

BOSSSES PRESS FOR ANTI-STRIKE LAWS

SWP Election Campaign Closes In Los Angeles

(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, April 6—Despite the powerful opposition of the boss political machines and the trade union officialdom who supported the capitalist candidates, 580 Los Angeles workers voted for socialism by voting for Myra Tanner Weiss, Trotskyist candidate for mayor, in the April 3 primary. The Socialist Workers Party here has emerged from its first local election campaign with the slogan: "On to the 1946 elections!"

Since no political designations were permitted on the ballot in this "non-partisan" election, every one of the 580 votes for Myra Tanner Weiss could represent only a conscious choice by a worker reached through the Trotskyist campaign.

The incumbent mayor, Fletcher Bowron, was reelected with a majority over 14 other candidates. In the absence of a labor party and with the Stalinist-dominated CIO Council joining the Chamber of Commerce in supporting the big business candidate, the majority of the workers who voted saw no real alternative to the reelection of Bowron.

The Stalinists and the labor bureaucracy confused the issues and misled the labor vote by throwing their support to one or another capitalist candidate. The United AFL Intervening Committee endorsed Anthony P. Entenza, a lawyer, but a number of AFL locals supported Bowron.

INDEPENDENT LABOR POLITICS

The Socialist Workers Party also supported Charlotte Bass, independent Negro candidate, for councilman from the 7th District. Although her program was Stalinist, the Trotskyists urged her election to give expression to the policy of working-class support for independent labor and Negro candidates. The CIO Council backed her campaign. The CIO Political Action Committee, however, supported her opponent, Rev. Carl C. Rasmussen.

Myra Tanner Weiss was the only candidate who upheld the principle of independent labor political action. She conducted an outspoken campaign on behalf of the rights of labor and oppressed racial minorities. She was the only candidate who dared to speak out against the wave of vigilante terrorist attacks against the Japanese-Americans in California.

In the face of bitter opposition from the trade union officialdom, the Trotskyist candidate carried her message to thousands of workers, white, Negro and Mexi-

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18 THANK 600 UNIONS FOR HELP IN DEFENSE

Through the Civil Rights Defense Committee the 18 members of the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truck-drivers Local 544-CIO, who served from a year and a day to sixteen month sentences in federal prisons under the vicious Smith "Gag" Act, have sent a letter of appreciation to the more than 600 trade union and progressive organizations which supported their defense.

The letter, dated March 30, was signed by James P. Cannon, Grace Carlson, Jake Cooper, Oscar Coover, Harry DeBoer, Farrell Dobbs, V. R. Dunne, Max Goldman, Albert Goldman, Clarence Hamel, Emil Hansen, Carlos Hudson, Karl Kuehn, Felix Morrow, Edward Palmquist, Alfred Russell, Oscar Schoenfeld, and Carl Skoglund. Twelve of these Trotskyists were released on January 24, 1945 and the other six were released October 20, 1944.

The letter stated:

"May we take this opportunity to tell you how much your support meant to us. Your help enabled us to fight our convictions in every court. Then, when the U. S. Supreme Court three times refused to review our case and we were imprisoned, your help made it possible for the Civil Rights Defense Committee to conduct its campaign for our release and to awaken the labor and progressive movement to the dangers of the Smith 'Gag' Act.

"The knowledge that through your help our families were taken care of, eased our minds and made it less difficult to do our time. For all these things, and especially for your splendid spirit of working class solidarity, we

Roosevelt Report Demands Extension Of Wage Freeze

By C. Thomas

The stabilization witch-doctors are celebrating the "second anniversary" of Roosevelt's wage-freezing hold-the-line order. To commemorate the event, a quartet of administration "stabilizers" have issued a report urging that the wage-freeze be continued and extended into the "post-war" period.

According to their report, the hold-the-line order, issued in April 1943, has given rise to a condition of universal happiness and prosperity. Wages have gone up, prices have risen only imperceptibly, the cost-of-living has been "stabilized," and the "people" are rolling in wealth. This cheerful dish was cooked up by the heads of the Office of Economic Stabilization, Office of Price Administration, War Food Administration, War Labor Board, and released with the blessing of the chief "stabilizer" in the White House.

In addition to enjoining the luscious fruits of "stabilization," we are assured that the "people" are accumulating "huge savings in other forms, such as bank deposits and life insurance policies." "Over the past two and a half years," the stabilizers inform us, "they have saved close to 25 percent of their income after taxes." And all this, of course, stems directly from Roosevelt's hold-the-line order, which fixed the Little Steel formula as a ceiling on wage increases.

How do these soothsayers arrive at such fantastic conclusions? Simply by lumping together under the one mystic symbol of "the people" such diverse elements as corporations and peddlers, farm laborer and landlord, capitalist and wage earner. In the "first anniversary" report released a year ago, for example, the "stabilizers" boasted that: "Corporation profits, both before and after taxes, rose in 1943 even above the record-breaking levels of 1942." In 1944, corporations profits and capital reserves soared

to the highest levels in history. But no hint of this fact was permitted to mar the pretty picture painted by the "second anniversary" report.

THE REAL BENEFICIARIES

This nimble sleight-of-hand performance is intended to conceal the fact that the real beneficiaries of Roosevelt's hold-the-line order are the Wall Street plunderbund. These are the "people" whose "pocket-books and checking accounts are bulging with money." With their snouts buried deep in the public

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IN THE NEWS

On One Meat Ball, Too!

Writing on "facts behind the world food crisis" in the New York daily PM, April 5, Ruth Moore lists among the main causes: "The U. S. A. over-ate last year. The country went through huge stocks of food."

Fox-Hole Or Brass-Hat?

Replying to a suggestion that a combat soldier represent the "foxhole fraternity" at the San Francisco United Nations Conference, Undersecretary of State Grew replied that Com. Harold Stassen, who resigned as Republican Governor of Minnesota for a naval commission, as flag officer to Admiral Halsey, "has been appointed a member of the United States delegation. It is felt that he will fully represent the point of view of men who have been serving overseas."

Tough—Ain't It?

The society column of the New York World-Telegram, March 21, reported: "Jessie Donahue is starting the parade of palaces that Palm Beach's inner circle has been predicting since the war. The wealthy Woolworth heiress is placing her enormous ocean-front villa on the market... With its acres of beautiful landscaping, orchid propagating and other floral greenhouses, plus a complete beach colony of cottages, cocktail lounges, tennis courts and solariums fronting the mansion, it is the island's most lavish residential background... An army of gardeners and other workmen have proved a drain on even the Woolworth millions."

Let Them Eat Gilt!

Scripps-Howard correspondent Henry J. Taylor in a recent dispatch from Paris described the activities of Gen. Charles de Gaulle. "His first act on arrival in Paris was to retilde the statue of Joan d'Arc, but there are limits to how far gilt will go when there is no coal, transport, meat or potatoes."

More Bull Than Bullish

Stock market comment from the New York Daily Mirror, April 5: "Financial district's major disappointment of the day was failure of response to a bullish story from Bernard Baruch. He anticipates from five to seven years of history-making business activity starting with the end of the war."

Fattening the Hog



Widespread Coal Strikes Show Miners Really Mean Business

By Joseph Keller

APRIL 10.—The nation's fighting soft-coal miners weren't fooling when they voted two weeks ago by an eight to one majority to authorize strike action if they didn't obtain an acceptable contract.

Last week, following termination of their old contract on March 31 and despite a 30-day further extension of the former contract, an estimated 100,000 miners in some 300 mines throughout eight states engaged in spontaneous strike actions to show the profit-greedy operators they mean business.

Many of the strikes were concentrated in the "captive" mines of the steel corporations, traditionally the worst hold-outs among the mine operators.

The boss press and government spokesmen had tried to picture the miners' strike vote as a mere gesture. The press actually tried to conceal the extent of the walk-outs during the early part of last week. But Secretary of Interior Ickes' blistering demand last Thursday for a government mine "seizure" and his admission of the closure of over 200 mines disclosed the real situation.

"TENTATIVE AGREEMENT"

In Alabama, some 25,000 of 28,000 bituminous miners, members of the United Mine Workers, were out in protest against the operators' delay in signing an acceptable contract. In Western Pennsylvania alone an admitted 57,000 were out. Roving pickets saw to it that there was no return to work.

Under this pressure, the hard-boiled mine owners rapidly softened. On April 9, with 200 mines

Meanwhile, 72,000 hard coal miners whose contract expires April 30, are waiting for an NLRB strike poll on April 26. They have presented the anthracite operators with 30 demands, including one for a 25 per cent wage increase, because, as stated by John L. Lewis, they have received "only a 15 per cent increase since 1923," and the owners are more "prosperous" than in all their history.

Trotskyists Arrested In Belgian Dock Strike

Two Belgian Trotskyist longshoremen, Comrades Dielis and Lowet; have been arrested in connection with the recent strike of dock-workers in Antwerp, reports the March Socialist Appeal of England. Their arrest followed a vicious campaign in the Belgian capitalist press against "agitators" which, states the paper of the English Trotskyists, was "similar to that which preceded the arrest of our comrades here last year."

The strike was called by the Antwerp longshoremen as a protest against their low wages. After a promise that they would receive a bonus, the workers returned to work. When the bonus failed to materialize, however, a new stoppage began. In reprisal a 15 day lock-out was decreed, but after a mass protest demonstration at the Town Hall, the

lockout was lifted and work began again. It is not known on what basis the longshoremen commenced work or if they won their demands.

The two arrested Trotskyists were charged with drafting the demands of the dockers as well as their manifesto. The manifesto, reports the Socialist Appeal, issued before the second strike began, "explained to the workers the dangers of returning to work on the basis of promises only, without any agreement. This warning was amply justified by the cynical way in which the bosses failed to implement their promises, and which led to the second strike."

A protest movement is under way for the release of the imprisoned longshoremen, according to Le Voie de Lenine, weekly organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Belgium.

A Generous Proposal

During the present soft coal miners contract negotiations, spokesmen for the operators proposed that the WLB approve in advance the mine owners' counter-offer to the union, permitting the operators to obtain price increases at the same time, all to go into effect immediately while the WLB was considering the dispute.

We wonder what the operators' reaction would have been if the union had proposed that its demands go into effect immediately, pending a WLB decision?

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Consider "Peace Charter" Merely A Scrap Of Paper

Auto Barons and Manufacturers Association Advance 5-Point Program to Destroy Unions

By Art Preis

Spokesmen for some of America's most powerful corporations revealed in Washington this week that they consider the labor-employer "peace charter," signed only two weeks ago by CIO President Philip Murray, AFL President William Green, and Chamber of Commerce President Eric Johnston, to be a mere scrap of paper.

