

## SLAVE LABOR BILL ADOPTED BY HOUSE

### 12 Released Trotskyists Honored At Meeting

#### Fighters For Labor's Rights Given Ovation At Mass Rally

By Art Preis

NEW YORK CITY, Feb. 2 — Over 800 unionists and other progressive fighters for civil liberties this evening jammed the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Diplomat here to honor the 12 Minneapolis Labor Case defendants released last week after their 13 months behind Roosevelt's prison bars.

Inspired by the imprisoned Trotskyist leaders' courageous stand for labor's rights, this Welcome Home Mass Meeting, sponsored by the Civil Rights Defense Committee, enthusiastically pledged to continue the struggle for repeal of the infamous Smith "Gag" Act under which the Socialist Workers Party leaders were the first labor victims. The demand was issued for an unconditional presidential pardon and restoration of their full citizenship rights, now denied the defendants because of their "felony" convictions.

#### Prolonged Ovation

A prolonged ovation was accorded to the three released prisoners who addressed the meeting, Albert Goldman, Farrell Dobbs and Felix Morrow, and to James P. Cannon, who was unable to attend because of illness but sent a stirring statement to the gathering.

The released Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truck-drivers Local 544-CIO leaders spoke with the fervor of the revolutionary socialist convictions for which they were railroaded to prison and which capitalist government persecution has only deepened. They issued a militant call to all labor to unite in unceasing struggle against capitalist reaction and in defense of the workers' rights.

Outstanding labor and civil liberties leaders joined in greeting the returned Trotskyist fighters. The welcoming speakers included Osmund K. Fraenkel, counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union; James T. Farrell, noted novelist and Chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee; Benjamin S. McLaurin, International Field Organizer of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and National Secretary of the Negro March on Washington Movement; and B. A. Gebiner, Assistant General Secretary of the Workers' Circle. George Novack, CRDC National Secretary, was the chairman.

At this mass meeting, all the 18 Trotskyists originally imprisoned, 6 of whom were released last October, demonstrated the front of solidarity they have maintained throughout their trial and imprisonment. Oscar Shoenfeld, Karl Kuehn and Al Russel, released last October from Danbury, Conn., prison, sat on the platform with their newly-released comrades from the Sandstone, Minn., penitentiary. A message of solidarity came from the other Minneapolis prisoners, Grace Carlson, Jake Cooper, Oscar Coover, Harry DeBoer, Vincent Dunne, Max Goldman, Clarence Hamel, Emil Hansen, Carlos Hudson, Ed Palmquist and Carl Skoglund.

#### Cannon's Statement

In his statement read at the opening of the meeting, Comrade Cannon, founder of the American Trotskyist movement and SWP National Secretary, paid special tribute to Grace Carlson, sole woman among the defendants, who was separated from the rest of her comrades all alone at the women's prison in Alderson, W. Va. She is affectionately called "The Senator" since the time in 1940 when she ran on the Minnesota SWP ticket for the U. S. Senate.

"Our hearts ached for our Senator there all alone with such

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#### Cleveland Auto Militants Fight No-Strike Pledge

CLEVELAND, O. — The struggle to win a majority vote to revoke the no-strike pledge in the CIO United Automobile Workers' current referendum has been gaining momentum in this leading Ohio industrial center.

A Cuyahoga County committee of the UAW Rank and File Caucus, which is conducting the national fight against the no-strike surrender policy, has been established. At the first meeting several weeks ago, leading officers and militants from six UAW plants joined the Rank and File. Since then, new adherents have been joining in increasing numbers weekly.

Thousands of leaflets explaining the necessity for voting against reaffirmation of the no-strike pledge have been distributed throughout the auto plants here. These leaflets, similar to those distributed by the Rank and File in Detroit, have received a wide sympathetic response.

An unprecedented slander campaign has been unleashed against the auto militants here by the Stalinists. For years the Stalinists have dominated the local CIO council and many of the important UAW locals. The reactionary Stalinists howls are rising in proportion to the inroads being made by the Rank and File among workers in the Stalinist strongholds.

The porkchoppers and payrollees of the UAW International Board, together with the Stalinists, are spending huge sums of money and engaging in every dirty trick. Typical of their methods is one leaflet full of the vilest lies against the hundreds of thousands of UAW militants who oppose the no-strike policy.

An example of their slanders is that the Rank and File wants "to create a strike wave so that fascism will not be defeated . . . do not want our boys to come back," etc. This is said of the best union fighters striving to maintain decent conditions for their brothers, sons, husbands in the armed forces to come back to.

Comrade Myra Weiss pledged an unceasing fight against racial discrimination, stressing that the demand for full social and political equality of all peoples is inextricably bound up with the struggle for workers' rights. In California, Negroes, Mexicans and Orientals have been viciously persecuted under cover of the war. Japanese families have been driven from their farms for the profit of agricultural barons; nineteen Mexican youths were framed up in the Sleepy Lagoon case as part of the terror campaign against both Mexicans and Negroes.

Exposing the crimes of the Allies against workers in Greece, Italy and Belgium, the Trotskyist candidate raised the slogan "Hands Off the European Revolution." Around the hall were streamers reading "Make Los Angeles A One Hundred Percent Union Town!" "Down With Jim Crow!" and "Build The Labor Party!"

Demonstrating their agreement with the Trotskyist platform, the assembled workers contributed \$410 to aid the campaign. At the close of the meeting, the chairman announced that 600 signatures of the 1,000 necessary to place Comrade Myra Weiss on the ballot have already been obtained. Four workers joined the Socialist Workers Party, at this inspiring public rally.

The candidacy of Comrade Myra Weiss is endorsed by The Militant.

#### "Big Three" Conference



### The "Big Three" Conference: Secret Diplomacy In Action

By Harry Martell

The three conspirators are meeting again. As before, secrecy—complete and impenetrable—shrouds the conference of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt. Not a single word has been officially issued concerning the agenda of the conference or the plans of the participants. Even the correspondents of the prostituted world press, whose reports are censored and re-censored by civil and military authorities, are barred. The doors are securely bolted. Against whom? Certainly not against enemy intelligence — for everyone knows that the principal topics before the conference will be political not military, exactly as they were at Teheran, at Cairo, at Moscow, at Quebec. The doors are locked against the peoples. The arch-plotters of the counter-revolution are planning the division of Europe, the despoliation of its resources, the suppression and exploitation of its stricken peoples.

#### SINISTER DEALINGS

What have they to hide? The unfolding of the sinister dealings at Teheran illustrate how imperative it is for the "Big Three" to curtain their meetings with secrecy. Here, too, rumors of an impending meeting filled the air. Finally a vapid statement full of meaningless, idealistic phrases was issued to the public. But for the revolutionary developments in Greece, Belgium and Italy, the truth might still have been buried. The lid clamped over the agreements made at Teheran was pried open only by the storm of indignation that swept over England and the U. S. at the attempt to impose puppet governments in Belgium and Greece with lend-lease tommy guns, tanks, and planes manned by British troops.

Churchill told the House of Commons on December 8: "At the Quebec conference it was proposed by the combined chiefs of staff that the British should prepare forces to occupy the Athens area and pave the way . . . for the installment of the Greek Government which we and the great bulk of the United Nations have formally recognized."

This completed his statement that Roosevelt and Stalin had turned over Greece, Italy and Belgium as "spheres of influence."

#### JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

And again on Belgium: "I have no hesitation in saying that not only did we obey General Eisenhower's orders, but we

#### 'Freedom from Want'

French children, women and men are so hungry that as the N. Y. Times, Feb. 1, reports: "A riot broke out recently in a movie" in Nice, "when a huge plate of caviar and cold salmon was shown on the screen. Police had to be called to restore order." The authorities then banned another Hollywood film "which shows great roasts of beef, fowl and other food."

The French masses had been led to expect help from the Allies. They now realize with bitterness just what sort of relief they can look forward to from these "liberators."

denial. Their silence was added confirmation.

Thus at Teheran the conspirators had plotted to substitute the Quisling government of the Nazis by the British Quisling Pierlot in

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### Roosevelt And Brass Hats Spur Union-Smashing Drive

Administration Steamroller Forces Through  
Bill Conscripting Labor For Private Profit

The forces of capitalist reaction mobilized in their union-smashing drive under the leadership of Roosevelt and his General Staff last week jammed the May-Bailey slave labor bill through the House of Representatives. This measure would strip the labor movement of the most important social gains made in decades of struggle.

Widely ballyhooed by the brass hats as a "win-the-war" measure, the bill is actually an open declaration of war against the American working class. This most vicious piece of class legislation aims to place

#### Stalinist Union Traitors Urge Forced Labor

By Joseph Keller

Stalinist traitors in the CIO secretly button-holed Congressmen in Washington and urged them to vote for the Roosevelt-sponsored May-Bailey slave labor bill. This gave some House members a pretext for "shifting" to support of the forced labor measure on the grounds that "labor" was "split" on the issue, it was disclosed by the New York daily PM, Jan. 31.

#### STALINIST TREACHERY

The Stalinist treachery, according to PM, "was revealed by the shift of several New York City Representatives who said they had been visited over the weekend by delegations representing Left-wing CIO locals and the Greater New York Industrial Union Council who urged them to approve the May-Bailey Bill now under debate." "Left-wing" is PM's customary misleading designation for the extreme right-wing Stalinist reactionaries.

PM reports further: "I was nearly knocked off my feet," one Congressman said. "I thought labor was solidly opposed to the bill and I had intended to vote against it. With this division of opinion, however, I intend to go along with the Commander-in-Chief, unless the bill is amended to discriminate further against labor."

Exposed by PM's revelations, Earl Browder's Communist (Stalinist) Political Association and its union stooges are frantically attempting to cover up their naked betrayal. The notorious Stalinist hatchet-men, Michael Quill and Saul Mills, acting presi-

the working class completely at the mercy of the exploiters. It destroys the most precious rights of labor and enhances the privileges of capital. It tightens the grip of the reactionary military caste on the economic and political life of the country. It is a long step toward the entrenchment of a totalitarian military dictatorship which aims to crush the organizations and institutions of labor under an iron heel.

SPONSOR ROOSEVELT  
The May-Bailey slave labor law was sponsored by Roosevelt, General Marshall, Admiral King and their satellites. It provides that men between the ages of 18 and 45 who leave their jobs "without

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"Time for Action"  
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permission" of their draft boards shall be subject to a fine of \$10,000 or 5 years imprisonment or both. The same penalties are applied to workers who refuse to accept jobs when they are commanded to do so by their draft boards. Under this law, workers can be shifted from one industry to another to work at lower wages. They can be sent from their homes to other cities with no provision made for moving their families or possessions. They can be ordered to act as strikebreakers under penalty of fines and imprisonment. In flagrant violation of the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution prohibiting "involuntary servitude," the Roosevelt-sponsored May-Bailey "work-or-go-to-jail" bill is a slave labor law.

#### HEAVY PRESSURE

The slave labor law was railroaded through the House under heavy pressure from the Admin-

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## Los Angeles SWP Runs Candidate For Mayor

(By Wire to THE MILITANT)

By J. Simons

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 3 — The California Socialist Workers Party today launched its campaign for Myra Tanner Weiss as candidate for Mayor in the forthcoming primaries. An enthusiastic audience of 150 Negro, white, Filipino and Mexican workers attending the first election rally of the California SWP, heard Comrade Myra Weiss present a program for the defense of labor's interests against the savage offensive of Big Business.

In a fighting speech which drew ovations, the Trotskyist candidate outlined an election platform in opposition to the anti-labor policies of the Roosevelt administration and local open-shop employers and politicians. Comrade Myra Weiss called for the speediest possible formation of the labor party and election of labor's own representatives as the most effective answer to the wage and job freeze and forced labor legislation.

#### WORKERS' CONTROL

To the reactionary schemes of the capitalist government she counterposed the working class program of the right to strike, scrapping of the Little Steel formula, abolition of sales taxes on necessities of life, and repeal of all taxes on workers' wages. Another key plank in the platform is the trade union demand of a rising scale of wages to meet



MYRA TANNER WEISS

the rising cost of living. In her speech, in dealing with post-war problems, Comrade Myra Weiss went on to explain why the slogan of "jobs for all" is a sham unless it is implemented by a working class program for full utilization of America's gigantic productive capacity, based on workers' control of all government-owned plants. This in turn must be a first step toward workers' control of production, if American labor is to escape a depression more devastating than the last.

## Writer Exposes Deliberate Provocation In Brutal Massacre Of Greek Workers

By Larissa Reed

In the armed "truce" imposed by Churchill on the Greek people, intense negotiations and sell-out deals are going on between the Greek Quisling government and the Stalinist-controlled EAM-ELAS, so-called National Liberation Front. The recent talks opened near Athens on Feb. 2, "in a fashionable seaside villa . . . in an atmosphere of the greatest amicability," reports the N. Y. Times of Feb. 4. By the following day, both the amicability and negotiations again blew up.

Speaking for the EAM at this "peace conference," Stalinist George Siantos again repeated their previous offer — that the EAM was quite willing to "dissolve its army" provided the government would do likewise with its own brigades and form a new "national army" excluding fascist sympathizers. This perfidious proposal was made to the Greek puppet government which itself is ridden with fascist collaborators!

While all these machinations are going on in Greece, the "Big

Three" — who pull the strings in all these small country deals — are meeting in secret. First on the agenda of the "Big Three" is the question of how best to crush the insurgent masses, not only in Greece but throughout Europe.

The "Big Three" are gambling for colossal stakes. While they are in complete agreement that the masses must be enslaved, they are not at all agreed on the division of the spoils. In their gigantic poker game, each of the "Big Three" has begun stacking the cards against the other.

Thus, the first bits of information are beginning to seep through the censorship on Greece. Part of the real story of how the British imperialists provoked the armed battles in Greece has appeared in the Feb. 10 issue of Collier's. In an article entitled "Russia vs. Britain in the Mediterranean," the U. S. State Department permits Frank Gervasi to reveal how unarmed demonstrating men, women and children in Athens were led into a bloody trap and massacred by British soldiers.

