

MASS LAY-OFFS, PAY CUTS ANNOUNCED

Veterans Bitter Over Fraudulent "Bill Of Rights"

By Larissa Reed

The first contingents of returning veterans are learning in deep disillusionment exactly what the government is providing for them in the so-called "GI Bill of Rights." Enacted by Congress in June, 1944, this measure formally known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, is already being called by disgusted veterans the "GI Bill of Grievances." It is so scandalous that even the ultra-reactionary poll-tax Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi has been forced to apologize for it and Congressman William C. Stigler of Oklahoma has bluntly declared the bill "a mockery."

Even that instrument of Big Business, the American Legion, has been forced to criticize the bill and propose sweeping revisions. The Disabled American Veterans, through its national service director, has blasted the law as a "gross deceit to the veterans and a disgust to the public."

The main provisions of the bill cover educational, loan and unemployment benefits as well as employment assistance. The veteran has been led to believe that when he returns home with empty pockets and a precarious future in civilian life, his economic problems will be cared for until he can get back on his own feet. But what is the reality?

RED-TAPE

The "totally disabled," that is, those who have left the best part of their lives and limbs behind them in the war can get no more than \$115 a month REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS THEY HAVE. This begins after they leave the hospitals in this country where neglect and mistreatment of veterans is now reaching the stage of open scandal.

Veterans who have not been permanently maimed and disabled have been told that if they cannot immediately find a suit-

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NAZIS SAVED MORGAN INTERESTS IN FRANCE

After the conquest of France, the Nazis imposed a regime of terror on the French people. Thousands of French workers were sent to slave labor in Germany. Hitler hurled vituperative broadsides at the Anglo-American imperialists for daring to challenge his right to dominate France and all Europe. But for the British and American banks in France, the Nazis had only kind words and, more important, kind deeds. Each proved helpful to the other.

The well-known newspaper columnist Drew Pearson recently disclosed some of the facts. When the American army swept into Germany, they captured a Dr. H. J. Caesar, the Nazis' Alien Property Custodian who had charge of all American banks and alien property which the Germans seized in France. Dr. Caesar was questioned by his captors and furnished, among other things, information showing how American banks in Paris collaborated with the Nazi conquerors. Pearson reveals part of what Dr. Caesar disclosed.

The Chase Bank (J. P. Morgan and Co.) was especially favored and "protected" by the Nazis because "it had been active on behalf of Germany before the war in such matters as the German 'standstill' credit negotiations." These negotiations led to suspension of German reparations payments, thus securing Chase's German loans and freeing the Nazis of a tremendous financial burden so that they could move ahead faster with their armament program.

The Nazis were grateful for this aid and furnished the Paris branch of the Chase Bank with profitable business throughout the period of the occupation of France, Dr. Caesar disclosed. The manager of the Paris branch, however, felt constrained to curry favor with the Nazis by showing that the House of Morgan had nothing to do with Jews. A memo which Caesar received from Mr. Lecestre of the Morgan banking firm read:

"On the attached sheet there is

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Hard Coal Miners Continue Strike Into Third Week

MAY 14 — Pennsylvania's 72,000 hard coal miners, upholding the militant traditions of the United Mine Workers, continue to stand firm after two weeks of their strike to win a new contract and substantial wage gains. Their walkout began on May 1 with the expiration of their old contract, in conformity with their "no contract, no work" policy.

All government attempts to intimidate the miners and force them back into the pits have proved futile in the face of their fighting determination and solidarity. For more than a week they have ignored a government back-to-work order and the "seizure" of the struck mines on May 3.

Because the miners took a strike vote in a NLRB poll and have maintained their walkout within the terms of the Smith-Connally anti-strike law which permits no penalties when workers leave government-controlled industries "on their own volition," the administration has as yet hesitated to invoke direct measures to break the strike.

OPERATORS STALLING

But it is becoming clear that the mine owners and their government agents hope to use the weapon of hunger to whip the miners back to work on the operators' terms.

The operators, with the tacit support of the government, are stalling and prolonging negotiations over the issue of portal-to-portal (underground travel time) pay. They are refusing to accept last week's ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court upholding portal-to-portal pay in the case of the soft coal miners, trying to contend there is a difference involved in such payment for hard coal miners.

At Harrisburg, Pa., William H. Chestnut, state Secretary of Labor and Industry, has declared the striking miners ineligible for unemployment compensation on the pretext that they are out of work "due to voluntarily leaving without good cause." The state agents of the operators do not consider the lack of a contract "good cause," although responsibility for the strike rests squarely on the operators.

The latest issue of the United Mine Workers Journal exposes editorially the price-robbery and planned shortages, especially of meat, in the company-owned mining towns. Despite the grueling labor of the miners, they cannot get meat. "Coal miners cannot produce coal," points out the Journal, "on coca-cola, a doughnut and a cigarette for breakfast; macaroni and peas, a peanut butter sandwich and a cookie for lunch; and for dinner, rice, beans, cabbage, potatoes and coconut custard pie."

represented some information relative to the predecessors of Mr. J. P. Morgan, actual head of J. P. Morgan and Co., Inc., New York. Following the tradition of his father, Mr. Morgan never admitted Jews as associates of fellow workers. The Morgan house has been frequently found in its business in opposition to the great Jewish banking houses in the United States, such as Kuhn, Loeb and Co. As to Morgan and Co., Paris, the personnel, since the foundation of the bank in 1868, has never included a Jew.

FAVORS TO MORGAN

Another memo, dated May 6, 1941, was received by Caesar from Berenberg-Gosler, Paris representative of the Reichskreditgesellschaft, on the subject of Morgan and Co. The writer told of being present at a dinner to which he had been invited by the French partner of the Morgan firm, Mr. Pesson-Didion. This local representative of the great American banking trust indulged in a violent diatribe against the Jews in America, accusing them of being responsible for Roosevelt's foreign policies which were dragging the United States into an "unjustifiable as well as ridiculous war." Mr. P. D. said "the hopes that one of these days the increased immigration of Jews (to America) will unleash such anti-Semitism that a sudden turnabout will follow."

Further along in the memo, Mr. P. D. expressed to the Nazi custodian "the hope that the

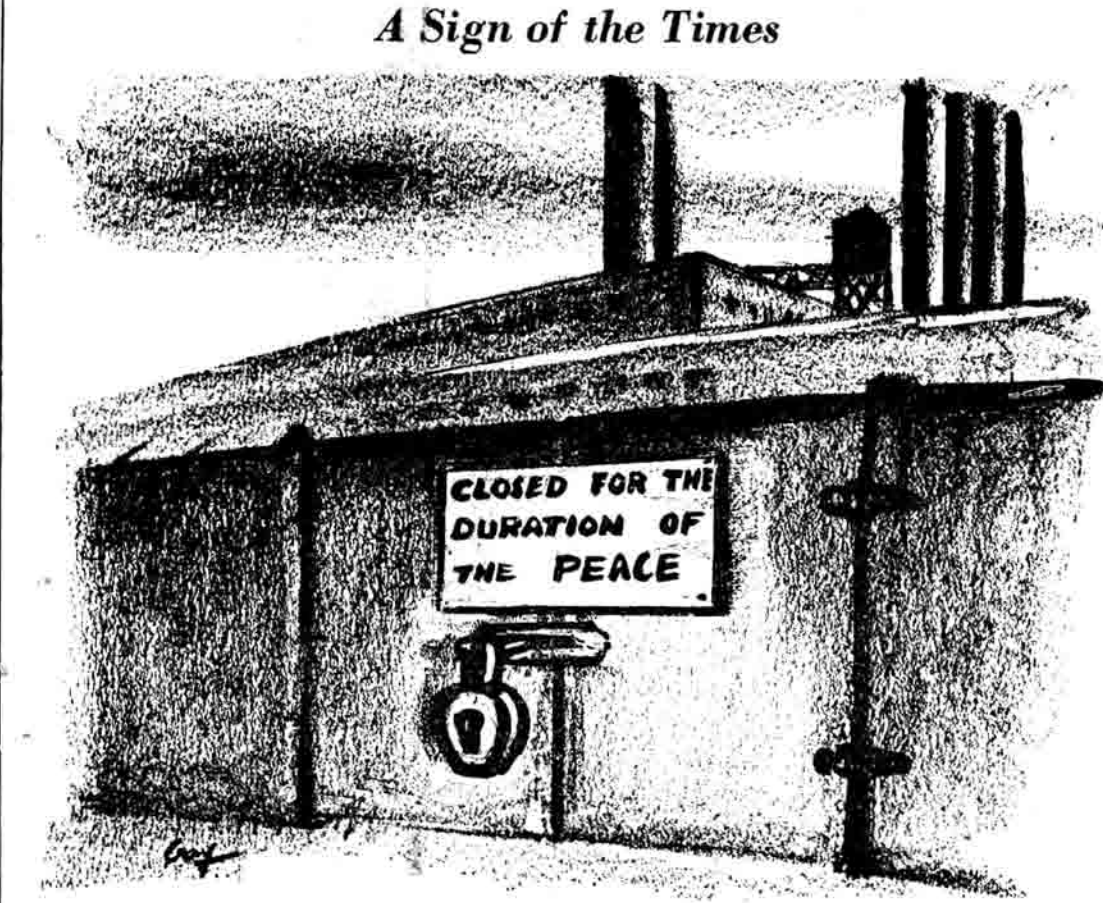
Ford Local 600 Rally Calls For End Of No-Strike Policy

By Roy Weston

DETROIT, May 5. — At a meeting called by Ford Local 600, CIO United Automobile Workers, held in Cass Technical High School here today, more than 5,000 Ford workers went on record as favoring the immediate revocation of the no-strike pledge and the calling of a national labor holiday if the Little Steel formula is not abandoned and an effective reconversion wage policy adopted.

This action came as a climax to an overflow meeting at which more than 5,000 workers were turned away due to lack of seating space. The rally was initiated as a protest against the cut-backs, layoffs, shortened workweek and the resulting pay-cuts in the Ford Rouge plant.

Present at the meeting, which was presided over by W. G. Grant, president of Local 600 and a notorious Stalinist stooge, were R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO, and Richard T. Leon-



A Sign of the Times

Greek Dictatorship Continues Brutal Terror Against People

By Joseph Hansen

British-supported reaction in Greece is methodically continuing its suppression of the Greek people who drove out the Nazi conquerors. Since the February 12 "accord" that ended the Allied-instigated civil war, more than 7,500 have been slaughtered, according to EAM (National Liberation Front) figures published in the May 5 Nation.

"EAM adherents, republicans, and sometimes just plain people who neglect to adorn their homes with the King's portrait are being arrested, beaten, and even murdered," declares the Nation correspondent. "When the guardsmen themselves do not join the man hunt, they and the local gendarmerie look the other way while illegal pro-fascist bands smash printing presses, burn organizational headquarters, and torture non-converts... Peasants are taking to the hills as in the days of the Germans."

"Greece... is torn by complex feuds which may explode at any moment into fresh hostilities," observes the Nation. In preparation for these "hostilities," the British are reconstructing the Greek army "and the British are furnishing first-rate modern equipment... The Greek General Staff is methodically welding this army into a political weapon, loading it with royalists from the ranks to the top command."

"Quiescent security battalions and monarchist mountain and sacred brigades are being incorporated en masse. Eighteen to twenty-six of the brigade colonels of the National Guard are royalists. Conscripts suspected of an ELAS (Greek National Liberation Army) taint are rejected for 'medical' reasons; former ELAS officers are not given even that excuse."

The Daily Worker lists specific acts of the counter-revolution, including "persecutions of the press, illegal raids in residential neighborhoods, maltreatment of the wounded, hoodlumism, murders, destruction of printing plants, newspaper offices and EAM headquarters, illegal searches, kidnappings, pillage, violation of women and attempts at violation, bullying and intimidation during the trade union elections, judicial infringements," etc.