While the union leaders seek to disarm the

Meat Profiteers Line Pockets With Government Funds

While the profiteering meat packing trust continues its threats of imposing a meat "famine" unless the already high OPA price ceilings are removed, it has been revealed that in the first 17 months of its price subsidy operations the government has paid out \$592,000,000 to the packers and slaughterers.

Over half a billion dollars in tax money taken largely from the low wage earners has been poured into the coffers of the meat barons whose profits before taxes last year were seven times as high as their peacetime "earnings."

WANT NO PRICE CEILINGS

Meanwhile, it has been charged that the present scarcity of meat, including widespread diversion of supplies into the black market, lies squarely at the door of the War Food Administration. Only last December, the WFA was noising it about that there was

workers with the fiction of "post-war industrial harmony," the National Association of Manufacturers and leaders of the automotive industry disclosed on April 9 that they have no intentions of accepting the "labor-management accord." In fact, they are pressing before Congress a five-point legislative program designed to outlaw strikes even in peacetime and destroy the unions.

This revelation was made by B. E. Hutchison, vice-president of the Chrysler Corporation and a Director of the National Association of Manufacturers, at a press interview in the nation's capitol. He declared that the labor-management code signed by Murray, Green and Johnston was "full of ambiguities and omissions" and expressed surprise that "Eric Johnston made the code public when he did."

Hutchison further revealed that the NAM and Chamber of Commerce have a joint committee working on legislative measures which would so weaken the unions as to make them easy prey for total destruction.

The specific anti-labor laws being fostered by the employers' organizations are: 1. outlawing

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Greek Reaction Ousts Plastiras In New Shift

By Harry Martell

The counter-revolutionary government of General Plastiras has fallen and been replaced by a cabinet, headed by Admiral Voulgaris, organizer of the suppression of the Greek naval mutiny in April 1944. The new regime differs from its predecessor only in its more open Royalist character. The formation of the new cabinet was enthusiastically acclaimed by the Royalist and right-wing press which are now more insistently demanding a plebiscite on the restoration of the monarchy.

The Stalinist policy of compromise with Churchill's reactionary puppets reached new depths when the EAM press opposed the removal of Plastiras, denouncing the new regime as "monarchical-fascist." The Plastiras regime has been conducting a ruthless reign of terror against the ELAS fighters and EAM supporters, jailing them by the thousands. In the past the Stalinists compared the Plastiras regime to the bloody prewar dictatorship of General Metaxas. But opposition to the Voulgaris regime is qualified by an appeal for an "all party" government, so that, given the opportunity, it is not improbable that the Stalinists would enter even this "monarchical-fascist" cabinet.

MUTUAL AID

Witnesses testified that Rallis helped Papandreou escape to Cairo to become Premier of the Greek government-in-exile. In return Papandreou shipped arms supplied by the British from Egypt to Rallis who used them to equip these fascist organizations. Papandreou was the Churchill-supported premier of Greece during the civil war carried on by British troops against ELAS.

On March 10th we wrote in The Militant concerning the Rallis trial: "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 capitalists serving a foreign imperialist master."

Among those who have recently been arrested by the white terror dragnet of Premier Plastiras is Zaimis, formerly the Republican leader on the island of Samos,

and Mrs. Demetrios Partsalides, wife of the Stalinist general secretary of EAM.

Samos has been indicted for the murder, not of a Greek or a Briton, but of an Italian gendarme! Obviously this deed was done during the Italian occupation of Greece.

DRIVE AGAINST ELAS

Mrs. Partsalides is charged with participating in an illegal meeting under the "democratic" regime that Churchill boasted he was bringing into Greece. The Stalinists have cabled their protest to the Regent Archbishop Damaskinos.

It should be remembered that the Stalinists signed the treacherous agreement in January whereby ELAS was to lay down its arms in return for the appointment of Damaskinos as Regent. Damaskinos appointed Plastiras as Premier-Dictator and under him repressions were carried out against tens of thousands of militant workers.

Following the appointment of Plastiras which came on the heels of the Stalinist capitulation all civil servants who had sympathized with ELAS were discharged and large and small companies immediately took up the practice of firing anyone remotely sympathetic with ELAS.

More than 100,000 persons were arrested in Athens and Piraeus in a clean-up of EAM supporters. 35,000 of these are still held in concentration camps in Greece and the Middle East. EAM papers are not circulating legally now and the National Guard is searching homes in Athens and Piraeus and arresting all those found with illegal EAM literature and throwing them in prison without charges for a period up to two weeks. Those found with EAM affiliation are jailed indefinitely.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

Auto Workers Fear Move To Scuttle Convention

Last week this column warned the auto workers to be on the alert against a move to scuttle the CIO United Automobile Workers annual convention, scheduled for next September. That this warning was well-founded is confirmed by a report in the April 6 Toledo Union Journal, official organ of northwest Ohio's 58,000 CIO members, mainly auto workers.

In a special front-page story, the Toledo Union Journal reports: "Opposition to Grand Rapids, Mich., as the 1945 UAW-CIO convention city is on the increase. Announcement of Grand Rapids which was the scene of the 1944 convention as again having been chosen for this year's meeting was made here last week by George F. Addes, International UAW-CIO secretary-treasurer.

"Some UAW officers see in the Addes move the preliminary to calling off the convention altogether. Application was made by the UAW-CIO secretary-treasurer to the Office of Defense Transportation for permission to hold the convention. It was felt by some union officials that the move would lead to a rejection by the ODT because of the government policy of discouraging conventions during wartime.

"One delegate from the 1944 convention speaking of the choice of Grand Rapids for the 1945 conference said, 'I don't imagine George Addes would care too much if the ODT refused to grant the permission for the convention. After all, it would mean that he wouldn't have to worry about getting reelected and that in itself would make the refusal of the government to hold the meeting worth while'.

Great dissatisfaction prevailed last year at Grand Rapids, because of the lack of housing and eating facilities for the delegates and visitors who usually number many thousands. First choice of available hotel accommodations went to the pals of Addes and other top UAW leaders.

Seamen Back Miners

The Sailors' Union of the Pacific, West Coast section of the Seafarers' International Union, AFL, has called for 100 per cent labor support to the coal miners in their present struggle for better wages and conditions.

A lead editorial by Harry Lundberg, SUP secretary-treasurer, in the union's official organ, West Coast Sailor, March 16, declares: "If the leadership of the American Labor movement had any guts, they should come out NOW 100% behind John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers in their fight for their rights! It is the duty of the American Labor movement to stand behind the mine workers in their fight. They have a JUST fight!"

Father of Heroes—Fired! As usual, the corporation kept press hypocritically raved about the "boys in the foxholes" when almost 5,000 Packard workers, members of UAW-CIO local 190 in Detroit, went on strike on March 28. The strike was called when the company arbitrarily discharged a union shop steward, John Krulock, for allegedly "fomenting" a brief stoppage on March 12.

Just two days before he was fired, Krulock and his wife had been informed that one of their sons had been wounded in action in Germany. On March 13 they had received the sad news that another son was reported missing after a bombing mission over Germany.

Krulock's fellow-workers were so incensed when the labor-hating dollar-patriots fired him that they protested by an almost solid walkout. A hell of a lot the bosses care about the "boys in the foxholes" — about their working fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, either!

When Roosevelt wanted to side-track union pressure for increased wages, he suddenly announced that he was assigning the chore of "studying" the guaranteed annual wage plan to a subcommittee of the advisory board of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconstruction.

The head of this subcommittee is Eric Johnston, President of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, who last week signed a labor-capital "peace charter" with Philip Murray and William Green, heads of the CIO and AFL.

It is interesting, therefore, to note what this capitalist dove of peace, Eric Johnston, thinks of the annual wage idea which Roosevelt has assigned his committee to "study." Last December 6, in a speech before the Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Johnston declared:

"I hope we can avoid learning the hard way. It is a mistake to force annual wages down the throats of management by government order... By forcing business into a straitjacket the job regularity attained might be more than offset by the loss of our freedom. If everyone must pay an annual wage many will hesitate to engage in business. Then the government would be tempted to step in and become the employer, as is the case in Russia today."

Severance Pay One of the important union demands these days is for severance pay in anticipation of mass unemployment during the coming period of extensive production cut-backs. The War Labor Board two weeks ago, in a decision involving American Type Founders, Inc., Elizabeth, N. J., set the pattern for what it considers "reasonable" severance pay.

The American Type plan, approved by the WLB, calls for one week's wages for employees who have worked for six months to one year; two weeks after one year, three weeks after two years, and four weeks after three to five years. Under this plan, a high percentage of the present war industry workers would receive not more than two weeks wages as severance pay to meet months of unemployment.

Peacetime Militarism Condemning plans for peacetime military conscription as "a severe threat to the free activity of labor, because it can be used to break strikes," the March Joint Board News, organ of the Greater New York Board of the CIO Textile Workers, declared:

"The smart boys who argue that a little exercise and military discipline will make our young men healthy sound amazingly like Hitler did, ten years ago. In case our political friends don't know it, America's youth could become strong and healthy if they were paid decent wages for decent hours, lived in homes instead of slums, and given access to recreational centers... Peacetime conscription is the slick way of getting out of the problem of providing 60 million jobs, because we can stick our surplus labor into army camps and forget about them. But it is the dangerous way, the fascist way..."

Branches Maintain 1200 Weekly Average In Campaign For New 'Militant' Readers

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

During seven weeks of the Militant Subscription Campaign, branches of the Socialist Workers Party have maintained an average of 1,200 new subscriptions every week. Even though we are only half-way in the campaign, ten branches have fulfilled their quotas and 85 percent of the national quota for 10,000 new subscribers has been completed.

FROM THE BRANCHES

George Grant, New York Local: "Here are our branch totals as of March 30. Brooklyn 91 percent with 457 subs; West Side 67 percent with 505 subs; East Side 67 percent with 504 subs. The Trotskyist Youth Group had 37 percent with 185 subs.

"Last Sunday the comrades returned from the most successful city-wide mobilization to date for a 'Mid-Campaign Dinner.' Eloise Black, one of The Militant Trail-Blazers, gave a first-hand report of their experiences as a feature of the affair. We missed reaching our 2,500 quota by a hair's breadth but we are sure to go over by the next scoreboard. We are aiming at 5,000 subs."

H. Newell, Allentown: "We went to a steel workers' area right next to the mills, so close you could hear the forges and see the flames. The paper was well received."