On December 3, Gervasi writes, well-armed police "had orders to break up a scheduled demonstration of members and sympathizers of the EAM," despite the fact that "permission for the demonstration had been granted by the authorities." The way this deliberate slaughter was organized is depicted as follows:

"In the cold dawn of December 3, gray-uniformed Greek gendarmes who for nearly four years had enforced 'law and order' for their German masters, marched out of their headquarters" — to enforce the same kind of "law and order" for Churchill. "They carried rifles, machine guns and grenades but looked more like armed bus conductors than soldiers. They took up positions blocking the approaches to the hotel and to the Royal Palace and around the broad, long Constitution Square that slopes down from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in a formal pattern of trees and shrubbery and empty concrete pavement for two city blocks in the capital's heart."

What was the purpose of these armed preparations inside the Greek capital? Whom was the

government preparing to fire upon? The Nazis had been driven out by the Greek workers and peasants — the "war against fascism" was presumably over. Gervasi reveals the monstrous truth: the Quisling Greek government was preparing to kill these same Greek workers who had fought against the Nazis and driven them out! And for this purpose they were using the same police force that had killed Greek workers and peasants under orders from the Nazi rulers. The Nazis had been driven out, but the police terror against the masses remained — transferred into British hands.

Gervasi corroborates that permission for this peaceful demonstration had been granted by the authorities. Yet these same authorities issued orders to the police to "break it up." Thus, when the first marchers met the police, they called out: "Why do you have guns against your own people?" Gervasi describes what followed:

"The rifles crackled and tom-

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# TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

## Telephone Workers

Last month, inspired by the November strike of the Ohio, Michigan and Washington, D. C., operators, 17,000 local and long distance telephone workers in New York overwhelmingly voted to strike for a general \$5 weekly raise. Their demands had been stalled by the companies and WLB for over two years. Before the 30-day "cooling off" period imposed under the Smith-Connally Act was concluded, a WLB telephone wage panel hastily recommended granting the \$5 increase, and the company representatives conceded to a \$4 raise.

Continuing their demand for the full \$5, the local Traffic Employees Association of the New York Telephone Co. and the Federation of Long Lines Telephone Workers of the American Telegraph and Telephone Co., agreed to postpone strike action pending a final decision of the WLB's National Telephone Panel in Washington.

WLB panels have also recommended increases for telephone workers in other leading cities who had either participated in the Thanksgiving week strike or threatened to follow this example.

The organized telephone operators have thus demonstrated that the strike weapon is the only effective means of getting speedy action from the government and corporations and securing the possibility for workers to win their wage demands.

## UAW and WLB

The Militant last week reported the action of the CIO United Automobile Workers international executive board in calling on the CIO to withdraw its members from the War Labor Board. The text of the resolution has been made public in the current issue of the UAW's official publication, the *United Automobile Worker*.

While enumerating a long series of complaints against the WLB, whose procedure is termed a "time-wasting, meaningless rigmarole," the UAW board still upholds the principle of compulsory arbitration. Their grievance is not that the WLB was specifically organized to curb labor, but that it "has no authority to act."

The UAW bureaucrats, who are united in fearful opposition to rescinding the no-strike pledge in the current UAW referendum, are clamoring for a "new" board. This will differ from the WLB only in that its "prerogatives" would be more "comprehensive, clearly defined." That is, more binding upon the workers.

The resolution makes so bold as to declare that Roosevelt "cannot escape full responsibility for the present inaction and indecision of the WLB." When did these pro-Roosevelt lackeys discover that? They denied that before the elections. They themselves for three years bolstered and gave a labor cover to the WLB.

We repeat what *The Militant* wrote last week. The UAW bureaucrats don't mean business.

## DETROIT

### Sunday Lectures

February 18

### "THE ANSWER TO PEACE-TIME CONSCRIPTION"

Speaker:

E. Henry

8513 Woodward Avenue  
Room 21 8 P. M.

Auspices: SWP

They are trying to put on a "militant" front and save face among the auto workers who are becoming thoroughly aroused against the cowardly policies of the officialdom.

The auto militants are demonstrating through their campaign to revoke the no-strike pledge that they oppose the whole policy of dependence on capitalist "friends of labor" and government boards. They are learning to have faith only in their own organized strength in action. That's the only policy that can win an iota for the workers in this period.

## Westinghouse

The National Westinghouse Conference Board of the CIO Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, representing 80,000 Westinghouse Electric workers, recently issued a demand to Roosevelt for a general wage increase of 17 cents an hour.

They appealed to Roosevelt "to counteract the failures and blunders of his subordinates by granting an immediate national cost-of-living wage adjustment of 17 cents an hour retroactive to Jan. 1, 1944."

Of course, Roosevelt's subordinates committed no "failures and blunders." They very capably fulfilled their function of frustrating the demands of the workers in accordance with the policies laid down by Roosevelt himself.

Nevertheless, this wage raise demand from an important section of a union notoriously dominated by the reactionary Stalinists is a significant sign. It indicates growing pressure from the UE ranks. For the Stalinist UE leaders certainly would like to suppress the embarrassing clamor for cost-of-living wage increases.

## Secretary Adds

UAW-CIO Secretary-Treasurer George Addes must have been born with two tongues in his mouth. One tongue could not possibly stand the strain of the double-talk he pours forth.

Addes, as is known to all among the auto workers, represents the extreme right wing in the UAW leadership and has for several years maintained a bloc with the Stalinists. He is among the most unrestrained flag-wavers and abject labor liars of Roosevelt trying to maintain the no-strike pledge.

So it might come as a surprise to those unacquainted with the remarkable quality of double-talk put out by Addes, to read his remarks on the Forced Labor Bill in his column, "Secretary Adds Says," in the *United Automobile Worker*, February 1.

Addes, a henchman of the Stalinists who support the "National Service" scheme of Roosevelt, complains: "When we wrote our column a month ago protesting against those who were openly advocating a national service law, we had no idea that President Roosevelt would once again join their ranks. . . . Whether President Roosevelt actively campaigns for passage of a national service law or lets it die a peaceful death, as he did last year, might possibly be the answer to some of the questions we are today asking."

Three lies in two sentences. 1. Roosevelt didn't "join the ranks" of forced labor advocates; he has spearheaded their offensive. 2. Roosevelt did not "let it die last year." He just shut up about it prior to the elections — as did Addes. 3. Addes never asked any questions about Roosevelt. But if he has some, let him speak out.

# More Branches Top Their Quotas In SWP \$18,000 Fund Campaign

## \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund

A Fitting Welcome to Our 18 Class-War Prisoners

By Rose Karsner, Campaign Director

Campaigns for fund raising, like all other organizational campaigns and day-to-day work, seem on the surface like mere routine. But they are more than that, as we explained last week. They are connected "indissolubly with the actual tasks of the revolution." In that sense they are political actions. Using this yardstick as our measuring device, we can confidently say that the manner in which the comrades responded to the raising of the \$18,000 Fund proves the political virility and vitality of the Socialist Workers Party.

Although we still have two and a half weeks in which to complete the Party Expansion Fund Campaign, everybody is eager to terminate it ahead of time; to clear the decks for the next big task on the road to becoming a mass party—the new Militant subscription campaign.

Space on the Scoreboard did not permit us to carry from week to week the detailed list of contributions from the members-at-large, groups and friends, though we reported these on several occasions. Today we give the full list that makes up the \$375 total:

From the following groups we received \$155. More to come.

\$15 Allentown  
25 Flint  
25 Kentucky  
\$20 N. Y. Trotskyist Youth Group  
\$20 Plentywood  
25 Quakertown  
25 Texas

From members-at-large and friends \$220. Some contributed through their local branches and therefore do not appear in this list:

\$25 Marcia  
35 Dayton, Ohio  
25 Lillian, N. Y.  
\$10 Rockville, Ct.  
10 Flint friend, through Genora  
15 N. Y. friends  
\$100 Massachusetts

Fifteen of the branches have already achieved 100 percent and more. Each of these is entitled to one of the original Gray cartoons which have appeared in *The Militant*. Six of these branches and one member-at-large have made their choice. The others say they will inform us of their selection soon.

## FROM THE BRANCHES

San Francisco, A. Alexander: "The enclosed check fulfills our \$1000 quota. Now that that has been accomplished, we will utilize the month still left for the campaign to try to go away over 100 percent. The achievement nationally on the campaign is a wonderful demonstration of solidarity with our returned comrades. We can look forward to much greater achievements in the coming period."

Bayonne, B. Winters: "Due to illness and loss of work days because of bad weather the Bayonne branch was a little financially embarrassed; however, we dug down, real deep, and we're happy to inform you that you can credit us with 100 percent. Now we're working on going over our quota."

Chicago, B. Radlow: "Enclosed you will find check. We're trying to speed up the payments so that by next week we can send in a substantial portion of the balance of our pledge."

Pittsburgh, M. Johnson: "Enclosed is money order, which gives us our first hop over the top. We have expectations of some more jumps. We are striving to outdo ourselves somewhat in this because we feel in this way we can show our joy at the return of our comrades. Please give them our warmest greetings and all our friends here are happy to hear the news that they are with us again. Our choice of Gray cartoons—'It Takes Guts to Run This Country' from the January 13 *Militant*."

New York: "The New York Trotskyist Youth Group, consisting in the main of young militant students, has assessed itself a quota of \$50 and has paid \$20 toward it. They will make this up by contributions from their small allowances and by taking on after-school odd jobs as well as by collecting nickels and dimes from their friends," says George Grant the Local Organizer.

This reminds us of a letter we once received in a previous fund campaign from a Minnesota friend: "Enclosed find \$1 of my poverty." We never forgot that letter because it so truly typified the spirit of the "disinherited" who are seeking a way out of this world of chaos and war and poverty. The New York youth, are "collecting nickels and dimes" in the same spirit.

## Pertinent Questions

A congressional opponent of the May-Bailey slave labor bill recently addressed two questions to Roosevelt which yet remain unanswered. They are: First, "If free labor is better than slave labor, why should we abandon it in favor of slave labor battalions?"

Second: "Why wasn't national service presented as an issue in the campaign, so the people could have had a voice in settling this issue—the most vital decision in 160 years?"

By the way! What labor leader said in the 1940 presidential election campaign: "Draft Roosevelt and he'll draft you?"

## Pioneer Notes

A merchant seaman, ordering a copy of *Maritime* by Frederick J. Lang, makes the following comment:

"I ran across your book, *Maritime*, and was amazed to find so many facts and figures about the industry, backing up what most of us already know from our own experience. It has got all the real stuff in it. Tell your writer that he has got the goods on 'those shipowners.'"

## Seaman's Handbook

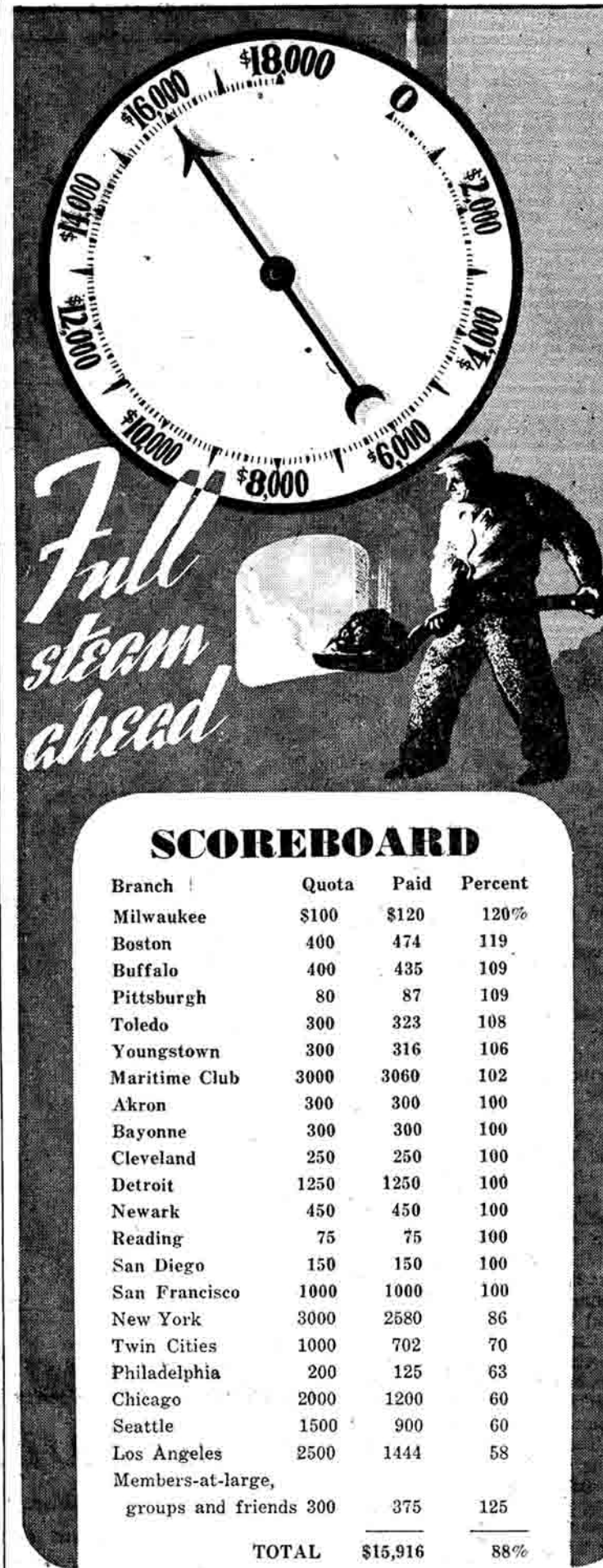
This book, written by one with first hand knowledge of the many problems aboard ship as well as of the industry as a whole, gives a fine picture of the maritime industry.

One entire section of the book is given over to material dealing with the relationship of the government and the shipping companies: an illuminating story of subsidies, graft and profits.

Another section deals with the facts relating to the government's handling of maritime labor and its unions, in sharp contrast to its benevolent attitude toward the shipowners.

Maritime tells the stirring history of the maritime unions beginning with the organization of the first maritime union organized on the west coast in 1885.