The Stalinists, however, are themselves largely responsible for the unbridled terrorism of the Greek counter-revolution. It was Stalinist leaders, including General Seraphis, who betrayed the Partisans to the Allied invasion

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ard, UAW National Ford Director.

A series of resolutions were passed. One of them — on the Little Steel formula — was read by Larry Yost retiring president of the Aircraft Unit of Local 600 and president of the National Rank and File Committee.

UAW HEADS STUNNED

Thomas, along with Grant and the Stalinists, appeared stunned by the resolution, particularly when it was passed unanimously.

Complaining that Yost changed the text of the resolution as it had been adopted by the local's executive board when he included the threat to revoke the no-strike pledge and call a national labor holiday, Grant, who came out second-best in the local's recent primary elections, suggested to the meeting that the workers "didn't intend to pass such a resolution."

Immediately there were cries from the floor: "Oh, yes we did!" Yost admitted having altered the resolution which had called for abandonment of the Little

(Continued on page 3)

Wage Freeze To Continue While Prices Are Boosted

Government Officials Disclose Hunger Plans
For Workers, Huge Hand-Outs for Profiteers

By Art Preis

A partial picture of the ominous future awaiting the American workers and returning veterans was presented last week in a series of official actions and pronouncements by leading agencies and spokesmen of the Truman administration.

Its essential features include growing mass un-

employment, wage slashing, increased shortages particularly in food, price rises and a continuation of the wage-freezing Little Steel formula.

At the same time, the government intends to continue its wartime restrictions on the independent actions of the unions. It will attempt to enforce the no-strike policy in all industries, whether or not they are on war production. It will continue to impose government regulation of collective bargaining through the employer-dominated War Labor Board and compulsory arbitration.

The profit-bloated corporations face an altogether different prospect. The government has given them substantial assurances that their profit and monopoly income will be fully safeguarded. Within the next two years, the war profiteers are to be reimbursed with almost \$8-billion in various types of tax rebates.

Price ceilings are to be fixed during the "reconversion" period to guarantee manufacturers not less than the abnormally inflated prices of 1942, the third war year. They are assured further price increases where "necessary." These are the initial measures planned for the "relief of the greedy."

The general features of the

(Continued on page 2)

SHAMEFUL TREATMENT

Such shameful treatment was accorded the men in this veteran Battalion after their hunger strike on March 2-3 in protest against gross mistreatment and discriminatory conditions fostered by their Negro-hating Commander, J. P. MacBean of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

As a result of the exposure of these conditions by Negro organizations and the press, the Navy Department was forced to remove MacBean from his command. Now, the NAACP claims, the men of the 34th are being "humiliated and punished" in retaliation.

GOVERNMENT ASSURES PRICE, TAX 'RELIEF' TO PROFITEERS

While millions of workers and veterans will face total unemployment and those still working will have reductions in weekly earnings of from 25 to 40 per cent on a return to a 40-hour week, Price Administrator Bowles on May 11 told the manufacturers that they could be assured of prices at the high 1942 wartime level "at least." Of course, there will also be "a few instances in which increases in retail prices above 1942 levels will be necessary."

Moreover, the OPA head assured the war profiteers that he recognized "important changes have taken place in the factors affecting production costs." He sympathized with reconverting manufacturers having "to shoulder burdens they could not bear."

And he added significantly: "We are not going to disregard such cost increases even temporarily." This is a signal for cost-padding and a general stampede for OPA approval of price increases.

This OPA price-boosting scheme disguised as "price control" has merely whetted the appetites of the profiteers. Their legislative agents, headed by Senator Taft of Ohio, promptly moved to scuttle even the pretense of price control.

On May 11, Taft proposed before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee to reopen hearings on renewal of the price control act. He claimed the OPA was "determined fanatically" to keep prices at a "fixed level." "In my opinion," he stated, "price control policy now in effect is far too strict, even for wartime."

GIFTS TO MONOPOLISTS

Taft is one of the spokesmen for the big meat packers. Two of them, Albert and Hahn of Cincinnati, as revealed in Senate hearings, contributed substantial sums to his recent election campaign.

On top of this green light to price-gouging, Big Business was promised a further windfall. On May 11 it was announced that Truman had "tentatively approved" a scheme of the Treasury and Congressional "tax experts"

to speed into the pockets of the monopolists the vast sum of \$5,700,000,000 (billions) in cash.

This is in the form of tax refunds and exemptions already provided under the federal tax laws. The latest proposal would make these sums immediately available, allegedly for "reconversion and post-war expansion."

Actually, it will go to add to the staggering total of over \$40,000,000,000 (billions) which the SEC reports the American banking and industrial plutocracy has amassed in working capital (undistributed profits) out of the "blood, sweat, toil and tears" of the American masses in this war.

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CIO Newsmen's Guild Is Target Of Attack By Labor-Hating Publishers Association

By Dave Jeffries

The big capitalist newspapers have almost unanimously hailed the labor-management "peace charter" signed only a few weeks ago by William Green and Philip Murray. This "charter" recognizes the bosses' rights to unlimited profits under "free enterprise" in return for a promise from Eric Johnston that the employers will engage in collective bargaining with the unions "in good faith." How cheaply the employers hold this promise is demonstrated by the actions of the very capitalist newspapers that have been waxing eloquent over the benefits of labor-management "peace" in their editorials.

The April 27 issue of the *CIO Reporter*, official organ of the CIO American Newspaper Guild, tells in detail how the newspaper barons have been conducting what it calls "an organized, well-knit campaign" to "cripple the Guild."

As in the auto industry, the main strategy of the newspaper companies has been to fire key union men on flimsy pretexts. Two Guild members, including the shop chairman, were fired from the Hudson (New Jersey) Dispatch the minute the Guild sought recognition as collective bargaining agent for the workers in the editorial department. Other intimidations of employees have followed. In nearby Long Branch the Long Branch Record fired a worker on trumped-up charges in an effort to avoid payment of severance indemnity. Both these cases are being fought by the Guild.

In Massachusetts, too, the campaign against union organization and collective bargaining has been proceeding apace. The Worcester Telegram fired the provincial president of the newly-organized local after he testified at a National Labor Relations Board hearing in an attempt to win union recognition. Sixteen workers in the circulation department of the New Bedford Standard-Times were fired in what the *CIO Reporter* called "a flagrant attempt to crush the Guild before it got started."

PUBLISHERS' TACTICS

"Publisher opposition hit new highs," continued the *CIO Reporter*, "in two unsuccessful Miami NLRB elections, featured by a phony court suit to halt the voting, a slugging, and a campaign of pressure and intimidation." Similar tactics were used in Windsor, Ontario and in Buffalo, where the *Buffalo News* blossomed out with a company union headed by a bosses' stooge who had just been fired by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The big wire services, Associated Press and United Press, have been conducting a persistent campaign against union recognition. Hearst's King Feature Syndicate has continually refused to obey a War Labor Board directive on maintenance of membership.

This campaign of firings has been accompanied by the continued refusal of the WLB Newspaper Commission to grant any substantial wage increases or other benefits to newspaper workers. The Commission has become the target of growing resentment on the part of newspaper workers, many of whom receive wages as low as \$18 a week and others only slightly more.

This resentment will undoubtedly

edly be reflected at the coming Guild convention, where a substantial section of the membership is expected to attempt to withdraw the no-strike pledge against the furious opposition of the Stalinist-dominated New York Local.

Reports Forecast Unemployment And Wage Slashes

(Continued from page 1)

administration's plans and prospects for the next year are embodied in a report prepared for Truman by War Mobilization and Reconstruction Director Vinson and released on May 9. Vinson, who is now referred to as the "Assistant President," outlined what was described by the N. Y. Times as a "Spartan regimen" for the American people.

He admitted that there are already one million unemployed and that there will be some 6,500,000 workers and war veterans seeking jobs during the next 12 months. However, he expressed the hope that many of these would be out of work "only temporarily" and thought that the unemployed "should not exceed" two to two and one-half millions at the end of 12 months.

UNEMPLOYMENT FORECASTS
Vinson based these unemployment estimates on his extremely conservative forecast of a one-third cut-back in war production during the next year. Actually, as the May 5 Business Week reveals: "Washington talks publicly of a 35 per cent cutback in munitions, privately of 50 per cent." It adds: "Maximum foreseeable unemployment is about 5,000,000."

How will these unemployed survive? Vinson points to state unemployment insurance with "maximum payments" of from \$15 to \$22 a week. For the unemployed veterans he pointed to maximum allowances up to \$20 a week—equivalent to \$10 in pre-war purchasing power.

Two days after Vinson offered the prospect of this starvation handout, the U. S. Employment Service revealed that government officials are "puzzled" over the rapid rise in unemployed veterans. These already numbered 28,992 on April 28—before the official end of the European war. About 2,000,000 more are to be returned home in the next year.

Shortages, the basis for price inflation and black marketeering, are to increase. Vinson admits there will be "no early improvement in the civilian food supply." On the contrary, total food supplies will be 5 to 10 per cent less next year, while military requirements will be 5 to 10 per cent greater. In general, there will be no great increase in civilian goods production.

The Vinson report nevertheless opposed the "removal of wage controls," while admitting that "wages are likely to be forced downward rather than upward" and that "it will not be possible to assure every worker that his takehome pay will remain unchanged." There will be an increasing return to the 40 hour week, elimination of overtime pay and a general drastic reduction of weekly wages.

On May 10, the day following Vinson's report, the WLB followed up with a pronouncement indicating how this policy of wage slashing is to be maintained. WLB Chairman Taylor stated at a news conference that the government intends to shackle the workers with the no-strike pledge until the end of the war with Japan and that it "covers all plants" whether producing war goods or civilian.

Empire State Scrubwomen Vote Strike!



Shop stewards and members of Local 32-J, AFL Building Service Employees taking a strike vote on May 5 in their meeting room at the Empire State Building, New York.

Skyscraper Scrubwomen Fight Vile Conditions

By Evelyn Atwood

Everybody knows about the 102 story Empire State Building, tallest and showiest in the world. Tourists visit it. A wealthy corporation owns it. The rich occupy it. But who knows anything about the cleaning women who toil and sweat throughout the nights to keep its swanky offices clean and shiny?

"They don't care nothing about us poor scrub women," said one of them to me when I interviewed a group of them on May 11, at the offices of their local union 32-J, AFL Building Service Employees, at 250 West 57th Street, New York City. "We asked for only a nickel an hour raise, and the War Labor Board turned it down—after giving us the run-around for months!"

The women were tense and fighting mad. Last week, they said, they demanded a strike. But they were prevailed upon to wait another ten days pending further negotiations.

Her black eyes flashing, one of the women told me about their working conditions and pay. "We



get 55 cents an hour straight time for seven hours and 96 cents with overtime. All of us work twelve hours because we just couldn't live without overtime. All of us have kids—some as many as six or eight and you can't feed them on \$19 a week."

CONDITIONS OF WORK

The women are ruthlessly

speeded up in the overtime work. "We have to cover about 11,000 square feet of space in our regular time," they told me. "Then we have to clean and scrub the same amount of space in the five hours of overtime." One of the women added indignantly: "And don't think we can leave unless all the space is finished—even if we have to finish it on our own time!"

The work is dirty and physically exhausting. In addition to lugging around their big, heavy mops and brooms, the women explained: "We have to pull two heavy water tanks on wheels down halls that are each a block long, and we have to lug them from floor to floor." These tanks weigh hundreds of pounds and "are so heavy they are enough to pull your insides out." In fact, they said, many women are ruptured and others develop permanent internal disorders.

The women mop, dust, polish and clean the offices, the toilets, the kitchens which have swanky dining rooms on some of the floors. They empty thousands of ash trays, hundreds of trash baskets, into huge sacks. The sacks when full are almost five feet high and half as big around. Each sack weighs at least 125 pounds. "One of us had to lug twenty-five of those sacks to the freight elevator, one day. She got so sick she never could come back."