D. Hilson, Akron: "A subscriber told us that when the mail man delivered the paper this Tuesday, he asked her what it was, commenting that he had delivered a similar paper to almost everyone down the hill. I have just started covering the same project that we covered last year and already I can feel a new warmth toward our paper."

Maggie McGowan, Toledo: "Nine of the enclosed subscriptions were sold after our Charles Jackson meeting last night—and I might add, they were the most enthusiastic subscribers! Two of our new readers assured us that they were going to join the Militant Army."

Libby Jones, Buffalo: "One of our agents sold a sub to a dozen or more AFL truck drivers. Many of them are in Tobin's union. One of them said, 'Do the Dunne brothers write for this paper?' Our agent said, 'Yes,' whereupon the truckdriver, without saying another word, tossed over a quarter."

Rose Russo, Reading: "Note the importance we place on renewals. Our drive for renewals from the last subscription campaign has now reached about 70 percent. The new readers praise The Militant very highly. Our Pace-Setter, Elmer Oakie, has reached the 50 mark and all these subs come from the railroad shop where he works."

I. Cope, Youngstown: "Well, this is it—we've passed our quota and are now well on our way to doubling it. Actually we're over 200 percent but according to our self-elevated quota our actual percentage is about 103. One of our comrades sold ten subs to ten Negroes in an hour and a half—everyone is having similar successes—averaging at least every other house."

Jerry Kirk, Detroit: "This past week we obtained some 215 subs. From every indication our work in the Italian neighborhoods will prove extremely profitable. This is the second week that we have been in this area and very few Italian workers turned us down. There is a real spirit among the comrades. A good number intend to obtain at least 100 subs. All fraction quotas will be met and surpassed."

Al Lynn, Los Angeles: "Last Sunday we went into Councilman District 7 in accord with our tactic of critical support to Charlotte Bass. We obtained 81 subs in this area and distributed many leaflets announcing our program and our reasons for supporting her. Additional subs obtained during the day brought the total up to 112."

FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Many of our subscribers have joined us in our campaign to get The Militant into 10,000 more working class homes. We would like to mention a few.

A. B. of Kenmore, N. Y. sent us trial subscriptions for ten of his fellow-workers, stating, "Thank you. I hope this paper shows these men the light."

A. Maesso of Detroit sent in subs for six of his friends with this note, "I wish you lots of good luck."

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. of Toledo also sent us subs for six of their friends.

Our agent in Detroit reports that "One of the leading militants in a plant turned over five subs to a comrade filled in with chief stewards' names. He then asked the comrade if it was permissible to sell subs to rank and file members. When he received a most emphatic 'yes' for an answer, he took 12 more cards."

You can help us in this campaign too. Pass on your copy of The Militant to a friend and ask him to subscribe.

SCOREBOARD

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party	Quotas	Subs	Percent
Allentown	50	153	301
Akron	85	222	261
San Diego	50	91	182
Flint	50	89	178
Milwaukee	100	136	136
Toledo	250	316	126
Buffalo	350	391	111
Reading	75	78	104
Youngstown	300	309	103
Detroit	1000	1020	102
Chicago	1000	834	83
Minneapolis	300	248	82
Boston	200	163	81
New York	2500	1994	79
Philadelphia	150	107	71
St. Paul	100	70	70
Cleveland	200	136	68
San Francisco	350	210	60
Newark	350	203	58
Los Angeles	2000	970	48
Bayonne	150	70	46
Rochester	50	22	44
Seattle	400	175	43
Groups, Members-at-Large and Friends	140	114	81
Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes (Trail-Blazers)		375	
TOTAL	10,200	8496	85



The articles by Grace Carlson, with illustrations by Ruth Wilson, are finding an appreciative audience among working class women. The following report by Doris Hilson, our agent in Akron, is one of many similar incidents reported: "One of our comrades had an interesting experience on last Sunday's mobilization. He went into one house in which there were two young children clamoring for attention, a woman getting herself ready to go to work and another woman attempting to take care of the children and help woman No. 1. They expressed interest in the paper but said they had little free time in which to read. This comrade opened the paper to Grace Carlson's article and the illustration showing the busy housewife and said, 'It's like this, isn't it?' The women looked at the illustration and assented. The comrade sold the sub."

Ruth Haddon, agent for San Francisco, sent the following encouraging comment with a six-month renewal to The Militant: "This person was one of the local members of the Machinist Union black-listed by the Navy because of his militant union stand. The branch here sent him a trial sub last September. Now he renewed and purchased the pamphlet, 'American Workers Need a Labor Party.'"

We quote some of the experiences of our agents in their door-to-door canvassing for subscriptions to The Militant.

L. Porter, San Diego: "Comrade Nadine and I acquired the 18 subs in 2 1/2 hours. It was our first experience in this working class section. One remark we heard was, 'Oh yes, I'd like to have that paper. While you were opening it I saw several columns I'd like to read.'"

Fred Nomen, East Side Branch, N. Y. Local: "One young worker who reads the New York Daily News, after looking through The Militant, said, 'I am tired of the News. I'd like a change. I don't get anything out of it. I want a paper like this.'"

Bill Crane, Milwaukee: "Enclosed is \$2 for four six-month renewals of trial subs. Our proportion of renewals (four to one) is good. The comrade who got the renewals reports that the paper is usually read by more than one member of the household and that it is liked."

K. Karl, Philadelphia: "Comparative observations from my own experiences on the past three Sundays convince me that the distribution has distinct value, especially as to qualitative results. Concretely, on last Sunday I followed up in a small poor territory where The Militant had been left after midnight of the preceding Friday. On my first call I was invited inside and at once saw Marxist books on the table (Origin of the Family, etc.). The man, now a foreman in aircraft, had been active in the Communist Party youth organization prior to the formation of the Young Communist League. He recognized The Militant as a desirable way to know what the Left Wing is doing. He volunteered \$1 for a year's sub even after I told him he could get it six months for a quarter."

D. I. H., a subscriber in Wellesley, Mass. makes this appraisal: "I value The Militant for its forthright utterance on racial discrimination and for its concern with the workers' cause. I find it a helpful counterbalance to the capitalist press."

Interesting and lively discussions followed the first two lectures of the series, which were both well attended. Comrade Mark Braden, labor secretary of the Newark branch of the Socialist Workers Party, made a fine presentation of his subject. He analyzed the points of view of the capitalists, the "liberal" apologists for capitalism, and the Marxists — the Socialist Workers Party. The lectures are open to all readers of Militant.

Buy THE MILITANT and FOURTH INTERNATIONAL in NEWARK at the Progressive Workers School 423 Springfield Avenue Open Daily: 10:30 A. M. - 5:30 P. M. 7:30 - 10:30 P. M.

'TRAILBLAZERS' REPORT ON LATEST SUCCESSES

The Militant Trail-Blazers, Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes, have wound up their three weeks campaign to introduce The Militant to new readers in the Allentown and Bethlehem, Pa., area with 317 new workers added to our subscription list. On March 28 they wrote: "On a revisit to a housing project, two women who have read their first copy of The Militant told us that our paper has circulated all over the project and is being discussed over the back fence."

"Two young workers, who subscribed are so interested and fired so many questions at us regarding our program and purpose that we let them have the copy of James P. Cannon's 'Socialism On Trial' which we had brought along for another subscriber. They promised to circulate the pamphlet, and judging from the way The Militant gets around, we think this pamphlet will be read by dozens of steel workers."

"We left copies of Joseph Hansen's 'American Workers Need a Labor Party' with some of the subscribers. These workers had read their papers thoughtfully and were eager for us to remain for further discussion. One young steel worker had found the name of the Allentown 'Pace-Setter' on the campaign page, and asked us if he could meet him. We had explained to him that Rudy and I would be leaving soon, and he wanted to be sure that he could maintain contact with someone who represents The Militant. Several workers expressed a warm enthusiasm for the idea of a discussion group on the project where they could hear more of our ideas and program."

NEW SUBSCRIBERS "Among our 26 new subscribers today are three more railroaders, several from Bethlehem Steel Corp. and some Mack plant workers. With the latter we first drew their interest when we showed them how The Militant had covered the story of the Briggs and Dodge Auto strikes of recent date, and then pointed to the small item in Trade Union Notes entitled 'Hush-Hush in Auto.'"

"One of the railroaders, recently retired, told us not to be fooled by the present conservatism of the Railroad Brotherhoods—that the men on the railroads had built their organizations in the bitter bloody battles against the nation's most powerful corporations. To date every railroad except one (who seemed too exhausted to give us an audience) that we have seen, has subscribed to The Militant."

"Two widows subscribed today—one the mother of nine children, the other the mother of seven. The former told us that she was instructed to change her registration to Republican before she could get the \$20 monthly county relief! The latter told us that she receives the munificent sum of \$10 a week 'mothers' assistance' to feed her seven children! Needless to say, both of these women were struck by the article on the care given to 'Mrs. Fala' compared to the treatment of workers' infants."

LOOKING FOR NEW PROGRAM On March 29 and April 2 the Trail-Blazers reported: "We worked in an area where a class consciousness, developed by the activities of the old Unemployed League, remains high among the working men and their wives. The present capitalist 'prosperity' has made little impression on these people, but the horrors of capitalist depression have certainly left their mark. Among the 17 subs we sold here this evening, several were taken by Negro workers in Bethlehem Steel. With no exceptions we introduced The Militant as a fighting socialist paper, and this led them to subscribe."

"Among the Bethlehem workers, a great many are dissatisfied with the SWOC leadership. They are beginning to sense that the struggle in the economic field has to be supplemented by political action on the part of labor. Their present leaders offer no program other than compromise and retreat. They are seeking both a program and a leadership. We are sure they'll find it in the Socialist Workers Party."

"We were able to note down the occupation of about half of the 317 subscribers and the following are fair approximations:

Steel 110
Textile 25
Railroad 12
Construction 5
Vultures (AFL) 7
Mack (UAW) 8
Slaughterhouse 4
Munitions 3
Utilities 3
Teamsters 5

The two trail-blazers are moving on to Rochester, New York, for the next stop in their campaign.

Pioneer Notes

"Attacks on the labor movement go hand in hand with armed assaults on Japanese-American citizens, some of whose homes have been shot up and burned by undercover terrorists." This sentence was censored from a scheduled radio speech of Myra Tanner Weiss, SWP candidate for mayor of Los Angeles. "Here in Los Angeles," she said, "we can observe all the symptoms of an incipient fascism."

What is the connection between terrorism against Japanese-Americans and assaults on the labor movement? How are these "the symptoms of an incipient fascism?"

