

Why Roosevelt Met with Middle-East Kings

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THE MILITANT

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Workers Oppose WMC Draft Plan In New Bedford

By C. Thomas

The textile community of New Bedford, Mass., has been up in arms against the attempt of the War Manpower Commission to apply the forced-labor "Allentown Plan" to the workers of that city. Several weeks ago, the WMC ordered the discharge of over 100 textile workers with the announced intention of forcing them to take jobs in the Fisk and Firestone tire fabric plants.

Under the "Allentown Plan" employment ceilings on certain "non-essential" industries are reduced. The workers discharged are directed to the U. S. Employment Service for assignment to other jobs. "If the workers refuse the jobs," explained one WMC official, "the USES bars them from any employment by refusing them job referrals." The "plan" is a work-or-starve scheme based on the compulsory labor decrees of the Roosevelt administration.

With one or two exceptions, the workers discharged from the New Bedford textile mills have refused to accept jobs in the tire fabric plants. Antonio England, New Bedford director of the CIO Textile Workers Union, declared they refused because "of exhaustive stretchouts in both plants and because of exhaustive speed-ups." The workers of the Fisk and Firestone plants have been trying to better their working conditions but the War Labor Board has pigeon-holed their grievances. "Now when others who know about these disputes," added England, "are asked to go to work in the fabric mills anyway, they resent it. To them it appears that the government, by means of the manpower ceilings and the offer of jobs in the tire fabric plants only, is coming to the aid of the management in this controversy."

"The W M C," comments a Scripps-Howard reporter, "as well as the Army (which is behind the scenes), doesn't look at it that way." Their attitude is that "the workers should gladly give up their jobs in the civilian goods mills and accept employment in the fabric plants, even if it should mean a temporary hardship."

These political and military agents of the employers never hesitate to call for additional sacrifices from the workers. But when George Baldanzi, executive vice-president of the Textile

"Tyrants War"

The concern of the "democrats" Roosevelt and Churchill for the welfare of Kings, Emperors and potentates is graphically illustrated in the debate now taking place on the "punishment" of war criminals.

At the recent Institute of Pacific Relations, Rep. Celler charged, the U. S. representative, Eugene Dooman, special assistant to the State Department, supported the stand of Sir Paul Butler, leading adviser to the British Foreign Office, in urging that "the Emperor and Japanese business leaders" be retained. When Roosevelt named this the "Tyrants War," did he mean a war to keep the tyrants in power?

Workers Union, offered to supply all the workers needed if the "tire cord plants were taken over and operated by the government without profit," the professional patriots shut up like a clam!

Because of the vigorous opposition of the unions, supported in this case by the city administration and the local textile manufacturers, the government agents are determined to make a test case in New Bedford. They have refused any concessions.

The Kilgore-Wagner bill, now before the Senate, is designed to "legalize" the "Allentown Plan." In presenting it, Senator Thomas, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, declared that the bill aims "to enact a statutory basis for two basic types of regulation: First, employment ceilings under which employers could be required to release workers, and second, hiring controls under which workers so released or otherwise available for new jobs could be channeled to suitable jobs where they were most needed."

SWP CANDIDATE SPEAKS AT ENTHUSIASTIC RALLY

(Special to THE MILITANT)

LOS ANGELES, March 5—

Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, tonight spoke before an enthusiastic audience of San Pedro workers at the YWCA Hall, 437 Ninth St. This meeting, the largest yet held in the campaign of the Trotskyist candidate, was organized by the San Pedro branch of the Socialist Workers Party as the first of a series of neighborhood rallies which will bring the Trotskyist program to workers in all sections of Los Angeles.

Comrade Myra Tanner Weiss, well-known in the California labor movement for her militant activity in the waitresses' and cannery workers' unions, called upon the voters to make Los Angeles a union town. She exposed the anti-labor offensive of Big Business and the Roosevelt administration, pointing out that the Cal Ship Yards alone have laid off 6,000 men, while a fake "labor shortage" is used as a pretext for enslaving labor. Formation of an independent labor party based on the trade unions, she said, is an urgent necessity for the defense of the welfare of the working class.

In her inspiring speech our candidate for mayor explained the Trotskyist answer to the capitalist crimes of economic crises, wars and fascism. She urged labor to fight for post-war job security through nationalization of the basic industries and control of factories and plants by the trade unions.

"If the means of production remain in the hands of the capi-



MYRA TANNER WEISS

talists and continue to be an instrument of profit for the few instead of a means for satisfying the needs of the many," said Comrade Myra Tanner Weiss, "plant shutdowns and mass unemployment are inevitable."

Numerous workers of Los Angeles have contributed generously to the campaign at meetings and at leaflet distributions outside union-halls in token of their agreement with the Trotskyist program of socialist action. All readers of The Militant are urged to support the campaign.

A series of four Sunday broadcasts by Myra Tanner Weiss is scheduled over Station KFAC, Los Angeles. The first broadcast will be heard on March 11 at 8:45 p. m.

Detroit CIO Auto Workers Strike Against Anti-Union Provocations

Negro Seabees Protest Jim-Crow By Hunger Strike

By Henry Jordan

In a dramatic protest against racial discrimination in the granting of advance ratings, over 1,000 Negro Seabees at the Port Hueneme base, near Oxnard, California, went on a hunger strike on Friday, March 2.

The protesting Negro Seabees are members of the 34th Construction Battalion who were returned to this country last November after serving 21 months at Tulagi and Guadalcanal in the South Pacific.

PROMOTIONS REFUSED

This action of the Negro veterans was taken after they had been denied for three years the opportunity to advance in ratings. Their spokesmen, according to Norman O. Houston, a representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, charged that their Southern white commanding officer, Comdr. P. J. McDean, of Meridian, Miss., refused to grant promotions to Negroes but brought in white men to fill higher posts.

Naval officials acknowledged the fact of the hunger-strike demonstration when they issued a statement claiming that the demonstrators had appeared for all meals last Sunday after a two-day fast. Houston, the NAACP investigator, declared, however, that the strike was continuing, according to information of men from other battalions leaving the base.

KEPT IN BRIG

Several of the alleged leaders of the hunger strike were reported held in the brig on a "safe-keeping" charge, although public relations officials of the Navy stated that no disciplinary action was contemplated and that the incident was "closed."

Despite the fact that the Negroes are in segregated battalions assigned to hard labor and that numerous complaints have previously been made about discrimination, Commodore Quigley, advance base depot commander, sought to dismiss the complaints with the claim that there is "no color line or discrimination against members of the battalion."

CONDITIONS NOTORIOUS

It is a notorious fact that Negroes are discriminated against and segregated as a matter of official policy throughout the armed forces. This protest of 1,000 veteran Seabees, in the face of possible severe retaliation, was a desperate measure. It was undoubtedly undertaken as the result of discriminatory acts which they viewed as intolerable.

The Negro people are extremely skeptical about this "war for democracy" in which Negro boys who are asked to fight and die are Jim-Crowed in the military forces.

Election Platform of Trotskyist Candidate for Los Angeles Mayor

1. Fight for post-war job security.
2. End the robber taxes which cut into workers' pay-checks.
3. Fight the National Service Act and all other anti-labor legislation.
4. Make Los Angeles a union town.
5. Back Consumers' Committees to control the cost of living.
6. Fight for a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
7. Scrap the Little Steel formula! Rescind the no-strike pledge! Withdraw the labor members from the War Labor Board!
8. End Race Discrimination!
9. Fight for slum clearance and adequate housing and hospitalization.
10. Hands off the European revolution!
11. Build the Independent Labor Party!

Roosevelt's Trained Seals



Vinson Tightens Wage Freeze In Ruling On 'Fringe' Demands

Having established the Little Steel formula ceiling on wage increases, the Roosevelt administration has taken another turn in the wage-freezing line by tightening the restrictions on the granting of union "fringe" demands. The so-called "fringe" demands include such issues as reclassifications, vacations, merit increases, incentive wages, holidays, night-shift differentials, etc., which fall within the Little Steel formula. A recent ruling by Fred M. Vinson, Director of Economic Stabilization, strips the War Labor Board of all authority to make such adjustments.

In a letter to the board governing the procedure to be followed in cases involving "fringe" demands, Vinson declared:

"If any directive order is issued in this connection and price ceilings or production costs may be affected, I request you to make certain that the order state in unequivocal language that such proposed wage adjustments are not effective under the standards of the wage stabilization program if the wage adjustments either affect appreciably the costs to the United States or are used as a basis to increase prices or to resist price reductions."

"I believe that it would be better policy for the board to obtain a definite ruling from the OPA or, where no price ceilings are involved, from the appropriate procurement agency, to the effect that no price or any appreciable cost consequences will result from the proposed wage adjustments before any directive order involving this type of wage adjustment is issued."

Vinson's edict tightens the wage-freezing noose by choking off any fringe concessions. Roosevelt's rejection of the demand for an upward revision of the Little Steel formula has led the union heads to rely more and

more on gaining a few such crumbs to appease their members. In the steel wage dispute the WLB "softened" its rejection of the main wage demands of the union by granting a number of these fringe demands. The strategy of the CIO heads was to use the steel wage case as a precedent for the other unions whose cases were before the War Labor Board.

Practically every large CIO international had wage cases pending before the WLB awaiting the outcome of the steel case. But before the board handed down its decision in these cases, notably in textile, packing house and auto, Vinson intervened by clamping down on "fringe" concessions. Thus the union heads have been stymied in their strategy of skirting around the Little Steel formula.

The AFL heads also advised their affiliates to submit demands for wage adjustments based on the "fringe" concessions granted the United Steel Workers Union. Even John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers has taken a hand in this game. In the recent demands submitted to the coal operators, Lewis emphasizes that all of them fall within the Little Steel formula. But Lewis is a piker. His "fringe" demands top anything yet presented.

The present skirmishes over the side issue of the "fringe" demands have sidetracked the main battle against the wage-freezing Little Steel formula. The action of Vinson has served notice that the Roosevelt administration is determined to block any further concessions to the unions. The union heads are giving vent to their frustration by clamoring for a restoration of the "independence" of the War Labor Board. Nothing could be more fruitless.

Experience has shown again and again that what is necessary is the restoration of the independence of the unions. Every union, regardless of affiliation, is today in the same boat. The capitalist government has made it virtually impossible to avoid a showdown on the wage-freeze. The unions can meet this challenge by organizing a nation-wide conference to formulate a joint program of ACTION to smash the Little Steel formula.

WLB Denies UAW-CIO Wage Raise

News Item — August 15, 1943: "The National General Motors Council of the UAW-CIO, representing more than 300,000 workers in 100 plants of the corporation, has drawn up demands on the corporation for a general wage increase or a roll-back in prices which would restore the real wages to the point where they existed in April 28, 1942, when the current agreement was signed." (United Automobile Worker, Aug. 15, 1943.)

News Item—March 4, 1945: "The War Labor Board refused today to grant a blanket wage increase at 100 General Motors plants having 300,000 employees." (N. Y. Times, March 4, 1945.)

"It took the War Labor Board 'only' 19 months to say NO! No wage increase—no price roll-back."

Mine Union Opens Negotiation For Substantial Pay Increases

The United Mine Workers of America, representing some 600,000 workers in America's most dangerous industry, on March 1 opened contract negotiations with the soft coal operators for increased wages that would partially offset the enormous cost-of-living rise in the company mining towns.

To the surprise of the government-operators coalition, howling in advance in anticipation of a direct miners' assault against the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula, John L. Lewis, UMW president and spokesman for the miners' policy committee, proposed no change in the present basic hourly rate.

Seeking to avoid a frontal attack on the formula and elude government intervention in the negotiations, the UMW has issued demands "in conformity with the government's stabilization policy," but which would nevertheless bring increases estimated at from \$1.60 to "some-where over \$2" per day for the hard-toiling miners.

MINERS' DEMANDS

Among the principal demands are full portal-to-portal pay, instead of the present two-thirds for underground travel time; premium pay of 10 cents an hour for workers on the second shift and 15 cents for the third shift; free explosives, fuses and other equipment, as well as hats, goggles, safety shoes, rubber boots and similar protective clothing now bought by the miners themselves.

Chrysler, Briggs Militants Resist Corporation Attacks

35,000 Give Fighting Answer to Conspiracy
Of Auto Barons to Destroy UAW-CIO Locals

BULLETIN

DETROIT, March 5—Striking members of Dodge Local 3, UAW-CIO, voted last night to end their ten-day walkout on the agreement of WLB and the company to arbitrate the cases of the discharged union militants and to employ no discrimination against strikers. A meeting of Briggs workers voted to continue their strike until 15 fired Local 212 members are reinstated.

By John Saunders

DETROIT, March 4—Over 35,000 embattled Dodge and Briggs workers, members of Locals 3 and 212, CIO United Automobile Workers, are fighting here on the picket lines against the well-organized campaign of the auto barons to smash their unions.

Their huge picket lines, which in the past week have shut down two Chrysler and seven Briggs plants, are an answer to the brazen provocations of the multimillionaire bosses. Grown arrogant on juicy war contracts and emboldened by the no-strike pledge and crawling attitude of the top UAW officialdom, the corporations threw all caution to the winds. In their all-out union busting drive, Chrysler, Briggs and Ford have been firing militant committeemen, stewards and union members in wholesale lots, reintroducing the speed-up, and attempting to force the giant auto union to its knees.