On Fridays and Saturdays, they said, they must clean the carpets thoroughly. "We use a big hose—something like the hose firemen use. It weighs at least 150 pounds. One of the older women recalled: "Once I got sick for two weeks, after the hosing. I just couldn't move myself out of bed." Another woman remarked: "You should see the sweat roll down us—just like we were horses. And some of us get fever and sickness from going out all covered with sweat."

SWANKY OFFICES

I inquired what kind of offices they worked in and who owned them. One of the women works in the offices of the duPont Company which has several floors in the building. "It's full of fancy furniture and expensive rugs from one end to the other." On Christmas, she said, duPont used to give the cleaning women \$5. Last year they cut it to \$2.50. (duPont's net profits for 1944 were only \$80,870,106.)

Another woman works in the Schenley Distilling Company offices. "On the 37th floor they have the swellest restaurant and bar where they throw big, expensive parties. Us cleaning women have to clean up their mess after these big parties," she raged. The big shots leave crumpled crackers and food all over the place and on the carpets. And we're the ones that have to pick up all the empty bottles, put them in cases and drag them out—case after case of empties. "And you know, Schenley's won't even give a scrub woman a



sandwich or a glass of ginger ale! We find all the left-over food thrown away in the garbage next day. Then we have to cart it out." Deeply incensed, she added: "The place has to be cleaned up good too. If they find a speck of dust, we're reported to the office the next day."

One of the women reported that she worked in the B. R. Goodrich suite of offices, which also occupies a whole floor. "It looks like a multi-millionaire's place. Maroon rugs and white kid furniture. It's no fun to clean all the finger marks and spots off that white furniture and white wood-work too." A moment later she remembered: "They didn't leave anything at all for me for Christmas."

OPA FLOORS

The worst "space" in the building, they all agreed, is the OPA offices on the third and fourth floors. "For one thing you have to cover about 20,000 square feet of space," they said. The floors are unwaxed and must be scrubbed every day. The confusion, filth and mountains of trash make work on these floors "a nightmare" for the women.

As a consequence, the overseer, who goes around on surprise visits to catch women who might be taking a moment's rest, uses the OPA floors as a club over their heads. "If I see you loafing, I'll send you down to Three and Four," he threatens them. And many times he does send them down. "A little, skinny woman," they told me, "almost killed herself before they took her off that floor. She had six children to take care of too."

Just before I left, one of the women pointed with disdain to a "sympathetic" piece in a capitalist paper. "We don't want sympathy," she said. "We aren't crippled and we're ready to work. But we want our rights. We want the five cents an hour raise that's coming to us. And if we have to strike to get it, the elevator boys and porters are going out with us."

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Seamen's Pay Cut While Operators Rake in Profits

By Art Sharon

The merchant seamen are squaring away for a struggle to preserve their present conditions against the onslaught of the ship operators and the government. The proposal to cut the seamen's bonus, reported in last week's *Militant*, is only the first move in the operators-government campaign.

With the end of the European war, the three-year-long submarine menace in the Atlantic and adjacent waters is over. It has cost the lives of over 6000 merchant seamen, to mention nothing of the untold hardships for thousands who spent up to 3 months in lifeboats after the sinking or bombing of their ships. Hardly a seaman who sailed during the past three years escaped the dangers and tribulations that the war brought.

While he braved the torpedoes, the dive bombers and the icy waters of the "Murmansk run" the merchant seaman was the hero in dungarees. Medals and ribbons by the thousands were freely offered by the government and boys of the ship operators. More material rewards asked for by the seamen, such as improvement in living quarters in the floating death traps, better food to eat on voyages that sometimes lasted a year and more, restoration of previously cut bonuses, etc., received the familiar and obnoxious answer, "Don't you know there's a war on?"

The Stalinist leaders of one section of the seamen, the CIO National Maritime Union, simply urged more sacrifice above and beyond the ordinary demands of the wartime merchant service, as a "sure way" to convince the government and ship operators that the seamen were worthy of "better treatment" after the war.

OPERATORS PROSPER

On the other hand, the ship operators have done very well for themselves during the war. From August 1939 to Pearl Harbor, the average operating profits per dead-weight ton per month for the unsubsidized lines rose from \$1.26 to \$3.70. Those of the unsubsidized lines went up from \$1.51 to \$4.29.

The profits of the shipping lines went up in direct proportion to the number of seamen killed and maimed. When the submarines and dive bombers were the most active the cash take of the operators went up phenomenally. To the questions of various government committees about their untold profits, the shipping moguls told of the terrible risks that were being taken by the merchant marine. Such testimony proved sufficient to stop any serious attempt to trim their profits.

The sinking of freighters with crews of 50 to 60 during the war brought insurance payment far in excess of the original prices paid. Fortune magazine for November 1944 tells the story of how one ship operator received \$727,000 in insurance for an old tub bought for \$48,000 some years before. This was the usual practice. Increased submarine activity meant lush profit to the shipping lines.

Fortune magazine, in the cited article, states, "Incredible as it may seem, shipping is now prosperous. The assets of many companies have doubled and tripled; some have been multiplied five and ten times since the war began."

MINNEAPOLIS Militant Readers' Discussion Club

Saturday, June 2, 8 p. m.

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TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

Mine Union Affiliation

The labor reporter for the New York Post, Victor Riesel, states from San Francisco in his May 9 column that "John L. Lewis will take his 600,000 followers back into the AFL within a few weeks." The Post reporter was told this by AFL President Green, "who is here today to consult with U. S. delegates to the World Security Conference."

Riesel quotes Green as stating: "The United Mine Workers will be a part of the AFL before long. This is my personal opinion based on the facts and occurrences of the past weeks."

This is the first definite statement of this nature from any high AFL official. It would indicate that the AFL intends to admit the UMW once the hard coal strike is over.

The reaffiliation of the UMW would boost the AFL's membership to over 8,500,000. Such a move is likely to presage an intensification of the conflict between the AFL and CIO, with the hand of the craft union chiefs strengthened against industrial union organization, Riesel contends.

How Not to Win

The workers at Macy's Department Store in New York City, the largest department store in the world, have initiated a campaign for wage increases and against wage cuts. Department store employees are among the lowest paid workers in America, while department store profits have soared more than a 1000 per cent since 1939. However, their union, Local 1-S, CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, is dominated by Stalinists, whose idea of putting up a fight is a leaflet distributed to customers after closing time asking the customers to write letters to the management. The most prominent feature of the leaflet is the heading, "We Will Not Strike! That's Why We're Asking You To Help Us!"

The only people inspired by such a headline are the employers.

Rieve Retreats

President Emil Rieve of the CIO Textile Workers has used the authority granted him by the union's National Executive Council to re-impose the no-strike policy on the 100,000 cotton-rayon workers freed by the Council from the no-strike pledge last Feb. 20. This step backward was taken on April 10 in a letter to the local unions involved and the WLB, reports the May 1 *Textile Labor*.

The previous rescinding of the no-strike pledge together with Rieve's resignation from the WLB got more real action out of the WLB and the administration in one day than months of prolonged hearings and pleadings. The WLB hastened to announce a 55 cent wage minimum and various other concessions previously withheld from the textile workers.

These concessions were at best pretty small and far less than the union had demanded. Certainly they were no warrant for once more putting the no-strike noose around the neck of the textile

workers and bolstering the wage-freezing WLB.

This retreat is still less justified in the face of the general anti-labor offensive of the corporations today, which *Textile Labor* describes in the very same issue.

Moreover, Rieve's action throws light on the whole bureaucratic manner in which the no-strike policy has been foisted on the workers. Rieve and the top union officials put over the no-strike pledge. Then they withdrew it. Then they arbitrarily re-imposed it. But what did the workers have to say in all this? Nothing. They were never consulted about the no-strike policy to begin with.

But if Rieve can withdraw the pledge when he sees fit, why can't the workers? Especially since it was his pledge and not theirs.

Auto Firms Fire Vets

Ford, Chrysler and General Motors have started a campaign of firing returned veterans under the pretext that they are compelled to do so by the seniority terms of the CIO United Automobile Workers contracts.

The May 15 *United Auto Worker*, Service men's edition, exposes this attempt to incite the returned soldiers against the workers and the unions.

At Chrysler Dodge in Chicago, for instance, 50 veterans were fired with the blame being thrown on the union. At Ford Lincoln in Detroit three were discharged with the same propaganda. The union paper reveals that both these companies, as well as General Motors, have for eight months refused to sign a Model Contract clause to protect veterans who have not previously worked in these companies and give them seniority for their time in service. Some 40 other companies have already accepted it.

In the cases cited at Ford and Chrysler Dodge, the paper reports that: "Neither Chrysler nor Ford had to lay off those veterans EVEN UNDER EXISTING CONTRACT PROVISIONS!" The contract provides that those not employed less than six months are probationary and have no seniority. The companies deliberately selected veterans for dismissal when they were free to lay off other non-veterans. This was done to initiate an attack on the unions and create anti-union sentiment among returned soldiers.

"As soon as the union exposed these facts, the veterans were offered reinstatement," says the UAW paper. But not before the daily press made a lot of anti-labor capital out of the incidents.

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'Peace Pact' Is Smokescreen For Anti-Union Drive

By Joseph Keller

The top national committees of the CIO, AFL and U. S. Chamber of Commerce have all hastened to formally adopt the so-called capital-labor "postwar peace charter" designed in secret and signed by the respective heads of these bodies, Philip Murray, William Green and Eric Johnston. On May 4, the executive council of the AFL and the Board of Directors of the C. of C., following the previous action of the CIO National Executive Board, ratified the "peace pact."

As on all other questions of major policy, the ranks of the labor unions were neither consulted nor permitted to vote on the "peace charter." It is being thrust down their throats in the same fashion as the wartime "peace charter," drafted in the week after Pearl Harbor. This deprived the workers of the right to strike while the employers remained free to undermine collective bargaining and amass colossal profits.

But even as the union leaders try to sell labor on the idea that the employers are changing their stripes and moving in the direction of "good will" toward the unions, they are compelled to register complaints. These belie the fiction that the capitalists are interested in anything but expanding their profits and intensifying their exploitation of labor.

WARNS OF "CONSPIRACY"

Thus, on May 8, Philip Murray addressed a letter to all CIO affiliates charging that a "dangerous and well-organized conspiracy" is being conducted to destroy the National Labor Relations Act. This basic law is supposed to guarantee the right of collective bargaining.

The sole "concession" made to labor in the "peace charter," the recognition of collective bargaining rights, according to Murray, is being furiously assailed by the "representatives of the Michigan automobile lobby and the powerful food lobby, the same food lobby by which has operated with such disastrous effectiveness in connection with the current OPA hearings."

Murray need not have limited himself to these two major capitalist groups. The truth is that every single important section of industry — steel, rubber, oil, shipbuilding — is equally involved in this anti-labor conspiracy. Their most powerful organization, the National Association of Manufacturers, has openly admitted it is engaged in a legislative drive to outlaw strikes and the closed shop through a 5-point program

drafted jointly with the Chamber of Commerce.

The "peace charter" is contrived as a smokescreen of benevolence behind which the employers can slam away at labor. Murray and Green, however, ballyhoo it as a prerequisite for postwar "prosperity," "60,000,000 jobs," "high wages," etc. They contend that if only capital and labor would "get together" in the spirit of brotherly love — and on condition that the capitalists are guaranteed their "prerogatives" to control and run American economy as they please — then all would be hunky-dory for the workers.

INDUSTRIAL WAR

This very basis of the "peace charter" is absurd. Only the past week, the government spokesmen for Big Business, as reported on the front page of this issue of The Militant formally revealed some of their plans and perspectives. They forecast rising mass unemployment, wage slashes, price inflation. They foresee not industrial "peace" but industrial war, which they propose to forestall simply by disarming the workers with the continued enforcement of the no-strike policy and compulsory arbitration.