The real nature of fascism, how fascist tendencies and symptoms can be recognized, who are the organizers of fascism and what form the workers' struggle against them must take—these are questions which every worker wants to understand and be able to answer. For, as Leon Trotsky wrote, "The historic function of Fascism is to smash the working class, destroy its organizations, and stifle political liberties."

This quotation is from the pamphlet FASCISM—What It Is—How to Fight It, by Leon Trotsky. The pamphlet includes excerpts from Trotsky's writings on the subject, analyzing the nature and development of fascism in Italy and Germany, and the perspective ahead in the U. S. It is an excellent introduction for every worker.

FASCISM—What It Is—How to Fight It by Leon Trotsky 15c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 146 University Pl., New York 3, N. Y.

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MILITANT PACE-SETTERS

Here are the twenty who have sold the highest number of subscriptions in this campaign:

Mike Warren	West Side, New York	308
Jerry Kirk	Detroit	223
Paul Kujac	Chicago	160
Fred Kaminsky	Buffalo	128
Marion Winters	Brooklyn, New York	121
E. D.	Detroit	120
E. Logan	Detroit	108
H. Mason	Detroit	108
B. Haynes	Chicago	82
Sam Richter	Chicago	80
Dennis O'Kenney	Akron	79
Robert Kendall	Toledo	73
Kay O'Brien	Detroit	69
M. Kennedy	Detroit	69
Ruth Grayson	Trotskyist Youth Group, New York	67
Doris Hilson	Akron	66
Dorothy Lessing	Newark	66
Justine Lang	East Side, New York	64
Jack Wilson	Youngstown	64
Art Woods	Detroit	60



My Life In A Mining Town -- A First-Hand Account Of The Struggles Of Those Who Toil In The Pits

MARC DAUBER

Born October 24, 1922 -- Killed in Action
November 18, 1944

By Felix Morrow

Readers of *Fourth International* in 1941 and 1942 knew him under the pen name of James Cadman, our outstanding writer on military questions. In 1941 he was 19 years old! Yet this boy wrote on modern warfare with a mature, analytical mind, the mind of a trained Marxist. He had joined the Socialist Workers Party at 17 and thereafter lived for the movement with that intense, single-minded concentration which is the power of selfless, idealistic youth.

His father, who was a front-line soldier throughout the last war in the German army, writes to us:

"When I brought my boy at four years of age to this country, I thought I brought him to a 'Shangri-la' remote from all the hates and rivalries and war of Europe."

"Marc was our only child and had no brothers except those whose bloody lot he chose to share."

"He was a quiet and lonely boy at Brooklyn College and when he became befriended with you he felt he found comradeship in his life, as he found it out there on the front. He always spoke about his friends while at home, just as he remembered you as his friends out there to his bitter end. I want you to know he was happy among you and whoever in his life gave him moments of happiness may count on me."

After 18 months in the Camouflage Engineers, Marc was transferred to the 16th Infantry Regiment of the First Division on the eve of D-Day. Wounded on the Normandy beach, he recovered. But soon he was back at the front.

MARC'S OUTLOOK

In his very last letter, written three days before his death to a non-party girl friend, Marc explains his revolutionary outlook: "I did what the 'Old Man' (Trotzky) would have expected from me. What he expected of his students and followers: total and uncompromising, but not unquestioning, acceptance of his creed and an unflinching determination to see it realized regardless of personal well-being. Trotzky died for it, millions have, in the past and today, in Russia, in Spain; in concentration camps and prisons everywhere, millions more suffer because these ideas haven't materialized internationally. When I took up his banner, I took upon myself responsibilities, commitments which countenance no retreats or hesitations."

"The successful completion of our task will require the unending efforts of hardened cadres who can confront and undergo the most extreme physical and social exigencies."

"Does this seem to you to be a very harsh, monastic creed akin to asceticism? Not at all; it allows for richer, more vibrant and poignant emotional expression, is more pregnant with thinking and feeling than any other course of life which anyone can counterpose."

PREPARED FOR STRUGGLE

And in another letter to her he writes: "You've just turned 20, haven't you? I was just 22 the other day, not much of a difference, just two years. In my own life, though, these last two years have marked almost a qualitative growth in my entire outlook—how could I help but grow? It took a war to tear me from the classroom; maybe it's better thus—the events of the future, the rumblings and tremors of which can be felt in every chancellery, will not be decided in the schoolroom but in the streets and on the barricades. I think I'm amply prepared for that now in every sense."

Yes, Marc understood this thing: that only those who share the tragedy of their generation will be morally qualified and accepted as leaders in the coming battles for a socialist world.

The war tore our Marc from



COMRADE MARC DAUBER

his classroom—him and legions like him, and steeled and tempered them in battle. The tragedy of Marc's death is that it was not given to him to come back to fight in the class battles in which he would have been no eager a volunteer and not a conscript. It is impossible for me to write the easy phrase that others will take Marc's place. They will not, we shall go forward with his place in the ranks empty. He is gone forever, this amazing boy who, at an age when most youngsters are having trouble writing a high-school theme, was writing and thinking like a mature Marxist.

It is astonishing to go back and read his four *Fourth International* articles analyzing the dynamics of the war, and to see how few mistakes he made. The fifth and last full-length article that he wrote—how few he had time to do!—was on "Geopolitics: An Imperialist Myth," and there he showed it wasn't simply a freakish maturity in military science on his part, but that he had the capacities of a rounded Marxist thinker.

HIS UNFINISHED WORK

He was almost as much at home in German as in English. It was he, carefully following the German officers' organ, *Wehrmacht*, discovered in it — this must have been in 1941—an item complaining that Italian prisoners-of-war were singing "Bandiera Rossa," one of the very first important bits of evidence of what was to come in Italy. Marc's discovery, first published in *The Militant*, was reprinted by revolutionary and labor papers throughout the world.

Such are the few pieces of work which this boy-comrade had a chance to do, indubitable evidence of the bigger things he would have done had he been spared. In the American Army, and in all the other armies, there are many other Marcs, of different talents, but richly endowed. They are sharing the tragedy of their generation with millions of others who are not yet our comrades but to whom they are linked with unbreakable bonds and who will help them learn the way out of this world of icy mud and deadly fire.

It was not given to Marc Dauber to use his ample preparation. But he knew that only with that preparation could the great task be done. That preparation is deep in the bones and minds of the other Marcs who survive to do what Marc wanted to do.

The following story tells the experiences of a former miner who belongs to the Socialist Workers Party. Our comrade shows what the situation in the mining towns really is and why the miners' fight against the operators for a living wage and improved working conditions should be supported by the entire labor movement.

They're always talking about the big money the miners make. Well, they don't make big money. The average miner is damned lucky to make 45 dollars a week—even nowadays. What they make they work like hell to get. Union conditions? Yes, they've got union conditions. And many a miner and miner's wife and kids got killed getting those conditions. We had to fight the owners as far back as I can remember. And it was a hard fight.

I don't remember the big strike in 1919 very clearly. I was just a little shaver then. But in '21 there was another in our district. The kids didn't mind it very much, though. The old folks managed to get food somehow. It was summertime and the strike didn't last very long. So we didn't notice it so very much, except that we began to learn which side of the fence we lived on.

The first strike I was in myself was the strike of '25-'26. I was fifteen then and had been working for two years. We had been trying to negotiate for a closed shop and some halfway decent wage rates.

Most miners are on contract. That's the same as piece-work up here in the factories. So much per car of coal. It was a dollar thirty-five for a 3 ton car of machine-cut coal or two dollars for 3 tons "shot out of the solid." In a way, it's worse than piece-work.

At least on piece-work you're sure of getting something. A miner is never sure. He might hit bad conditions such as "stack shot" (a dynamite stick fails to go off and you have to leave the area alone for a while), black damp, bad roof, water seepage, etc.

COMPANY TERROR

A miner could work for a whole week and still get less than ten dollars if he has hard luck. He takes the financial risk as well as the physical. We wanted a basic guarantee for a day's wages. We were asking for more timber money and higher rock yardage. But most of all we wanted a closed shop so we would have some real strength. And that's what the company opposed the most of all.

They wouldn't negotiate a thing. They fought us bitterly. I remember the coal and iron police. They shot up strikers — cracked their skulls whenever they got a chance. They went into a striker's house in a town near Pittsburgh. Beat up the father. Raped the mother and daughter.

They brought in scabs to load out a column bank into gondolas to ship for steam coal. We used to stone the bastards — police, scabs and all.

It wasn't so bad at the beginning, in the fall. People still got food from kitchen gardens and the like. But by midwinter that didn't have gardens were awful hungry. But that wasn't the worst. The cold was the worst. People didn't have any coal to burn.

We were living right on top of ten million tons of it. But none of it was ours. We couldn't see our families freeze to death. So about a hundred men got together and decided to go and pick coal out of the slate bank near the mine. The operators never had thought it was profitable to work. It was the waste the kids had sorted out in the breaker. But there was coal in it.

About fifty or more women and boys came along too. Of course when the super got wind of it he came down and tried to chase everybody away. Gave us all a bawling out. But nobody listened very much.

Then he went away and came back again with state troopers. And he ordered the people away again. The troopers had their guns out. But everybody just stood there.

The coal was frozen and we were using dynamite. One guy had a stick in his hand. He clamped the cap on the fuse, stuck it in the stick — split the fuse open, ready to light in a hurry.

"Now if you guys are gonna shoot," he said, "some of you are going with us."

That settled that. But it was harder to get the coal afterwards. There was no relief or welfare of any kind. The only thing we had was the little money in our local treasury, the money we got from the international, and the sacks of flour the international

passed around to the miners. But they didn't come too often.

There was one independent store in town. The owner was a little Jewish fellow that gave the whole town credit. The company tried to run him out. But they couldn't. Finally, ten years later, they got even by claiming that a foot of his store was on their land. And he had to go to the expense of moving the whole building.

The town as a whole never wavered one bit. The feeling was always against the company. They knew if they didn't bring the company to time the union would be busted, and they'd all be worse than slaves.

Some got too desperate, though, and they scabed it. The union was going to suspend them for ninety-nine years. But we felt sorry for their families, and fined them anywhere from five hundred to a thousand dollars, which they paid over a period of years. But they'll never live it down, even in death.

Even now, thousands of miles away, old miners meet and get to talking about old times and so-and-so's name comes up. And they say, "Why that — of a scabbed it" or "Why that scabby — is dead, didn't you know?"