"MARITIME, A Historical Sketch, A Workers' Program" by Frederick J. Lang, \$1.00. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.



A letter from H. Smith, our Chicago agent, confirms previous reports that *The Militant* is warmly welcomed by the auto plant workers: "Enclosed are some 6-month subs. They are coming in straight from the plants now. Almost all the subs we are sending in are from workers in the large auto plants here. The Militant is so good—consistently, every issue—that this good response is not surprising with conditions as they are today. . . . We are going to have a Red Sunday, February 4, and hope to have more subs next week."

A report from our San Francisco agent, R. Haddon, stresses the fact that most of their new subscriptions are from unionized workers: "We are still hitting the more difficult areas, but after two Sundays at this, we are very much impressed with our results. Four of us went out for two hours and we returned with 18 trial subs and a 1-year sub. We believe that this shows the very definite change in attitude and manner of thinking of the working people in the last year or so. Practically everyone who purchased a trial sub was a member of a trade union."

"Another item of interest: A high school girl, who works after school as a telephone operator, purchased a trial sub last Sunday; she was attracted by the article on the New York telephone operators."

Youngstown's regular Monday night mobilizations are resulting in excellent weekly sales, according to the latest report from I. Cope, our agent: "Despite bad weather and a few cold feet, it's with warm hearts that we continue our 'sub-getting' and forward them to you. As a result of our regularly scheduled Monday

night mobilization, and making allowances for our short stay out due to extreme cold, we've sending under separate cover 18 new 25c subs which were sold in a very short time."

"In fact we're so confident of our sales in the future, we intend to challenge any branch our size during the campaign."

J. Thorne, our agent in Flint, is aiming at 100 subscriptions by March 1: "Maybe by doing some preliminary spadework I can lay the ground for a successful sub campaign here when it opens. Anyway, while I have some time, I'm going to see if I can't run up 100 subs before the campaign opens."

## Colonial Policy Is Forum Topic

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 — "The Real Meaning of the Wallace-Jones Dispute" was the topic discussed at the New York School of Social Science tonight, with George Collins as speaker.

A large audience attended to hear the facts and the analysis presented by Comrade Collins. The numerous questions that followed the presentation made it a very interesting evening for everyone. A good number of pamphlets and copies of the January issue of *Fourth International* were sold.

The next Sunday Night Forum, on February 11, will be "The United States Policy in the Philippines." Chris Andrews will be the speaker. We invite all readers of *The Militant* to come and bring their friends and shopmates to participate in the discussion. The forum will begin at 8 p. m., at 116 University Place.

## Stalinist Traitors Urge Forced Labor

(Continued from page 1)

den and secretary respectively of the Greater New York CIO Council, issued a "denial" which denied absolutely nothing. They simply pointed to a "for the record" resolution passed several weeks ago in the Council as "proof." But they carefully refrained from denying that Stalinist CIO officials had acted "unofficially," as PM reported.

A virtual confession of the truth of PM's specific charges is contained, however, in the *Daily Worker*, February 1, which devotes an entire page to an "answer." The "answer" does not attempt to deny PM's facts. It seeks to divert attention from the

real charges by a hysterical counter-attack against "the usual attempt of certain elements. . . to find 'splits' in the CIO."

Not only does the *Daily Worker* slide around the specific charges, but it tries to justify the treacherous act of its union stooges. It claims there is a "considerable" difference of opinion on the May-Bailey bill in the labor movement. "The *Daily Worker* has often in the past differed with many labor leaders, and labor leaders have even more often disagreed with the *Daily Worker*. There is nothing so strange about that." Etc.

Not a line about whether or not Stalinist officials in the CIO acted as strikebreakers against the entire labor movement by misusing their union titles to lobby for Congressional votes for the most dangerous piece of union-busting legislation ever cooked up by the American capitalists.

Most of the article is devoted to "our stand on the manpower issue." The *Daily Worker* brazenly touts the May-Bailey bill and wants labor to embrace the bill as "its own." Labor is advised not "to allow initiative on the May bill to its enemies." Don't wait for others to put the noose on your neck, put it on yourself!

## DEADLY ENEMIES

The *Daily Worker* tries to claim that "national service" is just the thing for labor. Didn't the demand for it come "from President Roosevelt, certainly not an enemy of labor"? Moreover, the *Daily Worker* gives its own word for it that "all the talk about national service being 'slavery' and violation of the freedom of contract is just plain poppycock." Rising to a frenzied crescendo, the *Worker* howls: "How will Hitler and Hirohito take it if such a measure is defeated?" Thus according to the *Daily Worker*, Hitler and Hirohito are rooting to beat hell for the American workers to remain free from forced labor.

Once more the Stalinists expose themselves as the deadliest internal enemies of the American labor movement. They are ready to commit any crime against the working class in the interests of the Kremlin's diplomatic alliance with Wall Street. In every wartime defensive struggle of the workers, the Stalinists have yelped with the reactionary pack trying to drag labor down. They advocate a permanent no-strike pledge. They conduct the most vicious and unremitting slander campaigns against union militants. They hail every act of government strikebreaking. They boast of open finkery, as in the Montgomery Ward strikes. Now they sneak behind the back of the labor movement to help the capitalist government aim its forced labor knife.

For its own safety, American labor must ruthlessly call to account the sinister Stalinist traitors. Stalinism will poison and ultimately destroy the unions if it is permitted to spread further through the body of labor.

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# 12 Released Trotskyist Fighters For Workers' Rights Honored At Welcome Home Mass Meeting In New York City

(Continued from page 1)

a 'hard way to go,' as the convicts say. But she stood up and played her part and set us an example. We are proud of our Senator. All the rest of us did the best we could and we hope you approve of the way we conducted ourselves," Cannon declared.

"If I were to be present at the meeting, the thing I would like to say would be how deeply, how profoundly, I thank you for your solidarity, your kindness, your friendship." He also expressed his

## JAMES P. CANNON'S MESSAGE

I deeply regret that I cannot be with you tonight. I caught cold on the train, and in view of the fact that I intend to go back to work shortly, the doctor thinks it best that I do not go out for a few days. It is only a small matter—nothing serious. In every other respect I am in good shape, and eager to return to my work, as are all the other men of Sandstone, Danbury and Alderson. Alderson is where our Senator put in her hard and bitter 13 months among the poor lost convict women who are cast out and abandoned and have no one to help them. Grace worried about them and tried to befriend them. Our hearts ached for our Senator there all alone with such a "hard way to go," as the convicts say. But she stood up and played her part and set us an example. We are proud of our Senator. All the rest of us did the best we could and we hope you approve of the way we conducted ourselves.

If I were to be present at the meeting, the thing I would like most to say would be how deeply, how profoundly, I thank you for your solidarity, your kindness, your friendship. I would like to say that I want to put on record in public my heartfelt gratitude to Roger Baldwin. He is not of our political and philosophic faith, but he is a principled fighter for what he believes in. Roger Baldwin believes in the rights of man. If I were present tonight and were permitted by time limitations to say only one sentence, to raise one slogan, I would say: "Long live the Rights of Man!" I always believed in this, but now I understand it better.

I would also thank the distinguished chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee and its efficient and hard-working secretaries and all the others who worked with them. But we really do not have to say how we appreciate them. There cannot possibly be any doubts of that.

"heartfelt gratitude" to Roger Baldwin, National Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, who aided the CRDC's defense campaign from the beginning of the case in June 1941.

## Goldman's Speech

Comrade Goldman, who made labor defense history as defense counsel in the Minneapolis trial where he was also a defendant spoke with his usual militancy. "Far be it from us to lay the least claim to a martyr's crown. Imprisonment is a terrible thing under the best conditions.

"It is not, however, because of our treatment in prison that you and thousands of others have protested and are protesting. It is because of the fact that we were imprisoned for propagating ideas which we believe offer the only path to the liberation of mankind. Very few of those who supported us agree with our ideas, but they understand that to permit reactionary forces to imprison people for preaching ideas that have as their aim the achievement of true liberty and equality for all men is dangerous indeed for everyone who is dissatisfied with the world as it is."

Calling for a continuation of the struggle against the Smith "Gag" Act, Goldman stated: "Our agitation against it may not result in its immediate repeal but it will undoubtedly save many a potential labor victim. Let all agitation against the Smith law cease and prosecutors all over the country will be encouraged to use it. Our agitation against the Smith Act becomes part of our struggle to preserve and extend democratic rights for the people. For we live in a period when those rights are constantly threatened."

## CRDC Role in Helping Prisoners

Farrell Dobbs, who as a young coal yard driver helped to organize and lead the great Minneapolis truckdrivers strikes in 1934 and rose to the position of SWP National Labor Secretary and then Editor of The Militant, told what it meant to the morale of the prisoners to know that the CRDC and its supporters were taking care of their dependent families.

He spoke with deep gratification of the "millions of trade union fighters [who] rallied to the defense of the 18 throughout our entire case and particularly when we were in prison and [who] rallied to the defense of Kelly Postal, Local 544-CIO secretary-treasurer, who was railroaded to jail by Tobin in the Minnesota courts. This defense movement has cut across political lines and organizational boundaries. Virtually all of the working-class parties have supported us—that is, all except the Stalinist betrayers of the working class. The oppressed Negro people sprang to our defense. And all liberal groups with the courage of their convictions lent us their support. Over 600 labor bodies have given their aid in this fight. They are so numerous it is impossible to name them all tonight and tell them how much we appreciate their support."

## Felix Morrow's Speech

Felix Morrow, Editor of Fourth International magazine and one of the most notable revolutionary journalists, declared: "We went to prison for a party in which we have supreme faith—a trade union which had every right to exist—and a principle of workers' liberties which every militant worker could understand if only our voices could reach him. And we reached millions of such workers. What is important is that several millions of workers learned to understand the principles involved in this case and learned what a threat to the labor movement is contained in the Smith Act and similar legislation."

For the labor movement really to fight firmly against reaction, Comrade Morrow pointed out, "means for labor to stand up as a class, a class which recognizes its irreconcilable hostility to the capitalist class—on the economic front, on the political front, on the civil liberties front." He concluded, "We are confident that as we march together in battle after battle for labor's rights, the very logic of those battles will weld together the kind of labor movement we believe necessary for ultimate victory."

## Noted Novelist Greet the 12

James T. Farrell greeted the return of the 12 in the name of the Civil Rights Defense Committee. He pointed out that the Minneapolis Labor case was not a mere "episode." Describing the illusions about the case held by many liberals, their belief, doomed to disappointment, that the "liberal" Roosevelt or the "democratic" Supreme Court would reverse the convictions, Farrell warned: "On the basis of these facts, one needs to be ready for the future, ready in case other cases arise." The defense of civil liberties, he said, "rests most strongly on the labor movement." He called on the labor movement to start work now "for broader defense work and broader struggle in the future." Only a united front based on the labor movement "can systematically carry on a struggle against the Smith



A scene at the Minneapolis homecoming banquet (above) shows, left to right: Jake Cooper, Carlos Hudson, Emil Hansen, Carl Skoglund, and Grace Carlson (speaking), released from prison Jan. 24; Miles Dunne, banquet chairman; Vincent Dunne and Oscar Cooper, also among the twelve released prisoners. Below, the New York City CRDC mass meeting; left to right, Oscar Shoenfeld and Karl Kuehn, Minneapolis Case prisoners released in October; Farrell Dobbs; CRDC Secretary George Novack; James T. Farrell, National Chairman, CRDC; Osmund K. Fraenkel, ACLU attorney; and Albert Goldman.

'Gag' Act. Let us now say that we want no more Minneapolis cases, and let us work to make this slogan a fact."

Farrell also pointed out that the Trotskyists were prosecuted because they "upheld Marxian views." He showed how for nearly a hundred years all the agents of capitalism have been "refuting" Marxism. But despite the fact that "Marxism is one of the most refuted of all tendencies," the ruling classes can only answer Marxism with repression, prison, murder. "And in this case, Marxism has been legally attacked in the United States. The expression of Marxian opinion has been held sufficient to send men to jail. I will not stress the irony of this situation."

## Fraenkel Speaks for ACLU

The counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, Osmund K. Fraenkel, who helped prepare the appeal for a hearing before the Supreme Court, described the legal aspects of the Minneapolis case and particularly the refusal of the Supreme Court on three

## SPEECH OF FARRELL DOBBS

I can sum it up in a few words: It is mighty good to be home. Comrades, on behalf of the 18 I wish to express our deep appreciation to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, and its many supporters for the care given to our families. A thing like that is very important to a man, especially when he is in prison. What I am talking about could be defined roughly as the human element in the class struggle.

We all have our sorrows, our joys, our needs, our desires. And I believe that many of you have had experience in strikes and on picket lines. In a strike the question of how valiantly a man will fight is often dependent on his knowing that if he goes to jail, his family will be taken care of; or if he is injured, he will be given medical care and hospitalization; or if he is killed, his family will not be left to want. Everyone who has been in a strike struggle knows right down to the ground just what I am talking about. That is the human element in the class struggle that gives such tremendous power to class solidarity, that makes it such a mighty force.

Millions of trade union fighters have rallied to the defense of the 18 throughout our entire case, and particularly when we were in prison; and have rallied to the defense of Kelly Postal, Local 544-CIO secretary-treasurer, who was railroaded to jail through a frameup by Tobin in the Minnesota courts. This defense movement has cut across political lines. It has cut across organizational boundaries. Virtually all of the working class political parties have supported us—that is, all except the Stalinist betrayers of the working class who are selling out the interests of the workers at every opportunity, and making opportunities when they don't find them.

Why have we received such tremendous mass support? Because every thinking person understands that his own civil liberties are at stake in this fight. But it must be realized, comrades, that the danger of the Smith "Gag" Act is actually heightened by the fact that its first victims are no longer behind bars, serving as a grim reminder of the existence of this vicious piece of class legislation. For what happened to the 18 can happen to any trade unionist, to the members of any working class party, to any liberal. That is why the release of the 18 from Roosevelt's prisons must be taken as a signal to redouble our efforts in the fight to repeal this Hitlerite Smith "Gag" Act.

occasions even to hear the case, although the Smith "Gag" Act directly violates the free speech amendment of the U. S. Constitution. "I sincerely hope the organizations affiliated with this case will succeed in wiping out the Smith Act," Fraenkel said, for it places anyone in jeopardy "for expression of opinions shared by millions the world over and which may yet prove more correct than the opinions of those who sent these people to prison."