No strike since Pearl Harbor has so deeply stirred the Detroit workers, whose patience has been exhausted by the intensified corporation provocations. Sensing the imminent danger to their organization in the combined anti-labor onslaught of the companies, WLB, military brass hats and their own international officers, the militant auto ranks are not only fighting back on the picket lines but are beginning to rally to their aid all UAW local officers, committeemen and stewards in this area.

MOUNTING GRIEVANCES

This is no isolated, episodic struggle. It reflects the general bitterness of the men and women at the machines everywhere, who have become incensed over the fringes, inhuman speedup and the mounting grievances which the arrogant bosses simply toss into the wastepaper basket. The workers are burning with anger at the hypocrisy of the money-crazed plutocrats fattening on

the blood of the soldier dead in whose name the bosses seek to destroy the unions and living standards of the workers before the war contracts taper off.

So indefensible have the anti-union actions of the corporations become that even the UAW international officers were finally compelled to publicly condemn them. For the first time a deep fissure has appeared in the leading ranks of the UAW officialdom. Barney Hopkins, secretary-treasurer of the Michigan CIO, and former president of Local 3 is openly supporting the strike and urging the workers to remain out until the fired workers are reinstated. Both Mike Novak, Dodge Local 3 president, and Jess Ferrazza, president of Briggs Local 212, took positions at the head of the striking ranks in defiance of the UAW top officials. The entire Briggs executive board is solidly behind the strike.

The strike movement began at the Dodge Main Plant. Following a three-day suspension of several workers for failing to speed up production the week previously, the Dodge management on Friday, February 23, fired seven workers because they could not meet an impossible output of 184 pieces per day and discharged another worker for "insubordination." The original production schedule until recently was only 108 per day. This was stepped up first to 120 and then 150. Then the company insisted on the fantastic rate of 184 pieces. When the men, one

(Continued on page 5)

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

Murray "Fights" Back

CIO President Philip "Bleeding Heart" Murray greeted the WLB's approval of the Little Steel Formula with his typical blustering display of verbal indignation.

Murray, who has been beating his gums for a couple of years about the "inequity of the Little Steel Formula" while doing all in his power to curb any independent action of the CIO workers to smash the formula, declared that "the situation in which labor now finds itself is simply intolerable."

In his very next sentence, however, he proposes to continue the very union policy that has brought labor to this "intolerable situation." He declares: "Now, more than ever, it is of the utmost importance to our war effort that there be maintained uninterrupted production. The CIO and its members are fully conscious of this need and therefore shall observe their no-strike pledge."

Murray believes in the policy of "turning the other cheek"—only it's the workers who always get slapped. But not forever and not for long. The CIO members are becoming "fully conscious" of the need, not to "observe the no-strike pledge," but to scrap it. That's the significance of the Textile Union's revocation of the no-strike pledge for 100,000 cotton-rayon workers and the growing strike wave in Detroit.

Incidentally, it is appropriate to recall how Murray helped disarm the workers about the WLB and its position on the Little Steel Formula. In his appeal for continuation of the no-strike pledge before the rebellious delegates at the CIO United Automobile Workers convention last September, Murray asserted "I am just as sure as I am living that the Little Steel Formula is going to be revised. I don't think I would be far from correct."

At that time Murray demanded support for the no-strike policy because he claimed the Little Steel Formula was sure to be revised. Now he insists on the same policy because the formula hasn't been revised. The one thing Murray is sure of is that no matter how the workers are kicked around, they must not fight back with their most effective weapon, the strike.

Telephone Pay

Reversing the recommendation of a \$5 a week increase made by its own special panel, the WLB in Washington last week granted increases of only \$3 to the local and long distance telephone operators in New York City who overwhelmingly voted to strike in January but postponed a final strike vote under the Smith-Connally act pending a ruling of the national WLB. Washington, D. C. operators who participated in the Thanksgiving week strike along with Ohio and Michigan workers were awarded a \$4 increase. Louisville and Memphis operators were granted \$3.

The New York operators were induced to call off their strike in January, when the American Telephone and Telegraph and

New York Telephone companies hastily made an offer to pay \$4 a week more. This was \$1 less than the Federation of Long Lines Telephone Workers and the Traffic Employees Association (local operators) were demanding. The unions continued to press for their original demands before the WLB.

Union representatives have declared they are going to petition the WLB for a reconsideration of the case in an effort to secure the \$4 raise the companies agreed to pay. If the petition is rejected another strike vote will very likely be taken. The telephone workers are particularly indignant because the WLB made its decision without giving the unions a public hearing.

WLB Vice-Chairman Taylor conceded that a "mistake may have been made" by the failure to hold such a hearing. However, it is always the corporations and never the workers who benefit by such "mistakes."

Unionism Grows

During the past year, according to the annual National Labor Relations Board report, 1,072,594 unorganized workers voted in NLRB elections for union collective bargaining representation. This brings the nine year total to 5,220,983.

The number voting last year was the greatest in the NLRB's history, and the number of elections held registered "an increase of 3,000 per cent over the number received in the first year of the board's operations."

Despite all the anti-labor propaganda, the workers in the past year voted union in greater numbers than ever before.

55-Cent Minimum IF—

After issuing its decision "recommending" a 55-cent an hour minimum wage in the textile case, the War Labor Board last week granted its regional agencies authority to approve a minimum wage up to 55 cents for all "substandard" wage earners, admittedly numbering over 4,000,000.

However, WLB Chairman Davis hastened to assure a press conference that "this action by the board does not mean, unfortunately, that 4,000,000 workers are going to get a 55-cent wage tomorrow." All it does is merely "open the way for the workers to get that amount." In short, they'll get it if they raise enough hell!

The ruling has the usual loopholes enabling the administration to deny in practice what it grants in principle. The workers can secure a 55-cent minimum IF—

1. the employers agree to it and request it;
2. no price increase is involved;
3. an increase to the new minimum does not conflict with the "appropriate prevailing rates" in given areas and communities.

The administration's intent in making this new ruling is far from benevolent. Its purpose is to take the curse off the WLB's prior "recommendation" upholding continuation of the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula. In addition, the administration is seeking to head off growing union pressure for passage of the Pepper resolution which would fix the minimum hourly wage at 65 cents. The labor members of the WLB had proposed a 72-cent minimum, basing their demand upon the government's own figures for a minimum health and decency income required by the average worker's family.

Even when the pro-corporation WLB does make a seeming concession to the workers, it is so full of "ifs, ands, and buts" that the workers can generally expect to get "nothin' for nothin' and damn little of that."

Branches Obtain Over 2000 Subscriptions In First Two Weeks Of 'Militant' Campaign

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

The second week of our three-month Subscription Campaign for 10,000 readers to The Militant shows a total of 2,070 new subscriptions. Although we have not received results for Red Sunday mobilizations of March 4 from those Socialist Workers Party branches farther west than the Hudson River, we feel the excellent results obtained by the comrades in New York Local are indicative of the results to be reported by other branches.

FROM THE BRANCHES

D. Hilson, Akron: "Our high scorer at the Sunday mobilization was D. Kenny, a comrade who had been admitted into the party just previous to the mobilization. If local and national beginnings are indicative, we should have at least 13,000 subs by the end of the campaign."

K. Zelon, Milwaukee: "We covered several blocks in a Negro neighborhood and received a good response. We found the workers more receptive and sympathetic to The Militant than ever before. They were quite politically developed and everywhere we received a good hearing. The time is near, we feel sure, when no working class family will be without The Militant."

H. Newell, Allentown Pace-Setter: "Three of us went out to a steel workers' area in Bethlehem and sold 13 subs; 5 more sold to friends makes a total of 18 subs for the week."

Sandy Robertson, New York: "Enthusiasm is running high after two successful mobilizations in which 80 subs were sold. The New York Trotskyist Youth Group is confident that its quota of 500 will be fulfilled and surpassed."

Jerry Kirk, Detroit Pace-Setter: "The idea of a national mobilization is a good one. Comrades felt that we were going into action together, all over the country. This gave added incentive to our work. More comrades participated in this mobilization than in any other. More subscriptions were obtained than in any other single mobilization. Among the new readers are production workers from Briggs, Packards, Ford Rouge, Hudson, Chrysler and other plants."

P. Mertens, St. Paul: "We covered an Italian neighborhood where we'd been distributing The Militant for sometime, and had a very warm reception. Almost the only ones who said 'No' were those who couldn't read English. For some, the words 'A Socialist Paper' seem to have almost a magic meaning."

Libby Jones, Buffalo: "An interesting and important feature of this campaign is that we have several contacts who will help get subs for us. By the time the campaign is over we are certain some of these sympathizers will be party members."

Al Lynn, Los Angeles: "We have already obtained many new subscriptions from people contacted during our mayoralty campaign, as well as several new members. In addition to which one worker asked us to form a class at his house for the many subscribers in his project. Recruiting from special subscribers already amounts to a half dozen locally with many more who will be ready in a short time."

A. Field, Minneapolis: "Our mobilization last Sunday was a success in spite of the fact that the weather was bad. We sold 46 subs in two hours. We plan on having more Sunday mobilizations."

Harry Robinson, Newark: "The Newark Branch got off to a slow start but nobody should get the impression from this that we are not going to do our share. We like Buffalo's spirit in challenging us in this campaign. The beating we gave them last time hasn't killed their fighting spirit. We accept the challenge."

R. Haddon, San Francisco: "We went out again in the Mission District and got 26 subs—almost all trade unionists. Three of us are running neck and neck for high individual scores. In reply to Buffalo's challenge, please advise that we discussed their challenge—and San Francisco accepts."

Bernard Forrest, Chicago: "Our largest trade union fraction was given a quota of 100 subs and voluntarily doubled it immediately. We are having full branch mobilizations every other Sunday."

I. Cope, Youngstown: "I would like to report a very favorable reception to The Militant. In fact a few who bought subscriptions assured us they would get new subscribers for us among their fellow workers."

FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS

L. C. Lockland, Ohio: "I will send 4 more subs before long. I don't know whether they will all 'squat' or not."

H. C. Cincinnati, Ohio: "Well let's be practical; let's give the local Stalinists a little fight. Enclosed are 6 subs—with hopes of disrupting as much capitalism as possible."

These two worker-readers are doing all they can to help increase the circulation of their paper, The Militant. Have you sold subscriptions to your friends?

SCOREBOARD

BRANCH	QUOTAS	SUBS	PERCENT
Allentown	50	42	84
Flint	50	28	56
Milwaukee	100	46	46
Akron	85	38	45
Toledo	250	86	34
New York	2500	735	29
Philadelphia	150	36	24
St. Paul	100	23	23
Bayonne	150	35	23
Minneapolis	300	66	22
Youngstown	300	58	19
Buffalo	350	62	18
Los Angeles	2000	343	17
Chicago	1000	162	16
Detroit	1000	154	15
Boston	200	27	14
Newark	350	49	14
San Francisco	350	42	12
Cleveland	200	10	5
Seattle	400	6	2
Reading	75	0	0
Rochester	50	0	0
San Diego	50	0	0
Groups, Members-at-Large and Friends	140	22	16
TOTAL	10,200	2070	20



Numerous incidents reported by our agents indicate the ever-increasing responsiveness of the workers to The Militant. We quote just a few.

I. Cope, Youngstown Branch: "While revisiting subscribers, we were informed one reader had taken an article of Shop Talks on Socialism and put it on the bulletin board in her shop. Since it was concerning a boss and his attitude towards those under him, it was well accepted by her shop-mates."

Justine Lang, New York Local: "In our Sunday door-to-door work a woman took a copy of our paper and said, 'If I like the paper after I read it, I'll mail in the subscription blank.' About an hour later as we left the building, someone shouted at us through the window. It was this same woman who gestured to us to pick up what she had thrown towards us from the window. It was a 25c. piece wrapped in the printed sub blank from The Militant."

Bill Crane, Milwaukee Branch: "The Militant is getting a fine response at factory distributions. Our comrades have reported good comments and praise received at the gates. Not only that but some workers have made financial contributions. And on riding the streetcar back, all of the workers open and read the paper. One comrade said she saw one of them earnestly checking the \$18,000 scoreboard. No doubt noticing that the Milwaukee Branch is near the top."

B. Kingsley, Cleveland Branch: "The subscriber I revisited was a young woman nursing a babe while four or five urchins (I couldn't count them; they were everywhere at once) were making the greatest possible racket. She invited me into a small crowded three-room apartment with an enthusiastic greeting, the like of which I would expect only from an advanced political worker. 'The 18 are released!' Her husband works a ten-hour shift at Aluminum Company of America, she says."

"He frequently is so tired when returning home that he makes it a daily duty to read The Militant to him. By the end of the week it's read from cover to cover. Can anyone wonder at indefatigable spirit when it is our good fortune to meet and discuss with these workers?"

With the help of our subscribers, The Militant is making friends in every section of the country.

G. H. Louisville, Ky.: "Enclosed please find a coupon clipped from an issue of The Militant and 25c. in coin to cover the cost of an introductory offer. Had been receiving a copy of this paper regularly from a friend in Chicago until recently and would like to continue receiving it. Hope I shall be able to receive The Militant since there is a definite lack of decent reading material here in Louisville."

R. H. Missoula, Montana: "I would like to have twelve copies of The Militant each week. You may bill me for the papers the first of each month."