Miners Casting Strike Vote



Showing that they mean business in demanding concessions equivalent to increases of \$2 a day, the soft coal miners on March 28 voted 8 to 1 for strike action. In the photo above, miners are casting their ballots at the Pittsburgh Coal Company Mine at Liberty, Pa. On April 26 votes will be cast by 72,000 anthracite miners, with even the bosses conceding in advance that their vote will be: "Strike—if we don't get our demands."

back again with state troopers. And he ordered the people away again. The troopers had their guns out. But everybody just stood there.

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How did that strike end? Why we got our main demands. Coolidge "interceded" for us, as he called it. He pulled some slippery ones. But we got our closed shop. We knew he didn't give it to us. We knew it was because we'd held on so desperately during the long winter months.

The companies and the government are still fighting the miners. And they're using slicker tricks than ever. The miners have learned a few things, though. And mainly that the workers are on one side and the bosses are on the other.

Foremen in Akron Rubber Plant Go On First Strike

AKRON, April 16 — Several hundred foremen went out on strike today in reply to the B.F. Goodrich company's refusal to bargain over a long list of grievances. This is the first major struggle of the Foreman's Association of America in the rubber industry.

The walkout, which was precipitated by the firing of a Foreman with 27 years service, was the culmination of a long battle by the Foremen's Association to achieve recognition in Goodrich. The walkout was almost complete with very few departments working shortly after the beginning of the first shift this morning.

Workers reported for work, but with no supervision present, most of them merely waited to be sent home. By noon practically the whole plant, including the entire tire division, was closed down. Local 5 URWA followed a cautious policy of taking no responsibility for the foremen's strike, but not interfering with it in any way.

The Foreman's Association has been organizing in the rubber industry for many months and it is believed that a sizeable majority of the foremen at Goodrich are members of the independent union.

How To Get Needed Rest Puzzles Ulcer Patients

By Grace Carlson

"Do you suffer from heartburn after eating? Do you have a sour stomach? Are you embarrassed by gas on the stomach? Do you suffer distress after meals — distress before meals? Then the answer for you is—"

No, the answer is not what you might think from reading the fake patent-medicine ads in the newspapers or listening to the "cure-all" pill programs on the radio "to slip an Alkaloid Tablet on your tongue." The best scientific solution to problems involving stomach and intestinal disorders, as given by a Mayo Clinic specialist, is to inherit wealth.

Speaking before a meeting of the International Medical Assembly in Minneapolis some time ago, Dr. Walter Alvarez said that if the average man with stomach ulcers were left an income of \$250 per month for the rest of his life, he would soon be cured and would never have ulcers again.

Worry and fear are the leading causes of "stomach trouble," Dr. Alvarez declared. Between 60 and 75 per cent of a group of cases examined showed no physical causes of the disorders. Practically all of these cases were brought on by fear, frustration, worry, anger, nervous and mental exhaustion. These, in turn, were due to the tremendous speed-up of modern industry and to the terrifying problems with which the war confronts the American people, he added.

Big businessmen may have ulcers, too. The strain of making profits and of keeping these profits away from their underpaid workers may cause some industrialists to break down. But if they do break down, how soothing and comforting and healing their wealth can be! The poet, who wrote that "wealth and poverty are merely mental pictures," never stopped to think what a beautiful picture wealth can paint for the sick man . . . plenty of rich, nourishing food, freedom from the nerve-racking cares of the job, good medical and hospital care, extensive opportunities for rest and relaxation.

This is what Dr. Alvarez meant when he said that the possession of wealth was the best way for the ulcer sufferer to guarantee



"He's following the doctor's prescription — One Hour of Complete Relaxation After Each Meal."

himself good health and a long life.

But what happens to the poor man who has an ulcer—as so many thousands of them have? Usually, he does not see a doctor until his case is fairly serious. When he first feels soreness and discomfort in his stomach, he tries to "doctor" himself, either by taking some patent-medicine, or by eliminating certain foods from his diet. If the pain in his stomach persists and begins to sap his energy, he may, at last, decide that it is necessary to spend some of the family funds for medical care.

HOW TO REST?

His doctor will give him a diet list, in which milk, cream, eggs and lean meats predominate. The doctor will urge the ulcer victim to avoid overwork. He will advise him not to eat when he is worried, tired, nervous, hurried or angry. Above all, the doctor will try to impress his patient with the importance of getting enough rest, particularly after meals. On this point, Dr. Logan Clendening says decisively, "they (ulcer patients) should rest on a bed or lounge—that is, in the recumbent position—for half an hour to an hour after each meal."

Then the worker takes this sound medical advice home with him and tries to figure out how

to use it. Where can he get enough "milk, cream, eggs and lean meat?" In the tragically small food budget of so many millions of American workers, there is very little allowance for expensive foods. Usually whatever there is of this rich, nourishing food goes to the small children in the family. What worker will see his child suffer from hunger if he can prevent it—even at the risk of his own health?

And with the lengthened hours of work and the wartime speed-up in the factory, how can the worker avoid overwork? With the short lunch hour, how can he keep from eating when he feels "hurried?" Where will he find a plant in which he can lie down for "half an hour to an hour after each meal?"

Doctors are in agreement that the typical stomach ulcer patient is an intense, conscientious, hard-working individual, whose attacks have been brought on by excesses of worry and work. Such a "worrier" will find plenty more to worry about in trying to find a way to follow his doctor's orders!

What the many thousands of ulcer patients in the working-class need is—freedom from want and freedom from fear. But they will not find them in capitalist prescriptions!



By V. Grey

It was Monday morning. The older fellows already had their work clothes on. They were sitting on the benches smoking. Shorty hardly got his locker opened when he said, "Any of you guys read that blank blank Drew Pearson's column yesterday?"

"No. What'd he say?" a couple of fellows asked.

"Don't talk to me about it," Breezy said. "My wife read it to me in bed on Sunday morning and wanted to know where I spend all my pay check. Next thing I know she'll be coming down to the gate to meet me on pay day."

This made the other fellows more serious. "What's the matter? What did Pearson say, anyhow?" they pressed Shorty.

"Why he said the steel workers are making an average of a dollar seventeen an hour."

"But that ain't all," Shorty went on belligerently, "he says we went up to that from an average of 76 cents an hour in 1939—all because Murray was polite to the War Labor Board."

"What?" Slim turned around from his locker.

"Sure. Here's the article," Shorty persisted. "I've got it right here if I can just find it. Here it is!" He read it out loud.

"Average hourly rate for steel workers in September 1939, while Lewis was still CIO president, was 76 cents. The average wage in the mines was higher—89 cents."

"Through the war period, Lewis has ranted and raved against the War Labor Board . . . and was the first important labor leader to repudiate the no-strike pledge. Phil Murray meanwhile, has fought his battles through the WLB rather than by strikes."

"By last November however, Phil Murray had quietly boosted the average hourly earnings in steel until they were above the miners. Bituminous miners got \$1.16, anthracite \$1.15 and steel workers \$1.17."

"What do you think of that?" said Pop Philiber. "So we're getting a dollar seventeen an hour. And we got that over 76 cents an hour in 1939. Forty one cents an hour increase from the War Labor Board. That's pretty good."

"Now wait a minute. Don't joke about it!" Shorty protested. "Are any of you guys getting \$1.17 an hour?"

Nobody was.

"I know a fellow down in the open hearth that does," Tony said after a minute. "But that's the tonnage rate he's making it on—not his regular pay."

"Forty one cents an hour increase from the War Labor Board since 1939," said old George, slightly dazed. "But the War Labor Board didn't start, till 1942, did it?"

"That's right," Slim commented.

"Well, I only remember one raise they gave us. June 1942 it was. Four and a half cents an hour. I can't remember any other raise the WLB ordered. Can you fellows?"

Nobody could.

"Of course," Slim pointed out, "we did get a ten cent raise in April 1941. But that was after the biggest series of steel strikes since 1919. Phil Murray might have been 'quiet' then. But us fellows weren't so quiet. Breezy over there was one of the boys that got dragged off the picket line and landed in the hoosegow."

"But what I want to know," complained Shorty, "is where the hell that so-and-so gets that \$1.17 an hour stuff."

"Well look at all the sixteen they're working down at the other end," Tony put in. "That's a lot of time-and-a-half. A young cousin of mine worked five sixteens in one week. . . Took the next week off sick," he added.

"Yeah," Breezy threw his old overalls into the trash can. "All the time-and-a-half brings the average up, don't forget."

"We didn't get time-and-a-half by Phil Murray keeping 'quiet' either," Slim said. "An awful lot of working men got quiesced early for coffins because they fought for the eight hour day. They were getting knocked off by big business long before Phil Murray discovered how kind-hearted the War Labor Board was."

"I tell you what I think," Shorty concluded, finally calming down enough to put away the clipping and get his work clothes on. "This Drew Pearson is just trying to show where the no-strike pledge is a wonderful thing for labor. And he doesn't care how he proves it."

At that moment Scissorbill Sam (the bosses' man) came in at the last minute, with Sunday's editorial section under his arm. "Did any of you guys read Drew Pearson's column yesterday? Some of the radical screwballs around here might learn something if they did."

"Why Sam," replied Slim, "I thought Westbrook Pegler was your favorite columnist!"

"He is," said the bosses' man, "But Pearson's good sometimes too."

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NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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The NEGRO STRUGGLE

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

Significance of The Gibson Report

No statement concerning Negro troops since the outbreak of this war has aroused such concerted ire in the Negro press and from Negro leaders as the infamous Gibson report. The report, allegedly made by Truman Gibson, Jr., Negro civilian aide to the Secretary of War in Rome, Italy, carried slanderous inferences as to the integrity of the Negro as a soldier. His remarks gave his impressions of the "all-Negro" 92nd which he had previously inspected. According to Gibson, while white soldiers frequently desert individually in the face of the enemy, the Negroes "melted away" in whole platoons and Negro officers showed "more courage than judgment."

Branded as a modern Uncle Tom who blamed the Negroes' lack of "morale" on the Negroes themselves rather than on well-known Army policy of segregation, Gibson was asked to resign by the Chicago Defender columnist George Schuyler and Congressman Powell. Even hopped up a super-patriotic Michigan Chronicle, former blind apologist for everything and everybody connected with Roosevelt and his war "against fascism," temporarily took off its rose-colored glasses in an editorial entitled "The Gibson Folly." "Negroes are not fighting in this war," proclaims the editorial, "to perpetuate Jim-Crowism, second-class citizenship and the present patterns of discrimination which make Negro life in America a humiliating and dog-like experience." Training his guns, for once, in the right direction, it continued, "The greatest insult that can come to any citizen is to have his own government sanction discrimination against him." (Emphasis ours).

