomas, we will actually be bound over to the tender mercies of our employers.

Surely this is not what you want. . . Or is it?

PERLEY P. McMANUS

# SWP Convention Articles Featured In December F.I.

The December issue of *Fourth International*, now on sale, features the Eleventh Convention of the American Trotskyists, held in New York November 16-20. An appraisal of this convention by the editors of the magazine surveys the progress made by the Socialist Workers Party since the imprisonment of its leaders one year ago.

"The convention was," the *Fourth International* declares, "... expressive of a double test the party has undergone: the testing of the party's temper under conditions of capitalist persecution; the testing of the party cadres, their ability to carry forward the work of the party in the absence of the imprisoned leadership and to supply the necessary ideological and organizational guidance to the vanguard movement for the Socialist liberation of mankind."

The resolution adopted by the convention by a vote of 51 to 5 on "The European Revolution and Tasks of the Revolutionary Party," is printed in full in this issue. With Marxist clarity and precision the resolution analyzes the counter-revolutionary roles of Anglo-American imperialism and of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the events now unfolding on the European continent, where the revolutionary aspirations of the masses are surging up in one war-torn nation after another.

Two important discussion articles on the political problems dealt with in the resolution are also published in the magazine. Single copies of *Fourth International* may be obtained for 20 cents, yearly subscription \$2, by writing to the Business Manager, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.



Young ELAS fighters in Piraeus, seaport of Athens, during the first weeks of the British attacks upon their forces, display the arms—small rifles and machine-guns—with which they heroically fought off British tanks, heavy artillery, and bombers.



# One Year After The 18 Entered Prison

By Paul Abbott

One year ago on December 31, 1943, 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and officers of the Minneapolis Truck-drivers Local 544-CIO, defendants in the famous Minneapolis Labor Trial, were put behind prison bars. Roosevelt imprisoned these labor leaders as part of his preparations for imperialist war.

The Administration's main objective in this prosecution was to eliminate the only serious political opposition to Wall Street's war by removing the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party from public activity. The agent of plutocracy in the White House sought to prevent the American people from hearing the Trotskyist program of socialism as the alternative to capitalist depressions and wars.

"The new situation is very clear to us," declared James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the SWP and one of the prisoners, in his farewell address on December 26, "and I think our understanding is accurate. As the United States began to gear all its machinery for entry into the new imperialist war, it became necessary again to fool the people. Here, as throughout the world, a tremendous, world-wide mechanism of deception, falsification and misrepresentation was turned loose on the people. . . Our party alone did not betray, did not sell out. We Trotskyists told the truth. That is the reason, and the only reason, we are on our way to prison."

Roosevelt hoped to terrorize the Trotskyist movement by his persecution of its leaders. He failed completely. "A movement that is built upon ideas is a power that is hard to destroy," declared Cannon. "Indeed, it cannot be destroyed. You remember the tragic time three years ago last August, when Trotsky fell victim to the assassin. Many people speculated, that now with the great genius-leader dead, the movement he had created would be scattered to the four winds and soon disappear. We knew it was not so, because the ideas Trotsky left behind were a mighty cement to keep the ranks together. The party didn't fall into disintegration. Far from it, the party continued to live and to grow. That will be the case now too. We go to prison confident that we are leaving behind us capable men and women who are qualified to take our places in the leadership of the party."

## TROTSKYISTS GAIN

The year's events have borne out Cannon's predictions. The Socialist Workers Party has grown stronger. It gained valuable recruits. Its press has leaped in circulation. The most successful contention in the history of the American Trotskyist movement held last November culminated the year's activity of the party and set new ambitious goals for 1945.

These gains were made against the most bitter efforts of the Roosevelt administration and its labor lieutenants to whip up hatred for the Trotskyists in the labor movement. The Stalinists also combined with Daniel J. Tobin, head of the AFL Teamsters International, in an unprecedented slander campaign against these working class leaders, railroaded to prison. Their attempt to smear the 18 as "fascist agents" reflected their alarm over the fact that the Minneapolis case had become the most celebrated civil

liberties struggle since Wilson's administration sent the Socialist leader Eugene V. Debs to Atlanta prison during the First World War.

Union after union passed resolutions protesting the imprisonment of the 18 and demanding their release. Labor journals gave the case wide publicity. 12,000 people signed a petition to the President, demanding the unconditional pardon of the prisoners. To date the Minneapolis Labor Case has received the support of more than 400 trade union, Negro and fraternal organizations representing more than four million workers.

The magnificent solidarity of labor in defense of the Minneapolis prisoners is one of the brightest spots in a year otherwise marked by retreat before the onslaught of the bosses and the government. This solidarity demonstrates that the ranks of labor recognize the threat to civil liberties in the infamous Smith "Gag" Act, applied for the first time in the Minneapolis case.

## DENIED PARDON

Like Tobin and the Stalinists, the Roosevelt administration demonstrated its venom over labor's support for the Minneapolis prisoners. In August when the petition for pardon of the 18, backed by labor organizations throughout the country, was presented to Roosevelt, his agents in the Department of Justice turned it down flatly.

The Supreme Court too threw its weight into the struggle. Packed with Roosevelt appointees, it refused three times last December to review the convictions although they were the first under a new law whose violation of the Bill of Rights has been widely recognized. Then to demonstrate its opposite attitude toward reaction, the Supreme Court reversed the conviction by lower courts of Hartzel and Baumgartner, avowed Hitlerite propagandists.

The Department of Justice likewise showed where it stood. Attorney General Biddle hustled the Minneapolis labor prisoners through the courts in five weeks. He dragged out the Washington trial of the native fascists for eight months, and now they are free following declaration of a mistrial.

## LABOR'S FIGHT

Six of the 18 Minneapolis labor prisoners were released last October. The remaining 12 will be out this month. But the fight must continue for their pardon and the restoration of their civil rights. The Minneapolis case is a dangerous precedent that can be used against other militant trade unionists or working class leaders in the future. The fight to wipe the Smith "Gag" Act from the statute books, initiated and organized by the Civil Rights Defense Committee, is labor's fight. For its own safety, labor is duty bound to carry this fight through to the end.

## Trotskyist Leaders Just Before Imprisonment



15 of the 18 Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners, photographed last Dec. 31 at the entrance of Hennepin County Jail, where they spent 3 days before final imprisonment in federal penitentiaries. The 14 men were incarcerated in Sandstone; Grace Carlson was sent to the federal prison for women at Alderson, W. Va.

# Roosevelt Uses Executive Power To Regiment The Labor Movement

By C. Thomas

From its very inception, the scheme to draft labor for work in private industry was designed to prevent the workers from defending their standard of living. The outbreak of war, the drafting of millions of young workers into the armed forces, the boom in war production created a "tight" labor market. The natural drift of labor is to industries paying higher wages and providing better working conditions. Competition between employers in a tight labor market would inevitably mean higher wages and a more equitable distribution of the national income.