D. Hilson, Akron Branch: "We had an interesting time locating Novelty, Ohio, the home of a subscriber. The local newspaper after a half-hour research gave us the necessary information. It's half way between Akron and Cleveland and contains twenty-seven individuals. We really are reaching into nooks and crannies."

Pioneer Notes

"No one can escape taking part in politics." This is the opening statement of Joseph Hansen's interesting pamphlet, American Workers Need A Labor Party, which goes on to explain and prove the point.

The Socialist Workers Party members now out on a campaign for 10,000 new subscribers to The Militant are finding this pamphlet of great interest to people who want to know what can be done now.

Milwaukee: "I think that the most likely pamphlet to take along in the subscription campaign is The Labor Party by Hansen."

A New York campaigner tells of an experience in talking to a new subscriber. "Her mother had been a socialist for many years. As a disciple of Debs, she had attempted to instill in her daughter a healthy class-conscious attitude. All her agitation had been to no avail, however, for the girl took little interest in politics and regarded her mother's ideas as 'old fashioned.'"

"One day the girl's husband gave her Breitman's Wartime Crimes of Big Business. She read the pamphlet eagerly and then read Hansen's American Workers Need A Labor Party. When she had finished she realized for the first time how politics concerned her directly. She was so enthusiastic that she gave the pamphlets to her mother. After reading them, she looked at her daughter and said, 'Now that's what I've been telling you all these years.'"

American Workers Need A Labor Party by Joseph Hansen 15c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

EMPLOYERS PLAN DRIVE TO BUST LABOR UNIONS

By R. Bell

As the war against Germany enters its final stages, the Wall Street plunderbund has begun to speed up at least one aspect of its "reconversion" schemes. This part of the "reconversion" plans of the profit-bloated corporations is directed toward breaking the organized resistance of the workers to the "post-war" wage-slashing, openshop, union-wrecking program of Big Business.

The dollar patriots have amassed huge "war chests" out of the fabulous profits on war contracts in preparation for a showdown with the unions. Their attention is now absorbed with the question of "timing." They are considering when, how, and where to launch the all-out union-smashing drive.

The Feb. 24 issue of the magazine Business Week declares: "It won't be long before management will need to begin mapping wage policy in specific terms—with the European war going as it has recently." Producers of raw materials and of consumers' durable goods face different wage "problems," says the magazine. "On the raw materials side, steel men are afraid supply will exceed demand. In theory, they would risk a strike to keep costs down. Yet, in practical fact, could they chance the loss of business? Refrigerator manufacturers, on the other hand, will be pressed by dealers to get new models into showrooms. Theoretically, they can't risk delay. Yet they know they can sell everything they can build for a long while and may be more willing to fight over wages than the steel men."

Thus Big Business is speculating whether it would be more profitable to have the "showdown" before reconverting to civilian production, or to postpone it to a later date. "Labor problems in this country will differ sharply," says Business Week, "according to whether the Army and Navy reduce munitions buying 10% or 30% in the 90 days after Germany falls. The lower figure

means tight manpower and materials, the higher joblessness."

AIM TO BREAK UAW-CIO

At least one group of employers favors the launching of an open-shop drive prior to reconversion to civilian production. "Stories are getting around Washington these days," reveals Business Week, "that reconversion of the automobile industry is going to be delayed by a drive to break the power of the United Automobile Workers." The magazine dismisses these stories as "baseless." But recent events have shown that the campaign to "break the power" of the UAW-CIO is already under way.

As part of this drive, the auto barons have embarked on a deliberate program of provocation. Union militants are singled out for victimization. The speed-up has been intensified. Union stewards have been fired for protesting violations of the UAW contract. Since the article in Business Week appeared, defensive strikes have been provoked by Chrysler, Ford and Briggs. The auto workers are seething with indignation at this flagrant assault on their union. The fighting temper of the militant auto unionists is rising to fever pitch. The elements of a labor crisis of the first magnitude are ripening in the entire Detroit area.

In the face of this major crisis, the top leadership of the UAW-CIO has no program to offer other than a continuation of its unconditional surrender policy. This policy of capitulation to employer-government pressure can only further weaken the union. It provides the corporations with the advantage of choosing the ground and picking the time for their union-busting drives. They have already begun probing to test the fighting capacity of the union. It would be fatal to wait until the enemy is fully prepared to launch an all-out offensive. Labor must free its hands and sharpen its weapons for the impending struggle. It is time to clear the decks for action!

Akron Contender Challenges All New Members

(For the benefit of those not familiar with Damon Runyon's style of writing, the following is a challenge from the Akron Branch to all new members of not more than three months standing for the best individual score in the Militant sub campaign.)

Just as you start your National Tournament the Akron Socialist Workers Party A.C. runs across a very promising young contender by the name of Denny O'Kenny and we sign him up to fight for our club. Right away we see this Irish lad is very fast on his feet and knows how to lead with his left.

We are in the dark a little more than somewhat regarding new contenders in the field. But we are willing to put him up blind against all comers.

We are not known as citizens who will enter a novice out of his class or who will lay any brocoli on a bad proposition. But just to help the cause along we will match O'Kenny with any young battler of his own weight and experience.

We are putting up a copy of Trotsky's "Lessons of October" and any branch that has a likely contender can put up a book equally suited for young hopefuls. Winner take all. Although our boy is in training only one week now, he will meet any newcomer with no more than three months experience, since we feel he can well afford the handicap. Naturally we won't risk him against seasoned veterans because we do not want him to hear the bells ringing before his time.

Come out punching and break clean in the clinches. May the best man win.

D. HILSON, Akron Campaign Manager

P.S. If the card gets crowded we can put up two more O'Kennys. It's a fighting family.

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Roosevelt And The Middle-East Kings

(What is behind the present Allied conferences? This is the fourth of a series of articles on the secret meetings of the "Big Three" and their meaning to the working people of the world.)

By Frank Lawrence

Neither Roosevelt's report to Congress on the Yalta conference last week nor the official travelogue descriptions of his journeys and meetings in the Middle East reveal why the President takes such a keen interest at this time in that section of the world where once was located the mythical Garden of Eden. Yet there in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Syria lies a modern capitalist Eden in the form of the world's richest oil deposits. This section is also strategically located for post-war trade. At Port Lyautey and Rabat-Sale in French Morocco and at Cairo in Egypt, U. S. Army-Navy engineers have built great airports useful for future flight-borne commerce. Egypt, Iraq, Iran and Ethiopia are potential markets for U. S. export trade.

That is why this part of the East has become so dear to the heart of American finance capital. And this is why Roosevelt went from Yalta to Great Bitter Lake where he held court for the three kings of the Orient—King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, King Farouk of Egypt, and Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia.

The lavish arrangements for Roosevelt's reception of these potentates were part of the extensive preparations being made by U. S. imperialism for its drive to dominate the Middle East. Several official missions have recently returned from that area with reports surveying the situation from the standpoint of the impending American economic invasion. They have carefully studied the measure of British control and sought ways and means for Wall Street to muscle in on this rich domain that British imperialism has so long exploited.

SEEK MARKETS

Sensors Burton and Tunnel reported to their colleagues on February 15 and 19 that the Middle East offers lucrative trade prospects which would go to Wall Street as its share of the victor's spoil. "It would be an anomalous position for the United States to occupy, after putting up the money and enduring all the sacrifices which these mean, to have our country precluded from the markets we have liberated," remarked Senator Tunnel. This tool of Wall Street went so far as to investigate the possibility of establishing U. S. banks throughout the Middle East, but was sceptical about the immediate advisability of such steps.

They were equally interested in communication lines. Upon returning last month from Cairo where he served as U. S. Economic Minister, Dean Landis of the Harvard Law School stated that "the security of that area is very vital to all communications. Air routes can't skip it. Cairo is vital to air navigation, just as Suez is to shipping."

From Casablanca to Tripoli to Cairo the entire route is dotted with air-bases built by the U. S. armed forces. "Many Americans hope that some special rights will be granted in exchange for the large investments that have been made," writes the March 2 U. S. News. That is what Senator Tunnel had in mind when he suggested "that in view of the possibility that these airports will be of value for trade after the war, the State Department should be kept in close touch with the situation as to each of these installations."

Most important of all, however, is the question of oil. This is why Roosevelt was especially careful to look after King Ibn Saud, setting up a royal tent under the bustling guns of U. S. battleships. The Arabian-American Oil Company, a U. S. concern, has already invested 100 million dollars in the enormous concessions granted by Ibn Saud.

RICH OIL FIELDS

Now the joint holders of these oil fields in Saudi Arabia, the Texas Co. and Standard Oil of California, are planning to build a pipeline to the Mediterranean. According to the N. Y. World Telegram, Feb. 27, negotiations for permission to construct the line across territory mandated to the British are now being concluded in London. At the same time a treaty embodying an oil agreement between the British and U. S. governments is being considered by a Senate Committee.

Senator Burton has informed his colleagues what is at stake. "The petroleum resources of Iran, Iraq, and Saudi are the greatest in the world," he pointed out. "These fields are currently producing over 400,000 barrels a day. Their proven reserves are in excess of 16 billion barrels, and the indicated reserves greatly exceed that figure."

He declared that "unless this wealth be made available to the world on some basis that is just and fair to all concerned, it almost inevitably will lead to international controversy, probably leading to armed conflict."

"In the days of economic stress confronting the world following the war, these great petroleum resources will be of inestimable value, not only to the localities in which they are placed, but also the world as a whole, and the United States in particular." Had the Senator wished to be even more specific, he might have added: Standard Oil.

This warning was directly addressed to the British who now dominate that section of the Middle East which is known as "the sterling area." Dean Landis explained how British financial control operates there. "Dollars in these countries go into a central pool for the benefit of the entire Empire, there to be doled out according to the needs of these various countries as England sees them."

CLASH WITH ENGLAND

Through its political servants Wall Street is exerting great pressure to break England's financial hold and open up these markets for American commodities. Senator Burton reminded the administration that "involved in all questions of economics in this area is the question of international exchange and the so-called sterling block. This is a subject which needs re-adjustment at the present rather than after post-war relations have been frozen into a fixed pattern."

These are the kind of business matters Roosevelt undoubtedly discussed not only with the three kings but with Churchill at Cairo. This U. S. invasion of the Middle East is bound to encounter bitter resistance from England. The British capitalists cannot give up their policy of inter-Empire trade protected by a monopolistic financial structure which recognizes only the pound sterling. Their far less efficient industrial machine and depleted resources prevent them from competing successfully in an open market with U. S. goods and capital.

The Middle East has already played a prominent part in two world wars. The clashes between Great Britain, Russia and Germany over railroad lines, oil and territory in the Middle East helped bring on the first World War. The Allies fought to prevent Germany and Japan from joining their forces in the Middle East drive during this war.

Now the growing rivalry between American and British imperialism, and the struggles for spheres of influence in this area among the Allies, are sowing the seeds of further conflicts even before the second World War is concluded.

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Nazi Officials Retained In Conquered Territory

By John G. Wright

The cynical pledges of the Crimea conferees not to rest until "Nazism is destroyed" are given the lie direct by the policy of Allied military authorities in occupied German areas. The whole sordid story of Allied collaboration with the Hitlerite scum still remains to be told. But enough has already been made public to enable even the most glib to tell just what the score is.

Let us take, for example, the setup in Aachen. According to recent exposures in the London Daily Express and the N. Y. PM, the government there was entrusted completely to "reactionaries," that is, either avowed Nazis or their henchmen. "Out of 325 city officials, 57 were Nazis." Appointed as Mayor was a big business executive, Oppenhor, formerly personnel manager of the Veltrup munitions works. Not a single genuine fighter against Fascism, no member of the German underground was included among these Aachen officials.

In short, Aachen was governed under the Allies in virtually the same way — and even by many of the same individuals — as under Hitler. When news of this leaked out, there was a reshuffling. Some of the Nazis were replaced by less notorious elements, but again the genuine anti-Nazi forces in Aachen were completely excluded.

Talk in Newark On Yalta Parley

NEWARK, Feb. 25 — Speaking here for the first time since his imprisonment in the Minneapolis Labor Case, Oscar Schoenfeld tonight received a warm welcome from the members and friends of the Newark branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

Discussing the "Big Three" conference at Yalta, Comrade Schoenfeld pointed out that the Crimea conference was one more in a series of meetings that have each time been acclaimed as a definitive settlement of the questions confronting the Allied rulers. He stated that the need for these conferences flows from the insoluble problems they face.

Behind the appearance of unity and harmony there are deep conflicts between the three powers. American finance capital has been conducting an economic struggle against Great Britain since the first World War.

There exist even more fundamental antagonisms between the Anglo-American imperialists and the Soviet Union. "Their hatred of the workers state," he said, "which still exists despite the rule of Stalin's counter-revolutionary bureaucracy, flows from two principal factors. The first of these is their hunger to open up this one-sixth of the earth's surface to capitalist exploitation. Of equal importance is their fear that so long as the USSR exists, no matter how degenerated it may be, it remains a powerful symbol to the revolutionary workers of Europe who are already on the march."

"It is this fear of the coming European revolution," Comrade Schoenfeld concluded, "that motivates all the reactionary plans of the Big Three and impels them to unite despite their differences. But they cannot succeed. The mass action of the European workers to abolish capitalism and establish Socialism will put an end to all their reactionary schemes!"