Speaking on behalf of the most oppressed section of the population, the Negro people, Benjamin McLaurin brought greetings from "the largest international union of Negro workers in the world, the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and from the most radical organization of the Negro people in America, the March On Washington Movement."

## Labor Spokesmen Call for Support of CRDC

He showed the parallel between the persecution and frameups against the Negro people and the Minneapolis Labor Case. "We

## SPEECH OF FELIX MORROW

We went to prison for a party in which we have supreme faith—a trade union which had every right to exist—and a principle of workers' liberties which every militant worker could understand if only our voices could reach him. And we reached millions of such workers.

What is important is that several millions of workers learned to understand the principles involved in this case and learned what a threat to the labor movement is contained in the Smith Act and similar legislation. Those workers are ready for the next fight.

To those workers I want to state what may sound like a commonplace, and yet if every worker in this country understood it and acted upon it, there could be no Smith Acts and no anti-labor prosecutions. This thought is that had the whole labor movement firmly fought against the Smith Act, it could never have been passed.

Yes, the AFL and CIO were "on record" against it—they simply and perfunctorily recorded their dislike of the Smith Act. But—there was not a single mass meeting of the trade unions in any city against the Smith Bill. There was not even a single international union which bought radio time to broadcast against the Smith Bill.

Instead of continuing this list, let me just say—none of the things were done which the CIO has been doing this week in its fight to make Wallace the Secretary of Commerce. I don't think it matters who is Secretary of Commerce—but that's not my point. The point is that the outpouring of leaflets, radio time, mass meetings, delegations of labor to Capitol Hill, etc., which we have just seen for Wallace—none of this was forthcoming from the AFL and CIO national bodies during the time the Smith Bill was up before Congress. Not that the fight for Wallace is a model of how labor should fight for something it wants.

The fight against reaction must be waged by bringing together all workers and friends of civil liberties regardless of their political beliefs. This is the thought I want you to take back with you to your factories and unions—we can successfully fight reaction only if the great majority of the workers' movement is really struggling against reaction. The workers' movement must act against the politicians responsible for the Smith Act.

realize what the Minneapolis case means, perhaps more than any other group on the American scene. Let us give support to the CRDC which has fought so heroically that the world might know the truth in this case."

B. A. Gebner greeted the meeting and "all the defendants in the case in the name of the Workmen's Circle, the largest Jewish labor fraternal order in the United States." Despite differences of political views, "these differences did not preclude participation in

## SPEECH OF ALBERT GOLDMAN

Far be it from us to lay the least claim to a martyr's crown. Imprisonment is a terrible thing under the best of conditions. It is terrible to hear the noise of the locking of a door behind you and feel that you are actually treated like some wild beast.

But in comparison with the lot of those in Hitler's or Stalin's concentration camps, in comparison with the conditions that the Indian revolutionists have to endure in the prisons provided for them by British imperialism, our lot was quite an enviable one.

It is not, however, because of our treatment in prison that you and thousands of others have protested and are protesting. It is because we were imprisoned for propagating ideas which we believe offer the only path to the liberation of mankind. Very few of those who supported us agree with our ideas but they understand that to permit reactionary forces to imprison people for preaching ideas that have as their aim the achievement of true liberty and equality for all men is dangerous indeed for everyone who is dissatisfied with the world as it is.

Our agitation against the Smith Act becomes part of our struggle to preserve and extend democratic rights for the people. For we live in a period when those rights are constantly threatened. The economic dislocations that are bound to follow the war will bring with them serious conflicts between groups and classes. The answer to such conflicts on the part of the privileged and powerful is invariably the same: prisons and violence for those who are in the forefront of the struggle against the suppression of every democratic right. We must be prepared to guard those rights.

To you who do not agree with our political ideas I can say: Be absolutely certain that just as you have supported us, we shall support any one who is attacked by the forces of reaction, regardless of his disagreement with us. We accept and act upon the great principle which should prevail in the labor movement—an injury to one is an injury to all. Against the capitalists and all their tools the unity of all labor must be considered absolutely essential. The struggle on behalf of the defendants in the Minneapolis Case did not keep us out of prison. But it was certainly worth while to spend 13 months in prison to see that the spirit of solidarity lives in the hearts of tens of thousands of workers.

the fight for the liberation of our friends. A considerable number of our branches have given, and will give, moral and financial support to this fight." The defense campaign for the 18, he said, has shown that "there are progressive and liberal-minded people who do not merely give lip service to civil liberties but are ready to fight for it."

A high point of the meeting was the appeal made by George Novack for financial aid to Kelly Postal. The CRDC National Secretary described the ruthless persecution of the Local 544-CIO secretary-treasurer by AFL Teamsters Czar Daniel Tobin, the Minnesota government and the employers.

Kelly Postal, because of his militancy and devotion to union democracy, was first placed on trial in the Minneapolis Labor Case, but was one of 10 acquitted. Tobin's agents cooked up charges of "embezzlement" against him, because he had carried out the mandate of the Local 544 members in transferring the local's funds from the AFL to the CIO affiliation. One judge threw the case out of court. A more pliable judge was secured. Kelly was tried on a different but similar count based on identical "evidence," framed and sent to prison for up to 5 years.

After serving more than a year, he was paroled as a result of the pressure brought to bear through the CRDC defense campaign. He was paroled to Seattle, where his wife, Mae, had moved. She was suffering from cancer. She had to return to Minneapolis for treatment, but the parole officers refused to permit Kelly to go. Mae was compelled to make the long, difficult journey back to Seattle to spend her last few weeks with her husband. She died several weeks ago. Kelly has been left a big burden of debt for his wife's medical care, travel and funeral.

With a genuine demonstration of solidarity and generosity for a persecuted union brother, the mass meeting contributed \$468 in the collection to aid Kelly Postal meet the debts accumulated because he was sent to prison for his loyalty to the labor movement.

Scores of telegrams and messages greeting the released Trotskyists were sent to the meeting. Among the labor organizations and leaders expressing their solidarity were Irving Abramson, President of the New Jersey CIO; Thomas DeLorenzo, President of Brewster Aeronautical Local 365, CIO auto workers; Peter Capitano, Representative of Local 160, AFL Ladies Garment Workers; Aron

## RESOLUTION

We, 800 workers assembled at a mass meeting called by the Civil Rights Defense Committee at Hotel Diplomat Friday evening, Feb. 2, call upon the President of the United States to grant immediate and unconditional pardon and restore their civil rights to the 18 Socialist Workers Party and CIO members who were singled out for persecution and imprisonment under the Smith "Gag" Act.

We further urge all labor and progressive organizations who have already given such magnificent support to the Minneapolis Labor Case to intensify their aid to the Civil Rights Defense Committee in its campaign to secure the repeal of the unconstitutional Smith "Gag" Act, in order to destroy this vicious instrument of oppression which violates the democratic rights of the American people and remains as a threat to the entire labor movement.

S. Gilmartin, Chairman of the Workers Defense League. From every part of the country, the branches of the Socialist Workers Party sent their pledges of solidarity.

Demonstrating the international solidarity of the working class, leading organizations of Mexican workers hailed the release of the American Trotskyist leaders. These included the Mexican section of the Fourth International; the Workers and Peasants Confederation; Union of Construction Workers of the Federal District; Union of Tanning Industry Workers of the Federal District; Union of Construction Industry Workers, CTM; Libertarian Federation of Workers and Peasants; Union of Stage Employees ("Smirna Club.")

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a resolution calling on "the President of the United States to grant immediate and unconditional pardon and restore their civil rights to the 18 Socialist Workers Party and CIO members who were singled out for persecution and imprisonment under the Smith 'Gag' Act."



# The Moyne Case And Its Meaning

By Norman Daniels

Two Palestinian Jewish youths, Eliahu Hakim and Eliahu Bet-Tsouri, were sentenced to be hanged January 18 by a Cairo military tribunal for the assassination of Lord Moyne. The trial lasted seven days and on the surface it might appear that the two youths had their day in court and as a consequence have to pay with their lives for the shooting of this high British dignitary.

But if this were all that was involved, why was the trial held in such strict secrecy? Why were the correspondents covering the trial prohibited from writing anything concerning the motives behind the assassination? Why were the correspondents forcibly prohibited from even taking notes on the trial proceedings in the courtroom? This was obviously not done in the interests of the defendants. They wanted to be heard.

## WHY THE SECRECY?

The secrecy imposed on the trial has only one explanation: The fear that the accused in the prisoners' dock in the courtroom had the evidence to prove that their accusers were guilty of crimes far more hideous, far more ghastly than the assassination of one individual.

Lord Moyne was British Secretary of State for the Colonies, 1941-42. This was the period when the European Jews, persecuted, hounded and murdered by the Nazis, were seeking refuge. Some of those who succeeded in escaping the Nazi murder-machine—and they were not numerous—sought the permission of Lord Moyne to enter Palestine. But the British authorities who have been shedding and continue to shed crocodile tears over the extermination of millions of Jews in Europe refused to lift a finger to give haven to a few hundred who made good their escape. This was brought to light most tragically in the sinking of the refugee-ship "Sturma" in early 1942, when several hundred Jews on board lost their lives. This ship kept sailing from one port to another in the Mediterranean but nowhere would the British authorities permit them to unload the cargo of suffering refugees.

## THE GRYNSPAN CASE

The assassination of Lord Moyne, for which the two youths are to be hanged, recalls to us the Grynspan case in the latter part of 1938. Herschel Grynspan killed Vom Rath, the Nazi ambassador to France, in protest against the cruelties inflicted by the Nazi beasts on the Jews of Germany and on his family in particular. The sympathies of the whole civilized world were with Grynspan who had sought in feverish desperation to protest dramatically before the bar of world opinion against the savage torments to which Hitlerism subjected his people.

## MISGUIDED ATTEMPT

The shots fired by the two Palestinian youths at Lord Moyne likewise constitute an act of desperation. Their act too represents a misguided attempt to bring before the bar of world opinion the case of savage torments suffered by the Jewish people. This time not at the hands of Hitlerism, but at the hands of the "democratic" imperialists. Hitlerism has done all it could to exterminate millions of Jews in Europe. The democratic imperialists, who cynically raise their hands in horror at Hitler's brutality, do not lift a finger to save the victims of Hitlerism. Grynspan fired a shot that killed Vom Rath who to him symbolized the naked brutality of Nazi oppression. The two Palestinian youths fired the shots at Lord Moyne. To them he symbolized the hypocrisy, deceit and chicanery of the British rulers who promised much to the Jewish people and who have done nothing; who raised the hopes of the Jewish people only in order to betray them. The act of terror committed against Lord Moyne was an act of despair growing

out of the whole policy of British imperialism in relation to the Jews.

In writing on the Grynspan case, Leon Trotsky said: "We are revolutionary Marxists, and by virtue of our whole tradition, our doctrine, our daily behavior, we have nothing in common with the theory and practice of any kind of individual action, much less individual terrorism. At bottom, however justified it may be 'morally,' individual terrorism has always been either a substitute for or a brake upon the action of the masses which, properly organized, is the ONLY effective method of struggle against reaction. Yet, although our movement has always persistently and patiently combatted individual terrorism, it is proud of the fact that at all times and in all lands it has never hesitated, when confronted with a choice between the misguided foe of tyranny and the despot who fell before his bullet or bomb, to take the side of the former."

"We cherish the memory of William Tell and not of Gessler the tyrant. Not a shadow of infamy is attached in our minds to the epic traditions of the Russian terrorists who gave their lives in the struggle against the bloody Czars and Grand Dukes and their murderous police prefects. One would have to be devoid of the last iota of hatred for oppression and despotism, to think or write otherwise."

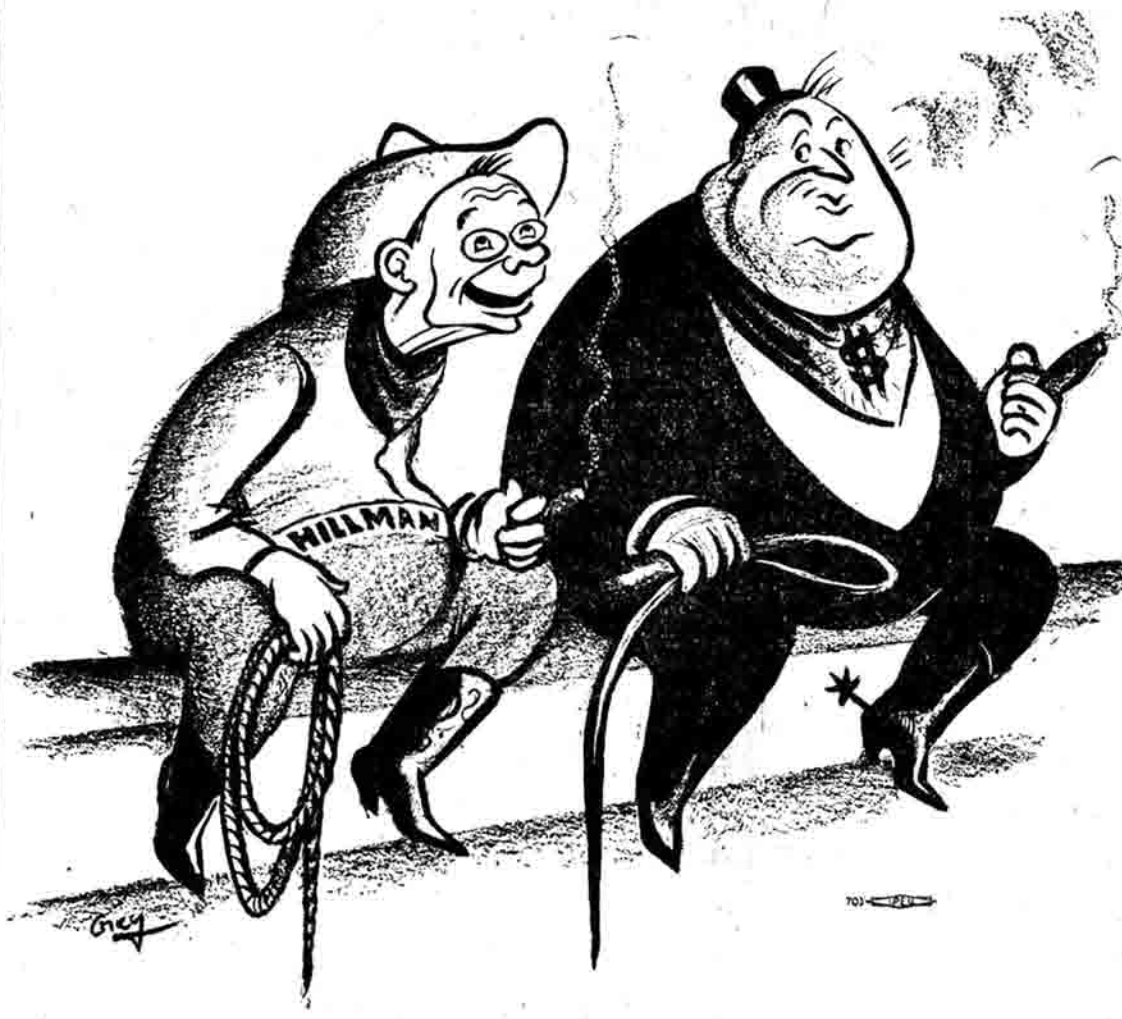
## GI Housing Bill Is Benefit Mainly To Realty Sharks