TOP UNCLE TOM
Now, we agree that Gibson deserves a bouquet of stinkweed and skunk cabbage for rating troops among present-day Uncle Toms. To hold such a job any Negro knows full well his duties will include covering up for Army Jim Crow by attacking his own people. This makes him a selfish opportunist and an enemy of the Negro masses. Far more important, however, than demanding the resignation of Truman Gibson (or any other little "Gibsons" who are sure to follow) is recognizing and exposing the present conspiracy which is being cooked up and dished out by the War Department to discredit the Negro people.

Let us add up the undeniable facts. (1) The wide-spread official policy of placing Negroes in separate Jim-Crow units as if they were inferior, diseased or inhuman creatures. (2) The relegation of the vast majority of "all-Negro" units to the status of stevedores regardless of their ability. (3) The invariable use of Southern, white, Simon Legree, slavedriving, prejudiced officers to "handle" the Negro units. (4) Training of most Negroes in the Southern camps where

"cracker" civilians are given the go-ahead sign to "break in" the Northern colored boys. (5) Courts-martial and long sentences at hard labor for "mutiny" at the first signs of protest against these reactionary policies. (6) The use in the 92nd combat division of 17% illiterates and 75% semi-literates (Time, March 26th) while most of our million Negro high school graduates and our 100,000 college graduates in the Army and many lawyers, dentists and doctors are confined to the quartermaster and engineering corps shoveling mud and cleaning latrines. (7) The use of a black smoke-screen in the form of Uncle Tom "observers" like General Davis, Bishop Gregg, Channing Tobias and Truman Gibson who give left-hand support to the Army brass hats.

WHAT THE RECORD PROVES
From the Army's own record, therefore, it is obvious that it has embarked on a gigantic smear campaign against the Negro minority, using its official wartime dictum as the never-to-be-questioned medium. Those who fail to see this conspiracy just don't want to see it. Those who don't want to see it have some ulterior reasons which bode no good for the Negro workers who are militantly seeking equality instead of the Jim Crow oppression which they have to suffer in this American "democracy."

And just what would be the motive for such a conspiracy, you may ask? Simply this. The War Department, like all other government agencies, is part of the State. In the United States it is a capitalist State. The State, history has shown, invariably carries out those policies which benefit the ruling economic class—in this case the capitalist class. And just how does continued and extended oppression of the Negro minority benefit the capitalist class? Simply by splitting the labor movement and dividing it against itself.

The War Department is there by not only laying the groundwork for Wall Street's domination of the peoples of Europe and the South Pacific. It is also systematically discrediting the Negro minority in order to prepare the way for disastrous race riots and home-grown anti-Negro fascism, the contemplated political cloak for future American Capitalism.

Pioneer Paragraphs

USELESS CAPITALIST CLASS PREVENTS SOCIAL PROGRESS

Capitalist economy is marked by parasites and waste. Parasite No. 1 is the capitalist class itself.

The capitalists solemnly proclaim that society cannot exist without them. They claim, and want the workers to believe, that their profits are the first and paramount concern of all society, and that the factories and farms cannot function unless the capitalists get their profits. These ideas are also held by the government and motivate the government's laws, decrees and actions.

The assertion that the capitalists are essential to the well-being of society, advanced by the capitalists, their press, politicians and economists, ranks among the greatest lies and misconceptions in the history of the world.

The capitalists produce nothing of any value at all. An infinitesimal minority of the population, they consume a large part of the wealth which the really essential classes, the workers of

hand and brain and the toiling farmers, produce. Mankind could not only manage to get along without the capitalists, but once freed from capitalism, society would be able to rapidly advance, not only economically, but also culturally.

The workers must learn to scorn the capitalist argument. The capitalists have no right to demand even the slightest lowering in the workers' standards of living under the plea that profits are first and basic. The fact that the capitalists will have to curtail some luxury if the workers receive an increase in wages, or the farmers more income, is absolutely of no concern to the workers or toiling farmers.

(From "Your Standard of Living—What's Happening to It" by C. Charles, page 16. Pioneer Publishers, 1943, 32 pp., 5 cents. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.).

BROOKLYN

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Wage-Freeze Extension Is Planned

(Continued from page 1)

though they grunt their approval of Roosevelt's "wage stabilization" policy.

The "anniversary" report constitutes a brazen rejection of labor's demand for wage increases to catch up to the rising cost of living. The original hold-the-line order was issued on April 8, 1943 during the first coal miners' strike to bolster the War Labor Board's sabotage of the miners' struggle to gain a wage increase. It has since become a major weapon of the administration in staving off union demands for an upward revision of the Little Steel formula. It is again being used to strengthen the hand of the coal operators in their current negotiations with the miners.

While the cost of living has continued to rise, wages have remained frozen. Exorbitant taxes on the workers' income has reduced take-home wages. Rising prices further reduced real wages and steadily lowered the workers' standard of living. With the administration "holding-the-line" against wage increases, the dollar patriots amassed fabulous profits out of war contracts. The Price Control Act has been riddled with loopholes. The Food Trusts engineered one price-squeeze after another: the most recent is the "meat strike" of the packers aimed at removing price ceilings on beef. The record of the OPA has been one of constant appeasement of the price-gougers.

This is the REAL record of the past two years. Under the "hold-the-line" order and no amount of statistics juggling can alter it. Roosevelt and his "stabilizers" insult the intelligence of the people by publishing such tommyrot as is contained in their "anniversary" report. Housewives will be amazed to learn that food prices have "declined" by 3 percent over the past two years! These statistics jugglers have the gall to expect such a statement, which contradicts the experience of every housewife in the country, to be believed on their say-so.

The proposal to extend the wage-freeze into the "post-war" period is an ominous move to drive the living standards of the workers to still lower levels. Cutbacks of war production are again becoming prevalent. The elimination of overtime and downgrading, shortening of the work week, etc., will further reduce take home wages. To defend its living standards, labor must regain its independence of action in the fight against the wage-freeze.

Bosses Advance 5-Point Program To Smash Unions

(Continued from page 1)

strikes to "coerce" government agencies into speedy action on cases before them; 2. outlawing strikes against "technological advances" resulting in unemployment; 3. making individual union members "liable" for "unlawful" acts of the whole union; 4. penalizing workers who strike while negotiations are in progress or in jurisdictional disputes; 5. "protecting" employees who refuse to comply with a union decision to strike.

In short, this is a program to destroy the right to strike permanently. It would enable the government and employers to stall negotiations indefinitely without fear of effective union action, to frame up individual union members for the actions of the whole union, and to provide government protection for strikebreakers and scabs.

What the big corporations mean by "ambiguities" in the "peace charter" was explicitly stated by Hutchison, whose views were echoed the same day by C. E. Wilson, General Motors president, and other leaders of the Automotive Council for War Production.

Hutchison declared that the fourth point in the code—recognition by management of the right to collective bargaining—might mean to "freeze" the existing laws, specifically the Wagner Act. The employers are opposed to this. The bosses don't mind the labor leaders agreeing to the "sacred rights" of private profit—but they have not and never will agree to the principle of collective bargaining rights.

The automotive barons were in Washington to fight the decision of the NLRB two weeks ago recognizing the right of collective bargaining for foremen and other supervisory employees. Far from accepting any "peace charter," GE's Wilson told press representatives that the auto corporations are going to do "everything in our power" to prevent unionization of foremen, even though the government itself recognizes the right of foremen to organize.

Thus, the employing class makes clear that any "peace" with labor is merely a cover for anti-labor operations.

"Mrs. Roosevelt is right—it certainly pays to buy good clothes."



NEWS ITEM: Mrs. Roosevelt, wearing a 5-year old dress of hand-woven cloth, advises American housewives to "get good materials, well made, well cut and well sewed." N.Y. Times, Apr. 5.

The Real Price Policy Of The A and P Stores

Living near an A & P Super Market seems to the average housewife like being "next door to heaven." Landlords often make note of the fact that a vacant house or apartment is located near an A & P store in order to attract tenants. There are few large cities in the United States which do not have one or more A & P stores.

That the A&P Super Market is such a popular shopping center is not surprising. Here is a large, airy, well-lighted store, with wide aisles, and spacious shelves, which even in this period of food shortages are fairly well-stocked. Before the present restrictions on food purchases and before gasoline was rationed, hundreds of thousands of American working-class families drove long distances to an A&P Super Market in order to buy their weekly supply of groceries. Even now, workers who are still able to keep their cars running are likely to include a weekly trip to the A&P store in their gas budget.

But The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company is not in business because of its devotion to American workers. The A&P store is no charitable institution!

HUGE FOOD MONOPOLY

Although the publicity department of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company tries to convince housewife-buyers that groceries are being sold in A&P stores almost at cost, the facts are very different. Even the U.S. Department of Justice, which is slow in such matters, has finally admitted that the A&P is a huge food monopoly, growing larger, wealthier and more powerful year by year.

In a not very widely publicized case, The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, 11 of its affiliates and 16 of its officers will be tried by the Justice Department on charges of violating the federal anti-trust laws. The trial will open in Danville, Illinois, on April 16 and may continue for a year because government spokesmen say that they

have gathered considerable evidence about the criminal trade practices of the A&P.

Writing in the April 1 issue of PM, Harold Lavine lists some of the charges against the A&P which will be brought out in the trial. "The Dept. of Justice is convinced," says Lavine, "that if The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company of New York, and its affiliates keep expanding as they have until now, within 15 years Americans will eat only with the gracious consent of the A&P; they will eat only what the A&P lets them eat; and they will pay what the A&P asks."

ILLEGAL MONOPOLIST PRACTICES

"Mountains of evidence" to back up this position are promised by the Dept. of Justice. A few interesting pieces of evidence like the following are offered by Lavine.

1. The A&P sometimes sells below cost in some cities in order to drive its competitors out of business—then raises prices all around.

People in Dallas, Texas were able to buy food cheaply in A&P stores a few years back until Myer & Sons, Wyatt Food Stores, Clark & Johnson and Morris Rubin closed their doors. After that, A&P got together with its remaining rivals and "stabilized prices." From then on the Dallas people did not buy cheaply at the A&P or any other Dallas grocery store.

2. The A&P puts pressure on competitors who undersell them and forces through an increase in prices.

A store in Long Island, N. Y. was selling Green Giant peas at two cents for 23 cents and Del Maiz Niblets at 8 cents a can.

Mickey Rooney's War Performance

A Note from V. Grey

I see by the papers that soldier Mickey Rooney arrived in Paris on March 23, after performing for 3 months in the Roer River sector. And now all the soldiers are happy.

"I performed in barns and bomb-riddled houses," Mickey told a reporter. "But what does it matter as long as the GIs are happy?"