The N. Y. Times, central organ of American imperialism, does not hesitate to interpret the gist of Crimea decisions as they relate to political life for Germany precisely in the same sense as have the Allied military authorities in Aachen. Thus, the Times Paris correspondent cabled, Feb. 19, that "it is considered too early now to deal with German refugees, anti-Nazi organizations or Free Germans."

In the meantime, it is obvious, the Allies propose to "deal" only with Nazis and pro-Nazis, as they have been doing. While Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin proclaim it is impermissible to differentiate between the Nazis and the German people, they themselves proceed to draw a line of distinction — against the anti-Nazi elements and in favor of the Hitlerites themselves.

Expressed in this policy is the determination of Washington, London and Moscow not to permit the German masses to have any voice in determining their own destiny. They hope to repeat on an even vaster scale their feats in Italy.

The weekly U. S. News, March 2, blurts this out: "One reason why top German Nazis are not being named formally as war criminals at this stage is that there is hope and even expectation that some one among their number will turn out to be a Darlan or a Badoglio..."

Report Gives Real Opinion of German People on Nazism

A report of the attitude of German workers to the Nazis, based upon interviews with hundreds of German citizens in the city of Aachen by three American educators attached to the psychological warfare branch of the Twelfth Army group, has been made public by Congressman Voorhis who read their findings into the Congressional Record on February 9. The facts thus revealed serve to refute the current anti-German propaganda campaign designed to identify the entire German people with the crimes of Nazism and the German capitalists.

Citizens of Aachen were interviewed after American troops entered the city. Those who conducted the interviews for the American Army were Dr. Saul K. Padover, onetime assistant to the Secretary of the Interior and an authority on Austro-German history; Dr. Paul Sweet, professor of German history at Bates College, Lewiston, Maine; and Lewis F. Gitler, Coeditor of German Psychological Warfare. These men were assigned the task of discovering what effect Nazi propaganda has had on the German people. What they learned "changed some of their own basic conceptions of the Germany of today," the report says.

The interviews showed that the German workers who were the first victims of Hitler's rule and suffered under his bloody regime for twelve years are today his sworn enemies, as they were before he came to power. Dr. Padover found that "they were quite distressed by our (U. S. Army's) nonfraternization policy. Many of them hoped we would pick the Nazis and punish them, instead of treating all Germans as equally guilty."

"As one old Social-Democrat said, there are still thousands of Germans in jails and concentration camps for their anti-nazism, which should be evidence enough that all Germans are not alike."

"Padover, Sweet and Gitler were astonished to find that 12 years of propaganda had not changed the convictions of old-time Social-Democrats, Socialists and Communists. They talked to many persons who had been through terms in concentration camps, and had come out stronger than ever in their original beliefs."

Dr. Padover claims that many Germans regard Nazism as a kind of foreign rule. "It was brought in by Hitler, himself a foreigner,

Canadians Fight Draft Roundup

By E. Johnson

MONTREAL, Feb. 26. — A victorious battle, waged by the French-Canadian workers of Drummondville, Que., against a hundred imported military and civilian police, has answered the charge that they oppose military conscription on account of cowardice. An estimated one to three hundred citizens were injured over the weekend of Feb. 24 and 25 in their struggle against the force sent from Montreal to round up "draft evaders," but they succeeded in sending the capitalist thugs scurrying back to Montreal before order was restored.

In the words of the Montreal French-Canadian daily, La Presse: "To judge by the words heard here and there, man-hunts will not in future be an easy task in Drummondville."

The trouble dates back to last November, when the hated national Conscription Bill was passed by a reactionary house despite the solid opposition put up by the whole of French-speaking Canada who comprise a third of the total population. At that time mass demonstrations shook the country from one end to another and nearly caused the collapse of the timid Liberal government. Then last month it was revealed that, of the first contingent of "draftees" sent overseas to reinforce Canada's volunteer army, almost one half had deserted before sailing.

The battle at Drummondville was the result of one of the many police sorties to round up the army evaders. In this instance the heroic and victorious fight put up by the brave French workers against the indignities

and in the last years it was supported, in each locality, by SS troops and other forms of coercive police, from other regions."

The report denies that Hitler's race-hatred has penetrated the mass of German people. "Young girls, when asked whether they would have any hesitation about marrying Frenchmen, Russians, or Americans, almost invariably responded that this would depend not upon race at all, but upon whether they were in love. When asked about marrying Jews, they expressed the same attitude."

The hatred of the German worker for their Nazi oppressors is summed up in the phrase: "Shooting is too quick a punishment for them."

heaped upon them by their masters has proven once and for all that it is deep-rooted hatred of their capitalist oppressors, and not fear, that impels them to resist conscription so violently.

Prime Minister King's "Gestapo" rumbled into Drummondville in no less than fifty trucks, hoping, no doubt, for a large haul of cannon-fodder. They separated into bands of about a dozen and proceeded to their assigned area of the town. They stopped civilians and autoists, brusquely demanding identification papers. They entered all public places of amusement, etc. and, according to the authoritative Montreal Daily Star, did not even stop at entering private houses.

Said the Montreal French daily, La Presse: "According to a number of serious people, the military police were arrogant enough..."

The citizens were naturally becoming more and more indignant at these humiliations and began following the police bands around. Finally a crowd of one thousand assembled outside the Capitol Theatre, watching the police question patrons as they emerged. An immediate provocation was precipitated when the police man-handled a youth who refused to be questioned. Tempers were rising rapidly, and what proved to be the "last straw" is related by the Montreal Gazette correspondent:

"Uniformed Federal police officers stood at their posts watching closely. An army truck, parked up the curb and blocked by persons standing in the street, pulled away suddenly and ploughed through nearly 400 scrambling citizens many of whom narrowly escaped injury. Cries and roars swelled up from the mob. Hunks of ice were falling like hail now, and police officers began their retreat to Heriot St. where R. C. M. P. (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) headquarters are situated."

"The mob followed, then broke into a run with police making a fast getaway."

Most of the battle that followed was waged in the total darkness of the early hours of Sunday morning because by this time all the street lamps had been knocked out. In the course of the fray, three police cars were overturned.

La Presse thus describes the climax of the battle: "The police would retreat, then return again to the charge, then finally got into their trucks and left the city."

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

France

25,000 hungry Parisian working men and women jammed a meeting on February 24th at the Velodrome d'Hiver called by the Liberation Committee of Paris and demanded that immediate measures be taken to alleviate the famine conditions now prevailing in the city.

Resolutions were passed demanding the immediate issuance of adequate food rations and a drastic change in current methods of distribution. Heavy fire was directed against Paul Ramadier, Minister of Supplies. Speakers at the meeting called for his resignation. Last week's Militant reported the blunt refusal of Ramadier to increase rations for the miners in Northern France who are refusing to work Sundays for the present starvation allotments.

Indicative of the angry temper of the Paris masses was the fiery speech of Maria Rabatte, member of the Executive Committee of the Communist Party. Although Thorez, Stalinist leader, had only recently proclaimed the Communist Party to be a "government party," the pressure of the workers is so intense that Mme. Rabatte urged the women of Paris to follow the example of their sisters in northern and southern France who "gained their ends by cowing the powers that be through sheer force of numbers, parading in the streets."

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SEATTLE

Eckert's corner Washington and 1st Ave.; Bishop Drug Store, 507 Jackson St.; Rayner's Book Store, 905 - 3rd Ave.; Pool Room, 500 Main Street.

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Foster's Book Store, 410 Washington Ave.

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Athletic Sport Center, 908 Washington St.; M. & M. Drugstore, Michigan St. and Madison Ave.

Now, however, that the military power of the United States

is once again firmly entrenched on the Philippines, a new note is heard from Washington. A dispatch from the capital in the N. Y. Times (Feb. 27th) states that officials characterized the "hope of independence (on July 4, 1946) as unlikely of accomplishment. On that date, these anonymous sources state, independence "will still be a thing of the future." The alibi now given is destruction caused by the Japanese. Before the Japanese invaded the islands there were other alibis.

Germany

BREMEN: The Moscow radio reported that "disturbances" had broken out among German sailors on warships lying in this port. A state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Nazis. All traffic between the port and the city has been blocked, and roads to the port are being patrolled by SS troopers and the Nazi Motor Corps.

MANNHEIM: A Frenchman who escaped from forced labor in this city described conversations of German soldiers on the railroad station platform openly criticizing Hitler as responsible for the disasters in Poland and the west. He asked them if they were not afraid that the Gestapo might overhear them. "To hell with the Gestapo," they replied. "Nobody cares what they do now."

BERLIN: Swedish and Swiss sources report that Gestapo squadrons were ordered out to put down "serious" disturbances that broke out after Allied air raids which caused terrific casualties among the population.

Greece

General Plastiras, Churchill's candidate for the Franco of Greece, is taking complete advantage of the treacherous agreement signed by the Stalinists with the British Military Command for the disarmament of the ELAS fighters. No sooner had they begun to surrender their arms than Plastiras unleashed a widespread repression that begins

to assume the proportions of a white terror.

An Athens newspaper reports that arrests of working class militants are continuing at the rate of 1500 a day. An indication of the brutal treatment to which these workers are subjected can be gathered from the report of a hunger strike of 3,000 prisoners in the Chassani prison.

At the same time the trials of John Rallis, Gen. George Tsolakoglou and twenty-five others who served as premiers or in some similar capacity under the Nazis, persecuting, torturing and butchering the workers for Hitler's Gauleiters, are turning out to be a shameful farce. The government has permitted the collaborationists about 100 attorneys. The court is packed with monarchist and fascist sympathizers. They have managed to convert the trial into a three ring circus. The attorneys challenge the constitutionality of the court; the reactionary rabble in the court stages a noisy demonstration; hearings are suspended.

These proceedings assume so farcical a character because the Nazi quislings are being prosecuted for crimes of which the British quislings, Plastiras and Papandreou, are equally guilty. Both gangs of rascals, tried to subjugate the workers of Greece under the heel of native capitalist masters serving a foreign imperialist master. Joseph Harrison, correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor in Athens, puts the case neatly:

"One specific charge being brought against the defendants, particularly Mr. Rallis, is of having aided and abetted the formation of 'security battalions' designed to aid the Germans in suppression of the EAM-ELAS. Right here, however, one runs into difficulty."

"In view of the recent civil strife there are now countless Greeks who now believe that perhaps the 'security battalions' were not so bad after all. In fact, persons extremely close to the present Premier, Nicholas Plastiras, are known to have also aided in their formation."

TRIBUTE TO HELEN JUDD- REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTER

By Art Preis

History will record that the true heroes and heroines of our time are not the rich, the mighty, the "successful," but those now obscure workingclass fighters for socialism who lived out their lives in poverty, suffering and unyielding struggle for a better world. It will be the Helen Judds whom the free emancipated society of the future will remember with love and honor.

Many who are new and young in the revolutionary Marxist movement did not know Helen Judd, the 71-year old pioneer American Trotskyist, who died in Chicago on February 17. Many who met her for the first time during the past few years may recall only an elderly woman in a loose house-dress, a wisp of graying hair hanging down over her forehead, who greeted almost everyone entering the Chicago headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party and who was always busy at some party chore.

This grandmotherly woman, so warm in her welcome to all comrades and workers seeking enlightenment, so eager and busy at her "little" tasks, was one of the most heroic and noble figures of the American working class. Her accomplishments? Her whole life was an accomplishment, for from early youth to her last breath it was spent in the struggle to build the proletarian party, the party of scientific socialism, the party which alone can lead the exploited and oppressed to the lasting peace, security and freedom of international socialism. For over half a century, in the face of persecution, social pressure, personal tragedy, physical suffering, she devoted all her strength, will and energy to the battle which to her was all of life itself.

Helen was the daughter of a prominent St. Paul family. Her father—a fact she never mentioned—had once been mayor of that city. She had been well-educated and trained for the teaching profession. An old photograph of her in her youth reveals a face of extraordinary beauty and character. In the normal course of events for a girl of her time and background, she might have lived in comfort, reared a family, died as a "respected" matron of her community.

50 YEARS OF STRUGGLE

But Helen chose a different road. Early in her youth, she turned her back upon "respectable" society. She entered the young socialist movement of the 1890's, joined the working-class and its struggles, and never once during over 50 years of toil and travail did she ever look back.

All the great events and figures of the developing American labor and socialist movement before World War I were a part of her life. All the defeats and victories and tragedies burned in her heart. The bloody strikes and the great martyrs, they were all a part of her. The Ludlow massacre, Coeur d'Alene, Lawrence—these were her struggles and she aided them. When the copper bosses shot Joe Hill and the prison doors closed behind Gene Debs, she was among those who fought unrelentingly against these murders and frame-ups.

Almost from the first, Helen allied herself with the left-wing of the Socialist movement. She studied Marxism—the great works of Marx and Engels and all the socialist classics. She was no mere sentimental socialist. Her devotion was to the revolutionary party and its program, to the disciplined, organized, conscious expression of the workingclass vanguard in action. Against any and every revision of Marxism, she fought all her life.

During the first imperialist World War, Helen was among the Debs socialists who actively opposed the war. For this "crime" she was ousted from her teaching position in the public schools. And in the infamous Palmer "Red" Raids that followed the war, she was indicted for her revolutionary activities and held under \$10,000 bail.