Will more "industrial harmony" under the monopoly "free enterprise" system ensure full employment? Even Senator George, author of the government's bill on reconversion, on May 14 cynically rejected the possibility of providing 60,000,000 jobs. Such a goal, he claims, would require "the most rigid regimentation we ever had in peace . . . we can't reach any such arbitrary figure as 60,000,000 jobs without controlling industry itself." Naturally, he opposes such "regimentation."

It is therefore a transparent fraud when Murray, Green and their lieutenants tell labor to submit peacefully to the anarchy of "free enterprise" and the "prerogatives" of the capitalist profiteers as a guarantee of security.



IT PAYS TO MONOPOLIZE!

The history of the Aluminum Co. of America reveals that it pays to monopolize. In the 50 years since the Mellon dynasty incorporated as the Pittsburgh Reduction Co. in 1888, up to 1939, its net income exceeded \$335 million.

In the 24 years from 1889 through 1912 the Mellon family reaped \$33 million on an original investment of \$2 million. Through their monopoly on the nation's aluminum industry, the Mellons shook down an average annual return on invested capital as follows: 35.7 per cent from 1905 to 1908; 17.6 per cent from 1909 to 1914; 19.3 per cent from 1915 to 1918; 9.4 per cent in 1919 and 1920. During the 1921-22 depression the family books showed a loss of 2.3 per cent, but from 1923 to 1929 they recuperated handsomely with a return of 10.2 per cent. In the 1930-34 depression the Mellons managed to scrape by with a 2.6 per cent return. The pinch of the depression was followed by a 12 per cent profit on invested capital from 1935 to 1939.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, however, the Mellons began to really make good. Net profits leaped from \$15 million in 1938 to \$36 million in 1939. Skillfully converting war orders into family profits, the Mellons admitted net profits of \$44 million in 1940, \$40 million in 1941, \$33 million in 1942, \$42 million in 1943, and \$31 million in 1944. The Mellons did not overlook converting government subsidies into family property. In 1938 total assets were listed as \$253 million. By 1941 they mushroomed to \$427 million. At the close of 1943 total assets appeared on the ledger sheets as \$610 million!

"Equality of sacrifice" for the workers; monopoly for the capitalists—the Mellon balance sheets show there's no better formula for improving family fortunes!

ST. PAUL WARD WORKERS NEED MILITANT PROGRAM

By Jack Pearson

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 12. —Recently a Twin Cities paper carried a half-page story on "Women in the Trade Unions" with pictures of two local union organizers—Signe Santabacha of Local 215 of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's union and Mrs. Baker of the United Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers, both CIO unions.

These local Stalinists were interviewed by a staff writer, who, in glowing terms, told of the

great job these two were doing in their respective positions.

Local 215 is the St. Paul Montgomery Ward local. The organizer of this local, on being asked what was the high point in her career, replied as follows: "KEEPING THE WARD WORKERS FROM GOING OUT ON STRIKE LAST YEAR WAS THE HARDEST AND GREATEST TASK I EVER PERFORMED."

In this she has something in common with Sewell L. Avery. It was also his most trying and difficult period. In this kind of strike — breaking performance this Stalinist performed a service for America's No. 1 union-hater and would-be Fascist. By her own admission she has become the agent of the capitalist class instead of acting in the interest of the workers.

Newark Carmen's Demands Turned Down By the WLB

NEWARK, May 8. —After ten months of hearings and "study," the War Labor Board yesterday denied virtually all of the demands of the AFL Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, whose contract with the Public Service Coordinated Transport Company expired last July.

The Board granted a five-cent an hour increase, retroactive to the expiration of the previous contract. The increase of five cents, which now brings the hourly rate to ninety-five cents an hour, was granted on the basis of parity with the New York drivers, who have been receiving that rate for several years. The Union had originally demanded an increase of ten cents, but later agreed to a five-cent increase and authorized a strike call if it were to be denied.

The Union's demand for time and a half pay beyond eight hours a day and forty hours a week was denied.

The Board also rejected the union's demand for a guaranteed work week, holiday pay and an increased vacation schedule. These demands were denied on the basis of non-conformity with "standard practice" in the industry.

News of the WLB decision has caused widespread indignation amongst the men. For years their fight to improve the rotten conditions imposed upon them by one of America's most powerful corporations has been greatly hampered by the limitations of a hide-bound craft union organization. The present decision of the WLB has served only to increase their dissatisfaction.

Recognition of this fact was expressed today in a statement on the decision by one of the Union's officials. He said to The Militant correspondent: "We got nothing that we couldn't have gotten directly from the company a year ago. All that the WLB gave us was a nickel and a headache."

Ford Local 600 Demands End of No-Strike Pledge

(Continued from page 1)

Grant put the motion to a vote and it passed.

As a member of the committee from the local executive board, Yost had been selected to read one of the Stalinist prepared resolutions. Alert to the occasion, he observed that the Stalinists had inadvertently placed him in a position to put the question of the no-strike pledge to an honest vote for the first time in the history of Local 600. He proceeded to incorporate in the resolution on the Little Steel Formula a resolve calling for the revocation of the no-strike pledge and the holding of a national labor holiday if the employers and their government refuse to comply with the workers' demands concerning the Little Steel Formula and reconversion policy.

The Stalinists were not the only group chilled by the resolution. Concerning Thomas, Leonard, Grant and other officers of the International Union on the platform Yost stated: "I could hear their fat jowls slapping the platform in consternation when I read the resolution." Although slightly exaggerated, this is not too bad a description of the proceedings.

Thomas, who has toadied to the government during the war years but is highly sensitive to the militant vibrations of the rank and file auto workers delivered an agitational speech in which he castigated the government for its lack of foresight in preparing for the

To follow the course of the Stalinist (Communist Party) leadership means defeat for the Ward workers and the wrecking of the once-militant local. It is time to call a halt and start to organize for the purpose of gaining much lost ground. The Stalinist leadership in local 215 must be driven out by the rank and file, organized in a left-wing caucus.

The spirit of militant action of the 1937-38 period must be revived. The workers must take over the local in order to gain anything at all from this reactionary, anti-union employer. In 1938, the Ward workers threw a reactionary business agent of an AFL union out of their hall. They then proceeded to elect one of their own members as business agent and took over the local. This is an example of what I mean by militant action of the 1937-38 period.

Some of the Ward militants are looking for the answer to their present problems in the jurisdictional fight between the Bridges-dominated ILWU and United Wholesale, Retail and Department Store Employees of America which has the bulk of the Ward workers throughout the country. A committee was set up at the last CIO convention to iron out this dispute.

Let us suppose that the ruling is in favor of the UWRDSEA. Will Bridges thereupon give up the local without having his Stalinists maintain some position? Supposing Bridges did give up the local, lock, stock and barrel, isn't the leaders of the UWRDSEA who told the workers to depend on their "friend" in the White House? Isn't this the same class collaborationism to gain their ends? Is either one of these positions the answer, that is, the position of the Stalinists or the position of the UWRDSEA officials?

Let us see what happened when the Army seized the Montgomery-Ward plants. 1. The workers in St. Paul, with Stalinist help, were kept from going out on strike in support of the key Chicago and other locals. 2. A small blanket increase was given which had already been demanded a year and a half earlier and therefore had already been wiped out by the increased cost of living. 3. Payments of backpay are still being postponed. 4. No contract of any kind has been signed in the St. Paul plant to date. Therefore, the corporation is not bound to anything. If the Army gives the plant back shortly, the company can rescind all army agreements. So you see the Army "seizure" has only postponed the struggle to another period. If Avery has his own way, it will be a period when the union gets weaker, not stronger. So we come back to the only answer.

The militant workers must regain control of their own union based on a fighting program for union recognition. This must include the rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living and an end to the false policy of relying upon the War Labor Board, and an immediate rescinding of the no-strike pledge. The Stalinists in the local are the main obstacle to this goal.

needs of a return to a peacetime economy.

His speech was a far cry from previous speeches in which he had asserted, with his accustomed belligerency, the certainty of a brave new world in which all men would live under the blessings of monopoly capitalism which would provide a guaranteed annual wage and 60,000,000 postwar jobs for the workers of America.

The Ford workers were in no mood for promises. They want action.

This meeting proved conclusively that only an organized, militant group of the union ranks can give the workers the program of action they need.

Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalsky

Willy grinned in my face. "What kind of a pal are you, Pop, not coming down to see me fight tonight?"

I smiled back and said, "I'm sorry, Willy. I can't make it. Good luck."

I thought to myself, "Good luck, kid. I hope you make it. I hope you do better than Punchy O'Donnell. I hope you get a break and make some money, and I hope you manage to keep it. I hope you don't get knocked silly like poor O'Donnell, trying to get a break for yourself."

I'd like to write a story about Punchy O'Donnell some day. I think I'd call it "The Man Who Tried To Get Ahead," and I'd tell all about the conditions that made Punchy go out and get pounded all around the ring time and time again, trying to rise out of his class in the only way he could figure out.

Punchy O'Donnell came out of the steel plants like a lot of other fighters. He was a likeable young guy, tall and rangy with good shoulders and hard muscles. He worked on the mill line where his father had worked before him. But of course in those days nobody called him "Punchy"; he was Jack O'Connell, tough, but a nice young guy.

It would be sort of unnecessary to say that life was hard in the O'Donnell family. The old man was a steelworker, and life was always tough for steelworkers. Sometimes he'd be working all the time, long twelve-hour shifts with a twenty-four hour stretch every other week-end, and then other times, there'd be no work at all, and the O'Donnell family and all the other steelworkers' families would be on starvation rations, living practically from hand to mouth, picking up coal on the railroad tracks to heat their rickety houses.

Jack O'Donnell remembered all this vividly. He was very conscious of the lines of worry in the old man's face and of the droop of weariness in the old man's sagging shoulders. He looked about him and saw no light: he saw only the darkness of poverty and insecurity ahead. But he was young, as I said, and tough. There had been guys. . . Well, there was Gene Tunney. Cripes, he was just a poor guy to begin with, and cripes! He was champ. Maybe there was a ray, at least a glimmer of light. Jack O'Donnell wasn't going to be just a working man getting kicked around all his life. Jack O'Donnell was going to be champ and ride around in a big car and wear swell clothes and maybe marry a debutante like Gene Tunney and never have to worry about money like the old man.

So young Jack started out in the amateurs, and he did pretty well. He rolled up a long string of knockout victories and only lost a couple of decisions and fought one draw. The sports writers thought he had something, and so did Mickey Daniels, the manager who took Jack into his stable as an up and coming young pro.

The Fighting Career of Jack O'Donnell

In the professional ranks, Jack did pretty well too. He went blazing along knocking over everybody that got in front of him. "Just give me a crack at the champ," he told the reporters, and the reporters said the champ had better look out, because Jack O'Donnell would make an ex-champ out of him.