During "normal" periods, the employers depend upon a large reservoir of unemployed workers to keep wages down. During periods of war, the army of unemployed is absorbed in the military forces and expanded war production. The employing class then utilizes political means—its control over government—to prevent competition between individual employers which would increase wages and thus reduce the rate and mass of profit appropriated by the owners of industry.

The capitalist government, functioning as the executive arm of the employing class, seeks to establish a monopoly over hours, wages and conditions of employment. The government aims to eliminate "competition" between individual employers in the interests of the employing class as a whole. Thus workers are frozen to their jobs at frozen wages while the cost of living rises and profits soar. The employers' share of the national income rises at the expense of labor. The result is a gradual lowering of labor's standard of living.

But the workers do not "voluntarily" submit to the imposition of a lower standard of living. As prices and profits continue to rise, real wages fall. Demands for wage increases become more persistent. Finding themselves stymied by Roosevelt's wage-freeze and the no-strike policy of their own leadership, the workers try to solve their problem by shifting to industries working longer hours, paying higher wages and providing better working conditions. To prevent the workers from taking advantage of "competitive" wages in different industries, different geographical localities, etc., the government issues decrees imposing penalties on workers for leaving their jobs for other employment without "permission."

## JOB-FREEZE PENALTIES

Thus the job-freezing schemes of the Roosevelt administration aim to establish government control over the movement of labor, over wages, hours and working conditions. These schemes are enforced by compulsion upon workers for violating Roosevelt's job-freezing executive orders. These penalties fall into several categories. Workers are punished by being deprived of employment, by imprisonment, or by being drafted into the armed forces. An analysis of the development of the job-freeze under the Roosevelt administration shows how the government has been using its powers of compulsion on an ever-extended scale to chain workers to their jobs by executive decree.

Workers were first frozen to their jobs only in certain industries. In September 1942, a decree was issued freezing workers in the lumber and non-ferrous industries under penalty of drafting those who left their jobs without permission. The decree was then extended to cover certain geographical areas. The industrial city of Detroit was the first area in which 700,000 workers were frozen to their jobs. Later St. Paul and Minneapolis (175,000 workers) were included. When, in April 1943, the decree was applied to 27,000,000 industrial, agricultural and government workers, considered "essential" to the "war effort," it became national in scope.

The job-freeze was enforced through the War Manpower Commission and the Selective Service system. For those falling within the draft age the penalty of being inducted proved an effective instrument of compulsion. For women, men beyond the draft age, 4F's, etc., the compulsion was economic. Employers in "essential" industries were given the right to penalize quitting workers by refusing to grant them certificates of availability without which they were debarred from taking other employment for sixty days.

## LABOR CONSCRIPTION

Finding these penalties "inadequate" to regiment the entire working population the forced labor advocates began whooping it up for labor conscription. The first National Service Act was drawn up by Grenville Clark, Wall Street lawyer and behind-the-scenes manipulator of the political agents of Big Business. Clark's labor draft plan was embodied in legislation submitted by Senator Austin in 1943. It provided for conscripting all adult males between the ages of 18-65 and women between 18-50 for work in private industry. The penalty for violators was imprisonment. In this way those workers who could not be coerced by the threat of being drafted would be subject to the threat of imprisonment. The bill died in the 1943 Congress and was not revived until Roosevelt came out for labor conscription legislation in his message to Congress in January 1944.

Senator Austin, co-author of the Austin-Wadsworth National Service Act, reintroduced his forced labor bill immediately following Roosevelt's message. Spokesmen for the Roosevelt administration spearheaded by the brass-hats began a nation-wide agitation for labor conscription. But the slave labor bill was so raw that the labor bureaucrats were compelled to speak out against it. The only section of the labor movement that endorsed it were the Stalinists. Despite powerful support from the capitalist press, radio, manufacturers' associations, etc., the pressure of the people was strong enough to stem the reactionary drive for forced labor legislation.

Blocked in their legislative drive the forced labor advocates have since executed a series of flank

## NOTICE

The National Educational Department of the Socialist Workers Party is anxious to secure the following literature in English, German, French or Russian:

These of the first 3 congresses of the Communist International. All copies of the magazine "The Communist International" of 1922 in which articles by Zinoviev appear.

Zinoviev's writings on the Italian Socialist Party, January-July 1920.

If you can give, loan or sell these to the National Office, please write to: Charles Carsten, National Educational Director, SWP, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

attacks to attain their objective. All sorts of schemes were advanced to fix penalties on 4F's and men over draft age who "left their jobs without permission." These schemes found a sympathetic ear in Roosevelt. Failing to accomplish his plan by legislation, Roosevelt used his tremendous war powers to strengthen the job-freeze shackles by executive decree and put over his program piece-meal.

## ROOSEVELT'S DECREES

Thus Roosevelt issued a decree which went into effect July 1, 1944 placing all male workers over the age of 17 under the control of the Government's United States Employment Service. Under the Roosevelt-McNutt "priority-referral" plan workers would be compelled to take jobs in industries and areas designated by the USES. Those who refused, said McNutt, would be "deprived of unemployment compensation benefits," and wouldn't be able to get a job without a certificate from the USES.

Again, in December 1944, following a frenzied campaign around fake "ammunition" and "manpower shortage," Roosevelt issued another decree instructing Selective Service to induct all those within draft age who left their jobs without permission of their draft boards. Spokesmen for the administration have announced they are now planning to bring the 4F's and older men within Roosevelt's recent "work or fight" decree.

As the resistance of the workers to the wage and job-freeze mounts, Roosevelt resorts more and more to methods of compulsion to hold the wage-freezing line. Rule by executive decree is substituted for legislative action in dealing blows against the labor movement. The wage freeze was imposed by executive decree. The job-freeze likewise. Roosevelt is consistently moving in the direction of regimenting and enslaving the working people through the use of his executive powers. And this conscious agent of capitalist reaction is touted as the foremost "friend of labor" by the treacherous labor lackeys who boast they reelected him to office!

READ  
THE FOURTH  
INTERNATIONAL

## SHOP TALKS ON SOCIALISM



By V. Grey

Some Bethlehem steelworkers, not well versed in political economy, have wondered from time to time, "How come Eugene Grace is entitled to a take of \$523,000 per annum?" The answer is just simple arithmetic.

Say you get 2500 dollars a year for working—when you work. Then if you worked twice as hard, or twice as long—16 hours a day—you'd get twice the money, or 5000 dollars. A little more, counting the time-and-a-half. If you are twice as skilled, on the other hand, after spending five or six years in an Engineering college, you might make the \$5000 a year on the basis of just an eight hour day, like the engineers do. That's fair enough.

But Eugene Grace gets a salary of 523,000 dollars a year. It could be that he works 209 times as hard as you, because that's how many times \$2500 goes into \$523,000.

Of course, you might object that you eat Wheaties in the morning, too, and you can't understand how anyone could have 209 times the energy you do.

Well it's possible, then, that he works 209 times as long. That's 1672 hours a day. And you can make the same amount of money yourself if you're not too lazy to put in the time.