PIONEER COMMUNIST

In 1919, with the left-wing split of the Socialist Party inspired by the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, Helen became a founding member of the new and persecuted Communist Party. She had been the secretary of the North Side English branch of the Socialist Party, one of the largest sections in Chicago. Against the opposition of some of the most powerful leaders of the SP, she helped to swing her branch into the new revolutionary party founded on the principles of Lenin and Trotsky.

During the next two years when the government was hounding the underground communist movement, Helen served as secretary of Chicago Local of the National Defense Committee. Through the twenties she occupied numerous important local posts of the party and devoted herself to indefatigable work on its behalf. In 1928, she was the secretary of Nucleus 31, one of the largest and most active in Chicago, and a member



HELEN JUDD

of the District Control Commission.

Then came the campaign against "Trotskyism." True to her lifelong struggle against falsified Marxism and revisionism, Helen was among the first courageous few who opposed Stalinist degeneration in the party. On November 24, 1928, as recorded in the second issue of *The Militant*, December 1, 1928, she was expelled for "Trotskyism."

For the next 16 years, Helen threw herself into the struggle for the revival of genuine Marxism and the building of the Trotskyist party. Twice her hopes had been frustrated. But she faced the new tasks with optimism and unbounded courage and loyalty. She gave everything to the party—her small teaching salary, her time, her energy. No task was too humble for her to do. With the tiny group that made up the first Trotskyist branch in Chicago, she went out on the streets with leaflets and papers, dodged police persecution, confronted Stalinist hooliganism.

HELEN'S LATTER YEARS

Those were the hard years. To hold the little Trotskyist group together in a period of rising reaction and tremendous slander was a terrible ordeal. The little group had to fight physically for mere survival. At one early meeting—Helen was in her middle fifties—she helped to beat off a Stalinist assault in which at least one invader suffered a serious headache from a large, heavy platter that split in Helen's hands. Six years ago, Helen was retired from her teaching job with a small pension. It was the realization of her life's dream—to be able to devote all her time to the party. Never will the Chicago comrades forget her in those last years, when, old, sick and tired, she worked without letup for the party.

Every day she did her tasks, quietly, unassuming, efficiently. She would come in with her shopping bag full—and there was always some little addition for the headquarters, some office supplies that no one but she remembered to get, a prized book from the library of socialism that she had read, new pamphlets for the literature shelf, or just some candy or fruit for the comrades. She swept, she dusted, she cleaned the wood-work. Few comrades may have noticed—but the headquarters were kept clean. And in cold or rain, she trudged out with her shopping bag full of militants—to the day of her death. As she would be leaving after a hard day, she would cast one last look around as though she hated to go, even for a minute. Perhaps she saw a bundle of literature that had failed to distribute. Into her bag it would go. "Well, I know just the place to leave these on my way home."

TRUE TO THE END

Hardly a one is left of those who entered the socialist movement when Helen did. Many other women were flaming and prominent figures in their day. Most of them fell by the wayside in the course of the bitter struggle, retired to easier existence, succumbed to opportunism, yielded to pressure of their families (Helen was estranged from her own). But Helen stayed straight and true to her course to the end. She was the epitome of the most heroic people of our time, the enduring, women proletarian revolutionists.

It was the Helen Judds who marched in the forefront of the Parisian masses storming the Bastille of 1789, who defied the grapeshot on the barricades of the Commune of 1871, who opened the revolutionary struggle leading to the Russian October of 1917. It is the Helen Judds, armed with the weapon of Marxism, who in their thousands and millions will snatch the very lightning from the heavens, before whom the mighty will tremble and fall, whose hands will build the socialist future.

The Glorious Traditions And History Of International Women's Day, March 8

By Ruth Johnson

As International Woman's Day, March 8, is observed this year, the women of devastated Europe are thronging the streets in wrathful protests against the starvation and murder of their families by the warring imperialist powers. Their militant demonstrations mark a struggle of almost 40 years duration, since the first Woman's Day was proposed by the Socialist Party of America in 1908 to symbolize the battle for equal rights for women.

Woman's Day was first observed in the United States on Feb. 27, 1909 by mass meetings in which thousands of women demanded the vote. It became an international occasion a year later. The International Conference of Socialist Women meeting in Denmark in 1910 adopted March 8 as International Woman's Day to be devoted to bringing women workers into the fight for the Socialist emancipation of the world working class.

In observance of International Woman's Day in Germany, 1911, the revolutionary Socialist leader Clara Zetkin stressed the fact that winning democratic rights is only a part of the struggle for equality. She pointed out that



ROSA LUXEMBURG

women will win true freedom and full equality only through the Socialist revolution.

Clara Zetkin rallied tens of thousands of women in 1914 to mark International Woman's Day by demanding the release of Rosa Luxemburg, imprisoned by the Kaiser for her Socialist writings and speeches.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

The importance of winning women to the cause of socialism was never underestimated by the Bolsheviks. Lenin, who spoke again and again of the need for recruiting working women, once said "There can be no socialist revolution, unless a vast section of the toiling women take an important part in it."

History underlined his words. In 1917 International Woman's Day became the first day of the revolution that overthrew Czarism. Women textile workers in the Vyborg district of Petrograd went on strike against the breadlines and appealed to the mass of workers for support. "Thus the February revolution was begun... by the most oppressed and downtrodden part of the proletariat—the women textile workers," wrote Leon Trotsky in "The History of the Russian Revolution."

What they had begun by their Women's Day demonstration, the working women of Russia helped carry to victory by fighting side by side with men on the barricades and taking on countless duties in the organization of the new Soviet government.

International Woman's Day became the inspiration in 1923 of the Socialist women of Japan, who named their organization "Ioka Kai"—Party of the Eighth of March.

Often forgotten or ignored in the years of reaction, the tradition of woman's struggle for equality and freedom has never died. In 1942 an underground newspaper was circulated in Nazi-occupied and unoccupied France called *The Voice of the Woman*. It told of numerous demonstrations by women against shortages of food, fuel and clothing, carried on at the risk of death.

The N. Y. Times last week reported that "women were among the most aggressive speakers at a mass meeting today convened by the Parisian Liberation Committee to protest against insufficient food." A speaker who urged that the women gain their ends "by sheer force of numbers, parading the streets," was enthusiastically cheered by the women.

AMERICAN WOMEN

While the women in Europe storm the streets to demand food and shelter, the working women of America are passing through experiences which are changing their old narrow outlook. Millions of women have entered factories for the first time. They have swelled the union ranks, learning



the workers' need for organization to defend their interests against the bosses. These women wage workers are also learning how the present capitalist government acts as an enemy of the poor and a friendly agency of the rich. They are learning this important lesson through their direct acquaintance with the War Labor Board which stalls their wage demands; with the OPA which shuts its eyes to skyrocketing prices and profits while wages remain frozen; with the housing authorities which do nothing to provide adequate homes for war workers or nursery care for the children of working mothers.

These women are recognizing bitterly what Marxism has explained and condemned: that under capitalism women are doubly exploited as wage-slaves and household drudges.

What to do about it? The women who have already joined the Socialist Workers Party have pointed the way. They have learned that it is not enough simply to be a member of their union. To become better union militants and to solve the complex problems confronting the working class today, men and women must join the political struggle for Socialism. The Trotskyist party of international Socialism provides the program for the liberation of all workers from capitalist oppression and discrimination. There could be no better way to celebrate this International Woman's Day of 1945 than to resolve to find out more about the Socialist Workers Party and to join its ranks.

Report Discloses Intent to Limit Jewish Dentists

By Dan Shelton

Anti-Jewish discrimination raised its ugly head once again when the American Dental Association (ADA) sent an openly anti-semitic report to the House Committee on Education studying the effects of war on higher education. The report advocated selection of students on a racial basis, ascribing the "chief weakness" of dental education to "racial imbalance." A "determined nationwide effort should be made" to change the present situation, in which "24% of all students are largely of foreign extraction and belong mainly to one racial group."

This brazen attempt at anti-Jewish discrimination was fortified by the ADA's official forwarding of these "recommendations" to New York University and Columbia Dental College. The potential power of the ADA may be measured by the fact that any school refusing to comply with ADA's orders may lose its recognized standing.

The arch-reactionary character of the Committee on Un-American Activities was once again revealed when Representative Celler approached it with the "bright idea" to investigate this affair. Headed by Martin Dies' worthy successor, labor-hating, Jew-baiting, poll-tax Rankin, the Committee was markedly "cool" toward the proposal. The issue was evaded by every member of the Committee except Rankin who finally told Celler on the House floor that he has "tired" of the gentleman from New York raising the Jewish question in the house.

It is not only the dental students' right to attend school regardless of race, creed, or color that is at stake in this matter. It is the whole web of anti-racial discrimination that is struck a blow, if we attack the ADA. Anti-racial discrimination always proceeds from one field to another, if not stopped in time. This vicious quota system may proceed from one profession to all professions, then to all employment, finally housing and schooling. The ultimate outcome of these racial-religious restrictions are Hitler's Nuremberg laws. The Numerous Clausus—the quota system in employment and schools—was prevalent in pre-Hitler Europe and became an inevitable forerunner of fascism in European countries. This is the underlying significance of the ADA's action.

What "Liberation" Meant To Antwerp

(The following eye-witness account was written by an American seaman just returned from Europe.)

By M. Warren

Our ship arrived at Antwerp, Belgium, with its 30 miles of docks, several days before Christmas. That day the city shook with one of the heaviest Nazi "V" bomb attacks.

The first impression I received during my four days ashore was of the fury and devastation of the German rocket bombs. On that day we landed over 1,000 people perished. The population was completely helpless. The city was torn apart from one end to the other.

Naturally, it was the working class that suffered most severely. The ruin and slaughter is heaviest among the crowded quarters of the poor. Many were shelterless. There was no electricity. There was no fuel for heat in that wet, cold raw climate of Antwerp. And there was hunger verging on famine.

We were surprised on first going ashore at the cold, almost hostile attitude of the dock workers toward us. We had not experienced this in other ports, where the reception had been friendly. We soon learned this attitude was the reflection of a growing popular resentment toward the new occupying powers. We met the same attitude elsewhere, in cafes, market places, street cars. It was difficult to break through the suspicion and even hostility.

Nevertheless, I was able to talk with a number of people, mainly workers, and to observe directly in extensive wandering through the city the cause for this increasing enmity toward the "liberators."

TALKS WITH WORKERS

One well-informed and politically advanced worker I met by chance in a little labor book shop explained the situation. "When the Allies came, we were all expecting a great change for the better. The Ministers (government-in-exile) who had been living like kings in London during the Nazi occupation, promised us a lot of beautiful things. Now, unless conditions change soon, what is happening in Greece will spread to Belgium."

Among all the workers I met, there was great indignation because the government of Fierlot was freeing the rich collaborators with the Nazis. "Not enough attention is being given to these collaborators," declared one worker. "Three of them set up a fascist group in Liege and attempted to release the jailed fascists. In spite of the protests of the people, the government did nothing."

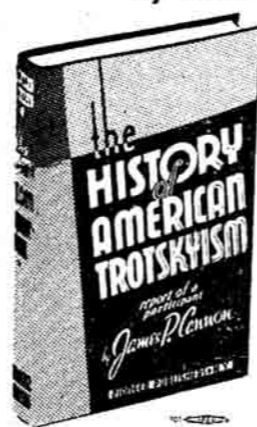
The prolonging of the war and the failure to improve living conditions as the people had hoped for has contributed most to turning the feelings of the populace against the Allies. "The greatest dissatisfaction is over food." I was informed repeatedly. It was not uncommon to hear the complaint, "Now it is even worse in some respects than under the Nazis."

From several more intimate conversations I learned that the reception accorded from the beginning to the Allies was not as enthusiastic as the American press reported. The underground movements were able to follow events in France and Italy very closely. Events of the Allied occupation in Italy and France,

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SHOP TALKS ON SOCIALISM



By V. Grey

"I just can't see your point of view, Slim," young Mike was talking. We had all been arguing about whether a man got paid for what he produced, and joking about how the electrician would starve if he only got what he earned, and all that.

"If you get paid for the hour, or by the piece, you still get paid for what you do. If you work harder you get more. Am I right?" Mike takes the floor in the locker room more than you'd expect from a new fellow in the shop. But he was brought up nearby—and knows half the fellows pretty well anyhow.

"No," Slim insisted, "you produce way more than you get paid for. And if you didn't—" But then the whistle blew and everybody went back to work.

Young Mike was working on old 29 press with Ed and Breezy. It was a piece-work job—punching big holes in a sheet about 10 feet by 30 inches. The sheet was fed into the press from one side and taken out from the other. The press had to make several hits while the sheet was sliding along. The job was priced so you could make between nine and ten dollars if you worked like hell and kept the press going automatically all the time.

Old 29 made 450 hits an hour—that is, not allowing for breakdowns, etc. It was the best job Mike had been put on yet. There were plenty of other fellows ahead of him in seniority. But this was sort of a rotating job and nobody wanted to bump him for the lousy buck.

Well, naturally the kid was working like a dog, pulling those sheets out of the press and helping to stack them up. All of a sudden there was another breakdown, and 29 was really finished for the day.

Press 31 had already been rigged with the same set-up, though. And after a few minutes day-work to move the stock, etc., Ed, Breezy and young Mike started again over there. Well 31 got 600 hits an hour—thirty three percent more than the old press. And the fellows had to really shake their shoes to make every hit.