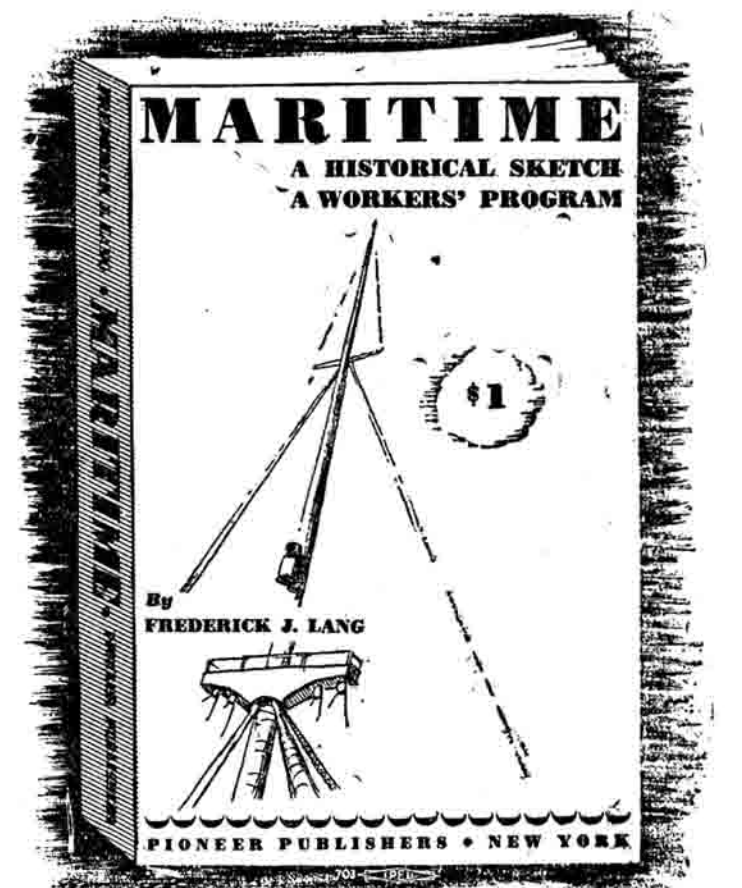
But Jack never got to the champ. There was a cagy old-timer that blocked the way to the title and sent Jack back the way he had come. The old-timer was Dick Williams, a thirty-three year old Negro who had been fighting since he was fifteen and knew all the tricks. He had never got very far, but he was known. All the better boys had licked him, and he had licked all the others who hadn't been quite good enough for the better boys. He was known as a trial horse.

Well, it turned out that Jack, in spite of eight to one odds, wasn't quite good enough. Perhaps it was the cold winters when he couldn't get the right food as a kid. Perhaps even his mother's milk has been weakened by poverty. But whatever it was, Jack didn't have what it takes, and Williams mauled him around pretty badly.

Daniels said one defeat didn't matter, that Jack would beat Williams in a return match and then get the champ. But Williams beat Jack again, beat him badly, beat Jack's tall, tottering form all around the ring and knocked him out in the sixth. And then the other boys began to beat Jack too, and Jack got the name of Punchy, because too many hard blows on the jaw and head had made him sort of queer.

Finally no promoter, not even the smallest, would give Jack, or rather Punchy, a fight. He was just a stumblebum, broke and seedy, with a pushed-in face and a dull, battered brain, the victim of barroom toughs who liked to brag, "Say, I got in a fight over in Joe's with O'Donnell, you know, the fighter, and I knocked him on his—"

So Jack O'Donnell came back to us again. He works in the labor gang when he's not off drunk. God! I hope young Willy gets a better break than poor old Punchy.



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TO ALL MILITANT READERS:

Sunday May 27 is The Last Day Of The Militant Sub Campaign

THE MILITANT cordially invites all readers and friends to help us on the last day of our campaign. All the branches of the Socialist Workers Party listed below are mobilizing their members on Sunday, May 27th, attempting to double our original goal and reach 20,000 new subscribers. Come to our headquarters; go out with our comrades; and celebrate the achievements with us afterwards.

Chicago

3 Mobilizations!

No. Side: Belmont at Damen
11 a. m.

N. W. Side: Pulaski at North Avenue
11 a. m.

So. Side: 47th and S. Parkway
11:30 a. m.

Dinner and Dancing at 3 p. m.
160 N. Wells Street, Room 317

Toledo

Sub Mobilization

1 p. m.

Followed by Social
905 Jefferson, Room 304

Detroit

Sub Mobilization

12 Noon

Followed by Social
3513 Woodward Avenue

Milwaukee

Sub Mobilization

9:45 a. m.

926 N. Plankinton, Room 21

Akron

Sub Mobilization

2:30 p. m.

Buffet Dinner at 5:30
6 Everett Bldg.
39 E. Market Street

New York

2 Mobilizations

Manhattan:
116 University Place

Brooklyn:
571 Pacific Street

Both at 10 a. m.

Joint Social 5 p. m.
116 University Place

Newark

Sub Mobilization

10:30 a. m.

Gala Social After
423 Springfield Avenue

Seattle

Sub Mobilization

12 Noon

Buffet Supper at 5:30
1919 1/2 Second Avenue

Reading

Sub Mobilization

10 a. m.

8th and Windsor

Boston

Sub Mobilization

1 p. m.

WORKERS EDUCATIONAL CENTER
30 Stuart Street

Los Angeles

3 Mobilizations

12 Noon

Los Angeles and vicinity:
232 S. Hill Street, Room 200-05

Long Beach and San Pedro:
1008 S. Pacific, Room 214, San Pedro

Southgate and vicinity:
8026 Seville Avenue, Southgate

City-Wide Dinner
232 S. Hill Street, at 6 p. m.

Buffalo

Sub Mobilization

2 p. m.

Social at 7 p. m.
950 Main Street, Room 5

Philadelphia

Sub Mobilization

11:30 a. m.

Followed by a Social
405 W. Girard Avenue

Cleveland

Sub Mobilization

12 Noon

1446 East 82nd Street

Twin Cities

Sub Mobilization

10 a. m. to 5

Followed by Supper Party
10 S. 4th Street
Minneapolis

Mistreatment Of Sick Veterans Charged

NEGRO PLASMA SEGREGATION TRACED TO ARMY JIM CROW

Conclusive proof that the Jim Crow policy of the Army lies behind the segregation of white and Negro blood in the Red Cross blood banks was obtained in a recent interview of Negro leaders with Brigadier General F. W. Rankin, adviser to the Surgeon General of the Army. The story of this interview, which took place last month, was reported in the April 28 issue of the New York Negro newspaper, *People's Voice*.

Members of the delegation which met with Brigadier General Rankin were: Doxey Wilkerson, National Negro Congress; Beatrice Reed, administrative assistant, Wash., D. C. NAACP; Robert Sherman, president, Wash. D. C. CIO Council; Charlotte May, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses; Harry McAlpin, National Bar Association's legal committee.

Despite their announcement that they had come as "friends of the Administration," Brigadier General Rankin turned down the delegates' plea for an end to the segregation policy of administering blood plasma. The delegates were told flatly that "many whites object to having Negro blood inserted into their veins" and that a change in the policy "would greatly militate against the successful conclusion of the program for collecting blood plasma for the armed forces."

NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS

But the distinguished scientists of the Committee on Race Relations of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists have some different ideas on this subject. In a report published in the July 4, 1942 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*:

A Tribute To Theodore Debs, Sincere Socialist

The recent death of Theodore Debs recalls the great days of the early Socialist movement in the United States and the role which the Debs brothers played in this movement. As secretary to his brother, Eugene V. Debs, outstanding American Socialist leader for over two decades, Theodore shared his brother's struggles as well as his successes.

David Karsner, official biographer of Eugene Debs, writes: "We could not conclude this phase of the life of Debs, his early struggles and the backgrounds that bring his portrait out in relief, without a word about his brother, Theodore Debs. . . . Theodore has been a tireless worker for a score of years or more by Eugene's side. He has had no public recognition or honors and has never sought any." (D. Karsner, "Debs—His Life and Letters" pp. 128-9).



By Grace Carlson

"The defendants and their co-conspirators would endeavor by any means at their disposal to procure members of the military and naval forces of the United States to become undisciplined, to complain about food, living conditions, and missions to which they would be assigned, to create dissension, dissatisfaction and insubordination among the armed forces, to impair the loyalty and morale thereof. . . ."

This is Count 7 of the frame-up indictment brought in 1941 against 29 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Motor Transport Workers Union, 544-CIO in the Minneapolis Labor Case. No evidence was brought in court to substantiate the charge of interfering with the morale of the armed forces, but 18 of us had to serve terms in federal prisons just the same.

But the morale of the disabled servicemen — of the wounded and sick veterans who have been discharged to the Veterans Administration hospitals is not "protected" by the U. S. Department of Justice. Recent exposures of conditions in veterans' hospitals have shown that there is plenty of reason for veterans themselves

"to complain about food and living conditions" in these institutions. Investigators have found a tremendous amount of "dissatisfaction" among the veteran patients in these federally-operated hospitals.

"MORALE IMPAIRED"

"The morale" of these war casualties of the "military and naval forces of the United States" has certainly been "impaired." But no federal indictments have been brought against the heads of the Veterans' Administration who are responsible for these shocking conditions in veterans' hospitals. They haven't even lost their jobs! Most thorough of the investigations into conditions in Veterans' Administration hospitals was made by Albert Q. Maisel, author of "Miracles of Military Medicine" and "The Wounded Get Back." Published under the title, "Third-Rate Medicine for First-Rate Men," Maisel's articles on veterans' hospitals ran in the March and April issues of *Cosmopolitan*. In the introduction to the second article, Maisel writes:

"In last month's *Cosmopolitan*, I exposed how thousands of tuberculous veterans are being neglected, mistreated, underfed, and discharged to almost certain death in the hospitals run by the Veterans' Administration. Yet these t. b. hellholes — disgraceful as they are — are almost heavenly compared with the thirty Mental Hospitals run by the same Veterans' Administration."

"Read the evidence in the accompanying article — the shocking, shameful evidence of brutality, beatings, overcrowding and third-rate treatment which are the lot of our most defenseless disabled veterans. Read it — and remember that this is no description of Hitler's concentration camps. This is happening today and every day, here at home to Americans — the veterans who

before company unions be rejected as bargaining agents."

before company unions be rejected as bargaining agents."

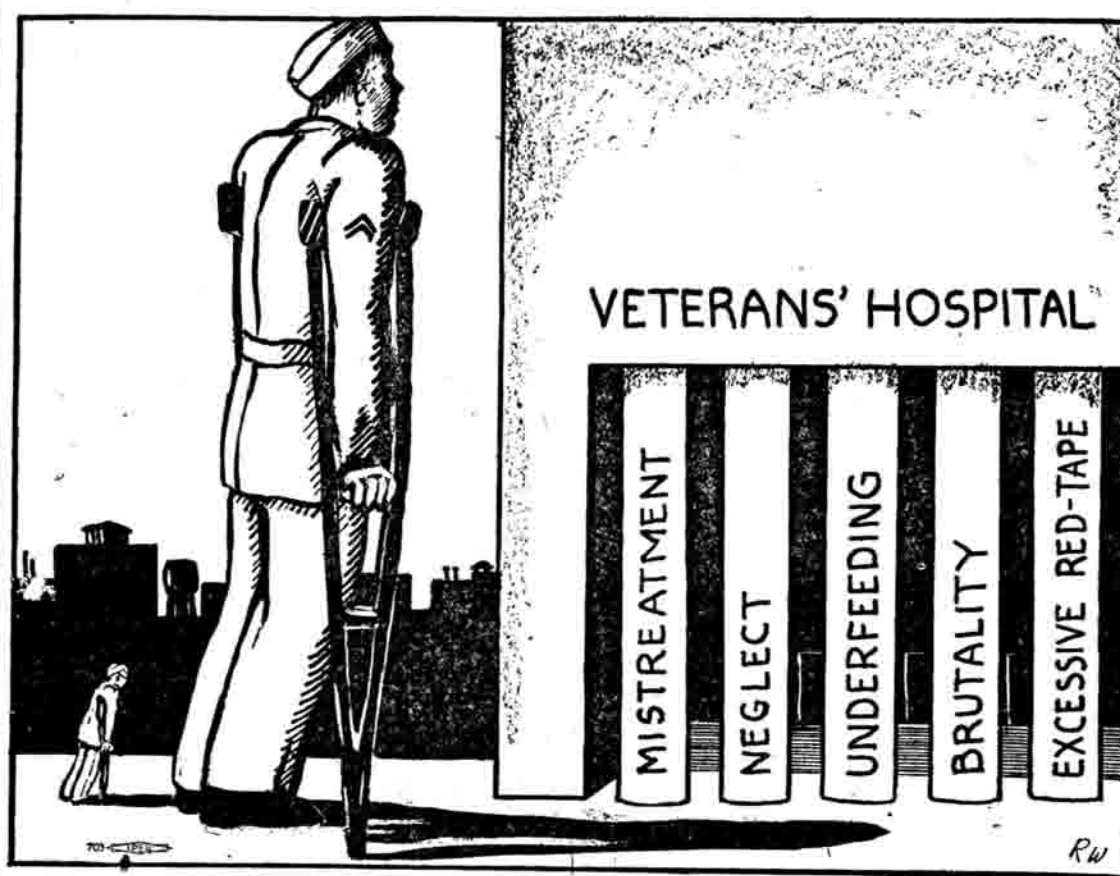
Real Aim of the Wagner Act

Only after the great strikes which built the CIO did the Wagner Labor Act become a law, not to help organize the unorganized but to channelize the struggles of the already-organized workers into government boards.