But that doesn't quite make sense. So if he doesn't work 209 times as hard, and he doesn't work 209 times as long, maybe he works 209 times as skilled. He must be 209 times as educated. Where an engineer went to school twice as long as you, Grace must have gone 209 times as long, or about 1672 years.

However, he couldn't have started attending college in the third century A.D. because they didn't have any colleges then.

## EUGENE GRACE MUST BE A GENIUS

How is it then, that he knows 209 times as much? Is his brain 209 times as big? No. There's really only one answer. It's genius. He must have been born with it. He must be inspired with some knowledge far beyond our power to understand. He never learned it the ordinary way.

But that's the way genius works, you see. A poet, for instance, just sits down with a rose in front of him, or maybe a glass of whiskey—and before you can stand a quarter up on its edge, he dashes off a whole poem, beautiful as anything.

Eugene Grace is like that poet. You can't compare a man like Mr. Grace with ordinary men. (You can't compare \$523,000 with an ordinary income either).

Of course some ordinary people can't understand what it is that a genius like Mr. Grace actually does—what his work really is. But that doesn't mean anything. People never do understand genius anyway.

I bet you thought this shop ran pretty much by itself what with a couple of hundred of us working men and women, a couple of maintenance men, machinists and a foreman we see as little as possible. But if you'd read the company bulletin board as carefully as you should, you'd see a letter from Mr. Grace himself every year or so telling you how hard we all worked (including him).

You might have thought that what with us people to make the coke, make the iron, make the steel and steel products, what with salesmen to sell it, what with the government to buy it and whole armies begging for it so they could blow it to pieces right away, you might have thought Mr. Grace wouldn't have much to do. That's where you'd be wrong.

No, he doesn't fool around with the production end of steelmaking. He doesn't waste his valuable time with the business end of it either. But every month, rain or shine, come hell or high water, he has to preside over a board of directors' meeting, where he tells them how to divide up the thirty-eight million dollars in profits that they skim off every year.

And if you don't think THAT'S 209 times as much as you could do if you were in his place, then you must be a Trotskyist or something.

# 10 Years Ago In The Militant

JANUARY 5, 1935

SACRAMENTO—At the start of the infamous Criminal Syndicalism trial of 18 militant leaders of the Agricultural and Cannery Workers Association came new evidence of the frame-up nature of the case. The California Growers' Association initiated proposals that District Attorney McAllister be hired as special prosecutor. McAllister, defeated in the November elections in which he campaigned on a red-baiting platform, was to leave office Jan. 5.

"The truth is," said The Militant, "that the Sacramento cases are being pushed not so much by local conservative politicians as by the growers of the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys, and the banks of Frisco, who are against unions everywhere and always." Describing the selection of the jury, The Militant continued, "Workers have been disqualified and most of the jurors selected so far live in the fashionable part of town."

NEW YORK—In the first of a series of articles on incipient fascist movements in the United States, The Militant discussed the demagogic "Share the Wealth" formula of Senator Huey (Kingfish) Long of Louisiana, who on September 1, 1934 had been able to claim a following of nearly a million and a half. Under the banner of a "reformist" program to curb monopolies, Long tightened his grip on the apparatus of the Louisiana government and spread out feelers in other states. Political maneuverings and Tammany-style corruption helped swell his ranks.

WASHINGTON—Rejecting the 5-5-3 ratio of ships (5 for the U.S., 5 for Britain, 3 for Japan) by which the United States maintained supremacy in the Pacific, Japan demanded "disarmament"—the scrapping of "offensive" ships, and the establishment of equal tonnage for all three nations. In reply, Washington announced a Pacific "maneuver" of the Navy. "A new armament race has begun," warned The Militant. "Another step toward war has been taken. Let the workers of the world be on guard for their own interests."

SAAR BASIN—The Saar Basin, with a predominantly working-class population of 900,000, prepared to cast its vote in the coming plebiscite, to determine whether it would remain under French control or return to Germany. In Germany, a defeated working class lay prostrate under Hitler's iron heel; in France, the working class was following the same false policies and leadership of the Stalinists and Social-Democrats, which had led the German labor movement to disaster.

ROME—"The Pope announced," said an editorial in The Militant, "that the Roman Catholic Church would observe 'strict neutrality' in the Saar. . . . The other day, however, all the leading bishops in the Saar read statements from their pulpits . . . urging their congregations to vote for returning to Germany."



Scene at Christmas party given in Minneapolis on December 22 for the children of the Minneapolis Labor Case Prisoners. 23 youngsters enjoyed an afternoon of games, entertainment, and refreshments—with gifts presented by Santa Clarence Hamel, one of the Minneapolis prisoners released in October. The party was sponsored by the Twin Cities branch of the Workers Defense League.



## The Negro Struggle

By Charles Jackson

### Athens and Georgia

The Greek masses have been engaged in a bloody war against British imperialism. The Negro people in America are engaged in a social struggle for full citizenship and complete equality. Far removed tactically and geographically as are these two struggles from each other, yet they have a political interconnection that deserves close scrutiny.

We have all seen how the brave Greeks under the ELAS have carried on their civil war in such a resolute fashion. Invaded by the Italian Fascists and then by the Nazis, oppressed, famished, enslaved and diseased, still they are struggling courageously against the attempts of Churchill under the guise of "liberation" to enforce upon them a government composed of the same exploiting traitors who helped oppress their own countrymen at the time when the Nazis were overrunning the country.

In this most recent war between the British military arm and the Greek people it is well for us to remember that the British and their Greek puppets have mercilessly fired on and murdered men, women and children. They have used machine guns, tanks, planes and heavy artillery against the "liberated" Greeks—the same instruments of death that are ostensibly so badly needed on the German front.

The American government has tried to give the impression that it is blameless in this British policy in Greece. Like Pontius Pilate, it has tried to wash its hands of the whole affair. Each and every gangster, however, in a murder mob, is equally guilty of the crimes committed by his cohorts. Let us not forget that many of the weapons that were used against the Greek workers had been manufactured here for the profit of American capitalists.

What bearing do these facts have on the Negro struggle? Simply this. We should thereby

be forewarned of the methods that will be adopted by the ruling class in dealing with all those who oppose its vile interests.

Even a "leftist" Greek government—let alone a real revolutionary workers state—threatens the interests of British imperialism and is consequently attacked. In the same way, complete racial equality which would lead to closer working-class solidarity is contrary to the interests of American Big Business. The forces which strive for such equality, mainly the Negro masses, will also if it becomes necessary, be ruthlessly attacked.

In view of these recent events, on what sort of reasoning do some of the Negro leaders base their contention that this war will advance the Negro's cause? Isn't it obvious to them that the military might of Britain is directed by white men? Don't they realize that these valiant Greek forces of liberation were composed of white workers? If the reactionary stench given off by decaying capitalism will include white men giving orders to shoot down white women and children, then what can we expect to be the fate of the blacks and browns?