Especially Mike. He was soaking with sweat. But he didn't feel so bad, on account of figuring on an extra thirty-three percent an hour that he'd be getting. It came to at least 40 cents more per hour, according to his mental arithmetic.

At the end of the shift when they were all changing clothes in the locker room, Breezy said, "Hey Mike! How much did we make?"

"Eleven dollars and seventeen cents," Mike replied.

MIKE LEARNS ABOUT PIECE-WORK RATES

Everybody in the locker room turned around, or stopped washing.

"Whaddaya mean, eleven dollars and seventeen cents? Nobody makes that much money on that job."

Mike was nobody's slouch at arithmetic, and he said, "You want me to draw you a diagram?" And he figured it up with a piece of chalk on the side of a locker. And it came to exactly eleven dollars and seventeen cents.

Then an arm reached over his shoulder and erased a couple of figures and made it come out to nine dollars and a quarter.

It was Slim. "You see they have a cheaper rate on 31 than on 29 because it goes faster."

"But I went faster too," protested Mike, a little dazed.

"Sure you did, and you produced faster. But like I started to say at lunch time, you don't get paid for what you produce."

"But this is different. This is a dirty swindle!" Mike was coming out of his daze. "Why don't we put in a grievance?"

"We did," Slim replied.

"And do you mean to say you lost it? What the hell could the company say, anyway?"

Breezy laughed. "I remember one thing they said—if you got the same price rate on 31 it wouldn't be FAIR to the guys on 29."

"They just pay you for a day's work," Slim replied. "They figure eleven dollars is a little too much for a working man. You made thirty-three percent better production, but it still don't take you any more money to eat. Why should they pay you any more?"

"I remember," Slim went on, "when all the presses were slower, and you did a lot of stuff by hand that you do now by machinery. We didn't get half the production out that we get now. But we're not living in better houses, or driving better cars, or eating better than we did then."

"Well, it's a screwy system," young Mike said. "I'm certainly surprised you guys stand for it!"

"What kind of a system would be better, Mike?" Slim asked innocently.

Three Articles On Greece Featured In February F. I.

The February issue of *Fourth International*, now on sale, features a comprehensive review of recent struggles in Greece in the form of three related articles. The first deals with the historical background in Greece from the early 19th century up to the Metaxas dictatorship of 1936. The second follows step by step the British provocations which threw the Greek people into bloody civil war. The third presents "the lessons of Greece."

Greek aspirations for national independence were frustrated time after time, as were the efforts of all the Balkan states, because of the subservience of the ruling classes to the powerful imperialisms of Britain, France and Czarist Russia. The editors show how the Greek government has been mortgaged to the British bankers since 1821. The British policy of imposing hated dynasties upon Greece is a traditional means of enslaving its people. Churchill pursues the same policy today with the approval and direct assistance of Roosevelt and Stalin, the articles demonstrate.

The editors point to Greece as a mirror of the future of all Europe unless the militant vanguard of the working class organizes the masses under the program of Bolshevism and opens the road to socialist freedom for all nations.

The magazine also publishes two important articles on the United States. C. Thomas writes a thoroughgoing account of the plans of Wall Street to regiment the working class during this war which has culminated in the current campaign to legalize forced labor. He shows how through executive decree one form of compulsory labor after another has been gradually imposed on the working class.

Reviewing "The Outlook for a Labor Party," William Simmons estimates the forces which are inexorably impelling the advanced workers to embrace the idea of independent labor political action and organization as an essential instrument in their fight to maintain their conditions against the attacks of the employers and Wall Street's political agents.

Single copies of *Fourth International* may be obtained for 20 cents, yearly subscriptions \$2, by writing to Business Manager, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Forum To Hear Ruth Johnson

NEW YORK, March 4—"Child Labor in the Second World War," the story of the exploitation of five million young workers, will be the topic of the next Sunday Night Forum to be held at the New York School of Social Science on March 11. The speaker, Comrade Ruth Johnson, will discuss the history of labor's struggle to wipe out child labor.

Tonight Comrade Irving Dale discussed "The Way Out for the Jewish Masses." An extended period of questions and discussion followed his interesting presentation.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

by CHARLES JACKSON

Another Minority Attacked

Several incidents have recently been reported on the West Coast which indicate an impending campaign of intimidation, terrorization and violence against a different — but similarly persecuted — racial minority: the Japanese-Americans. The Negro people, even if only in the interest of their own defense, cannot afford to overlook or condone this familiar type of left-handed blow at a group of American citizens whose only offense resides in the fact that they happened to be derived from the "wrong" racial origin.

Soon after the shooting stage of the war with Japan had begun, these citizens, in flagrant violation of their civil rights, were yanked from their farms and homes and were herded into virtual concentration camps, known officially by the polite name of relocation centers. This illegal repression was carried out by the "law-enforcement" agencies after a campaign by the capitalist press to whip up racial prejudice under the guise of national patriotism.

The real motivators, however, were a big business outfit called the Ass'd Farmers and other reactionary interests which stand to profit — war or no war — by the elimination of competitors and by the persecution of a minority within the working class.

Now that these citizens are beginning to trickle back to their homes these same profit-hungry exploiters have declared another open season on Japanese-Americans and have signified that they intend to employ every weapon at their command.

THUGS AT WORK

The American Legion is circulating inflammatory, fascist-type leaflets and the District Attorney of Los Angeles is whooping it up with the claim that he knows (but evidently can't catch to arrest) people who threaten to "shoot on sight" any returning Japanese-American.

What is worse, a mob of thugs schooled in KKK tactics has evidently been hired and has begun its evil, cowardly work. The home of Bob Morishege of Selma, Calif. was set fire and burned and shotguns were fired at the homes of 2 other Japanese-Americans of Fresno County, S. J. Kakutani and Frank Osaki. At the last report none of those responsible for the outrages against these peaceful citizens had been arrested.

The sinister methods to which these mobsters resort was brought out by Mrs. Joseph Holzman's report to the Los Angeles police that twice she was threatened by anonymous telephone calls in connection with her employment of two Japanese servants. "Better get rid of them," said the voice, "or we'll get rid of you and take care of them."

Stating that "an injury to one is an injury to all," Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers' Party (Trotskyist) candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, has issued a call to organized labor to con-

demn this campaign of intimidation and violence against the Japanese-American minority.

FIGHT RACE HATRED

Showing that the entire working class, regardless of race or national origin, could ignore this threat only at its own peril, she said: "If today the Japanese-Americans can be attacked with impunity, tomorrow it may well be the Negroes, the Mexicans, the Filipinos, the Jews — leading to violent attacks upon the labor movement, which is always a target of reaction."

In her letters to the CIO and the AFL, Mrs. Weiss stated that she had made the fight against race hatred and race discrimination a prominent part of her platform and that she believed the same should be done in the whole organized labor movement. When we wake up to the uselessness of "shifting our weight around" from one capitalist party to another and line up solid behind this type of fighting program, then we will be getting somewhere in our struggle for Negro equality.

In addition to that, through our Negro organizations we must go to bat for a Japanese-American just as quickly as we would for another Negro. These people are obviously being denied their full citizenship rights just as we are. They are pictured in the capitalist press as toothsome "brown-bellied bastards" and are described by the capitalist commentators as "half-man and half-beast." This vicious type of prejudice indoctrination is familiar to every Negro.

JAPANESE WORKERS

The Japanese people are intelligent and alert and beneath their external racial characteristics they are indistinguishable from any other human being, white or black. The working class in Japan is economically enslaved and driven to war by Japan's 4 ruling industrial families, whose lust for profits and power is the same as that of America's 60 and Britain's 13 richest families.

The Japanese-American workers are not only our comrades in the world class struggle for Socialist liberation but they are also our brothers through oppression in this capitalist "democracy."

Let us not fail to rally to their side and fight back the attacks of the common enemy!

Detroit Auto Workers Strike Against Company Provocations

(Continued from page 1)

having 20 years seniority, could not keep up this pace they were summarily fired. This precipitated the walkout.

The Dodge workers demonstrated their uncompromising spirit at their second strike meeting held on Tuesday, when they refused to heed the strikebreaking plea of George Addes, UAW secretary-treasurer and acting president in the absence abroad of R. J. Thomas. Addes was booed when he urged them to call off their strike without obtaining any concessions or promises from the corporation. Then, he treacherously issued a statement: "They are on their own now. The international union will not help them to get discharged workers reinstated and will not aid the local if more strikers are dismissed by the company."

BRIGGS TAKES TIP

The Briggs Corporation lost no time in drawing the necessary conclusions. It eagerly accepted Addes' open invitation and followed the example of Chrysler by firing one committeeman and six stewards on Wednesday for allegedly causing a previous strike several weeks ago. This was followed in the next three days by the discharge of 8 more committeemen, stewards and a rank and file militant, making a total thus far of 15 workers ousted. The Briggs workers hit the picket lines.

Ford likewise joined the bandwagon by firing a committeeman and two production workers in the Motor building on Wednesday. A strike in the Motor Building was precipitated. Fearing the walkout might spread throughout the entire plant, Ford, in the present tense atmosphere, immediately had the fired men reinstated, thereby ending the walkout.

In addition to the 25,000 strikers from Dodge and Briggs, about 2,800 workers from the Chrysler DeSoto-Warren Plant, members of Local 946 UAW-CIO, showed their solidarity by walking out in protest against railroad companies delivering freight formerly handled by trucks belonging to Dodge Local 3. These workers also refused to work with material which the army and navy offered to bring in.

Before provoking the strike at Dodge, the Chrysler corporation attempted to carry out a similar line at its Highland Park Plant where it fired four stewards. There the alert and militant leadership of the Local 490 officers forced the company to reinstate the men.

CHRYSLER LOCALS

All the presidents of the Chrysler locals in this area, with the exception of the heads of Plymouth Local 51 and Chrysler Local 7, both under Stalinist influence, have come to the support of the Dodge strikers. On Tuesday, they voted for a mass meeting of all Chrysler workers. But the top UAW officialdom later decided on their own initiative to disperse with this meeting for fear of "hotheads." The follow-

Stalinist Finks Aid Detroit Auto Barons

The Stalinist finks have rushed once more to the aid of the labor-hating profiteers against striking workers. This time they are trying to cover up the open conspiracy of the auto barons to smash the militant CIO United Automobile Workers locals in Detroit.

While over 35,000 Chrysler and Briggs workers, supported by hundreds of thousands of other unionists, have been defending their unions on the picket lines, the Stalinist traitors inside the CIO are urging on the government - employer wolf pack against the workers.

Taking his cue from the Stalinist Daily Worker which called the auto workers' struggle a "strike conspiracy... of Trotskyite leaders," William Thorpe, Detroit agent of the Stalinist-dominated CIO National Maritime Union, publicly howled for the suspension of all UAW officers "guilty" of supporting strikes. He also appealed to Roosevelt for a witchhunt against "elements seeking to create a general strike situation in Detroit automobile plants."

This is but the latest effort of the American hirelings of the Kremlin to prove that they are the most reliable agents of Wall Street inside the labor movement.

ing evening a meeting of officers of all Chrysler locals roasted the international officers for their treacherous policy toward the Dodge strikers. A motion to back up the strikers was made and would have been carried overwhelmingly, but Rubin, assistant UAW Chrysler director, called the motion out of order. Whereupon the local officers walked out forcing Rubin and his handful of followers to adjourn the meeting.

With the first walkout at the Briggs plants, the strike took on a greater scope. It had become obvious even to the blind that the workers confronted an organized conspiracy on the part of the Detroit auto moguls. At their union meeting last Thursday evening, almost 2000 Briggs workers unanimously endorsed the strike and decided to go back to work only if the corporation reinstated the fired men. This decision was unanimously reaffirmed at a second meeting held today. They also appealed by resolution for all the locals in this area to get together in support of the strikes.

The resolution stated that "the Briggs Corporation has climaxed a long time campaign of persecution and union busting" by its recent firings. It said that "the recent events at Dodge, Ford and other auto plants make clear that this is part of a general anti-labor offensive under the leadership of the National Association of Manufacturers," that "management is emboldened to make these provocations only because they realize they have the support of the international officers," and "only the mobilization of the full resources and energies of our whole membership in this area can defeat these union-busting plans."

The resolution made three demands. 1.) "Full support of our international union in our fight for the unconditional reinstatement of our discharged brothers and sisters." 2.) "A conference of all UAW local officers, committeemen and stewards in the Detroit and Wayne County area to plan effective counteraction." 3.) Insisted that the Briggs Lo-

"Transfusion? — Free!"



Reprinted from "Justice"

cal elect a committee "to immediately begin contacting the officers and active members of all UAW locals in Wayne County to build sentiment for and organize forces for such a conference."

CONCERTED DRIVE

Jess Ferrazza, president of Local 212, heartily endorsed the resolution: "We hope to get a fighting organization together to combat the new game management seems to be playing. The speedup is being installed not haphazardly but seemingly in concert. Management seems to be pretty well organized. The UAW-CIO should start at once to do the same."

On Thursday morning about five hundred Briggs workers staged a demonstration in front of the UAW offices at 411 West Milwaukee, calling upon their international officers to back them up in their defensive struggle against the management. The ranks knew well the history of their auto union. They remembered those days six years ago when Homer Martin, then president of the UAW-CIO, gave General Motors permission to "discipline" the men. The rank and file then fought and disposed of Martin for his acts of base treachery.