The way I get it is that America's "bad boy" usually has an easy chair near the cameras, and a plush-lined dressing room on roller skates to relax in. So he had a pretty tough time pepping up the boys' morale under such adverse conditions.

But what the hell! He's a good scout, isn't he? He'll make the best of a bomb-riddled house! Maybe the people who used to live in it could learn a lesson by his spartan example. Maybe they'll learn to get along without running water and a roof, too.

Maybe. But they won't be able to go to Paris and relax after a few weeks of it, though.

Maybe he's right about the soldiers being happy, too. But it looks to me like the happiness of the steelworkers on a Saturday night. They're so glad to be out of the mess and sweat for a few hours, and so worried about going back to it again—they try to forget with a drink and a good laugh.



Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalesky

Sometimes you see a thing, and you think it's a story; but then, it isn't really one. It's just a little thing: it's just something that happened, and you saw it happen, and maybe it's happened ten million times, or maybe it never happened before in the same way. But you saw it, and you think about it and wonder about it, and somehow there seems to be a story in it that people should hear about. . . if only you could tell them.

That's how the Gypsies struck me.

I don't know exactly what Gypsies are, but that's what I used to call the people at one of the bus stops on my way to the steel plant.

They lived in an old corner building that used to be a saloon. It was a dilapidated, warped building made of gray clapboard. There was no paint on the walls, but snow and sun, rain and burning sunlight had stained and burned the boards into a sad shade of gray. The front windows were wide and covered with thick curtains and pasted paper to shut out the glances of the passersby, and over in one corner, blocking as best it could the rain, the snow, and the howling, piercing, savage winter winds, was a wooden box, shoved tightly against a shattered cavity in the window, a hole a foot and a half in diameter where a baseball had burst through on a summer day, or where the elbow of a reeling drunk had plunged through on a weary, rainy autumn evening. On the unpainted, sad-gray, warped side wall of the Gypsies' house was a huge cigarette advertisement that said, "They satisfy," and a real estate sign that said, "For Sale, John G. Parlata."

And out in front of the Gypsies' house in the summer afternoons, sitting dressed in strange, gay colors in the sunlight, were the Gypsy women. They sat in curious and patient silence on cheap, green painted kitchen chairs. They sat there, hook-nosed and slender, black-eyed and patient, sometimes watching the passersby, sometimes, with eyes clouded over, watching things unseen by the rest of us.

Then, one day as I came to wait for the bus, I saw that the curtains had been torn down. Inside the grimy windows I saw one large, gray, dingy room, in one corner a sink, in another a broken chair. On the floor was sprawled a worn, broken slab of cheap linoleum, and on it, in a little, bright explosion of color, lay a red and yellow cloth, perforated with small stars, through which yet another color had once shined. It was part of one of the strange, bright dresses of the Gypsy women.

What Were the Gypsies Looking for Here?

But that was the story. That was all of it, and in a way that's not a story at all. There they were, and now they're gone, swallowed up by the city, hidden somewhere in one of the little cracks in the earth of America, in one of the little dark passages of the great ant hill that is America.

But there is something more. Who were they? Why came they here, looking for . . . what? And what did they see when their eyes were clouded over and they looked inward at things unseen by the rest of us?

I think perhaps they looked back through the years and across the highways and over the ocean, back to a sunny land of soft grasses and deep forests, of fair valleys of rich earth, of mountains that rimmed the darkening evening skies with a shaggy border of blackness. I think they looked back at a life that was simple and clean, filled with sweat and toil, perhaps, but also with violins and dancing in the night-time.

Did they come here seeking riches in the great land of opportunity? Is that why they left their mountains and deep valleys? Is that why they left their evening violins and dark, bushy forests?

I hope not. Because, here in the richest land of all the world, they found only a sad-gray, worn and warped, rainrotted, snow-decayed saloon building to live in. They found only cheap, green-painted kitchen chairs on which to sit on concrete sidewalks, while they waited for the Gypsy men to come home from long days in the factories.

And now this wealthiest land of all the world has swallowed them up again into its depths. But I do not think that they have even yet found the riches whose golden glow drew them here.

For I have grown from boyhood in this land. And my brothers have grown to manhood in this great land of gold and opportunity. And we, in all our millions, have found only the sweat of the factories and the hurt worry of hard times.

So I don't think the Gypsies have found it either.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

APRIL 13, 1935

NEW YORK—Revealing in cold figures the madness of the capitalist system, The Militant reported on the waste of its peacetime "normalcy." In 1934, statistics showed, "2,400,000 men and women died of starvation and 1,200,000 committed suicide because they had no means of existence," while capitalists were raising prices by creating artificial shortages. In the same year "1,000,000 wagon loads of wheat, 267,000 trainloads of coffee, 516,000,000 pounds of sugar, 50,000,000 pounds of rice, and 50,000,000 pounds of meat" were destroyed.

TOLEDO—Blazing the path to unionization for a million auto workers, the Toledo Chevrolet employees voted three-to-one for entry into the federal auto union of the American Federation of Labor. Their vote wiped out company-government attempts to establish a company union at Chevrolet, and inspired hundreds of Willys-Overland workers to sign up. Demands for a 6-hour day, 30-hour week, union recognition, and wage increases were drawn up as the workers prepared for strike action.

AKRON—At Goodrich, Goodyear and Firestone, 30,000 tire workers massed their forces to demand union recognition. Support was pledged by the Cleveland Federation of Labor and the Cleveland Metal Trades Council by F. J. Dillon, head of the AFL auto workers simultaneously organizing at Toledo, as well as by William Green. While the workers prepared flying squadrons and strike committees to wrest their demands from the rubber bosses, however, Green and his associates were running to Roosevelt, trying to sell out by arbitration the strike they publicly supported.

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"Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."



Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

— 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.

Austria's Future

On the eve of the conquest of Vienna, Stalin's government in Moscow and the Red Army Marshal Tolbukhin issued official declarations promising not to "change the social system in Austria," but to "facilitate the restoration of order existing in Austria before the Nazi Anschluss," and guaranteeing "the independence of Austria."

This means that Stalin plans to prop up capitalist rule in Austria on the same counter-revolutionary pattern he has already followed in the Balkan countries and Poland. "Independence" under capitalist domination can only serve to aggravate tenfold the present suffering and poverty of the Austrian people. After the last war the victorious Allies set up a small "independent Austria" separated from industrial Germany and the agricultural regions of eastern and southern Europe. In this straitjacket Austrian economic life was strangled.

The Austrian workers have been among the most class-conscious and revolutionary in Europe. The most advanced have long known that their emancipation and security could be achieved only through a Socialist Austria incorporated in a Socialist United States of Europe. In 1919 they established soviets seeking a link with the short-lived Hungarian and Bavarian soviet republics. But they were deceived, and driven back under the yoke of capitalism by the treacherous Social-Democratic leaders.

Capitalist reaction became more aggressive and unbridled as the country staggered from crisis to crisis. In 1934 Dollfuss ordered his mercenaries to bombard the working class districts. The Austrian workers put up a heroic armed resistance. Nevertheless the labor movement was crushed; trade unions and workers' parties were illegalized; thousands hurled into prisons and concentration camps. After the assassination of Dollfuss by Nazi agents, his clerical fascist regime was continued under Schuschnigg. This is the kind of "order existing in Austria" which Stalin has promised to restore.

Under continued capitalist rule the Austrian masses certainly cannot expect anything better than their pre-war oppression and starvation—and most

probably in the ruined Europe of today they will receive much worse. The class conscious Austrian workers who, under Austrian and German fascist rule created one of the most virile revolutionary socialist underground movements, realize this. Despite Stalin's counter-revolutionary designs and GPU terror they will find a way to continue their struggle for a Socialist Austria and a Socialist United States of Europe.

Prepare For Battle

Almost all workers today wonder and worry about how they and their families will manage with prices rising and wages frozen. They are looking to their trade unions to help them secure living wages and decent working conditions.

But Roosevelt's wage-freeze, enforced through the War Labor Board on which sit the union representatives, denies them the wage increases they need so desperately. And the no-strike policy, together with governmental compulsory arbitration red-tape, ham-strings and effective labor struggle.

Taking advantage of their present opportunity, the bosses are conducting a vicious nation-wide campaign of provocations designed to cripple the unions and victimize the best militants. Moreover, the workers face the imminent prospects, following the close of the war in Germany, of mass unemployment and drastic wage-slashes.

What are the official heads of the labor movement proposing to do? Are they seeking to regain independence of action for the unions? Are they teaching the workers to prepare for struggle? Are they organizing labor's forces to combat the union-busting offensive?

Quite the contrary. Murray and Green have shown they intend to continue the same disastrous policies which have led the unions into their present blind alley. Instead of conducting a real fight against the wage freeze, they go hat in hand to the White House begging for favors—which Roosevelt does not even bother to consider.

While Big Business prepares for war against the unions, Murray and Green have just signed a "peace charter" with the spokesmen of Big Business. By fawning upon Big Business, these labor leaders hope to get a few concessions to appease the workers and protect their own positions. Such false and treacherous policies not only will win nothing for the workers, but will disarm the unions before the increasing assaults of their worst enemies.

The workers are not going to accept these false policies of further retreat and surrender without a fight. But it is up to the conscious union militants to give them the organization, leadership and program to make their struggle effective. They must lead a genuine organized battle to scrap the no-strike policy and remove the labor representatives from the War Labor Board.

The industrialists regard "peace charters" with labor as scraps of paper. Right now, they are pressing for more anti-labor legislation from their pliant, capitalist-controlled Congress. To ward off these anti-labor political moves and secure progressive legislation the workers require a political instrument which they can truly call their own, an independent labor party based on the trade unions.

Blows At Jim-Crow

The fight against the Jim Crow policies of the U. S. Army and Navy recently registered two victories when higher military bodies were forced to withdraw harsh and discriminatory penalties inflicted upon four Negro Wacs and fifteen Seabees.

The reversals in these cases were not brought about by any burst of generosity or love of fair play on the part of the military authorities but through the militant stand taken by the nineteen Negro servicemen and women involved. These courageous Negro men and women used the method of militant protest, the only avenue left open to anyone who wants to fight the oppressive Jim Crow set-up of the armed forces.

The Seabees were part of a much larger group of Negroes who were dishonorably discharged for a sitdown strike in 1943 against Navy Jim Crow policies. Fifteen petitioned for a review of their discharges. Legal representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union and the CIO War Relief Committee aided the Seabees in their hearing before the Naval Review Board. As a result the "dishonorable" discharges were changed to discharges "under honorable conditions" for fourteen of the fifteen petitioners.