Let us not fail to learn from these tragic events. The Greek people who have fought off the Fascists, the Nazis, and now the British imperialists will soon realize that their only hope lies in the overthrow of the capitalist system itself.

In America we have seen Negroes denied full citizenship, oppressed and lynched. We have also seen white workers and farmers condemned to lives of poverty, prejudice and ignorance. Let the people themselves, be they here or in strife-torn Europe, get together as the working class and remove the system of exploitation and inequality which is the cause of all this domestic and foreign oppression. Only with socialism will either of these struggles for liberation be brought to a victorious end.

### Pioneer Paragraphs

## LENIN AND TROTSKY -- LEADERS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

When an idea is in the air of an epoch, that is to say, when the general conditions for its birth and growth are present, men begin to have a presentiment of it, and it is frequently conceived by several men at the same time... Marx and Engels arrived at the same conclusion as to the foundations of modern society, and, in twenty-five years of admirable intellectual collaboration, founded scientific socialism. The Russian Revolution was to realize in action — but action nourished by solid thought — a collaboration just as remarkable: that of Lenin and Trotsky.

Expelled from France in 1916 by an order signed by Malvy (Jules Guesde was in the cabinet), as a result of a provocation; then deported from Spain as an undesirable element, Trotsky went to New York where he stayed for a short time, engaged in revolutionary activity; and then to Canada whence he planned to set sail for Russia. Interned in a concentration camp with his wife and children, he finally was set free, thanks to the intervention of the Petrograd Soviet. He arrived in the capital on May 5, 1917, and his first speech, delivered as soon as he got off the boat, demanded the seizure of power.

His personality, as an orator, journalist, and organizer, sometimes seemed to overshadow that of Lenin, which at first glance appeared less striking. Lenin was good-natured, unassuming, ordinary in appearance; an outsider would scarcely have noticed him; he spoke with extreme simplicity, and it was not so much his language as the force of his reasoning which moved his audience. He wrote, without particu-

lar gift or concern for form, what he had to say and nothing more. Never in his life did he make the slightest concession to the demon of literature.

Trotsky, on the other hand, would nowhere have passed unnoticed, with his shock of hair, the erect carriage of his head, the intensity of his blue-gray eyes. He had about him something authoritative and compelling. On the platform, his voice had a metallic ring, and each sentence was like a sharp thrust. He was to become the orator par excellence of the revolution. His written style is consummately skillful. But the main thing was that the hour which had struck was the hour he had awaited, foreseen, and desired all his life. In the Social Democratic party he was the theoretician of the permanent revolution, which means a revolution which cannot, and will not, be extinguished before it has completed its work, and which consequently can be conceived only on an international plan.

By his knowledge of languages and peoples, he was the most European of the Russian revolutionists. Lenin had, however, one incontestable superiority over him; his party, formed through fourteen years of struggles and labors, from 1903 to 1917... The documents of the period were for years not to separate the names of these two men who, by and large, thought and acted as one, translating the thought and action of millions. These were the two heads of the revolution.

(From "From Lenin to Stalin," by Victor Serge, pp. 14-15. Pioneer Publishers, 1937; 112 pp.; 50 cents. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.)

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# CIO Meeting Backs Ward Strikes

(Continued from page 1)

the war has this key industrial center, scene of some of labor's greatest struggles, witnessed such an enthusiastic and fighting union gathering. It recalled nothing so much as the pre-war spirit of the great auto strikes.

The high-point of the meeting was reached when Ben Garrison, UAW Local 400, aroused the assembled unionists with an appeal "to call a labor holiday" and "meet on the picket line" in a solid fighting front against Avery's open shop offensive.

The entire meeting rose up and cheered themselves hoarse in response to Garrison's appeal. For a time, it appeared they would over-ride the chairman, who ruled the proposal out of order on the grounds that this meeting did not constitute a formal body empowered to take a strike vote. Insisting that the motion be put to a vote, the assembly repeatedly shouted, "Holiday! Holiday!" Thus, the workers expressed their pent-up resentment at the intolerable restraints of the no-strike pledge foisted on them by the cowardly CIO leaders.

Only with the greatest difficulty did the top leadership at the meeting finally quell the insistent demand for immediate action. And this was accomplished only after hurried platform consultation with the steadily-pacing Gus Scholle, CIO Regional Director who early in the strike had given it his formal endorsement. There was an implied assurance among the ranks that unless Avery were brought to heel in the next few days, nothing would hold them back from the "labor holiday" they so heatedly demanded.

### MILITANT SPIRIT

Every speaker, caught up on the tide of fighting spirit, was impelled to voice the militant sentiments of the audience. "This is the fight of the entire labor movement," declared Paul Silver of UAW Local 351. Avery's defiance, he said, was the challenge of all the open shop forces "as to whether we shall have trade unions or not. Are we going to face the issue and fight back or are we going to have the same thing happen as in 1919?"

Matt Hammond, President of West Side Tool and Die Local 157, UAW-CIO, recalled how the police were prevented from smashing a small tool and die strike in 1937 when the Cadillac workers marched to their support on the picket line. He urged the CIO ranks to join the Ward picket lines in the same spirit.

The most bitter indignation of the workers was reserved for the traitors in their own ranks, the Stalinists. These links attempted openly to sabotage support for the Ward strikers and had used their machine-control of the Wayne County CIO Council to block a motion for endorsement of the Ward walkout. At this mass meeting expressing the real sentiments of the workers, where the Stalinists did not dare to open their mouths, Scholle publicly characterized the Stalinists as "those malicious people whose first loyalty is to something else (Kremlin bureaucracy) besides labor."

Roy Scoggins, Regional Director of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, the union conducting the Ward strike, denounced the Stalinist-dominated Wayne County CIO Council as following "a policy not conducive to the welfare of our people." He further advocated that the Wayne County Local Presidents Committee, which was organized to aid the Ward strike, and which had sponsored

sored the mass meeting, "be continually enlarged" and "assume leadership" as the "CIO Coordinating Committee of Wayne County." Tremendous applause also greeted the proposal of another speaker to withhold per capita taxes from the Council and "instead pay this money directly to the Montgomery Ward strikers."

**NO-STRIKE POLICY OPPOSED**  
This meeting reflected not only angry resentment against Roosevelt's pussyfoot policy toward Avery and the openshoppers, but the rising opposition to the whole no-strike policy. With the UAW referendum on this key question impending, the no-strike policy has become the most momentous issue in this area. Even though feverish efforts were made to bar discussion of this dominating issue at the mass meeting, every speaker was forced to touch upon it.

Thus, a member of Lincoln Local 900 voiced the keenest sentiments of the ranks when he declared: "We are asked to give moral support to the strike. But the best moral aid we can give is to make our position on the no-strike pledge clear. We can contribute a whole lot to help the Montgomery Ward workers get better economic conditions if we abandon the position that under no circumstances are we for strike action."

### Repeat Performance



"This Is Where We Came In!"