This time the ranks were again serving notice upon their international officers in the form of a big sign: "One Homer Martin is enough for the UAW." In another slogan they were rightfully insisting: "We demand support of the International Union." Another placard asked the simple but direct question: "Whose side is the international on?" The men blasted away at the leadership in a sign saying: "Rip Van Winkle was asleep for 20 years. How long will our international sleep?"

The interconnection between the Dodge and Briggs strike is clearly brought out by this demonstration in front of the UAW headquarters. It was Addes' fink statement against the discharged Dodge workers which emboldened the Briggs management to fire Local 212 militants. The Briggs local in turn met this challenge by picketing the International which then forced Addes and the entire UAW Executive Board to postpone at least temporarily their plans to remove the officers of Dodge Local 3. Instead the entire Board was obliged to take public notice of the conspiracy on the part of the bosses. Frankenstein, UAW vice-president, hurried to send a telegram to the WLB which read in part: "The present situation in Detroit was deliberately provoked by management and implemented by indiscriminate firing of workers. Management should be required to refer all disciplinary discharges to grievance procedure before any such discharges are made effective."

It was not until Mike Novak, Dodge Local 3 president, began to weaken under the heavy pressure of the entire government machinery in Washington that Frankenstein dared to revert to

his normal position, stating: "Either Novak will get the employees to go back to their jobs or the International UAW will put somebody in his place who will send them back." Only if the Dodge workers return without having the men reinstated will the top union officialdom dare to press for an administrator of the Briggs Local. Only a bold policy on the part of several local union officers has thus far kept the International from taking punitive action against the men.

At their Thursday night meeting 4000 Dodge workers for the third time failed to heed the advice of the top union officialdom headed by Addes, Frankenstein, Walter Reuther, UAW vice-president, and Norman Matthews, regional director, to return to work before the men were rehired. At this point it began to appear that the tremendous support which the strike had generated among all the auto locals in this area would force the bosses to capitulate or force the WLB to change its grievance procedure in line with Frankenstein's telegram. Then Addes once more rushed to the assistance of the auto barons with another fink statement: "They will have to go back to work eventually and they will have to go back without the discharged men being reinstated."

This was calculated to prejudice the cause of the workers who saw the patent logic of Novak's remarks: "If the WLB can order the union back to work, they can also order the company to reinstate those discharged workers."

RANKS WANT TO FIGHT

The men and women on the picket lines as well as workers all over Detroit are unmoved by the cries of "treason" raised by the prostitute capitalist press. As one Dodge worker so clearly stated at union headquarters: "If the corporation was really interested in war production it would simply reinstate the men and talk the matter over quietly with the union officials." That same sentiment is heard among white-collar workers and sections of the middle class.

The workers on the picket lines who feel the provocations of management most of all know that they have no alternative except to fight back. "What is a union for," they keep repeating, "if the corporation can get away with firing the best militants." Regardless of the final count on the recently concluded no-strike referendum, the Detroit auto workers are convinced that if a vote were taken today, it would veer overwhelmingly in favor of rescinding the no-strike pledge.



PHILADELPHIA SUNDAY NIGHT FORUMS

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Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalesky

"Yeah," Whitey Larson said despondently, "if we only didn't have that damn no-strike pledge!"

"Sure, Whitey," I told him. "Sure that's the cause of most of our trouble. But hell, man, we've got to fight it. We've got to get a rank-and-file group going like they have in the auto union. It takes work."

Whitey's face was tired. "Yeah," he said.

Times change, and men change with them. And then again, sometimes the time will change and a man will remain the same, so that time will run on ahead of him, leaving him like a fish gasping in a little, drying pool of water after the tide has washed out to sea. This is what has happened to Whitey. The tide of time has flowed on and left Whitey weak and out of place, something old-fashioned and impotent like a knight in armor on a grim battlefield of tanks and flame-throwers.

When Whitey came to the steel plant it was a lot tougher than it is today. The foremen were tough. They were hired to be tough, and they walked up and down the furnace line like a pack of lions in the jungle, looking for somebody to sink their teeth into. There were no benches on the furnaces. Any boards that could be used for benches had to be thrown into the ladles. There was no eating lunch on the job. You were paid to work. The company wasn't paying you to eat! You weren't satisfied? Get your time: somebody else would like your job. Not satisfied? Get out!

Well, Whitey wasn't satisfied, only he wasn't going to get out without putting up a fight. He made a nuisance of himself in the company union, asking for better conditions and better money, but not going too far... yet. Then when the SWOC came around, Whitey and Terry O'Day, who worked over in the open hearth, were the first to join.



One of the Pioneer Union Organizers

It was slow going, tough going, those first days. Meet men in saloons, meet them in the toilets, whisper about the union: "Hell, nobly's going to know you're a member till we get a majority. We've got to get everybody lined up. This damn company's got to be taught a lesson; they've been kicking us around long enough."

And the men joined up, slowly, one by one, and the union grew. There were a couple of demonstrations and slowdowns, and Whitey and Terry went out the gate, escorted by plant cops to make sure they got there. But they fought from outside. I went out to join them, myself. We worked day and night, preparing for the big day.

Then came the strike. Then came tragedy, ten men pouring out their life blood on that field near the big gate and God knows how many others hurt. Men and women both tearing over the road and over the fields trying to get away from the bullets and clubs of the cops, tears streaming down their faces from the gas bombs.

But that just made Whitey tougher. It made him set his jaw and fight harder.

With the unions recognized, things were a lot different. There was no contract as yet, but there was a lot of fight left in the boys. Up in the office, Whitey would say to old Ellsworth: "O. K., if you don't want to make any concessions, I can't be responsible for what the boys do. They're pretty sore." And George P. Ellsworth would try to make the boys happy.

The foremen began to take notice of a union button. They began to be pretty friendly, especially friendly when they saw a steward's button. It got so you could live when you were inside the gate. But nobody was fooled. The foremen hadn't been friendly before we organized.

But, as I said, times change. During the strike, during the whole period of organization, Whitey was a giant. Today Whitey's just a little man.

When they made Terry O'Day an international representative, Whitey had practically danced with joy. When Terry began to change as most of the union staff changed during the war, Whitey was bitter. He couldn't understand it. And the reason why he couldn't understand it was because he himself was like Terry O'Day. Neither of them understood politics!

They trusted Roosevelt. When the no-strike pledge was given, they both expected that industry, too, would sacrifice. The President would make them. Equality of sacrifice! When the WLB was set up, they thought it would be impartial. The President said it would be. They were bewildered. Terry went the way of all bureaucrats, big or little; and Whitey watched him go, angry and bewildered. But neither of them understood why.

For a while, Whitey was still tough. "Aw," he'd say, "a strike is the only language the company knows." But the last time there was a tough situation when we almost walked out, Terry O'Day stood up in the meeting and read us a paper about how the strikers at the Norge company were drafted into the army and sanctions were taken against the union. "I know how you feel, boys," Terry said, "but I've got my orders: I've got to fight against you."

Whitey's mouth was open. He stared. Then he shut his mouth, got up without a word, and walked home.

Whitey Larson still wants to fight, but he doesn't know how. Maybe when the workers begin to move forward he'll be in the front line again. But until then he's just a bewildered little man.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

MARCH 9, 1935

WASHINGTON—An official report of the Federal Research and Planning Division showed that Roosevelt's National Recovery Act was really a means of impoverishing the workers to enrich the bosses under the false banner of "social reforms." On the basis of the government's own figures, The Militant reported that "Taking 1926 as 100, payrolls in December (1934) stood at an index of 60, while dividends and interest stood at 150. The wage earners' share (of the national income) had been cut 40 percent while the capitalists' share had been raised by 50 percent."

That this was no accident but a part of the administration's design could be seen in the brazen comment of the official report that "clearly the recipients of profits have not failed to enjoy their proportionate share of the increase in industrial recovery!"

WAUKEGAN—Unity of factory and white collar workers was the most important factor in a victorious strike held at the Johnson Motors Plant in Waukegan, The Militant reported. The strike was called when three office workers aiding the organization of the plant into an AFL Federal Auto Local were fired for union activities. 400 workers struck, demanding and winning both the reinstatement of the victimized men and the recognition of their union.

Pioneer Paragraphs

THE CRIMES OF BIG BUSINESS PROFITEERS DURING WAR-TIME

What is to be done about the criminal activities of Big Business? The Administration and Congress have already conclusively shown that they either won't or can't take measures to make the punishment fit the crime. If anything is to be done, it will have to be done by the labor movement.

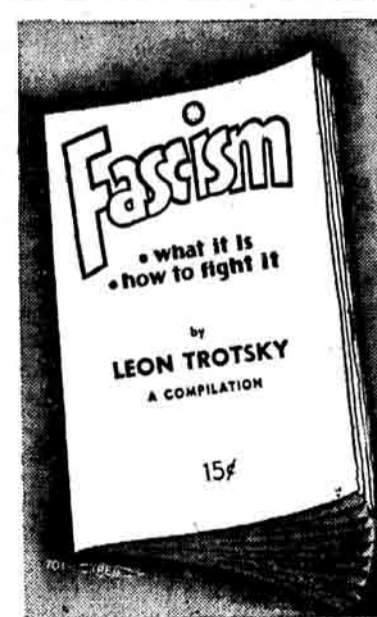
Some people have suggested

the passage of legislation imposing the death penalty on manufacturers whose fraudulent practices endanger the lives of the men in the armed forces. A bill providing this penalty or a million dollar fine has even been introduced into Congress. It is hard to imagine the present Congress—which is the servant, body and soul, of the big corporations — ever adopting legislation to punish them.

To get to the root of the problem, the Socialist Workers Party advocates that the ownership and control of industry be taken out of the hands of the capitalists. This course of action will be regarded by Big Business as far more drastic than any bill providing the death penalty and it will be fought by them with every weapon they have, but it is the only practical answer to capitalist mismanagement of industry.

Let industry be owned by the government and operated under the control of committees democratically elected by the workers. The profit motive would be removed, and with it would be removed the incentive to produce and sell dangerously defective products. The costs of production would be lowered and the workers' committees, having no interest in exacting profits from the blood of the soldier, would guarantee production and honest testing in the interests of the people.

(From "War-time Crimes of Big Business," by George Breitman, pp. 13-14. Pioneer Publishers, 1943; 16 pp., 5c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 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.

U. S. Role In Greece

The role that U. S. imperialism played behind the scenes in the Greek events has been carefully hidden from the American people. The official spokesmen and the press have fostered the illusion that Roosevelt's administration maintained a "hands-off" attitude before, during and after Churchill's premeditated massacre of the Greek workers. They have tried to palm off as good coin the pronouncement by Secretary of State Stettinius during the civil war that the United States favored a "free choice of government" by the Greek people.

Enough facts have already come out to prove that Roosevelt's line of policy differed from Churchill's only in that it was more hypocritical and concealed. The conspiracy of the Allied leaders against the Greek people began at Teheran in December 1943. It has been revealed that at this conference Stalin and Roosevelt agreed to a British sphere of influence in Europe which included domination of Greece. When Churchill spoke before the House of Commons on last December 12 to justify his actions in Greece, he declared that Washington has been kept informed of all his moves and had not objected to them.

The facts are that the United States government and armed forces gave direct aid to Churchill. British troops under General Scobie's command were armed with American weapons, transported in American planes, and fed with American food. Lend-lease tanks and heavy guns, manned by picked British troops and ex-fascist mercenaries, were used in Athens to shoot down women and children as well as poorly armed ELAS fighters.

When the British were hard-pressed in the first days of the civil warfare, 100 U. S. Army troop carriers, piloted by American crews, rushed British soldiers to reinforce the garrison in Athens.

Food from America was also used as a weapon of counter-revolution. Before the outbreak of the fighting on December 3 American agencies had supplied the British in Athens with 40,000 tons of food—70 percent of all Allied foodstuffs sent

into the country up to that time. At first the British distributed all food through the puppet Papan-drou government. After the armed intervention, it was administered directly by General Scobie.

Leland Stowe has disclosed that these foodstuffs were turned over to wholesalers favored by the government and sold at considerable profit. None of it reached the ELAS members who embraced a majority of the Greek people.

Finally Roosevelt met with Churchill and Stalin at Yalta and there the three placed their seal of approval upon the Allied policies pursued in Greece. More than that, they are clearly determined to continue them.

By silence Roosevelt hopes to evade his share of the responsibility for promoting the bloody counter-revolution in Greece. But he shall not be permitted to escape. He, like Stalin, is a conscious accomplice in Churchill's crimes.

Duping UAW Ranks

The top officials of the United Automobile Workers Union, CIO, have entered into a conspiracy with the corporations and the government to "hold-the-line" against their own rank and file. Evidence of this conspiracy has come to light with the decision of the War Labor Board rejecting the wage demands of 300,000 auto workers employed by General Motors. The magazine of the big corporations, *Business Week*, has revealed that the WLB deliberately withheld its decision.

"The National War Labor Board has had its mind made up on the General Motors case for some time," says the March 3 *Business Week*. The magazine then discloses the reason why the WLB withheld its decision by adding: "Aware that it was serving a dish of bitter tea to a group of workers who react violently to anything they find distasteful, NWLB sat on the G. M. case until the auto workers completed balloting on revoking the no-strike pledge, and was about ready to announce its decision when the strike of Dodge workers set Detroit's nerves on edge."