It was on the picket-line, as the history of the rise of the CIO shows, that the workers raised the average hourly wage. But even so, one must understand the real limitations of this gain. Until the war, the rise in wages of the employed workers did not mean a rise in the total wages. Total wages were \$3 billions in 1929, and only \$5 billions in 1938. The working class as a whole had less to live on during the New Deal years than before the depression began.

The true story of such gains as were made by the workers during the Roosevelt administration is long and complex. We have told that story over and over in our press during the past twelve years. But there is a short and conclusive way to measure Roosevelt's attitude toward the workers. What did his administration do for the unemployed? If it were true that the workers owe their gains to Roosevelt's humanitarianism, then this should show most clearly in the case of the most needy, the unemployed.

The central fact to understand is that it is a myth that Roosevelt steadily supported federal responsibility for unemployment relief. He did so only during the short period of the existence of FEKA, from the spring of 1933 to the end of 1935, during which the federal government put up three dollars for relief to every dollar spent by state and local governments. "While it isn't written in the Constitution," he declared in 1933, "nevertheless it is the inherent duty of the federal government to keep its citizens from starving."



should be our honored and best-treated citizens."

Already 10,000 mental casualties of World War II have been "shoehorned" into the Veterans' Mental Hospitals alongside the 30,000 mentally wrecked soldiers from World War I. Maisel visited many of these hospitals and talked to Veterans' Administration officials and mental patients of both wars. He has mountains of evidence of bureaucracy, incompetence, backwardness and brutality.

The most damning evidence against them came from the diary of Robert Hegler, a conscientious objector who ran away from the Veterans' Mental Facility at Lyons, N. Y. in October 1944. Hegler's diary shown to New York City reporters told of veteran patients being "kicked in the head," "beaten up in bed," "being 'wounded out' i. e., being choked with a towel around the neck."

Maisel reports that after Hegler's story broke in the New York papers Brigadier General Frank Hines the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs was forced to make an investigation into Hegler's charges. On November 17, 1944, General Hines said, "The investigation reveals some substantiation of the charges made by Robert Hegler. . . . Appropriate steps are being taken to remedy the situation. . . ."

In January, 1945, Maisel went to the Veterans' Hospital at Lyons to find out what changes have been made. He found that M. E. Head was still the Manager of the hospital and that Colonel Lopez was still the Chief Medical Officer there. One physician has been transferred to another veterans' hospital. According to Colonel Lopez, "no dismissals had occurred though a few attendants — two or three — had been permitted to resign."

But there was ONE victim. Robert Hegler, the conscientious objector who exposed these conditions was sent to federal prison!

Labor Spy Confesses Boss Plot To Smash Ohio Union

The use of labor spies to smash unions or prevent union organization is an old and established custom of Big Business. For the benefit of workers who have had no experience with these dealings of the bosses we reprint the full, sworn statement of such a spy who framed a union organizer. This is reported by the April 28 "Lorain (Ohio) Labor Leader" published by the Lorain County CIO Council.

"While in the employ of the Ridge Tool Company, Elyria, Ohio during the month of January, 1944, during an organizational drive put on by the AFL, I was contacted at my home one Sunday by Gerald Nau, Employment Manager, and Edward Swanson, Superintendent of the company, and asked to cooperate in keeping the union out of the plant."

"They wired the plant so that a switch in the receiving room would turn on the lights in the office of Gerald Nau and over the desk of Ed Pomroy, Maintenance Foreman."

"I was told to signal them when in the midst of union activity such as signing members and talking about the union."

"On January 31, 1944, I and Frank Kayden were signing up members in the receiving room. In the midst of this activity I signalled Gerald Nau, who came down and caught Frank Kayden and I in the act of performing union activity on company time."

COMPANY PAYS OFF

"Both of us were fired. However, the company kept in touch with me. Nau delivered \$100 in cash to me every two weeks, meeting me in his car either in Grafton, along Elyria-Grafton road, or at my house. They continued to pay me from the time of my discharge until the NLRB

hearing in March and until I came back to work in June."

"I was given an extra \$100 by Nau for my testimony at the hearing, saying it was from Ingwer, President of the Ridge Tool Company."

"A few nights before the NLRB hearing, Attorneys R. W. and R. F. Vandemark, representing the company asked me to their office, where they asked me to tell them the whole story. I told them substantially what I have stated above."

"Later in the hearing they evaded any questions which would have brought out the real facts of the case."

"Both Kayden and I were ordered reinstated with back pay by the NLRB. Thereafter Gerald Nau sent me a letter asking me to write the company waiving my back pay and asking reinstatement. I was put back to work without back pay."

"In the early part of this year my income tax return was prepared by the younger Vandemark. At that time he knowingly failed to include the money paid me by Gerald Nau while I was no longer working at the Ridge Tool Company."

Signed, "Maurice F. Banks."

Efforts to unionize the plant are now being conducted by the CIO United Steelworkers of America.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

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

by CHARLES JACKSON

Hitler's Race Hatred Is Not Dead!

"HITLER'S RACE HATRED IS DEAD!" headlines the May 5th *Michigan Chronicle*, Negro weekly. The article describes him as one of the bloodiest rulers of all times and points out that his climb to power utilized an organized campaign of race hatred. These latter remarks are true. But we are forced to warn *The Militant* readers that the policy of indoctrination of racial hatred is NOT dead. Anyone who says it IS dead is just indulging in wishful thinking.

Furthermore race hatred was never the PRIVATE property nor possession of Hitler. It was here before he came and it is STILL here since he has gone. IT IS, however, the private property of the CAPITALIST SYSTEM today. Hitler never set foot in America—but capitalism did: and race hatred over here is neither dead nor dying.

Significantly enough on May 1st (the date of Hitler's reported death), in the *Detroit News* (an organ of anti-labor and anti-Negro reaction) Rep. Hoffman (from the home state of the *Michigan Chronicle*) was reported to have taken a "vigorous blast" at the Fair Employment Practices bill.

WISHES—AND REALITY

While the bill, in writing, would take a dig at those employers who refuse to hire Negroes or Jews on a job for which they are qualified, yet Hoffman is infuriated by even this gesture at equality in employment. Pulling the time-worn trick out of his bag, this domestic race-baiter viewed with alarm the "additional desire to prohibit discrimination in social intercourse. . . ." A known stooge for the vested interests he nevertheless charged that the sponsors of the bill "expect financial reward" from this step in the direction of economic equality for the working people.

Since 59 per cent of the cases studied by the present FEPC have involved discrimination against Negroes and since Negroes comprise but 10 per cent of the population, therefore, says Hoffman, "the only discrimination practiced has been in favor of—not against—the Negro."

Regardless of what we WISH were true, the death knell of race hatred (be it Hitlerite or Hoffmannite) can ONLY toll when capitalist exploitation is supplanted by Socialist liberation. Only then will we have reason to celebrate Victory Day.

IT DOES COME OUT

A correspondent removes the grinning mask covering the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's face and reveals the following:

"IT COMES OUT IF IT'S IN YOU. . ." states the caption over a picture of Negro sailors and hostesses at an official dance run by the Navy Department at its Treasure Island Station in California. The Masthead of April 14, 1945, official camp newspaper, goes on to relate how the Negroes present "jived and jitturbugged to the torrid tunes of Treasure Island's jump band."

IT DOES COME OUT

A correspondent removes the grinning mask covering the Na-

vy's racial policy and exposes the true anti-Negro character which even this jive quotation unwittingly reveals.

"This dance," he writes, "was one of the Jim Crow dances sponsored by the Navy Department for its colored personnel. A glance at the picture reveals that only Negroes were present and the dance was advertised as a dance for colored personnel. A week or so previous to this dance, the station had sponsored a dance for its white personnel."

"These dances are periodic affairs run by the station and live up to the Jim Crow tactics of the military organizations of this country. In that respect, the heading above the picture 'It comes out if it's in you. . .' contains more truth than the narrow meaning the newspaper refers to."

Thus the vicious policy of forcefully separating the workers in uniform on the basis of color must invariably be carried out by the military and every other branch of this capitalist government because dividing the masses and setting them against each other is a NECESSARY weapon of this exploitive system.

We remind the Navy brass hats and the imperialist forces which they represent that not only 'jive' but JIM CROW "comes out if it's in YOU — yes, indeed!"

TRUMAN'S VIEWS

LEST WE FORGET, Harry Truman, the new chief executive, is the same Truman who supports segregated schools in Missouri, who believes that Negroes should be thrown physically out of restaurants in his home town of Independence, and who stated he has never invited a Negro to his home for dinner AND NEVER WILL.

He is even now laying the ground work for anti-Negro attacks in which the fascist agents of big business will be white-washed and the Negroes, themselves, blamed. This is proved by his statement quoted in *The Call* of April 23, 1945, "Negroes," said Truman, "are going too far in St. Louis. These Negroes have started a 'push day' once a week, when they shove white people out of bars. Why, St. Louis is sitting on a keg of dynamite. And they've got a 'push day' in Washington, too! I won't let my daughter go downtown on the streetcars on Thursdays any more. It's not safe. They push white people off the street cars."

Returning Veterans Bitter Over GI Bill

(Continued from page 1)

agency must deem the veteran a sound risk. "As far as getting a loan is concerned," wrote Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in her May 5 column, "the GI Bill of Rights 'gives them nothing that they could not get in the ordinary way. . . . red tape makes the whole proceedings so long and complicated that most of them feel difficulties are being put in their way instead of help being extended.'"

HOME LOANS

This is corroborated by Ray Turk in the May 1 *Cleveland News*, who states: "GI loans are mostly pipedreams. . . . tougher to get than a three day pass to Paris." He states that although machinery was set up six months ago to "grind out loan guarantees," only 21 GI loans for veterans in Cuyahoga County have been approved. "During the same time more than 200 other discharged veterans have obtained priorities to build new homes in this county without the wide-advertised 'help' of the GI loans." This is a great hardship on the veterans, who dip into their tiny savings or borrow the money from loan sharks.

NEW YORK

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What Did Roosevelt Do For Labor?

By Felix Morrow

In previous articles we have demonstrated, with facts and figures, that Roosevelt (1) had no solution for economic crises; (2) that monopolies grew during his administration; (3) that the farmer's permanent crisis remains. Roosevelt admirers can hardly deny these facts, and so they evade these crucial questions.

On one question, however, they challenge us. Isn't it a fact that the workers made gains during Roosevelt's administration? Didn't his sponsorship of 7A and the Wagner Labor Act help the unions organize and result in average hourly wage increases?

It would be easy enough to show that Section 7A of the NRA was the least that could be conceded to the trade unions in exchange for their acceptance of the NRA, which enabled the monopolies to grow as never before. And far from guaranteeing the right to organize, 7A was interpreted by Roosevelt himself to permit company unions. The auto workers, for instance, should still remember Roosevelt's sponsorship of the notorious "merit clause" in the NRA Auto Code, enabling employers to hire and fire on an open shop basis; and the vicious Auto Labor Board, set up in March 1934 by Roosevelt, which tried to maintain company unionism.