The housing provisions of the so-called GI Bill of Rights and the Veterans Administration's regulations "leave the door wide open for schemers to cash in on the veteran's bounty" states Charles Abrams in the December 1944 Architectural Forum. Banking and real estate profiteers, not the returning soldiers, will benefit most. The Bill helps only those veterans with enough money to purchase a home. This eliminates almost two-thirds of the 10 to 12 million veterans who can only afford to rent. Thus the worker-veteran who needs a home most will be excluded entirely.

A veteran who decides to purchase a house must do so within two years after discharge, at a time when pent-up civilian demand will "zoom" building costs. Since no construction standards are imposed, this is "inviting the worst orgy of jerry-building in our history" and mass rehousing.

Although interest charges are supposed to be no more than 4 percent, there are so many loopholes in the regulations that the real interest charges will be much higher, and the values inflated. Abrams foresees that most of the veterans who buy homes under this plan will likely "end up in foreclosure and disillusionment."

## "Us Bankers"



# Sidney Hillman Boasts "I Am A Banker Also"

By Lewis Jordan

Out in the wide open spaces of Arizona where men are men and well-heeled "labor statesmen" can play cowboy on swanky dude ranches, Sidney Hillman last month was basking in the healing desert sunshine. The head of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers was nursing the aches and contusions he sustained during the rough-and-tumble of the CIO-PAC campaign for Roosevelt and subsequently while rubbing elbows with unemployed royalty in London.

Nature's glory at so much per day evidently inspired Hillman to commune with a spiritual kinsman, also refreshing his soul on the dude ranch. Hillman discovered an affinity with ultra-reactionary William R. Mathews, editor of the Tucson, Arizona, Daily Star. Mathews found a new revelation. Hillman unburdened his soul "off the record."

The anti-labor editor hastened into print on the front page of his January 10 Daily Star. Enthusiastically, he affirmed that some people have Hillman all wrong. In fact, Hillman "did not have a mean word to say about anybody"—least of all the bosses. Hillman had "jumped with surprise" when Mathews "mentioned how many people, including myself, feared that he and his committee (CIO Political Action) sought the communication or socialization of life in America." This, Mathews reports with gratification, is a gross misunderstanding.

A Communist? "Me? Hillman exclaimed with astonishment. 'Why, I am a banker and my union has been working peacefully with the employers for years.' Banker Hillman then continued "with animation," "I even go so far as to say that labor cannot be prosperous without prosperous employers. We have recognized that in the garment industry for years." He might have added, so have the garment bosses. With Hillman's aid they have waxed rich, while the garment workers' wages and conditions remain among the worst in American industry.

"Yes, it was Sidney Hillman talking," writes the reactionary editor, unable to conceal his delight at finding such a harmony of views between himself and the much-misunderstood "labor leader." Hillman, "much against his will," was setting the record straight "after being told that there were many in Arizona who thought he was a Communist or Socialist, aching to take over private business enterprise in this country."

Mathews gladly helps Hillman dispel any such misapprehension. For the only thing Hillman is aching to do is "everything he and his colleagues can to make the private system of enterprise work." In short, defend capitalism and the capitalist class.

Into the sympathetic ear of Mathews, Hillman poured tales of his youthful exploits in slipping over phony contract settlements on the clothing workers. He recalled with satisfaction the first contract, in 1911, he had engineered behind the backs of the workers. He went on to emphasize how "the union helped itself by helping the employers." Well, anyway, Hillman's bureaucratic machine helped itself and the sweat-shop operators.

Thus, amid the wonders of nature in Arizona, Hillman bared his soul. It is the soul of a self-seeking bureaucrat—a soul self-confessedly no different from that of any capitalist and banker. And why shouldn't Hillman speak about "us bankers?" Like all bankers, Hillman too has risen to power and privilege on the backs of the workers.

Mathews concludes that Hillman "seems to appreciate the freedom he has found in America." Why not? Doesn't that freedom enable him to disport on a dude ranch and chat as an equal with a reactionary capitalist editor and boast, "I too am a banker?" What greater freedom can there be for a "self-made" labor faker?

# Separatists Are British Catspaws In Ruined Sicily

By Ruth Johnson

Gaetano Salvemini, anti-fascist writer was the first to charge Churchill with complicity in the formation of a separatist movement in Sicily to safeguard the Mediterranean lifeline of British imperialism. Salvemini again correctly charges, in the January issue of Countercurrent, that "Italy, like Greece, is the subject of secret agreement by powers seeking spheres of political influence."

The scheme of the Sicilian separatist movement, financed by big landowners or "latifundists," is to erect a monarchy under the "protection of British imperialism." The separatist movement is growing rapidly, writes N. Y. Times correspondent Herbert L. Matthews. And it recently produced an offering which, despairing of Churchill's ability to crush the Sicilian masses, has begun to make overtures to Washington.

## STARVING MASSES

The landowners of Sicily have never believed that the Bonomi puppet regime could cope with the rebellious starving masses of Sicily. Ever since Allied "liberation" of the island, there have been demonstrations and food riots in protest against intolerable conditions.

So terrible are conditions in Sicily that on Feb. 5, Matthews admitted Messina to be "almost as badly off now as after the earthquake, thanks to the terrific Allied bombing attacks." Houses are heaps of rubble. Clothing is limited to scanty handouts by the Red Cross. Although the island is predominantly agricultural, food is almost unobtainable for the masses. Landowners refuse to sell at government-fixed prices, diverting their crops instead to the lucrative black market.

"Eighteen months after its liberation," wrote Matthews on Feb. 1, "this island is half-starved,



"FOUR FREEDOMS"

wretched and rebellious, a prey to grave civil disorders. The first place that was liberated in Europe may yet become another Greece that will require the return of the Allied Military Government and troops . . ."

Describing outbreaks which have been heavily censored by the Italian government, Matthews relates that in the small town of Palazzo-Adreano, "what amounts to an uprising" started as a quarrel between a "Communist" and a gendarme, and "two days later, 1800 citizens were up in arms." No news of the outcome of this battle has yet been released, although armored cars have been thrown against the people there since January 25. There were "disorders" in Palermo on Oct. 19, in Catania on December 14 and an uprising in the provinces of Ragusa and Agrigento which cost the lives of at least thirty-six persons. Matthews expresses the foreboding of the landowners that "some day one of these uprisings will not be localized and will spread over the land."

The leftward swing of the masses is reflected in the strength of the political parties of Sicily. Largest is the Communist (Stalinist) Party reportedly with a membership of 48,000; the Socialist Party has 29,000; Democracy of Labor, 30,000; Christian Democrats, 45,000; Action Party, 7,000; Liberals 5,000. Against the working class parties, the separatists with fewer than 30,000 members are reorganizing the Mafia, the hated, rascally organization traditionally tied to the landowners. The Mafia, Matthews says, "is beginning to gather in criminal elements."

Matthews attributes the growing influence of the separatists to their demagogic "promises of food and work and better economic conditions." Another important factor is their utilization of the mass opposition to continuation of the war. Many of the local uprisings in Sicily have begun as demonstrations against the calling up of young men for service in the Italian army.

The masses of Sicily, however, are not likely to follow the false program of the separatist movement. Matthews concludes in his Feb. 5 report: "Sicilians often have flared into revolts that have shaken the whole of Europe, and they are capable of doing so again."



By V. Grey

## What Price Power?

"Just as long as people want to have power, you're going to have wars and trouble," somebody said the other day.

Some crazy guy with a lust for power and a yen to play soldier crops up every generation or so and gets millions of poor guys killed off who never wanted to play soldier at all. . . That's the way the capitalist books and newspapers explain things. And naturally most people believe it's really so.

But it stands to reason that very few tyrants are as strong as, say, two men together. And you never heard of ONE that could stand up to ten men at once. Yet it takes a hell of a lot more than ten strong men to overthrow a weakest tyrant.

Take the old superintendent of the Open Hearth—the one they had three or four years ago. He was hell on wheels. Took away the benches, took down the canopy the fellows had fixed up on the other side of the furnace floor to keep the rain and snow off them. He'd have a man sent back home for coming out on the floor five minutes late for his turn. There was a tyrant for you.

The whole union kept up a running fight for months to break that guy. They complained to every big shot they could. They had "take-it-easy" weeks, and regular slowdowns, too. Finally when the second and third helpers just refused to work on the floor at all, and stayed in the labor gang, the company "looked into it."

The result was that a different superintendent was put in and the other slave-driver was transferred. Naturally he got better pay in the new place where he pulled the same business, while the new super was a young guy—just promoted. Probably got lower pay than the old one.

But whom was the whole union fighting? Was it just an ornery, cantankerous old man who wanted to have his own way? Or was it the COMPANY—the association of millionaires who PROFITTED by his use of power?

You can be power-drunk all your life. But if you don't tie up with the bunch that want you in power to protect their interests, about all you can do is twiddle your thumbs, or read the comic books and intoxicate yourself with the deeds of "Superman" and his pals.

In their movie "Lost in a Harem," Abbott and Costello run up against a dirty king who's a tyrant for fair. And do you know how he does it? He hypnotizes everybody in the kingdom (including Tommy Dorsey and his band) with some kind of magic ring. That sounds pretty silly.

And yet, when you come to think of it, some explanations of Hitler's powers might have come out of the same wacky scenario writer's hand. According to the stuff you read and hear, this Hitler is some kind of nine-day wonder in reverse. He reportedly wields hypnotic power over people: Roosevelt and Churchill may be super-heroes. But Hitler's a super-villain. And instead of having a ring to put people to sleep, they have something better. They are supposed to have people all willing to be hypnotized anyway because they're such dopes!

But what does Hitler DO when he uses all this super-power of his? Does he put extra benches on furnace floors? Does he command the capitalists to raise workers' wages? Does he command them to pay time-and-a-half, and double time? Not on your life. He doesn't, because he CANT.

No, the magic of the fascist tyrant's power works only in one direction. Against the working people. Hitler has a lust for power, all right. But he and his gang are working for the association of German millionaires who PROFIT from this power. The minute there's no more profit, out he'll go, while they try to use some other handy tyrants (like Allied generals) to keep the German workers down.

No single individual really rules either Germany or America. A CLASS rules. The capitalist class. If they can get some super boy-scout to front for them, so much the better—for them. They can put forward these tyrants because, like all previous class rule, capitalist rule is the rule of a tiny minority, based on the foundations of scarcity economy. The only way a minority has or can ever did rule over the majority is by supplementing brute force with deception, lies and legends—especially centered round tyrants, "democratic" and fascist alike. That is why real democracy is out for capitalism just as it was excluded for feudalism and slavery.

When we take over the industries, our class, THE WORKING CLASS, will rule. Then we'll have real democracy, workers' democracy. We working people will be running things in our own interests. So naturally we will train as many as possible for genuine leadership. There will be no lifetime presidents or dictators under our system, for the simple reason that we'll be constantly getting better leaders to take care of the interests of those who will then PROFIT from the power—the WORKING PEOPLE themselves.

# 10 Years Ago In The Militant

FEBRUARY 9, 1935

SACRAMENTO—Aiding the California bosses in their prosecution of 18 Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union leaders, an aged stool-pigeon took the witness stand. To bolster up the state's charge of "criminal syndicalism," 70-year old William Hanks told a fantastic tale of "escaping" from California to Omaha, to avoid the "dangers" of a Communist "convention" reputedly scheduled to be held in Sacramento. The flimsy story was exposed by Hanks' own admission that he had never sought police protection because he "didn't think it was necessary."

Meanwhile from Minneapolis came a pledge of solidarity with the defendants, signed by General Drivers' Local 574-AFL, FRANCE—Writing from exile in France, Leon Trotsky exposed the machinations of the Stalinist GPU in its arrest of Zinoviev and Kamenev for "moral responsibility" in the assassination of bureaucrat Kirov. Already 14 men had been executed for the assassination of Kirov, after the filing of indictments which attempted to implicate Trotsky and his son Leon Sedov. Now, as a stage in the preparation for the infamous Moscow Trials which began a year later, the names of two more leaders of the Bolshevik revolution of 1917, were added as Stalin plotted to wipe out the Old Guard. The fraud of the GPU frame-up in the Kirov case was obvious to all who knew the records of Trotsky, Zinoviev, and Kamenev. After Lenin's death, Zinoviev and Kamenev, in complicity with Stalin, had slandered Trotsky to fortify their own positions, and the bureaucracy. In 1926, Zinoviev, alarmed at growth of reaction in the Soviet Union, publicly admitted that his struggle against Trotsky had been "one of the two great mistakes" of his life. For a brief period Zinoviev, Kamenev and their followers supported the Left Opposition in the struggle against the Stalinist bureaucracy. Expelled from the party, in 1927, Zinoviev later capitulated to Stalin and was readmitted to membership. Kamenev, likewise expelled from the party, also capitulated to Stalin. A few years later they were again expelled, again capitulated and were again temporarily restored to grace. For many years Trotsky had branded all the capitalists as traitors, and had broken off all relations, political and personal alike, with them.