## Stalinist Machine Blocks CIO Council Aid To Ward Strikers

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 24—Opposition to the treacherous policies of the Stalinists who dominate the Wayne County CIO Council rose to its bitterest pitch at the Council meeting last Tuesday night, when the Stalinists exercised their mechanical majority to ram through a reaffirmation of the no-strike pledge and to block a motion of support for the Montgomery Ward strikers.

Despite the paralyzing stranglehold on the Council they have maintained up to now, the Stalinists succeeded in passing the no-strike motion by the relatively narrow margin of 102 to 64. This was the strongest opposition vote in years. Heretofore, scarcely a voice has been raised to challenge Stalinist policies.

The opposition to the no-strike pledge motion was voiced despite the lying assurance of the chairman that it was intended merely to express the attitude of the Council toward the forthcoming UAW referendum on the no-strike policy. "This motion, the chairman claimed, was divorced from the Montgomery Ward strike issue, which was to be discussed separately."

The Stalinists' real strikebreaking intent was subsequently revealed when they spoke against supporting the Ward strikers, basing their arguments on the motion previously passed to reaffirm the no-strike pledge. So enraged were the militants by the frank speeches of the Stalinists that not only those who voted against the pledge, but many who voted for it, walked out of the meeting in disgust. They left the notorious Stalinist wheelhorse, Nat Ganley, talking only to his small circle of followers.

### CONDEMN ROOSEVELT

Significantly, militant speakers at the Council meeting trained their guns not only against Avery and the Stalinists, but also against the man whom they had helped less than two months ago to be reelected to a 4th term in the White House. Amidst the disruptive booing and catcalls of

the Stalinist stooges, one speaker after another lashed out at Roosevelt.

The typical sentiments of many of Roosevelt's recent supporters was voiced by Hargraves, a leading member of the State, County and Municipal Employees. "I worked like hell for Roosevelt. But many people are wondering who won the election — we, or those on the other side. First of all we saw the appointment of three millionaires to the State Department. We see how Churchill is acting in Greece. And now Roosevelt is silent while Sewell Avery is trying to crush the labor movement. I am wondering whether

I did the right thing when I voted for Roosevelt." Then pointing his finger at the misguided workers among the Stalinist hecklers Hargraves asserted: "If you search your own minds, you will find there the same feeling that I have."

When Hodges Mason, a Stalinist tool and vice-president of the Council, made a vicious attack on the Ward strikers and sought to whitewash the anti-labor role of Roosevelt, a rank and file delegate answered him: "I too voted for Roosevelt. But I know if these people did not go out on strike, the President would continue to pigeon-hole this matter as he did for the past two years. Why hasn't the president acted before a strike was necessary? If we don't support the Ward strikers, the matter will be pigeon-holed for another two years."

## ROOSEVELT'S 'SEIZURE' HALTS WARD STRIKES

(Continued from page 1)

eight months ago. Avery has not budged an inch, issuing the defiant statement that "I'm still in charge." Avery's underlings have refused to cooperate with Army officials in the operation of the business. Moreover, Montgomery Ward's profits are fully safeguarded by the government and Avery is assured ultimate restoration intact of his property. Meanwhile, he is still free to operate his other 800-odd open-shop establishments and to continue his fight against the unions. So patently timid have been the government's moves, that Attorney General Biddle tried to pass off the government's obviously pussyfooting "caution" by facetiously claiming that Avery is "perfectly harmless."

### TOUGH TOWARD LABOR

But the administration has never exercised similar "caution" in its attacks on labor. Roosevelt had no hesitancy or legal scruples when, six months before Pearl Harbor, he ordered Army occupation of the North American Aviation plant and drove strikers back to work at the bayonet point. He observed no legal fine points when he "seized" the railroads last

December to head off a threatened strike. In his attempts to break last year's mine strikes, he repeatedly took over the coal mines with no apparent reluctance.

Attorney General Biddle has conceded to Avery that the WLB directives are only "recommendations," defending the "seizures" solely as a strikebreaking requisite. But the administration has never treated WLB directives to workers as mere "recommendations." Such directives have been enforced promptly and firmly, and the WLB itself has been armed with punitive powers. In addition to siding with the employers 99 times out of a hundred, the WLB has penalized strikers by delaying concessions, withholding union security clauses, reducing retroactive pay grants, etc.

The workers can be certain that, whatever the immediate consequences of the latest Ward "seizures," they will operate in the long run only to reinforce Roosevelt's fundamentally anti-labor policy, his kid-glove treatment of the labor-hating openshoppers, and his club-wielding against workers defending their elementary rights.

## Diary Of A Steel Worker

By Theodore Kovalesky

Every now and then you pick up the paper, and somebody who'd like to be a poet has a verse there telling how pretty the snowflakes are, and how pretty winter is, and how much he likes it. Most likely you don't read it, but if you do, you know whoever wrote it isn't a steelworker, because winter isn't so good when you're a steelworker.

If you live fairly near the mill, you get up cold and sleepy and trudge to work through ruts and snowdrifts. The wind and snow sting as they hit your face. The street lights are cold and pale, for it's entirely dark outside, and it won't be light until you've been working quite a while.

If you live farther away (and many do, because steel plants are located usually outside the cities, on the rivers and lakes) you have to get up even earlier to make the trip. The snow drifts over the roads, and you can't get your car out, or else the old jalopy won't start. Winter brings out all the bugs in an old car. Then you take your chances with the bus lines.

In the cold and darkness, you're always twice as sleepy. You stand there, trying to stamp the numbness out of your feet, trying to squeeze it out of your fingers by opening and shutting your hands. You wish to hell the bus would come. The man next to you is also trying to keep his blood circulating by stamping his feet and rubbing his hands. He wishes to hell the bus would come. The others are all standing there feeling miserable and wishing it too.

Most of them are entirely silent, but every now and then one will mutter a few curses about how the bus line doesn't give a damn about the workingmen. You agree with him but you don't bother to answer. He's not talking to anyone in particular anyhow.

Then somebody says, "Here it comes," and the whole crowd of you begin to mill and push toward the curb. There aren't very many seats, and if you can get one, you may be able to get a little nap on the way out, Luck's with you this morning. The bus stops almost in front of you, and you don't have to worry about getting in to get a seat. You just let the crowd behind you push you into the bus. You get your seat, all right, and you watch the rest of them shoving in, until the bus is packed so tightly that the driver can hardly close the doors.

The bus struggles with the snow for a moment and starts groaning and bumping along in low gear. You sit back, glad you're not jammed into the front of the bus, and scrape some of the frost from the window so you can look out. You're going through the red light district, but at this hour, almost everything is quiet. Here and there through an uncurtained window you glimpse the bare walls of a furnished room, pallid under the light of an unshaded electric bulb. Sometimes a person moves past the window. Everything looks very sordid.

At this hour, much of the city is sleeping. Only the prostitutes, going to bed, and a portion of the workers, going to work, are stirring. It is very cold and lonely.