As for the Wagner Labor Act, adopted in 1935, it would be easy to show that it came AFTER the workers, losing their illusions about 7A, embarked on the greatest strike wave of the Twentieth Century. It was Roosevelt himself who, in June 1934, on the same day that the Wagner Labor Bill was to come up for final vote, set up instead the National Steel Labor Relations Board which recognized company unionism. Senator Robinson, Democratic floor leader, stating that he was acting on Roosevelt's request, on that day prevented the Wagner Bill from coming to a vote. Senator Wagner himself stated that he accepted Roosevelt's judgment that "further trial be permitted

Unemployment Relief Under FDR

But it was precisely this principle that he abandoned in 1935, when the great body of the unemployed were returned to state and local relief and the federal government limited its relief responsibilities to those on WPA jobs. This meant that about three-fourths of the unemployed were turned back to the states and communities, under Roosevelt's infamous pronouncement to Congress early in 1935: "The federal government must and shall quit this business of relief." During most of the New Deal, three-fourths of the unemployed were reduced to the coolie levels of local relief, which even in a rich state like New York averaged about \$25 a month per family.

In comparison to local relief, the \$50 per month average of WPA wages seemed munificent. But how many got it? Only one out of every four or five families on relief. And many unemployed were either unable to get on the relief rolls or refused to undergo the humiliation of applying for relief until they were actually starving.

Let us see the actual statistics of how many were on WPA and PWA, and how many were unemployed, during the peacetime New Deal years. The figures for WPA and PWA payrolls are the government's own. Those for the number of unemployed are the very conservative figures of the AFL monthly estimates (which I have roughly computed in yearly totals). It should be remembered that the only actual count of the unemployed ever attempted, the Federal "unemployment census" taken in the summer of 1937, showed about two million MORE unemployed than the AFL estimate. Here are the figures:

Year	WPA	PWA	No. Unemployed
1935	1,092,000	325,000	10,500,000
1936	3,061,000	268,000	9,000,000
1937	2,140,000	159,000	10,000,000
1938	2,926,000	111,000	11,000,000
1939	2,436,000	233,000	10,500,000
1940	1,941,000	61,000	9,500,000

These figures show:

- (1) PWA proved to be not a drop in the bucket as a means of alleviating unemployment.
- (2) WPA ranged from employing one out of ten of the unemployed to one out of three—the latter, however, only during 1936.
- (3) In the election year of 1936, WPA payrolls were at their highest. Similarly for the years of Congressional elections, and also for 1940, payrolls temporarily rose just preceding elections.

What the Figures Prove

But, goes the myth, it wasn't Roosevelt's fault, but the fault of the Republican and ultra-reactionary Democratic Congressmen who cut down his requests for appropriations. This systematically-propagated lie is refuted by the complete figures of how much Roosevelt asked for WPA each year. These show he asked for little more than the so-called "Republocrats" gave, and far less than the labor movement asked for. Here one example must suffice. On April 27, 1939 Roosevelt wrote in his relief message to Congress:

What Roosevelt Really Did

"For the fiscal year 1940, I recommend, therefore, that the specific sum of \$1,477,000,000 be provided for the Works Progress Administration. This represents a reduction of one-third below the amount provided in the current fiscal year."

In other words, it was Roosevelt himself who, when unemployment stood at nearly eleven million, proposed to throw a million out of the 2,900,000 on WPA off the payrolls.

In a word, the story of his admirers, that Roosevelt provided WPA jobs for the bulk of the unemployed, is a deliberate fraud.

(This is the fourth of a series of articles on Roosevelt's role.)

Exploding Lies Of The Jew-Baiters

By Dan Shelton

Hitler may be dead—but the poisonous lies of Hitlerism still live and circulate in this country. For example, there are people who say: "It's the Jews who run this country and run us all to the dogs. It's the Jewish bankers and industrialists who own the United States and its Jew newspapers and movies that fool us into believing differently."

Such statements are a pack of lies and there are plenty of facts to show this. *Fortune* magazine's statistical survey of "Jews in America," conducted in 1937, is but one of many proofs.

The great mass of the four and a half million American Jews (three and a half per cent of the population) is made up of work-

The myth of the "Jewish banker" is exploded by the following facts. Of 420 bank directors, only 30 are Jews. There are no Jewish directors in the biggest United States banks: National City, Guaranty Trust, Chase and First National. The great investment banking firms such as J. P. Morgan, Dillon Read and Chase—among the real rulers of the United States—are composed of non-Jews. Finally, there are virtually no Jewish employees in the largest commercial banks.

JEW IN INDUSTRY

A similar situation prevails on the New York Stock Exchange, nerve center of United States economic life. Only 250 out of 1375 members are Jews. Only 55 of 637 firms are listed as Jewish.

In the insurance business, one of the nation's most gigantic enterprises, "the absence of Jews is noteworthy," *Fortune* remarks.

Jews hold an even more inconspicuous place in heavy industry, the very foundation of United States economic life. They are not to be found in the directing circles of Big Steel or Little Steel or in any other of the nation's basic industries. The automobile industry is non-Jewish in its entirety; there are but three Jews of any prominence in the executive end of manufacturing. In fact, Henry Ford is one of the foremost anti-Semites.

Such giant industrial combines as Koppers Coke and the other 25 leading coal companies are entirely non-Jewish. So is the entire rubber industry, led by Firestone and U. S. Rubber. The chemical industry, with its enormous wartime expansion, is non-Jewish (du Pont, Allied Chemical & Dye, etc.).

More Jews are to be found in the motion picture industry (Warner Bros. and Loew's, Inc.). But even here the majority of owners are non-Jews (20th-Century Fox, Paramount, Universal and most of RKO).

SMALL SHOPKEEPERS

But some misguided worker may say, "Is it not true that in some industries or professions we constantly meet Jews? Does this not prove the point?" This impression is created, according to *Fortune*, by the fact that "many Jews are to be found in occupations that bring them into direct contact with the consumer-workers." In our daily lives we do not meet the heads of U. S. Steel or of the National City Bank, but we do meet the Jewish grocery-

man. The real power in the United States, however, is wielded precisely by the magnates of U. S. Steel and not by a little candy-store owner. It is not the thousands of small enterprises that determine economic power, rather it is the few huge monopolistic enterprises which rule us all.

Thus, in retailing, some of the big department stores (especially in New York) are Jewish-owned. But the big Five and Ten chains, such as Woolworth and Kress are 95 per cent gentile-owned. So are Stern Bros., Wanamaker's, Lord & Taylor in New York, and Marshall Field in Chicago. In the food-and-grocery field, 98 per cent of the chains, including A & P, are non-Jewish.

Neither Montgomery Ward nor Sears Roebuck is Jewish-owned, nor are 90 per cent of the drug store chains.

Armed with these undeniable facts, the progressive worker can point them out to his fellow-workers and warn of the poison of anti-Semitic propaganda. But he may well be asked: "If it isn't the Jew who runs this country, who is it?"

BANKERS AND BOSSES

There is only one group that really runs this country—the bosses. It is not the Jewish bankers nor the Jewish industrialists, but ALL the bankers and ALL the industrialists combined who are the rulers, Jews and Christians alike. Their religion should matter as little to us workers as it does to them. Their only god is the dollar, and not Christ or Jehovah. It is profit they worship. And they violate all ten commandments every day to uphold their only commandment, "Thou shalt make more money."

They do this by cutting wages and initiating speed-ups; by establishing monopolies and fixing prices; and by making war to get rid of imperialist rivals and to get fat war profits.

It is the bosses who try to fool the workers by telling them about the Jews "running the show." It is the bosses who benefit if they can divide the workers and set Christian against Jew, white against Negro, Irish against Italian.

Hitler, pawn of the Big Bosses, fooled some of the German workers into believing that they could end their troubles by getting rid of the Jews. By now, the German workers have learned the full measure of Hitler's fraud. The Jews have been "gotten rid of" but the bosses have remained to gobble up profits, drive down the workers' living standards and slaughter them in their disastrous imperialist war. Fascist Germany is proof that it is not the Jews who are the workers' real enemies.

Let us not be deceived by these same lies.

Scotch That Snake!



Reprinted by courtesy of "338 News."

U. S. Brass Hats Teach A Lesson In Etiquette

By Bill Morgan

Do you know your etiquette? Do you always act like a gentleman or gentlewoman, as the case may be, when confronted with a delicate social situation? If you want a chance to brush up on the gentle art of manners, consider this example of conduct taken from May 3 N. Y. *Herald-Tribune*.

One morning recently some American officers attached to the headquarters of General Patch's 7th Army discovered that they had a German prisoner on their hands. He was none other than Field Marshal Karl Rudolf Gerd von Rundstedt, Prussian aristocrat and commander-in-chief of the German armies on the western front. You can imagine their surprise.

There he stood, surrounded by newspapermen who were pestering him and asking all sorts of questions. And the poor fellow was tired and nervous after a

long drive from his headquarters at Bad Toelz to the American lines.

Not one of the American officers was so rude as to rush out, gun in hand, and yell "Hands up!" or anything like that. Oh, no. These officers were gentlemen, as we shall see, and they know how to deal with prisoners—especially Prussian aristocrats.

The first to act was Major Frank W. Milburn, commander of the 21st Army Corps. He eased the situation at once by inviting the Field Marshal inside for a bit of a chat. And as they entered the headquarters Milburn remarked, "This is not an interrogation or anything like that. I have the utmost respect for your ability as a soldier."

(At this point some prisoners might have been stripped of their weapons and searched for documents, handled roughly, and ordered to march to the rear at double-time. But not this prisoner. No, he was in the hands of gentlemen.)

Once inside and seated comfortably the Field Marshal was urged to accept some coffee and cognac. His nerves, you know... He accepted the refreshments. Then, a bit embarrassed, he asked for a cigarette. A most reasonable request.

FIELD MARSHAL TALKS

This time Colonel Rinaldo von Brandt of San Antonio, Texas performed the honors. He immediately produced a package of a popular brand of American cigarettes and offered them to the prisoner.

(Once again you may wonder why not one of the American officers ordered the prisoner out to dig graves for the burnt, mangled corpses of Hitler's victims. You forgot we are dealing here with officers and gentlemen.)

In the quiet, chummy atmosphere of the decent gentlemen,



the Field Marshal relaxed and felt entirely at ease and, for an hour or so, while he sipped his coffee and cognac and smoked his cigarette, he talked with his new friends.

He spoke of the war. Sometimes he spoke sadly. Sometimes he spoke bitterly and at times he was downright whimsical.

"It was amusing when I had my headquarters in Paris, at Versailles. The French said they did not fear air raids because General Eisenhower and I had agreed not to bomb each other's command post," he said, grinning broadly.

(Of course no one mentioned a word about taking the prisoner on a tour of the concentration camps to view the atrocities. Only a cad would bring up such a subject.)

The Field Marshal was immaculate in his trim, grey-green uniform but he apologized for his scanty luggage. "My last thing I had was destroyed last March when your airforce bombed me out at Bad Nauheim."

Again Milburn stepped into the breach. In a diplomatic effort to take the prisoner's mind off the war he said, "This is beautiful country through here."

(It would have been definitely out of place and a sign of bad manners to suggest that the prisoner be sent to a foreign country as a slave laborer. Happily none of the officers present made this blunder.)

THOUGHTS ON WAR

Completely rested and feeling rather chipper, the Field Marshal again talked of the war. "Aren't you surprised to see the destruction your bombers and artillery have caused?" he asked.

Now it fell upon Brigadier General Ward H. Marks, of Pasadena, Calif., to relieve the prisoner's self-consciousness and to remove any feeling of defeatism which might linger in the Field Marshal's mind. "No, sir," he replied skillfully, "we saw London first."

His morale boosted, the aristocratic prisoner mused, "Mechanized war is not pretty," and he resumed sipping his coffee and cognac.

Not a word was mentioned about putting the prisoner on trial as an enemy of civilization, of hanging him if proved guilty. Not a word. No, indeed! How could anyone suggest such a thing? It would have been poor etiquette!