BUILD THE LABOR PARTY

# The "Big Three" Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Belgium and the Quisling Papanastou in Greece. British tanks stood by while Belgian police poured lead into unarmed demonstrators in Brussels. British troops murdered Elzas fighters on the streets of Athens. Meanwhile Stalin imposed his reactionary puppets on the Rumanian and Bulgarian peoples.

But more had been agreed on at Teheran according to later revelations made by Churchill. Germany and Poland are to be carved up. One-third of Poland is to be turned over to the Soviet Union. East Prussia south and west of Koenigsberg including Danzig would go to Poland. To carry out this plan would require, said Churchill, "the disentanglement and transference of several million people." Then again to dispel any possible misunderstanding Churchill proclaimed: "These matters were first discussed at Teheran."

The current conference will only resume where Teheran left off. This time, however, the conference meets on the eve of the impending military collapse of the German armies. The question of what shall be done with Germany and above all how the German revolution will be crushed will undoubtedly assume the foremost position.

A dispatch emanating from London purports to give the report of "United Nations specialists" which will be submitted to the "Big Three."

"Germany," the report says, "whether she likes it or not, must be stripped of control of her home

economy, including financial, industrial and general services. Her merchant marine, commercial airlines, synthetic oil and rubber plants and chemical industries will be taken out of her hands. Half of the annual volume of annual expenditures that went into war production since Hitler's advent would finance the production of a substantial volume of goods for reparations. . . . There is general agreement that the Soviet Union, Poland and others on the continent who are demanding German laborers to repair war devastation will get them without serious objection from either Britain or the United States."

The writer says the report is more severe than Morgenthau's plan to convert Germany into a "pastoral economy." It would be much nearer the truth to characterize the plan as a more infamous, more ruthless edition of the Versailles Treaty. The German people will be forced to pay by starvation and slave labor for an imperialist war they no more initiated than did the peoples of Great Britain or the United States.

Yet even this report, the substance of which will undoubtedly become part of the new agreement made at the current "Big Three" Conference, lacks official confirmation. Least of all is it dignified by statements from Churchill, Roosevelt or Stalin. Like at Teheran, they remain mute concerning their plans for "peace." It must be obvious even to the politically illiterate that had they one single proposal that would alleviate the plight of ag-

nized humanity, one proposal that would free the masses from the shackles of reaction, one measure that would save mankind from a third and infinitely more horrible imperialist war—they would shout it to the heavens and invite the peoples to listen to the deliberations relating to such proposals. No. They plan as Teheran revealed only in small part, nothing but infamy—counter-revolution, redivision of the earth, realignment for a new imperialist war.

The Bolsheviks long ago inscribed on their banner the slogan: *Down With Secret Diplomacy!* They knew from their Marxist understanding the true nature of the conspiracy at these imperialist conferences. When they came to power in Russia in 1917, the Soviet Government under Lenin and Trotsky in one of its first acts opened the Czar's secret archives and published the pre-

datory deals of the imperialists in World War I.

But Stalin, the arch-enemy of the European masses, does not follow in the footsteps of the October Revolution. He betrays it at every turn. He conspires against the coming European revolution whereas Lenin and Trotsky assisted and inspired it. He meets in secret with the imperialist thieves whereas Lenin and Trotsky exposed and denounced them to the masses.

To plot is easy enough but to carry those plots into action against the hostile, stubborn opposition of millions of workers is far more difficult. The struggles in Greece and Belgium against the fascist plans of Teheran will become only mild skirmishes compared to the gigantic class battles that will unfold against the conspiracy now being consummated by Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin.

## NEW YORK Socialist Youth Forum

Friday, February 16, 8 P. M.

"THE MENACE OF FASCISM"

A Trotskyist Analysis of Native Fascist Groups

Speaker: Ruth Thorne

Questions

Discussion

116 UNIVERSITY PLACE (corner 13th St., between Broadway and Fifth Avenue near Union Square)

Free Admission

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## The Negro Struggle

By Charles Jackson

### The Chicago Defender's 'New Course'

What is happening to the editorial policy of the *Chicago Defender*? This formerly militant Negro weekly along with several other Negro publications has been undergoing some strange evolutionary process in the past three years, or, rather, we should say devolutionary process — because so far as fighting for Negro rights is concerned, it has been on a downhill roll.

It has, like most capitalist enterprises, whether white or Negro, supported the imperialist war, that is, the war of "democracy" (the Jim Crow variety) against fascism (partly financed by American capitalists). This war has been placed on the agenda by the "Defender" editors ahead of our justified struggle against segregation and discrimination.

The Democratic Party, though largely controlled by Southern race-baiters, was supported by this sheet in the past election regardless of its (like the Republican Party's) anti-Negro policy.

Every little crumb of a concession Roosevelt was forced to toss to the Negro was blazoned in bold-faced type while the rank acts of oppression to Negro civilians and soldiers were frequently buried in some insignificant spot in the paper.

Take the case of the fifty sailors who are serving 8 to 15 years for "mutiny" as martyrs in the fight against the reactionary, openly anti-Negro policy of the U. S. Navy. What is this Negro weekly which was founded by fighting Robert S. Abbot doing? Is it agitating for mass action to demand the release of these innocent boys? Not so's you can notice it.

Instead it prints in its Feb. 3 issue a vicious tirade against these men in the form of a letter from a prejudiced sailor who says that "their shame will be remembered for a long time." This new version of the Chicago "Defender" not only prints such white supremacy venom but — and here is the real sin — it lets this lying attack go unanswered without editorial comment, as if to give silent consent to those sentiments.

The name "Chicago Defender" remains at the top of the page but the question now arises: Whom does this paper defend? The downtrodden Negro masses and their brave martyrs? — or the American ruling class and its most vicious anti-Negro agents?

Just as a barrel rolling downhill, will crash head on into one being rolled up the same path, the "Defender" in its Jan. 27 issue takes a startling lunge in its lead editorial at — of all organizations — the American Civil Liberties Union!

The point of departure for this paradoxical editorial is the fact that the National ACLU Board has voted to look into charges of political intrigue within the Chicago branch — an intrigue calculated to emasculate that branch of the well-known militant position of the National body. Although the editor admits that the "accusations against the Chicago

unit are somewhat unclear" he proceeds to charge that the ACLU is opposed to too much emphasis on "battling for Negro rights." He charges that "the virus of racial prejudice evidently has not been cleansed from its (the ACLU's) ranks."

This strange accusation by an organ that is, itself, degenerating from its once militant stand is no new phenomenon. In charging the ACLU with giving up the Negro struggle, the Chicago "Defender," caught on thin ice, is merely reemphasizing the fact that supporters of the old order, when faced with the inevitable contradictions to which their policy leads them, will invariably accuse others of the very sins of which they, themselves, are most guilty.

A review of the record shows that the American Civil Liberties Union is one of the few organizations that still fight for the rights of Negroes regardless of the tremendous opposition of American capitalism in this competitive war.

The ACLU supported the FEPC and is assisting the National Council for a Permanent FEPC. Following anti-Negro attacks of 1943 it published and widely distributed a pamphlet entitled "How to Prevent a Race Riot." In the courts during the past year it participated in an unprecedented number of cases involving the rights of Negroes. These included the outlawing of the white primary in Texas, the Lynn case involving discrimination in calling Negroes to military service by segregated draft quotas and segregation of Negroes by the Boilermakers Union.

It has assisted in the parole of the remaining Scottsboro boys in Alabama; a successful case in Detroit involving discrimination by the military authorities against a Negro doctor drafted by the Army after the Navy had refused to accept him; the successful fight of the NAACP against segregation of Negro children in the schools at Hillburn, N. Y.; the litigation against the exclusion of Negroes from the Stuyvesant Town housing project; the abolition of public school discrimination in Trenton, N. J. and many other cases.

The "Defender" editor complains that the ACLU is against the "Communist" (former fighters for Negro rights in the days before the CP became completely Stalinized.)

Although this degenerated group is now opposed to any civil rights which interfere with the "war effort," nevertheless the ACLU made representations on behalf of Mrs. Earl Browder in her deportation case because political prejudice seemed to be playing a factor in the decision as rendered by the Department of Justice.

These are the facts. We see what the Chicago "Defender" under this new editorial policy has failed to do; we see what the ACLU against great odds has continued to do. The Negro masses will not be fooled by these ridiculous, hysterical, diversional shrieks.

# Union-Smashing Slave Labor Bill Is Adopted By House Under Roosevelt, Brass-Hat Pressure

(Continued from page 1)

## Scene at CRDC Mass Meeting



At the New York City mass meeting held by the CRDC on Feb. 2 to demand pardon for the 18 and repeal of the Smith "Gag" Act, are shown, left to right: Oscar Shoenfeld, Karl Kuehn, CRDC Secretary George Novack, Albert Goldman (speaking), Felix Morrow and James T. Farrell, National Chairman of the CRDC.

istration and behind-the-scenes manipulation of the would-be Prussians of the General Staff. Secret meetings were held at which the top ranking Generals and Admirals addressed urgent pleas to congressmen for the immediate adoption of forced labor legislation. In the debate in Congress the forced labor advocates harped on one theme: The Commander in Chief and his Chiefs of Staff want slave labor, therefore we have to give it to them. All pretense of the much ballyhooed "manpower" and "munition" shortage was dropped.

The bill was steamrolled through under a fog of nauseating hypocrisy about building the "moral" of "our boys in the foxholes." One glorified ward heeler after another arose and waved the bloody shirt. Crocodile tears were shed over the men in the armed forces whose spirits were drooping because the political agents of Wall Street hadn't completely enslaved their brothers, fathers and sisters. "We pledged all of our resources," orated Democrats and Republicans in a frenzy of pious patriotism. That is, "all" except the sacred profits and privileges of the cost-plus patriots who are amassing fabulous wealth out of the agony of mankind.

When the question was raised of "drafting" capital the champions of slave labor were horrified. Such an action, they shrieked was in gross violation of the fifth amendment to the constitution upholding the sanctity of private property. To the millions of capital the fifth amendment is sacred, the fourteenth is not.

### REAL REASON

It is well nigh impossible to get at the real reason behind the demand for the immediate enactment of a slave labor law, by reading the statements and listening to the speeches of the forced labor advocates. Different reasons have been advanced at different times. Roosevelt and his brass hats insist on having a forced labor law — now!

It is openly admitted that such a law would have little chance of adoption after the military collapse of Germany. Therefore, Roosevelt and his High Command have thrown all their weight behind the May-Bailey bill.

### "NOW OR NEVER"

But why are Roosevelt and his Chiefs of Staff so hell-bent on getting a slave labor bill enacted "now"? The war in Europe is entering its final stages. The military collapse of Germany is imminent. There is no manpower shortage now and there will most certainly be none after the end of the war in Europe. The key to this frenzied drive to jam through a forced labor law "now," lies in the fact that such legislation is primarily intended for use in the period AFTER the defeat of Germany. For what purpose?

The administration has announced its intention of enforcing the wage freeze "for the duration" of the war with Japan. The end of the war in Europe will be followed immediately by large-scale cutbacks and plant shutdowns. Workers will be thrown on the streets by tens of thousands. It will no longer be possible to keep a no-strike checkrein on the unions through the use of deception.

Roosevelt and his brass hats cannot count too much on their labor lackeys to keep the workers "in line." They want a forced labor law to prevent the unions from regaining their independence of action in the struggle against the wage and job freeze which lowers their standard of living.

The May-Bailey bill is a job-freezing, strikebreaking, slave labor measure, designed to keep the unions subservient to the imperialist aims of the Wall Street plunderbund. That is why the political and military agents of Big Business want to place such legislation on the statutes "now." Having been adopted in the House by a vote of 246 to 165, the May-Bailey bill has at this writing gone to the Senate where action has already been taken to speed the passage of forced labor legislation. The labor bureaucrats have confined their "opposition" to writing futile letters to "their" congressmen. It is up to the union militants to take the lead in the fight against labor conscription.

The Greater Flint Industrial Union Council CIO, has shown the way by condemning "any form of labor conscription," and urging "united labor action" in the form of a "national demonstration if necessary," to manifest labor's uncompromising opposition to slave labor.

## Party Greetings To 12

The following are brief quotations from messages of solidarity sent to the 12 released Trotskyist leaders from branches of the Socialist Workers Party.

We extend our hand in warmest welcome. We have worked determined that your jailors would not succeed in their vicious

plot to destroy our movement by imprisoning its leaders.

Los Angeles Local, SWP

Welcome back, comrades. You have served the party well. Your example of self-sacrifice and devotion has been a great inspiration to our movement.

Chicago Branch, SWP

## Labor Greetings To Released 12

The following are brief extracts from a few of the many labor organizations in the United States and Mexico sent greetings to the 12 released Trotskyists on the occasion of the Welcome Home Mass Meeting in New York City:

Irving Abramson, Pres. New Jersey CIO Council

I just learned of the release of the Minneapolis prisoners. While I share with you your regret that the fight for a pardon was unsuccessful, I join with you in welcoming their freedom. . . . With the dawn of their new freedom should come a recognition of their contribution to the fight against injustice.

Thomas DeLorenzo, Pres. Local 365, UAW-CIO

It is with genuine joy and a keen appreciation of what this might mean to minority groups the country over that I greet the release of the 18 Minneapolis victims of "gag rule." Both I and the union that I have the honor to represent pledge ourselves to do all in our power to see to it that such frameups will become no more than a recollection of the nightmarish past.