### On the Way to the Mill

You go on. The bus creeps and lurches past the railroad yards and warehouses. The window steams up again, and you wipe it with your glove. On the walls of the bus are signs forbidding smoking, but many of the workers have lighted cigarettes and pipes. The bus driver doesn't say anything. He has a cigaret himself. The air is thick with smoke, and you hear some non-smoker in the back complaining about it, but nobody pays any attention to him, and he sulks quietly. Across from you a kid (how young some of the workers are nowadays!) leans his head against the window and sleeps with his mouth open.

The bus strains up the ramp of a canal bridge, and as the window begins to cloud over again, you make out the vague outlines of a freighter laid up for the winter. You cross that bridge and one or two others and go on through the darkness.

The old bus groans up a hill, and from the top, you see as last your destination several miles down the road. There is a rusty glow in the sky. It's not very beautiful. The sky is too black, and the glow is too brown to call it beautiful. Besides you're too sleepy in the stuffy bus to appreciate it.

As you approach the giant mill, you see the flickering, angry yellow flames of the coke oven and a dusty golden shaft of light projected from one of the open hearths. Between the open hearth and coke oven the sky lights up as No. 4 furnace begins to heat and run cinder.

The bus lurches a last time and pulls to a stop. The men standing up fall against each other and swear as they crush the paper bags carrying their lunches. You make your way out of the bus and into the cold, surprised to find how bad the air inside had become. Again the snow stings your face. Your eyes begin to run, and you sniffle a bit as you show your badge to the cop at the gate and begin to plod through the snow, up the road, and over countless railroad tracks on the way to your department. The warmth of the bus seat has left you. The sky is very dark. Once again you feel cold all over and terribly tired.

But the work day is just beginning.

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(Continued from page 1)

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7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.
9. The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

## Voice Of Imperialism

The leading mouthpiece of American imperialism, the New York Times, in a December 29 editorial lauds Churchill's plan to set up a regency in Greece. The Times takes to task those who believe "Britain seeks to dominate Greece politically and commercially, close Greece off from other markets, exploit Greek resources for Britain's benefit."

A mistaken view, claims the Times. "The life-line of the British Empire runs through the Mediterranean." What Churchill really evinces is a "natural interest in wishing a country so close to that life-line as Greece to be orderly and prosperous and democratic."

Under this democratic wool, however, the teeth of American imperialism are clearly visible. To make understandable to its readers the "gesture of British good-will" toward Greece, the Times observes that "we have a similar interest in small countries bordering on the Panama Canal."

The shooting of Greek workers and peasants is indeed remindful of the way American troops were sent to Nicaragua during the twenties to hunt down the followers of Sandino who struggled for democracy in that unhappy country.

Britain's policy of setting up puppet regimes in Greece is likewise remindful of the scandalous origin of the Republic of Panama. This tiny country, straddling the Isthmus of Panama, was set up through a revolution against Colombia in 1903 financed by American dollars and backed by the Theodore Roosevelt administration.

A similar revolution had previously ended the kingdom of Hawaii and brought these islands directly under the spreading wings of the rapacious Wall Street vulture. Puerto Rico and the Philippines were seized following the Spanish-American war. Cuba also fell into the orbit of American imperialism. Wall Street today has its own puppet regimes like that of bloody Vargas in Brazil.

The Times, trying to justify Churchill's actions, admits that Washington is pursuing a similar policy to this day. "If we think realistically enough

about lifelines, we may even remind ourselves that we sometimes take an interest in the kind of government possessed by countries no nearer to the Panama Canal than Argentina."

However, the Times doesn't go quite far enough. Wall Street has predatory interests in other areas besides the two American continents. Big Business has been assiduously penetrating British markets since the beginning of the Second World War. The oil trust has broken the monopoly of the British oil barons in the Middle East and is utilizing this deal as a model for similar deals in other raw materials now held by the British.

Even in Europe, long considered native territory by the British, the Wall Street colossus is raising its own voice. Belgian workers have been shot down by troops under the command of General Eisenhower. American representatives exercise joint control with the British in Italy. And even in Greece the American vulture casts its shadow. Thus at the conference with ELAS delegates called by Churchill to set up the regency of Damaskinos, the American Ambassador, Lincoln MacVeagh, sat as a more than interested observer.

When the Times voices sympathy with Churchill's "good try at solving this problem" in Greece, one can easily see that such sympathy arises out of direct experience in handling similar problems of empire.

## Profits Of War

The dollar patriots are doing all right under the "equality of sacrifice" program. A few reports culled at random from the financial section of the capitalist press provide an eloquent commentary on Roosevelt's promise "to take undue profits out of war."

A few weeks ago, the Securities and Exchange Commission disclosed that, "1,271 registered American corporations added \$803,000,000 to their aggregate net working capital during the first six months of this year (1944)."

The statement of a leading tire manufacturer, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, disclosed that: "After providing for all charges including \$58,727,714 taxes and adding \$2,500,000 to the reserve for contingencies, the net profit was \$16,310,845, the largest in the company's history." Eight manufacturing companies engaged in war production "had total earnings of \$154,284,969 or 12 percent above the \$137,332,893 reported for the nine months ended with September, 1943." Profits in 1944 showed a substantial increase over 1943.

In addition to these lush war profits, the corporations are laying away nest-eggs for the "post-war" period. In its quarterly analysis, the Security and Exchange Commission reports that: "Corporations also continued to accumulate post-war credits in refundable taxes, raising the total of such refunds to \$1,800,000,000, as of June 30, an increase of \$200,000,000 in the quarter." On top of that, the corporations have "a vast reserve of possible excess-profits tax refunds, over \$30 billion, to protect them if their incomes drop below the 1936-39 level." Who says that "war don't pay!"

But the profit-hogs who have their snouts buried deepest in the bloody trough keep clamoring for more. Speaking at a dinner of the Economic Club in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Astor, Irving S. Olds, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, said that "this hope of profit must not be curbed, regulated or opposed unreasonably or unwisely."

Roosevelt and his henchmen boast that the "line is being held." Against whom?

## Third World War

The outlines of the secret "peace" plans now going into effect in Greece, Italy, Belgium, etc. are the economic and political outlines of an imperialist truce that will inevitably explode into a Third World War far more violent and destructive than the war we are now experiencing.

Paralleling these "peace" plans, new developments in military weapons outline something of the nightmarish type of conflict to be expected in a Third World War.

The V-type weapons in particular show that man's inventive genius, unless turned into constructive channels, can lead to the suicide of humanity. Already the Germans are utilizing, as part of their routine battle equipment, rocket explosives that rise 60 miles above the earth's surface, cross nations in their flight toward populous cities, and explode with terrible violence. These rockets travel at speeds so high that if sustained they could span the Atlantic in one hour.

American military engineers, the press informs us, are now strenuously attempting to reproduce and even surpass the new German weapons.