The protest of the four Negro Wacs took the form of a refusal to return to work under discriminatory conditions at Lovell General Hospital in Massachusetts. Earlier attempts by these and scores of other Negro Wacs to get an adjustment of their grievances against the Army officials, who were assigning all the "dirty work" to the colored Wacs, had been unsuccessful. Their refusal to work brought down upon them court martial sentences of a year. This verdict has now been overruled by a higher military court, the prison sentences voided, and the four Wacs ordered restored to duty.

Credit for this latest set-back to Jim Crow must go, not only to these nineteen brave service men and women, but to millions of fighting members of Negro, labor and liberal organizations, who supported their cases. Not a "hat in hand" policy of begging favors, but militant, uncompromising struggle gets results in the fight against Jim Crow! Although Jim Crow in the U. S. Army and Navy has yet to be defeated, these two victories point the way. We salute the four Negro Wacs and fifteen Negro Seabees, who at great personal risk carried through this front-line fight against Jim Crow—a genuine fight for democracy.

One Mickey Finn — Coming Up!



WORKERS' FORUM

Praise Articles By Grace Carlson

Editor: This is just a note commending the articles by Grace Carlson which The Militant has been publishing recently. We are reaching more and more today than ever before. Both women who work in the factories and those at home. And such articles make the paper much easier to sell.

The average housewife is burdened down with children, scarcities of food, rising costs of living, etc. She feels that although the workers in the shop have a constant struggle to keep up their standard of living, the housewife's burden should by no means be neglected.

With more and more housewives reading The Militant and becoming more politically conscious, it is good that The Militant is publishing articles directly concerning their problems and tying them up with the emancipation of the rest of the working class.

Pauline and Esther,
Detroit

Labor Shortage?

Editor: The radio, newspapers and bill posters all tell us that there is a terrible labor shortage. In fact, in my town they are going around from door to door soliciting even housewives to work in war jobs. On the job, however, layoffs are all the work they seem to have. My entire shipyard was closed. This yard, the East Coast Shipyard, employed between 5,000 and 6,000 skilled workmen — pipefitters, welders, machinists, etc., and if they are having the same luck I am coming up against, then this "manpower shortage" must be a laugh to them too.

At the U. S. Employment Service there are jobs at 65 cents, 60 cents, 70 cents an hour. There is no shortage of jobs at that kind of pay, but work at liveable wages is hard to get. It just puts a man in a position where he can't believe anyone in high places any more. Anyway, it's a crying shame how people in charge of these papers, etc. can get away with such stuff.

Shipyard Worker
Jersey City

What One Student Learned in College

Editor: One Negro woman who bought a subscription to The Militant from me is a student at college. Being an intellectual and better off than the ordinary Negro worker, she felt—or rather was under the illusion—that she was being treated as the equal of the white students.

This falsehood was unveiled to her only after a party held at the college. She had looked forward to attending it, but much to her chagrin, she found herself barred from the social activities of the college. She protested to the professor, and since words are cheap and no doubt plentiful for the professor, words were all the satisfaction she received.

She knows now that discrimination is commonplace, and that

without the unification of all the Negro workers and all the conscious white workers their equality will never be granted by the capitalists. Discrimination and race hatred are the best instruments of power the bosses have, and the sooner the workers learn the meaning and the reasons behind discrimination, the sooner we can wipe it from the face of the earth, and live like free human beings in a better world.

I. C.
Youngstown

Lockheed Workers Take Strike Vote

Editor: At meetings held during March 27th to April 3rd, the Lockheed Aircraft workers belonging to Lodge 727, International Association of Machinists (AFL) passed a strike vote under provisions of the Smith-Connally Act. They also voted a resolution stating that no leader of the union was to rescind the strike vote without the approval of the membership. The second resolution was passed because in January, 1944 the conservative leadership, against the interests and desires of the membership, revoked a strike vote which had been passed in December, 1943.

The present strike vote was taken because on Monday, March 26th the War Labor Board issued a directive denying all wage in-

creases and eliminating specialist rates for Southern California Aircraft Workers. During October, 1943, Lodge 727 of the IAM, together with the UAW-CIO and the United Independent Welders, petitioned the War Labor Board for higher rates—80 cents per hour for beginners, up to \$1.60 for skilled workers.

This denial of wage increases coincided with the anti-union drive of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. Provocations included downgrading, transferring of workers, attempted intimidation of workers filing grievances. Flight technicians who had asked for flight bonuses because their jobs involve exposure to injury or death while testing planes in the air have been locked out. Under these provocations the skilled workers put pressure on the conservative leadership of Lodge 727, forcing it to consider action.

The aircraft workers at Lockheed are beginning to move. The leadership is trying to prevent the workers from taking job action against the corporation. The time is long overdue to rescind the no-strike pledge and withdraw all labor support from the WLB.

H. T.
Los Angeles

Some Results Of Mass Protest

Editor: The recent mass protest of 2,000 Jewish parents in one of the Junior High School auditoriums on the North Side of Minneapolis relative to the beatings to which Jewish boys and girls have been subjected has opened the whole subject of discrimination in this city. Every day the press carries articles on this subject—and what was previously only spoken of privately has now come out into the open.

The politicians are making use of this problem—the "outs" saying what they would do if they were the "ins." One North side aspirant for the position of Alderman from the third ward openly states that the incumbent is deliberately using the issue to secure his re-election. His accuser, however, does not spare any words in attempting to push his opponent out of office on the same issue.

One good thing the mass meeting accomplished was to put the Minneapolis Police Department in the spotlight. From now on they know that they are being watched by an aroused citizenry. Another thing—the pussy-footing and policy of silence of Jewish "leaders" has once and for all been broken. The Jewish people angrily pushed their "leaders" into this meeting which the "leaders" entered reluctantly.

They had to take the leadership of the mass meeting or be discredited once and for all. To their shame let it be said that they tried to soft-pedal the negligence of the police department and the mayor. But after the meeting hundreds of people stood around hurling questions and making demands, until the janitor turned off the lights and started ordering everyone out.

R. B.
Minneapolis

'Good Neighbor' Policy of United Fruit Company

What American imperialism's "good neighbor" policy really means in Latin America is indicated by the letter of Thomas H. Uzzell in the Spring 1945 issue of The Key Reporter, organ of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary fraternity. Uzzell writes in part:

In the Winter issue of The Key Reporter I notice a news item about the new School of Pan-American Agriculture in Zamorano, Honduras . . . It is indeed interesting news but not as "evidence of international good will" as you state in your lead.

I don't know whether this noble-sounding sentiment was given you by the United Fruit Company . . . but I am writing to say that in any case the sentiment is false, that the enterprise is in no sense noble. The "good will" allegation is merely window-dressing for the merciless exploitation of a helpless little nation by a powerful American corporation.

The United Fruit Company since its founding in 1900 has extracted some three billion dollars in fruit and produce from Caribbean countries. Its original stock has averaged 17 per cent earnings for 44 years. The little countries themselves, receive practically nothing, while at the same time they give away their rich lands, under diplomatic pressure, in return for promises to build railways and roads which are mainly useful to the exploiters. They also, our "good neighbors" in the hot lands, furnish laborers who stagger under the most grueling farm work in the world under constant risk of disease and for coolie labor wages. . .

Please note that the new school in Honduras is for the study of agriculture and not of history or economics or government and that it is free. This is all part of the company's policy to attract the keenest and best educated of young men coming from our colleges and bribe them to assist the entrenched savage exploitation of our helpless good friends to the south of us. These fine boys who enroll for the new school will be groomed as experts, superintendents, bosses of the poor, illiterate mestizos who will do all the dirty work and if the boys show any sympathy for these poor natives, the "wiser" fruit company heads will tell them that the "spigotties" are born stupid and drunken and are generally hopeless and not to worry about them.

Some of these facts were extracted from a reluctant official of the company. Most regrettable of all is the hypocritical attitude of our State Department about our trade imperialism in South and Central America. Exploitation such as I have described is possible only with the connivance of our government. . .

Officer Court-Martialed For Defending Mexican

Because he was "too zealous" and "obstructed Army justice" by his defense of a Mexican private falsely charged with "rape" by an Army court-martial, a young second lieutenant, Sidney Shapiro, was himself court-martialed and dismissed from the Army.

Shapiro had been named to defend Pvt. Fausto Agredano at Grand Island, Neb., Army Air base, in the 1943 case. Agredano was accused of assaulting a 15-year old girl who claimed to identify him.

Contrary to customary practice, Shapiro actually took an interest in defending an accused private—and a Mexican, to boot. He became convinced that Agredano was innocent. The lieutenant brought in another man at the court-martial. This "ringer" was identified as the assailant by the girl and police. A mistrial was won for the Mexican private.

Shapiro's aggressive conduct of the defense—a customary legal means of testing the credibility of witnesses—riled the brass hats. It was contrary to army "procedure." In June, 1944, Shapiro was court-martialed and dismissed from service, tantamount to dishonorable discharge. Shapiro was given just 80 minutes to prepare his defense.

The brass hats court-martialed Agredano once more, convicted him and sentenced him to five years in prison. The authority of Army "justice" was saved.

Shapiro appealed his discharge to a federal district court, which ruled it had no jurisdiction, but admitted that the young lieutenant had been denied "due process" of law at his court-martial. He appealed last week to the U. S. Court of Appeals.

Veterans Discover Jokers In Promises About Loans

Tens of thousands of returned war veterans taken in by the administration's rosy promises about loans to aid them in establishing homes, farms or small businesses have been learning what the real score is in the past nine months since the so-called G.I. Bill Of Rights was passed.

Out of an already huge volume of applicants, only 1608 loans have been approved by the Veterans Administration—three for farms, 23 for businesses and 1582 for homes.

Contrary to what the soldiers are led to believe, the government itself makes no loans. It merely guarantees up to 50 per cent of private loans up to \$2000—with provisions for attaching anything the veteran owns if he defaults.

The conditions under which the government will partially guarantee loans are so stringent that a veteran who can qualify will have no difficulty usually in getting a bank loan on his own without all the government red-tape. In fact, writes the Cleveland Press, April 2, "bank terms are easier than those of the (GI) bill."

Even the promise of "free interest" turns out to have a hook in it. If the veteran finally qualifies, the government offers one year's free interest up to \$80—subsequently deductible from such adjusted compensations as Congress may authorize for veterans in the future.

Actually, according to a Scripps-Howard report from Washington on April 4, "the administration is trying to discourage veterans from seeking loans unless they have a reasonable chance of paying out." In short, these loan guarantees are given more to protect the banks and loan companies than to help the veterans. . .