Peter Capitano, Representative Local 160, ILGWU-AFL

May we take the opportunity, at this time, to congratulate the CRDC on the fine work done in the release of the 18 prisoners and wish them all luck. You may call on us at any time to help such worthy causes.

Harry Silverman, International Representative United Automobile Workers, CIO

The imprisonment of the Minneapolis labor leaders was a black spot on American civil liberties. The use of government power by one labor faction against another to settle labor problems is a dangerous precedent.

Bernard Rifkin, Editor American Labor News

The void in our ranks is now filled. On with labor's fight.

Aron S. Gilmartin, Chairman Workers Defense League

Greetings to the released victims of the infamous Minneapolis gag law prosecutions. All of us have a great deal to do to win real civil rights and the lessons we have learned in the Minneapolis case will stand us in good stead.

Mexican Section of the Fourth International

We greet our brother party and comrades who have gained their liberty after being in prison. The example of these magnificent revolutionary socialist fighters is an inspiration for all the Trotskyists in other countries. We feel complete solidarity with you in your fight.

Union of Construction Industry Workers, CIO

We are in full solidarity with you and knowing that the prisoners have gained their liberty, we request that you transmit to them and to the members of the Socialist Workers Party our warmest revolutionary greetings. For a society without classes!

Union of Construction Workers of the Federal District

Greetings of revolutionary solidarity. The 18 who were put in prison for the crime of defending the working class and the cause of Socialism have demonstrated to the workers of the other countries that also in the United States, the metropolitan of imperialism, there exist revolutionists and a party that fight against their exploiters and for the cause of the workers of the whole world.

Workers and Peasants Confederation

We send a greeting of revolutionary solidarity and our congratulations to the 18 comrades and the other fighters of the world revolutionary movement.

Union of Tanning Industry and Allied Trades of the Federal District

Fraternal greetings and congratulations. The example of the Socialist Workers Party in its fight for a socialist world serves to create among the Mexican workers a sentiment of solidarity with the workers of the United States.

Libertarian Federation of Workers and Peasants, Federal District

The Minneapolis defendants can count on all the help and sympathy we can express fraternally for their conduct. These revolutionists should know that their rebellious action vindicates the revolutionary movement of the world which is in danger of being dashed on the waves of a new social crisis.

## Diary Of A Steel Worker

By Theodore Kovalsky

"Tom," I said, "you disappoint me." We had been having a long discussion on the causes and effects of racial prejudice, on how to fight it for the good of white and colored workers alike; and how finally to eliminate it once and for all. Tom, the handsome, rugged Negro from Mississippi, had at first been amazed that I had no prejudices against any races or nationalities; then, listening with interest to all my arguments, he had come to agree emphatically with me, illustrating our discussion with examples of his own. But then he spoiled everything: "Yeah, I guess those Jewish bankers sure would hate for us all to get together!"

He looked surprised when I said he disappointed me. I went on: "Of course the Jewish bankers would hate that. But why single out the Jews? There are more, many more, Gentile bankers than Jewish. And, Tom, didn't we just agree that a man's race has nothing to do with how honest or crooked he is, how intelligent or stupid, or how lazy or ambitious? Didn't we agree that he learns these traits as a result of the kind of society he lives in?"

"Well," Tom said rather sheepishly, "I didn't really mean Jews, I guess. I meant bankers, capitalists. And then, I always had an idea most capitalists were Jews. Don't they control the country?"

"A book came out several years ago," I said. "It's name is America's Sixty Families, and it showed that just about sixty families in the United States control the entire country. These are the Fords, the Morgans, the Rockefellers, and so on. And there are some Jews, too, but there are just a few of them. The Jews are a minority in the population, and they are roughly the same minority in the capitalist class. That is, if there are, say, two Jews in every hundred people in the entire population, there'd be about two percent of Jews in the capitalist class."

"Still, the most important capitalists aren't Jewish at all. Morgan, duPont, Ford, and Rockefeller aren't Jewish. You see, Tom, it's not the race or nationality that counts, as we've already agreed. It's the CLASS that counts."

"It's just like Jim Crow. It's all race hatred, and it doesn't matter what the race is: the results are the same. The working class is split up, and there is a scapegoat on whom to unload blame for the bad conditions that the capitalists are responsible for. That's how it worked in Germany."

"That's something I wanted to ask: how about Germany? Didn't the Jews control Germany?"

### Anti-Semitism and the Nazis

"No, Tom, that was just propaganda that Hitler put out for the same reasons I've just given you. Capitalism in Germany was worn out. It was rotten to the core. It couldn't supply jobs for the people; it couldn't give them the necessities of life. In blaming the Jews for the troubles of Germany Hitler did two things: he split up the population of Germany (the way Jim Crow does here), preventing the people from standing together in one unified army; and he put the blame for all the economic troubles of the country on the Jews. Krupp and Thyssen and the rest of the big capitalists of Germany were financing Hitler to do this. Why? Well, you can imagine what would have happened if ALL the people there had realized that it was the capitalist class as a whole that was responsible for all the troubles of the country. 'Divide and rule,' Tom. That's Hitler's motto and practice . . . and it's the motto of all the other capitalists and capitalist politicians."

"This is all kind of new to me," Tom admitted. "But if the Jews are like everybody else in the working class, why don't they work in factories like the rest of us? They've got little businesses and they rob you blind."

"That's business, Tom. The little business man of any race has got to rob you blind if he can, because the big ones are robbing him, and he wants to make a living. And I think I'd rather be in a factory than working and struggling all kinds of long hours trying to keep a little shop going. A little shopkeeper has one hell of a time under this system."

"But about the Jews in the factories: The companies have used discrimination against the Jews just like the Negroes. Why do you think the application blanks all ask your religion? Then, too, a lot depends on the section of the country. Did you know that a high percentage of the workers in New York City are Jewish? And these are among the worst paid workers in America, the garment workers. Also, they live in what you'd call a Jim Crow section, in Brooklyn. Like the wards where the Negroes live, there is a great deal of poverty in Brooklyn, and some sections are populated mainly by one group, and some people make jokes about it, like they do about Harlem."

"And, my god, Tom, look at the terrible condition of the European Jews forced to live in ghettos, starving, thousands of them, killed off in what you might call 'mass-lynchings.' Is that the way a powerful race would be treated?"

"One more thing: look around, and you'll find that anti-Semitism, anti-Negro, and anti-labor propaganda usually go together. Isn't that so?"

Tom admitted it was. All in all, I think I convinced him. I hope so.

### CHICAGO

Charles Jackson

Writer of THE MILITANT column

will speak on

### "The Struggle For Negro Equality"

Hear Jackson discuss a fighting working class program that will protect the interests of the Negro workers.

Sunday afternoon, February 18, 8 P. M.

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### Pioneer Paragraph

## WHAT A LABOR PARTY MEANS TO THE OPPRESSED NEGROES

Our guide has so far considered the organization of an independent labor party from the viewpoint of the trade unions and labor generally. But other sections of the populace are vitally affected by the role labor takes in politics. Two most important groups are the 13 million Negroes and the middle classes, including the white-collar workers, small proprietors, share-croppers, tenants and dirt-farmers.

The colored people have everything to gain from a labor party. It is the two old capitalist parties which uphold the Jim Crow and poll tax system and foster discrimination in the armed forces and industry. American fascism would undoubtedly select the colored people as the principal scapegoat in its bloody bid for power. This has already been revealed in the attacks upon the Negroes in Los Angeles, Detroit, New York and elsewhere. Native would-be fascists were among the leaders of the mobs which hunted down and killed colored people. How well the Negro people understand the need of collaboration with organized labor is revealed by the recent poll conducted by the leading Negro newspaper, the Pittsburgh Courier, 98 percent

of those polled voted for a more solid tie-up with organized labor. The colored people themselves can play a great role in organizing an independent labor party. Those who are already members of trade unions should champion the cause. All the pent up energy of the colored people should be consciously directed to building the labor party. The colored people will be the first to feel the terrible depression now on the horizon. They must act now to build the only means of fighting the mounting reaction. Start now on the road to political action!

Explain to your white shop mates how Jim Crow and poll tax system keeps in power the ultra-reactionary Congressional bloc of Southern bourgeois who are out in front attacking labor. Explain how this bloc of Congressmen constitutes the backbone of the Democratic Party. Explain how destruction of the poll tax and Jim Crow system will not only strengthen the proposed labor party but fatally weaken the Democratic Party and its control over Congress.

(From "American Workers Need A Labor Party," by Joseph Hansen, pp. 38-39, Pioneer Publishers, 1944, 48 pp. 15 cents. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.)

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To defend the USSR as the main fortress of the world proletariat, against all assaults of world imperialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of every class-conscious worker.

— LEON TROTSKY

## JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

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

## Time For Action

The cowardly labor bureaucrats are giving an unparalleled exhibition of their callous disregard for the fundamental interests of the union membership. For weeks, while the forces of reaction were openly mobilizing for a concerted effort to enact a slave labor law, the labor skates went deaf, dumb and blind. They neither saw, heard nor spoke of the danger threatening the labor movement. It wasn't until the conspiracy to shackle the unions was far advanced that they uttered a few feeble words of opposition to conscripting labor for private profit. Even this faint-hearted gesture was made only after the workers became aroused over the do-nothing policy of their official leadership.

In the meantime, Roosevelt, who has been spearheading the drive for a slave labor law, made a tongue-in-cheek gesture to the "left" by naming Henry Wallace as Secretary of Commerce. Having jam-packed the administration with bankers, stockjobbers, speculators and coupon clippers, the White House demagogue sought a "liberal" cover for his Big Business troupe. Contrary to the cringing attitude of the cravens who head the unions, the spokesmen for Wall Street set up a hue and cry against this "threat" to their prerogatives. They would have no "idealist" experimenting and tampering with their "free enterprise" system of profit and plunder.

This was an issue to warm the cockles of a labor faker's heart. And it came at a very convenient time. Forgotten was the real danger of slave labor. The fight was between "progress" and "reaction," with Roosevelt and Wallace symbolizing "progress" and the Republicans and anti-Roosevelt Democrats personifying "reaction." Mass meetings were organized to mobilize the workers in support of Wallace. Resolutions were adopted. Radio time was purchased with union funds. Articles on Wallace crowded the issue of forced labor off the pages of the national labor press service. The labor zombies made the welkin ring with "militant" demands that Wallace be confirmed forthwith.

The fake Roosevelt-Wallace circus was used to divert the attention of the workers away from the real danger which threatened to deprive labor of its freedom. The antics of the labor skates prove once again that the workers cannot depend on the

labor lieutenants of the capitalist class to defend their interests.

It is up to the union militants to take the lead in the fight for labor's rights and labor's freedom. The time, money and energy of the unions must be diverted to the defense of the unions. Mass meetings, radio time, newspaper articles, resolutions and militant demonstrations must voice labor's uncompromising opposition to slave labor. Independent labor action is on the order of the day. It has been too long delayed.

## Welcome For The 12

The New York Welcome Home Mass Meeting held last week to greet the released Trotskyist leaders was a workingclass demonstration against a glaring manifestation of contemporary capitalist society's hypocrisy, degradation and brutality. It was a demonstration against that violation of workers' rights and civil liberties which is a hallmark of the decline and decay of "democratic" capitalism.

This was a demonstration for ideas and slogans which bear within them a reminder to the capitalists that they have not always been the ruling class in human society—that they too rose to power through the revolutionary overthrow of an outmoded ruling class. To rally the popular masses for the overthrow of feudal society, the revolutionary bourgeoisie were then compelled to raise the banner of democratic rights. In the Great French Revolution, the slogan of the 18th century French philosophers—*The Rights of Man*—was opposed to the rights of the feudal lords. The battle cry of the revolutionary plebeians, the Jacobins of the Convention, was "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

Under the rule of the victorious bourgeoisie these rights were never realized. But the old slogans remain to haunt the class that first raised them. Today, the bourgeoisie everywhere tries to bury the banner it bore in the early days of its own rise to power. The "equality" of its revolutionary proclamation now appears only in hypocritical references to "equality" of sacrifice and the conquerors' justice. "Fraternity," as Frederick Engels long ago pointed out, "was realized in the chicanery and envy of the competitive struggle."

That sense of human dignity, first raised to revolutionary heights by the early bourgeois slogans, is beginning to cry out in this sixth year of the greatest man-made catastrophe of history. This cry for an end to world slaughter and a new regard for the rights and dignity of man reflects the deepest conscience of modern humanity. That conscience finds its highest expression in the ideas and methods of Trotskyism, the program of the victimized Trotskyist leaders.

These eighteen, who have not yet regained the civil rights wrested from them, were thrown behind prison bars because they went out to build a better world. They defended the philosophy and the method which has laid bare the laws of capitalist economy and class politics. They were imprisoned because they identified themselves with the historic interests of the workers and oppressed of the world, those destined to become the liberators of mankind.

The mass meeting in honor of the 18 represented those forces and that class—the working class—which alone can and will achieve the true epoch of *The Rights of Man*—the epoch of world socialism. They and the 4,500,000 members of over 600 labor bodies who came to the defense of the 18 represent the forefront of that mighty host which in its revolutionary rise will destroy all that is based in capitalist society, salvage all that is worthy from the best achievements of the past, and through socialism lift humanity to unprecedented economic and cultural heights.

## 12 Years Of Nazism

When Hitler seized state power in 1933 he proudly proclaimed that Nazism would rule 1000 years. That was twelve years ago. The fascist juggernaut which rolled over the German working class a short twelve years ago, crushing the organized labor movement, is today on the verge of collapse. In the span of a single decade, Nazism has dissipated all its internal resources. The revolutionary significance of this fact is recognized by the arch-conservative N. Y. *Times* which remarks that the explosion in Germany "when it comes, will make the revolution of 1918 look like a tea party."

The specter of the German working class revolution haunts the councils of Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. "What to do with Germany" occupies first point on their agenda. Only, the question as formulated in their minds is: "How to stave off the German revolution."

The semi-official American Army and Navy Journal reports that "German business moguls are putting out peace feelers" to the allies. After the last war, German capitalism was unable to provide a solution for the needs of the masses. To perpetuate the capitalist system these same business moguls and Junkers paved the way for Hitler. Fascism was their prescription for staving off the working class revolution. What brighter prospects can they offer the German people today?