The WLB had been "sitting on" the G. M. case for well over a year. So they just continued to "sit" until the no-strike referendum was over and until the Dodge workers were herded back to their jobs by the top union officers. One of these WLB "sitters" was R. J. Thomas, international president of the UAW-CIO.

The auto workers are getting fed up with being "sat on" by the corporations, their political agents in the government and by their own union officials. They remember another kind of "sitdown" which is part of their militant traditions. Their fighting spirit will yet prevail over the foul conspiracy of which they have been victims.

Wage-Freeze Fight

The ruling by Fred M. Vinson, Roosevelt's "economic stabilizer," barring the WLB from granting any "fringe" concessions, has driven the top union leadership into a corner. Vinson's edict has made it virtually impossible to get around the wage freeze through the medium of the so-called fringe demands. It has destroyed the last vestige of WLB authority to make wage adjustments within the Little Steel formula. The policy of depending on Roosevelt and his agencies to defend the workers' standard of living has proven bankrupt. What alternative do the union heads offer?

In a resolution flaying the Vinson order, the International Executive Board of the powerful United Automobile Workers Union declared: "Mr. Byrnes, Mr. Vinson transmitting his policies, has now closed every avenue open to labor for adjustment of its wage problems." The board called "for the creation of a new labor board." In his demonstrative resignation from the WLB in protest against Vinson's intervention in the textile wage case, Emil Rieve, head of the CIO Textile Workers Union, stated: "Political connivance has deprived the National War Labor Board of its independent tripartite nature."

Tangled in the web of a false policy, the union officialdom sees no way out other than the restoration of the "independence" of the WLB. This false approach is based on the fiction of the "impartiality" of the "public" members of the WLB, who actually function as agents of the Roosevelt administration. The way out of the wage-freezing impasse is not through an "independent" WLB but through complete independence from the agents and agencies of the capitalist government.

Armed with a correct program, the many-millioned members of organized labor have the power to smash the wage-freeze. Such a program must have as its first aim the restoration of the independence of the unions. Free the unions from all domination or control by the political agents of the employing class!

Withdraw the union representatives from the employer-dominated War Labor Board! For the direct negotiations of all union demands and grievances. To back up the union bargaining power, it is necessary to rescind the no-strike pledge! Collective bargaining without the right to strike is a monstrous hoax. Without the strike weapon, employers know that they can violate agreements with impunity and laugh at union grievances.

Build the Independent Labor Party! The employers count heavily on their political deputies in control of government to keep the workers bound in the wage-freezing strait-jacket. Break with the policy of company unionism on the political field. The Independent Labor Party, based on the trade unions, can extend the fight into the political arena to defend labor's standard of living, labor's rights and labor's freedom. The time to act is now!

Wall Street's 'Relief' for Europe



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.

The Rich and Poor In 'Liberated' Europe

Editor: Every day the papers tell about the hunger, cold and suffering of the people in bombed-out Europe. It is said that the countries occupied by the Allies actually are getting less to eat than under the Nazis.

Last week a Frenchman who had just come from Paris said that "new-born babies die because there is no heat in the homes and no hot water." He told how people jam the subways and ride the trains endlessly, huddled together for warmth.

Two Englishmen who called at a creche in Paris last January found that 17 babies had died of cold that morning.

While the poor French, Italian and Greek people freeze and starve to death, the rich are living as well under the Allies as they did under the Nazis. They have plenty to squander in the midst of the universal suffering. PM wrote about the elaborate wedding recently held in Rome

For

'International Notes'
See Page 3

for the daughter of Marchese Serena who made all his millions from Fascist concessions in Ethiopia and Albania. Here is how one of the guests described the affair. "The church of San Marco was a gorgeous riot of flowers—at least 100,000 lire worth — and the bride's gown, well it must have cost 90,000 lire if it cost one. Why you couldn't have touched even the bridesmaids' gowns for less than 40,000 lire each. And the champagne luncheon for 250 guests that followed was a beautiful thing too."

And in the N. Y. Post last week Marquis Childs told about a dinner he went to in Paris which was an "island of luxury." "A French guest whispered that the flowers could have cost not less than \$200. The five course dinner with superb wines could not have been excelled anywhere in the world. Three footmen waited on the small party..."

"A great part of the conversation," Childs said, "was concerned with the perils to France from the extreme Left elements within the country."

With this contrast in conditions between the rich and the poor, is it any wonder that the working people in Europe who want to throw out these parasites bitterly resent the way they are being maintained by the Allies?

F. W. New York

Relies on "Prayer"

Editor: Someone, unknown to me, subscribed for your paper in my name. I had intended writing you, as soon as I found out what kind of a labor paper it was, to tell you I did not want it, it is not at all welcome here. In fact, we use it to light fires with. Quite symbolic of what your hereafter will be. If you continue to send it, it shall meet the same fate, and as

I didn't order it you can't make me pay for it so you see you might as well quit. We are not fighting you with words but with words and those words are "prayer."

With this thought I shall leave you.

C. P. McLaughlin
Olympia, Wis.

Make Your Choice

Editor: As regards the soldier sentenced to die for refusing to kill his fellow-men like flies or he cannot be a soldier. If he, on account of convictions, will not kill, he should maybe be given other work, either as a helper in the army, or in civilian work.

If we believe in something, we should be willing to defend it, and if the USSR has even just the seed of real socialism in it, I hope that when it is attacked by capitalist war, the workers of the world will know on which side to be, and that everybody who believes, will take his stand in the last great conflict between right and wrong, capitalism and socialism, falsehood and truth. "God created the earth, with its resources, including the air around us, and the life-giving sun. The useful people, the workers of the world, have always done, and do now, from these resources, create all the wealth on earth and the comforts of life."

Therefore make your choice.

QUESTION BOX

Q: What unions organized the CIO?

A: The Committee for Industrial Organization was formed within the American Federation of Labor in November 1935 when millions of workers in basic industry demanded admission to the AFL. The Committee included mainly representatives from AFL unions already organized on industrial lines; Lewis of the United Mine Workers, Hillman and Dubinsky of the clothing trades, McMahon of the Textile Workers, Brown of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Zaritsky of the Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers, Fremming of the Oil-Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers, and Howard of the Typographical Union. The Executive Committee of the AFL suspended these CIO unions before its 1936 convention.

Q: How many states have a poll tax?

A: Seven: Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas and Texas.

Q: What was the first labor party organized in America?

A: The Workingmen's Party of New York which was organized in 1829.

Q: How large were the Communist and Socialist party votes in Germany at the time of Hitler's seizure of power?

A: In the November 1932 elections the Communist Party (Stalinist) received 5,980,240 votes and the Social Democracy 7,251,410.

Q: When was the Fourth International organized?

A: The Founding Conference of the Fourth International was held in September 1938.

Who is right? Capitalism or socialism, I mean that socialism is the house built on the rock (truth). And on that rock we will build our "church" into which we will gather people of all races of the human family—International Socialism.

M. M. Minneapolis, Minn.

'Militant' Goes Into The Deep South

Editor: I spent the Christmas holidays with my people in Hattiesburg and New Orleans. This was my first visit home since joining the Socialist Workers Party. When I lived there I had to fight against the three-dollar a week wages I got, when I could find work, and that's what first made me a rebel. Yet I didn't know how to fight against these conditions. Now I know the only solution is in the struggle for socialism.

I know that The Militant is the best organizer for Socialism there is. So I began selling subs to my friends and workers I had known. To make the long story short I came home with twenty-one subs to The Militant.

Now we have an organizer in the Deep South.

Louise R. San Pedro

Transit Strike

Editor: The following poem was written by a worker here on the recent Reading transit strike.

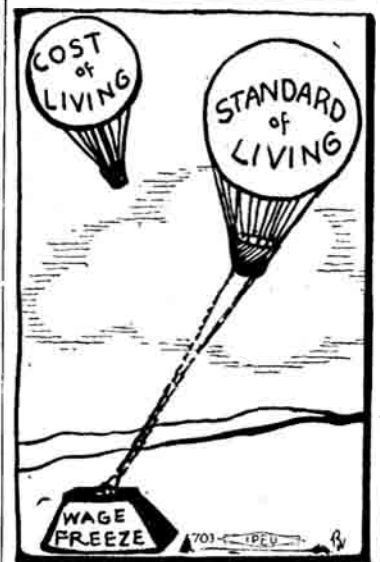
THE TRANSIT WORKER
The trolleys and the buses,
Are in the barn today,
To show the sly old bosses
That union men hold sway.

The boss wants us to be on time,
We get up very early,
He counts so many fares a day
His teeth are getting curly.

We ask him for a raise one day,
It took him by surprise,
He puffed that black cigar of his,
And threw us awful "eyes."

He gave it to the "Labor Board,"
And then to "Old Man Byrnes,"
Once it's here, then it's there,
How slow the wheel of justice turns!

H. T. Reading, Pa.



For a Rising Scale
Of Wages to Meet
Rising Living Costs

OPA Chief Admits Profits Are Highest in History

Corporation profits hit an all-time high in 1944, according to OPA Director Chester Bowles, testifying last week before the Senate hearing on the bill to extend the Price Control Act.

Profits—after taxes—zoomed to the unprecedented figure of over \$10,000,000,000 (that's billions) last year, double the high take of \$5,200,000,000 in 1940, the first full war year.

Bowles and his OPA associates were not attacking these profits. They cited these figures to prove that the OPA has no intention of interfering with profits in carrying out "price control." OPA Deputy Administrator Brownlee indignantly repudiated such purposes. "OPA never reduces prices merely because it considers profits are large. . . Available data indicate no general hardship from OPA price control."

This model of understatement was fortified by voluminous charts and figures on profits gains, which ranged from a "mere" 76 per cent in 1943 for chain grocery stores to a "reasonable" 1,046 per cent for department and specialty stores.

The department stores, which pay the lowest wages, in 1943 realized total profits of \$593,800,000 in comparison with the annual 1936-39 average of \$51,800,000—an increase of 1,046 per cent. The report shows further that the 1944 profits figures, when compiled, will be even greater due to higher prices and reduced services.

An independent research study by the CIO Cost-of-Living Committee, also released last week, discloses that profits of the eight largest meat-packing firms, have soared nearly 700 per cent over their peacetime take-in. These members of the meat trust secured \$153,000,000 profits before taxes in 1944, as contrasted to the \$22,382,000 annual average for 1936-39.

Wage increases, which have been denied the exploited packing house workers, could easily be paid out of these enormous profits before taxes. Profits after taxes in 1944 were \$44,110,000 as compared to \$17,472,000 in 1939.

Despite these fantastic profits and the rigid wage-freeze on the workers, Big Business is now making a concerted drive to wipe out the last semblance of price control by completely emasculating the few restrictions left in the Price Control Act.

What Little Steel Formula Has Done to Real Wages

"This is no silk-shirt era for wage-earners." That was the conclusion of A. F. Hinrichs, acting commissioner of labor in the Dept. of Labor, when he presented an official report on wartime profits, prices and wages to the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency.

Spensible earnings of workers in three highly profitable wartime industries, for example, have declined in terms of "earnings required to maintain January, 1941, standards"—the date on which the Little Steel Formula is based.

Workers in the publishing industry actually have \$9.05 less purchasing power a week; machine tool workers are shy \$4.76; electrical equipment workers, \$2.18. Steel workers end the week with a net gain of 31 cents, compared to the 450 per cent increase in steel profits.

The lowest wages are in department stores, which employ over two-thirds female workers. Wage rates are as low as 39 cents an hour, with general clerks getting only 50 cents. Yet department store PROFITS have increased 1,046 per cent over the 1936-39 average!

Price Ceiling Violations Boost Cost-of-Living

To bolster its "recommendation" for continuance of the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula, Roosevelt's War Labor Board issued "statistics" supplied by the President's own hand-picked cost-of-living committee to "prove" that living costs have risen only 29.5 percent since January 1941.

Recent testimony of various other government agencies expose the WLB's figures as deliberately fraudulent. Price ceiling violations, black market operations and quality deterioration in consumer-goods essentials, not to speak of authorized price boosts, alone have added billions to the cost-of-living.

According to OPA Director Bowles, who spoke before the House Appropriations Committee last week, "we figured a year ago the overcharges in grocery stores above ceiling prices. . . probably amounted to close to a billion dollars." He admitted that 13 per cent of all retail food is selling above ceiling prices. Since May 1943, he further disclosed, "clothing prices have increased 11.6 per cent." This was "in addition to marked quality deterioration."

Another increasing source of price gouging is the black markets in rationed commodities such as meat, sugar and gasoline. A recent Office of War Information report discloses the black market is assuming "dangerous proportions" and that it is being conducted not by "gangsters" but "reputable" business men.

Most widespread is the black market in meat, which has become almost universal despite the fact, said the OWI, that more meat is being produced for civilian consumption than ever before. "Most black market operations in meat," the OWI reveals, "are the work of persons actually identified with the meat industry—slaughterers, packers, wholesalers and retailers."

This is small change, however, compared to what the consumers have to pay for officially sanctioned price increases. Congress and the OPA themselves have provided price loop-holes for the biggest profiteers. The steel industry, for instance, is coining millions in extra profits since the OPA permits the so-called "products standard" price rate to compensate steel firms with higher unit production costs.

This higher rate, sought in the name of the "small" producers, has been stretched to cover all the big ones. Similarly, the Bankhead amendment to the Price Control Act of 1942 has enabled the textile manufacturers to boost their profits 1,300 percent during the war.