The rocket-propelled bombs have thus outmoded the old type projectiles just as rocket-type planes have outmoded airplanes powered by gasoline engines and air-flooding propellers. A qualitative change has occurred. The old weapons are being superseded in the way firearms superseded the sword and cross-bow. We can expect developments in the new weapons that will make these first specimens look like a clumsy flint-lock alongside a quadruple Bofors gun that automatically wheels, lowers, raises and fires in accordance with calculations provided through radar.

Man's inventions which, under a rationally organized social system could be the source of boundless benefits, now threaten to destroy him. If a Third World War is not to become the grave of civilization, the workers of the world have no time to lose in organizing their forces to tear the power out of the hands of the rapacious warring capitalist cliques and establish socialism.

# WORKERS' FORUM

The 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

## Praises Morale of Ward Pickets

Editor:

Recently I helped picket the Montgomery Ward stores here in Detroit. Inwardly I felt good in being able to walk again on the picket line after months of having to bow to the directives of the CIO International in observing the no-strike pledge. There was a thrill in being able to express the sentiments that arose in me against the capitalists. Much to my delight I saw men and women join our line from several different locals, mostly UAW members with here and there a sprinkling of other CIO locals.

Of the UAW locals giving active support were Briggs Local 212, Ford Local 400, Local 351, Local 490, Packard Local 190, Dodge Local 3. Local 174 lent its sound car. Even one member from Local 155, a Stalinist-dominated local, came on the picket line. The militant Briggs 212 Local is giving most active support.

Holding a Local 212 day, this Local sent out members on Wednesday, Dec. 20, directly after work to a Ward Store. Saturday Dec. 23 again brought out the members of 212 at all four Ward stores in Detroit. This local, the leader of the revolt against the no-strike pledge at the UAW Convention in Grand Rapids, is educating its membership in real trade union solidarity.

The Ward strikers in their twelfth day of picketing were still very high in morale. Not only did they come out in force, but they kept their spirits high. In spite of bitter zero weather, with snowstorms and strong winds, the pickets kept a solid line. Cheerful, but aggressive toward scabs, they marched every day from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

The UAW leaders, though promising full aid to the Ward strikers, have given it but half-heartedly. The locals are not endeavoring to get their membership to support the Ward strikers, with the exception of those locals I mentioned.

The fear that the Ward strike

might awaken the auto workers into action is the reason the International leaders are not lending more active support to the strike. But neither the strikers nor the auto workers will be fooled. They know what the score is and they do not intend to give up in the face of vague promises.

E. Logan  
Detroit

## Reader Finds Our Paper Enlightening

Editor:

Please renew my subscription to The Militant for one year.

I find your paper constructive as well as instructive. Your articles and news items are well written, and should be read by those who wish to be enlightened in these hectic times.

The free press, so-called, fails to bring to us the political intrigue prevalent in the world of today — for a good reason, of course.

I realize you people are very busy and have much to contend with, publishing your paper. If you can find time in the near future, would you please send me information concerning the life and activities of Eugene Debs, and where I can purchase same.

C. F. A.  
Seattle

(Ed. Note: Most of the books and pamphlets written on the life of Eugene Debs are now out of print, but can be found in public libraries. Pioneer Publishers has for sale a copy of "Debs — Authorized Life and Letters," by David Karsner).

## An Old Socialist

Editor:

I want to send you one dollar for 4 different introductory subscriptions. I am 74 years old. I have a little piece of property just big enough to live on. I have no steady job. I do a little carpenter work to keep up with

life. I have been a socialist for 30 years.

A man said to me that there are two or three factions in Greece but I say they don't seem to have any trouble except with the English Scobie army.

Another man said to me today that there never will be a third party. I said: the people before the flood didn't think it would rain.

I am wise to the old parties. They are Siamese twins. They are the class that robbed the Indians, Mexico, Colombia, the Philippines and Spain, all with the gun.

When a man ties himself to a stump if someone offers him something for doing it, and he can't get loose—or if he votes for a Republican or a Democratic ticket — he is not feathered out yet.

There were two men about to be electrocuted, and they were fed everything they asked for the day before they were killed. One of the men understood what the racket was but the other didn't. The one who didn't understand said to his partner: "This pen is not as bad as they say it is; I've heard a lot of bull about it." The wise one answered, "Well, they feed you pretty well the day before they kill you." The first one answered, "Oh, I thought there was something phony about this."

When a Republican or Democratic voter wakes up and finds out what is the matter, he learns they have put a halter on him — while he was asleep.

P. B. C.  
Hamilton, O.

## Wants Records

Editor:

May I suggest the inclusion in The Militant of chronological tables: A Chronology of Deceit, FDR's record, and a Chronology of Treachery, Stalin's record, as a jog to the memory of our readers. These can be brought up to date and repeated occasionally.

I. W.  
Cleveland, O.

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

## Bulgaria

Counter-revolutionary Stalinism is attempting to reconstitute the rotten capitalist order in the Balkan countries under regimes "friendly" to the Kremlin. These regimes consist of coalitions between Stalin's political agents and elements of the pre-war dictatorial governments which brutally oppressed the workers and peasants.

Reporting on the Christmas Day announcement of the establishment of a provisional Hungarian government at Decseben in eastern Hungary, N. Y. Times foreign correspondent Raymond Daniell observes: "It seemed to be modeled after the others that were established in Balkan countries now under Soviet control, consisting as it did of an amalgam of 'rightist' figure heads and 'leftist' (Stalinist) hatchet men." An example of the governments Stalin is imposing on the Balkan peoples is the regime in Bulgaria. Here, after discarding the government established by the resistance movement which overthrew the pro-Nazi Bagrianoff ruling group, Stalin's agents have set up a regime incorporating notorious fascists.

Two such well-known fascists placed over the Bulgarian people by Stalin are Col. Gheorgieff and Col. Veltcheff, as Premier and Minister of War respectively while Stalinists occupy the Ministries of the Interior, Justice and Labor. Gheorgieff and Veltcheff were leaders of the junta which assassinated the peasant leader Stambulsky in 1923 and attempted a fascist coup d'etat in 1939.

## Italy

Reports from Italy reveal that economic conditions in the Allied-occupied territories are steadily worsening. In fact, according to Herbert L. Matthews' dispatch from Rome to the N. Y. Times, December 22, "prices in German occupied Italy are about one-half those in the Allied zone." This contrast of conditions under the Nazis and under the "democratic" imperialists is "providing great worry not only for the Government but for the Allies also." The

Allied authorities are fearful lest the masses should come to regard them as even more brutal conquerors than the Nazis.

Matthews reports: "Italian industry is close to complete paralysis. . . . The food situation, Italians feel, will become desperate by March unless help is forthcoming. . . . Financially, the situation is nearly disastrous. . . . While the fixed Allied currency rate of 100 lire for \$1 and 400 for one pound sterling holds good for the occupying forces, it does not mean anything on the flourishing black bourses or on prices."

The Allies claim to be making a "supreme effort" to prevent a "serious collapse" by a new "plan for Italian reconstruction." But writes Matthews, "the plan is based on the limiting factor that nothing ordered now can reach Italy before June, and the chief question mark is whether Italy can be kept going until then."