In a Germany devastated by war, her industry dismantled or destroyed, her economy shattered, the continued rule of capitalism can bring nothing save hunger and starvation, tyranny and oppression. The capitalist-landlord clique saw in Hitler a "savior" who would preserve their profits and privileges if not for 1000 years, then at least for their own lifetime. Now that fascism has run its course, they look to Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin to come to their rescue. The plans of the "Big Three" will be no more enduring than those of Hitler. The revolutionary working class will have the final word.

# 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.

## Stalinism

Editor:

I am a new reader of The Militant and am impressed to discover your great dislike for Stalin. I have always considered him a great man and friend of the worker, and now you come along and say just the opposite. Would you mind giving a few good reasons for your dislike in the next issue of The Militant?

J. Span  
Philadelphia

(ED. NOTE: The Militant is dedicated to the cause of Socialism inside and outside the Soviet Union. Among the greatest dangers to the American and world working class is the delusion that Stalinism, past or present, ever served the interests of labor, inside or outside the USSR, let alone the cause of Socialism to which The Militant is dedicated. That is why from its inception the Trotskyist movement has engaged in the exposure of and irreconcilable political struggle against Stalinism, the betrayer of Bolshevism, by counterposing the actions and crimes of Stalinism with its vile pretenses and perfidious policy. Since 1928 literally every issue of The Militant has carried not a few irrefutable reasons and facts to prove why no class-conscious worker could permit himself to plead ignorance of the Stalinist record of crimes and betrayals.)

For background material we recommend the writings of Leon Trotsky, James P. Cannon and other pamphlets and books which may be obtained by writing for the free catalogue of Pioneer Publishers.)

## Negro Nurses

Editor:

Thousands of Negro nurses are looking for jobs, while the government is demanding "Draft the nurses!" The brass hats would

rather let wounded men go untreated than have black skinned women aid them, just as they let thousands of men suffer needlessly by refusing to let Negro doctors serve overseas. The N. Y. *Times* admitted as much when it referred, on Jan. 21, to "thousands of trained Negro nurses and doctors waiting to be called."

Of course that's nothing new! Negro nurses and doctors have been treated the same way by civilian hospitals. It revolts me to see what a fuss the liberals make over Sydenham Hospital in New York just because it has a mixed staff. These hypocrites know perfectly well that for four years job discrimination because of color has been illegal in New York yet they act as if the millennium has arrived, because one or two places "obey" the law!

When we end the whole system of Jim Crow, we won't need a "labor draft" of any workers, Negro or white.

R. N.  
New York

## Labor Lobby Fraud

Editor:

The Stalinist flunks are taking the lead in organizing a CIO "march on Washington" movement to plead with representatives of Big Business for the revision of the Little Steel formula. In northeastern Ohio this campaign is being led by a notorious Stalinist hack, Joe Kress. A delegation to beg in Washington is being organized. It is supposed to represent the state of Ohio, and the plan is to follow it up with delegations from other states, in a continuous lobby.

This maneuver, coming at a time when the workers in the UAW are fighting to scrap the no-strike policy, is being deliberately pushed to confuse the workers, and at the same time to bolster up the government boards and agencies that have acted so

consistently against the workers. The Stalinists can be relied upon every time to do everything possible to deceive the workers. This latest move for a national lobby is simply another attempt to allay the militancy of the workers through deception. But it is doomed to failure beforehand. The workers are beginning to understand that begging gets them nothing but delays and defeats. They have learned that they can't fight to break the Little Steel formula while their hands are tied by the no-strike policy. That is why they will quickly understand that the Stalinist lobby, which is aimed to further promote stalling, will get them nothing at all.

J. K.  
Youngstown, O.

## Where Rascals Are

Editor:

While yet a Senator Harding said that before he would give life American people a vote on whether they want a war or not, he would resign his office. Now, Woodrow Wilson told the people if they voted for him he would keep us out of war. He did not keep his word. If we get burned it is by the class that declares war and lives on it. So it is easy for my friends to see where I stand. I am like the man who said that he was almost as smart as the astronomer who, he said, had got so that they could tell some things two or three days ahead; while he had got so he could tell two or three day afterwards.

Since I became a Socialist I found out that the biggest rascals and thieves are not in the slums but in the Hilltops, and it does not take an astronomer to sort them out. If a man cannot tell why he is not a Socialist he ought to go to bed till he gets his right mind.

L. B. Courts  
Hamilton, O.

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

## Germany

Demonstrations and mass outbreaks in Germany are mounting, despite the desperate exhortations and threats of Propaganda Minister Goebbels and the frenzied appeals of Hitler, whose vaunted "1,000 year rule" is collapsing on the 12th anniversary of his ascent to power.

Radio and press dispatches report clashes between Stormtroopers and the home-front Volkssturm, because the latter "wanted to aid evacuees." The death rate in refugee-packed Berlin has skyrocketed and "1,300 people are dying every day, many collapsing in the streets, and there are no ambulances to carry them away." Riots for bread are frequent as the refugees ransack the stores in search of food. The refugees from the east are estimated at 4,500,000.

A German war reporter described a scene in Breslau as follows: "A convoy of peasant carts with refugees from the surrounding countryside are on the square. Women and children in the carts are huddled under blankets. In another corner of the square, a long row of perambulators, pushed by mothers and grandmothers is heading for the main railroad station. Freight and bundles are piled up high on the baby carriages."

In Berlin and other reception centers, food supplies, housing, clothing and medical resources are taxed to the breaking point, as streams of refugees pour in. Hunger demonstrators are ruthlessly cut down by Stormtroopers. Gunfire was directed against groups of German women in Leipzig who tried to force their way into barracks in protest against the dispatch of Volkssturm men to the front.

In a town near Berlin women led demonstrations against the food authorities, beating up officials who suspended the sale of food on rationing cards. Stormtroopers quelled the demonstrators with guns. One hundred civilians were killed in a clash with Stormtroopers in the east railway station of Berlin.

The crisis in Berlin is white-hot. Even though the much-bombed capital is already jammed with millions of refugees, the speed of the advancing Red armies is forcing a "mass removal of the population."

Meanwhile industry and transport are almost completely broken down, and war workers are reported idle in the plants.

The Nazi rulers are not the only ones who fear the eruption of the masses in volcanic Germany. The Allied imperialists are likewise gravely concerned. A N. Y. *Times* editorial on Feb. 1 laments: "One can safely say that the explosion from within Germany, when it comes, will make the [German] revolution of 1918 look like a tea party."

## France

Economic conditions in France are steadily deteriorating under Allied occupation. In Paris a serious food shortage following a bitter cold spell, sent inflationary prices skyrocketing still higher. Crippling restrictions in the use of coal and electricity will continue all winter, according to government spokesmen. In the War Department the food shortage has become so acute famine threatens.

Only three blast furnaces in all France are operating and steel production is down to one tenth of normal. The situation in steel, a basic industry, is a good measure of the economic collapse throughout France.

The desperate impasse finds its refraction even in the hand-picked de Gaulle cabinet. Differences over policy between Pierre Mendes-France, Minister of National Economy, and Rene Pleven, Minister of Finance, led to the former tendering his resignation. De Gaulle managed to skate over this crisis by persuading Mendes-France to withdraw his resignation.

Meanwhile de Gaulle's policy of continuing Vichy's subsidies to Catholic schools is being debated in the Consultative Assembly. De Gaulle is the first practicing Catholic to head a French government in about 40 years. De Gaulle understands that he cannot depend indefinitely on Allied bayonets for support but must create his own political base within France. He depends on the Catholic party which calls itself the Popular Democrats and consequently he is desperately striving to strengthen their role in the political scene.

The workers of France, however, continuing the anti-clerical tradition, are exerting pressure against state subvention of

Catholicism. The Montauban City Council, responding to this pressure, withdrew financial aid from church schools in that locality. The Bishop of Montauban drew up a letter, now being circulated nationally by the Popular Democrats, declaring that "tyrants from without are being replaced by tyrants from within."

This Catholic church support of de Gaulle is an unmistakable indication of the counter-revolutionary character of his regime. De Gaulle's efforts to bolster up the church as a powerhouse of confusion and reaction indicates that the French capitalists have no hope of ameliorating the unbearable living conditions of the masses, but aim to survive the revolutionary storm by means of a military dictatorship prepared to use ruthless force.

## Strike Wave

Strikes—political and economic—are breaking out on every continent as a result of soaring costs of living and devastation created by the war.

In Belgium a coal miners' strike spread on January 26 to the Charleroi pits where 6,000 miners walked out. 12,000 more were reported to be idle between Charleroi and Mons. The strikers are demanding a 40 percent pay increase, the same food rations as the fighting men, and permission to form workmen's committees to take part in the management of the mines.

In Latin America, 50,000 Argentina packinghouse workers went on strike last week as continent-wide token strikes against the Argentina dictatorial regime took place in other Latin American countries, Uruguay, Mexico and elsewhere. The Argentina packinghouse workers are demanding wage increases and the release of their general secretary, Jose Peter, and other political prisoners.

The strike in Argentina was carried out despite threats from Colonel Juan D. Peron, government dictator, that he would fire upon the workers. Token strikes took place in many of Argentina's principal industrial plants.

A railway strike in January paralyzed a large part of New Zealand.

In the Near East, a recent wave of strikes in Palestine included metal workers, textile and silk workers and brick workers.

## War! It's Wonderful -- For American Bankers

America's bankers have achieved the peak of their looting career. In Washington, Roosevelt has handed over all key government departments to the bankers and their agents—Stettinius, Rockefeller, Clayton, Forrester, Morgenthau, Biddle, etc. Meanwhile, their pals back home on Wall Street are raking in blood-soaked billions faster than adding machines can count them.

"Bankers' Resources Highest in History" crows a headline in the Jan. 3 N. Y. *Times*. Drooling with delight for four columns, the story records unprecedented achievements. Rockefeller's Chase National Bank has emerged as the first 5-billion dollar bank in America. It greeted the New Year with total resources of \$5,160,004,000 compared to "only" \$4,675,884,000 three months previously. The National City Bank is pressing to be the second across the 5-billion marker. Its year-end resources totaled \$4,469,686,465 compared with \$4,155,785,606 just three months before.

What a happy, happy New Year for the financial moguls in the sixth year of the biggest and bloodiest capitalist war in history!

National City's board of directors reported one important source of these mounting billions. The government is unable to squeeze enough to pay for the huge war costs directly from taxes and bond sales to small-income earners. "The alternative is the creation of funds by selling securities to the banks." These bank-owned government securities now total nearly \$100-billion—5 times the amount held in 1939.

It's all done with special bankers' mirrors. The worker pays for his bonds with money he has actually earned; but the banks just "create credit." They simply jot down on one side of their ledgers a "credit" to the Treasury. The Treasury then hands them neatly engraved bonds to the amount of this "credit." The bonds are immediately entered as a "deposit." To pay for the war, the government then draws checks upon these "deposits."

Of course, the government is supposed to pay off in due time both the interest and the principal on these securities bought with "credit" fortified by "deposits" of the bonds exchanged for the "credit." Thus the prospect is that all of us, and our children and our children's children will be shelling out hidden and direct taxes to pay the government to pay the banks for "credit." After all, you can't expect bankers and other plutocrats to "fight" their war for nothing. Can you?

## What Most People Think About Capitalist Politics

A revealing commentary on the capitalist political system in America is contained in the findings of a recent Gallup Poll. A national cross-section of voters were asked: "If you had a son would you like to see him go into politics as a life's work when he gets out of school?"

Of those polled, 68 percent answered emphatically "No." 11 percent were doubtful. Only 21 percent said, "Yes."

Reasons of the 68 percent? "Too much graft. . . He'd be hated by everyone. . . Too much mud-slinging. . . Too crooked. . . Too corrupt." A few thought that other fields offered more "opportunity."

These people knew and spoke only of capitalist politics, where those permitted to serve must act in the interests of the rich few. But independent working-class politics in the interests of the many, the workers and poor farmers, aims to do away with the capitalist system which thrives on graft, corruption and connivance against the masses. Such politics and membership in such a political movement is the highest vocation to which a class-conscious worker can aspire.

## "Shortage" Is Smokescreen For Tire Price-Steal

Last month Roosevelt's army brass hats and the rubber corporations howled about tire shortages and imposed a special 120-day speedup program on the rubber workers. But this tire "crisis," it has been revealed, was just the smokescreen for a huge price-steal.

The Office of Price Administration last April granted "temporary" price increases after corporation pleas of "anticipated" higher costs. Subsequently, the OPA discovered these higher costs did not materialize. The companies were hauling in 7½ times as much net profits as in the best pre-war years. The OPA prepared an order for withdrawal on December 15 of the previous price increases.

Then in stepped Roosevelt's right-hand man, Director of War Mobilization and Reconstruction Byrnes. He blocked the price cut and extended the price increases another 4 months. The difference meant a tidy sum—nearly \$40,000,000 in additional profits for the rubber barons.

Byrnes explained his action by claiming a "dire emergency" in tire production. More production was needed in a hurry which might involve "abnormal or unexpected costs." And, most important, the corporations might be "deterred" from putting their heart and soul into the extra effort if the "temporary" price rises were not continued.

In short, the companies threatened to stall production if their prices were cut. This is confirmed by News Bulletin No. 52, of the Pharis Tire and Rubber Company, which spilled the beans about the government-corporation deal and how it was effected.

Reporting on a meeting in Washington between Lt. Gen. Somervell and the tire manufacturers, the bulletin reveals: "The price postponement was made only because the rubber industry assured the Army that they would receive more tires as a result of a price postponement than if the prices the OPA proposed would become effective Dec. 15, 1944."

The Roosevelt administration agreed to this holdup. The boss press started yelping about a rubber workers' "slowdown," "shortages" and the "boys in the foxholes." Pay increases to offset cost-of-living rises were denied, while the squeeze was put on for more work. As for the companies, they got their price demands. No time for quibbling over prices with a tire "crisis" looming—at least in the capitalist press!