Matthews reports that "one of the most dangerous aspects" from the standpoint of the Allies and their Italian puppets is that "the whole economic situation is closely linked with the political." In short, the disastrous consequences of the Allied occupation are intensifying the revolutionary ferment which threatens to overthrow capitalism in Italy.

## France

The most reactionary elements in France are turning to de Gaulle as their "savior" from retribution at the hands of the people. De Gaulle last week attacked the workers who are demanding purge and punishment of the pro-Nazi collaborationists as "extremists" during a session of his Consultative Assembly. He rose to the defense of a member of his cabinet accused of supporting Vichy.

"As for the drama of 1940," de Gaulle asserted, "there were many differences then between men and groups. I did not go to Vichy then, but many who were there believed that they were serving their country in their own way. It was possible to have different

## Anti-Fascist Hero

Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, was invited to speak at an anti-Franco rally at Madison Square Garden in New York on Jan. 2. But . . . explained the N. Y. paper PM:

"If he had agreed to deliver the address, Ickes would have had to submit an advance copy to the Office of War Information. . . . In turn, the OWI would have passed the document along to the State Department. That Department would have said Ickes was being indiscreet. . . . Close associates of Ickes contend that he knew FDR would have turned thumbs down on the proposal. Rather than let someone else tell him what to do, Ickes made his own decision." Ickes refused to speak.

conceptions of serving one's country."

This "different conceptions of serving one's country" is de Gaulle's formula for protecting the capitalist pro-Nazi collaborationists, the bulk of the French ruling class. According to the N. Y. Times, December 28, de Gaulle's statement is interpreted as "deploping the attitude of the extreme purgers or even as indicating a general amnesty to those accused of collaboration, but not guilty of any definite crime."

De Gaulle's solicitude for the collaborationists is not shared by the French masses. They are continuing the purge of collaborationists in spite of and against de Gaulle's opposition. Thus, at Alet, members of the resistance movement, aroused by de Gaulle's reprieve of the town's former mayor who had been sentenced to death, on December 29 stormed the jail and shot four other collaborationists who had also received the death penalty. The mayor himself was saved when he was secretly transferred to Montpellier under armed escort. On the same day, at Bourges, resistance members executed two other collaborationists whom de Gaulle had also reprieved.

## How American and British Corporations Armed Nazis

Most of the American and British monopolies now coining blood-billions from this "war against fascism" helped to build up the war-machines of German and Japanese imperialism. A sensational expose of the aid given by Anglo-American big business to Hitler and Hirohito is contained in a book recently published in England, Death Pays a Dividend.

Considerable information has already been made public about the international dealings of Standard Oil, General Electric, du Pont, Aluminum Corporation, and other giant trusts. This book reveals other little known facts about the collaboration between the "democratic" and fascist business men.

For instance, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft sold plane parts and materials valued at \$6,000 to Germany in 1932. Next year, after Hitler came to power, Pratt and Whitney upped its sales to \$272,000. By 1934, as Hitler's rearmament program got under way, the sales amounted to \$1,445,000. In addition, for a payment of \$50,000 annually, the American concern licensed the Bavarian Motor Works to produce "Hornet" engines for the Luftwaffe. The Sperry Gyroscope Company exported automatic pilots, compasses and other instruments to equip fifty German war-planes a month. And the Japanese Navy is probably still operating some of the submarines built for it by the Electric Boat Company.

The British corporations got along just as profitably with the fascists. Armstrong-Siddeley Company sold large numbers of airplane engines to the Nazis. With the aid of British loans, Nazi industrialists bought 1,500,000 tons of machinery from the National Shipbuilders' Securities combine. Naval and military training planes were sold to Germany by DeHavilland Aircraft. Vickers advertised in German military journals the efficiency of its field-guns and tanks. After the seizure of Manchuria, in 1932 the British Board of Trade licensed the export of over \$1,000,000 worth of cartridges, machine guns and other equipment to Japan.

In 1941, the British-owned Broken Hill Proprietary Company of Australia faced a dockers strike in New South Wales when workers refused to load iron and steel for Japan. The strike was broken with government aid, and the goods shipped.

## Huge Death Toll in Mines Due to Lust for Profits

Death takes no holiday in the war of the bosses against the workers. Speed-up, lack of safety devices, inadequate inspection, dangerous methods—the drive for profits at all costs—in the first 10 months of 1944 took the lives of 1037 miners, according to the latest Bureau of Mines figures.

The death-rate for American coal mines, according to the figures made available by the Bureau of Mines, runs three times as high as in the British, German, French and Belgium mines. This terrible toll of the American mines exists in spite of the superiority of American equipment and machinery.

That a war almost as bloody as the one going on at the battle-fronts is being waged by the profiteering operators against the coal miners is further evidenced by the rate of mine accident casualties. 90 per cent of them are attributable to the operators' evasion of proper safety measures. During the war years, non-fatal casualties have averaged 75,000 annually, or 16 per cent of the average total of 500,000 miners employed.

Mine casualties are only a portion of America's industrial accident toll, which runs into the millions every year. It is no mere figure of speech to say that capitalism derives its profits and privileges from the very flesh and blood of the working class.

## Aluminum Corporation Blocks Power Project

The Senate recently dumped overboard the proposed St. Lawrence Seaway project, advocated as a source of cheap government-produced power, which Hoover and Coolidge used as a campaign slogan even before Roosevelt.

The St. Lawrence project was defeated by a Senate vote of 56 to 25. Roosevelt, who demonstrated in the instance of his Wall Street appointees to the State Department that he can whip the Senate into line when he wants to, could not even get the support of his Democratic majority. In fact more Democrats than Republicans voted against the project.

The debate for the bill revealed the real reasons for the Senate opposition. For the past twenty years, the Aluminum Corporation of America and Canada, and other powerful private utilities, have blocked the development of the St. Lawrence project. ALCOA, which controls some of the best power sites, desires a monopoly of water-power, vital to aluminum production.

Senator Aiken of Vermont, citing reports of the Power Authority of New York and testimony of government anti-trust suits against ALCOA, charged that the "international aluminum monopoly has consistently fought the St. Lawrence project while developing its private power sites in Quebec to engage in a worldwide cartel which supplied Japan with aluminum prior to Pearl Harbor and gave Germany the lead over the USA in aluminum capacity and production. . . ."

Part of the ALCOA scheme is to escape the American anti-trust regulations and to develop its aluminum production facilities where labor costs are as much as 50 per cent below the wages paid in American aluminum producing centers. "If the St. Lawrence development can be blocked," said Aiken, "then the drift of industry from the northeastern USA to company towns owned by the aluminum monopoly and other industries in the Province of Quebec will be continued through the postwar period."

Aiken further pointed out that the private interests blocking the St. Lawrence project are the very ones which have received \$100,000,000 of government funds for the construction of the privately-owned gigantic power and aluminum plant on the Saguenay River in Canada.