Why the Duke Left His Post In the Bahamas

In the March 31 issue of the *British New Leader*, George Padmore tells the inside story behind the resignation of the Duke of Windsor from the governorship of the British West Indian colony of the Bahamas. The Duke resigned six months before his term expired from the post that paid 3,000 pounds per annum.

The situation in the Bahamas is typical of all West Indian colonies of the British Empire. A small group of white planters and oil barons exploit the vast majority of the population, the Negro workers at coolie wages and under inhuman working conditions. Through a property qualification of 200 pounds a year and an open ballot the white oligarchy excludes the bulk of the Negro population from representation in the House of Assembly.

This explosive situation came to a head when the government in London granted naval and air bases in the West Indies to the United States at the beginning of the war. American contractors arrived in Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, to recruit laborers for construction work in the outlying islands. The American cost-plus contractors had agreed to offer the Negroes American rates of pay. But after objection from local white employers that such a move would disrupt the prevailing wage structure of the Islands the American offer was withdrawn and wage rates were pruned down to "normal."

On June 1st, 1942, a general strike broke out, accompanied by riots in Nassau. The acting governor ordered out the troops who fired on the people and several Negroes were killed or wounded. The Duke of Windsor who had been vacationing on his ranch in Canada rushed back to the Bahamas.

REFUSE TO BUDGE

So explosive had the situation become that the Duke feared that British rule might be seriously endangered by upsurge of the masses. Concessions had to be made to appease an aroused people. A commission appointed by the Duke brought in recommendations that wages be increased to meet the rising cost of living; that higher taxation be placed on Europeans; that the money derived from taxation should be turned over to a social security fund. Other recommendations dealt with public works program to relieve unemployment after work on American bases had been completed and tariff reductions to permit the importation of cheaper foodstuffs for the masses.

But the white Bourbons refused to budge an inch. When the Duke brought in the Commission's recommendations, the Assembly flatly rejected them. Then the Duke introduced a Constitutional reform bill to substitute the secret ballot for open voting. Again the Assembly voted him down. He threatened to invoke the special powers invested in him as Governor, but when the Bourbons threatened to precipitate a political crisis he backed down.

Last December the Duke made another and his final attempt to introduce the secret ballot bill. He warned that if the Assembly persisted further riots and labor disturbances would break out in the Islands for which he would hold them responsible. But the white rulers, backed up by the British Colonial Office, remained adamant and threatened to fire the Duke if he persisted.

The Duke had to resign. If a Governor belonging to the King's own family could not obtain minor concessions for the people of the Bahamas, it is clear that they will be able to free themselves from British tyranny and capitalist exploitation only by relying upon their own independent forces. In this fight they should receive the warmest sympathy and staunch support from the working class of England and the United States.



One-fourth of America's farmers can't vote because of the poll tax.

TROTSKY'S WARNINGS ABOUT WORLD WAR II

Last week's Militant published a few of Trotsky's many warnings to the workers of the dangers of Nazism. In this issue we present more excerpts from Trotsky's writings concerning Hitlerism and the Second World War. Eleven years ago all the demagogues promised the people enduring peace. Using the Marxist method of analyzing history in the making, Trotsky exposed the hidden mainsprings of both the German and Allied moves and warned the workers of the impending slaughter.

"The same causes," said Trotsky in 1934, "inseparable from modern capitalism which brought about the last imperialist war have now reached infinitely greater tension than in the middle of 1914. The fear of the consequences of a new war is the only factor which fetters the will of imperialism. But the efficacy of this brake is limited. The stress of inner contradictions pushes one country after another on the road to fascism which, in its turn, cannot maintain power except by preparing international explosions. All governments fear war. But none of the governments has any freedom of choice. Without a proletarian revolution a new world war is inevitable." (War and the Fourth International, 1934.)

Six years before Roosevelt promised again and again and again to keep the sons of the fathers and mothers from fighting in any foreign wars, Trotsky foresaw even the main alignments in the coming war.

"Driven by its unbearable contradictions and the consequences of defeat, German capitalism has been forced to tear off the strait-jacket of democratic pacifism and now comes forward as the chief threat to the Versailles system. State combinations on the European continent still follow in the main the line of victors and vanquished. Italy occupies the place of a treacherous go-between, ready to sell its friendship at the decisive moment to the stronger side, as she did during the last war." (War and the Fourth International, 1934.)

Fearing the approaching war would upset his bureaucratic grip on the Soviet Union, Stalin sought alliances with the "democracies." In 1938 Trotsky predicted Stalin would soon consummate a pact with Hitler.

"Stalin's next move will be a diplomatic approach to Hitler, and Hitler, in turn, will talk business. But not on the basis of abstractions, shibboleths, or 'principles'—Hitler's principles are as false and phony as Stalin's. Hitler will demand, and Stalin will offer, concessions, concrete and tangible." (Socialist Appeal, October 15, 1938.)

After the signing of their pact, common belief held Hitler and Stalin were "twins" who would set out together to conquer the world. Trotsky again warned that reality was different from this superficial view.

"To picture it as if the new western boundary of the USSR were a permanent barrier to Hitler's road eastward violates all proportion... The march eastward presupposes a major war between Germany and the USSR. When the time comes for this war, the question as to what meridian the struggle will begin upon will have only secondary significance." (Article in Liberty, January 27, 1940.)

Foretold Fate of German Imperialism

In the early months of 1940 many commentators talked about the "phony" war and predicted that German armies would not attempt to attack France. Trotsky saw differently.

"As great as may be Hitler's conquests in Europe, they will not solve the problem of German capitalism; on the contrary they only aggravate it. The Austrian, Czech and Polish industries were added to the German; all of them suffered from narrowness of national borders and lack of raw materials. Further, in order to retain the new territories, a constant tension of military forces is unavoidable. Hitler can capitalize on his European successes only on a world scale. In order to do this he must crush France and England. Hitler cannot stop. Consequently the Allies cannot stop either if they do not wish to commit voluntary suicide." (Interview in St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 14, 1940.)

At the beginning of Hitler's conquests, many politicians imagined he would endure for an unlimited period of time. Trotsky, however, saw no prospect of the stabilization of European capitalism under Hitler.

"In return for the enslavement of the peoples Hitler promises to establish a 'German Peace' in Europe for a period of centuries. An empty mirage! The 'British Peace' after the victory over Napoleon could endure a century—not a thousand years—solely because Britain was the pioneer of a new technology and a progressive system of production. Notwithstanding the strength of her industry, present-day Germany, like her enemies, is the standard bearer of a doomed social system. Hitler's victory would in reality not mean peace but the beginning of a new series of bloody clashes on a world scale... But neither would an Allied triumph result in any more radiant consequences." (Manifesto of the Fourth International on the Imperialist War and the Proletarian Revolution, 1940.)

The German military machine was the most formidable history had seen before the hot-house development of American militarism. Nevertheless Trotsky was able to foresee the hopeless impasse of the German armies.

"I do not believe for a moment, as I have stated, in the actual realization of Hitler's plans concerning a Pax Germanica—that is, world domination. German imperialism arrived too late; its military fury will end in a tremendous catastrophe." (Article in Liberty, January 27, 1940.)

Today many are pessimistic about the future of socialism. They feel that capitalism will be able to maintain itself indefinitely. Trotsky, however, before he was assassinated by an agent of Stalin, looked still further into the future and made the following forecast.

"None of the present governments will survive this war. The programs which are now proclaimed will soon be forgotten just as will their authors. The only program that the ruling classes will maintain is: Save their own skins."

"The capitalist system is in a blind alley. Without an entire reconstruction of the economic system on a European and a world scale our civilization is doomed. The struggle of blind forces and unbridled interests must be replaced by the rule of reason, or plan, of conscious organization." (Interview in St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 14, 1940.)

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Bulgaria

The Daily Worker (May 10th) makes public a telegram sent to George Dimitrov, chairman of the Bulgarian Communist Party by the General Union of Bulgarian Industrialists. The telegram declares that the industrialists "stand united behind the Fatherland Front. (Dimitrov is a leader of this organization also—ED.) guiding Bulgarian industry and exerting the utmost for the Bulgarian people's material benefit and prosperity. We wish you health in order to be able to advise us in the future."

Bulgarian capitalists have good reason to be thankful to the Stalinist Dimitrov and his master in the Kremlin. When the Red Army first entered Bulgaria, the workers and peasants of that country used the occasion to seize control of important industries and to set up Soviets in many parts of the country in order to establish their political control. Thereupon the heads of the Red Army disarmed the workers, disbanded the Soviets and arrested leaders of the workers. Thus capitalism was saved by Stalinism in Bulgaria.

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In the meantime, Dimitrov has worked with might and main to safeguard capitalist collaborators from the purge and to prevent the nationalization of industry.

Soviet Union

The following information on the changes in the Soviet Union is reprinted from La Voie de Lenin, (Lenin's Road), organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, the Belgian Section of the Fourth International.

"The government of the USSR has altered the statutes regarding inheritance. The new laws stipulate that Soviet citizens may will their property to a person of their choice outside of their family, to institutions or to constituted bodies. Up to this time, money or personal property such as furniture or personal effects could only be left to children or to the surviving widow. If the deceased had no children and if the widow was also deceased, the property returned to the State.

"This alteration of the inheritance laws is a serious indication of the growing pressure on the State of the peasant and trading petty bourgeoisie and of the millionaire bureaucrats. It demonstrates that because of the needs of war economy, the scarcity of foodstuffs and of commodities of all kinds the individualist tendencies in Soviet economy have been strengthened and as a consequence aggravates the threat of capitalist restoration."

Rumania

The Belgian Trotskyist paper La Voie De Lenin reports that an announcement had been made

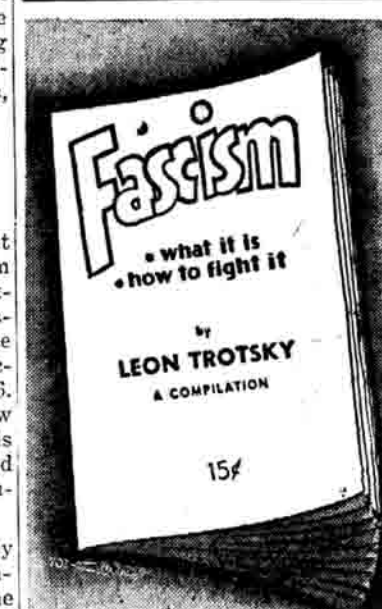
on the Moscow radio that last year during the Red Army victories in Bessarabia the Moscow radio announced that "hundreds of Trotskyist peasants were shot in the course of the advance of the Red Army."

La Voie de Lenin compares these actions to those committed by the Stalinists when the Red Army invaded Poland and the Baltic states in 1939. At that time the workers of Vilno greeted the oncoming Red Army by setting up democratically elected Soviets (workers councils). The Red Army commander of the city at that time made it his first task to execute the delegates to the Soviet and to replace the working class power by individuals selected from the top from all parties, including capitalist parties.

Greece

The police dictatorship that now rules Greece is staffed from end to end with reactionary blackguards. Their records as oppressors of the labor movement date back at least to the Metaxas dictatorship which began in 1936. The Minister of Labor in the new government is one Kassimatis who specialized in dissolving and suppressing the trade unions under the Metaxas dictatorship.

The government is headed by Admiral Voulgaris who distinguished himself by crushing the mutiny of Greek sailors sympathetic to EAM early in 1944 in Alexandria. Meanwhile it is reported that this government, a puppet of the Bank of England, is speeding arrangements for a fake plebiscite on the restoration of the hated monarchy in Greece.



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Big Business Domination Over The American Press

By Paul Abbott

The labor movement came in for attack at the annual meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers Association in New York April 26. This organization of capitalist publishers believes that the working man should be held down to the grindstone. Consequently it lines up its membership for concerted action whenever it believes labor's militancy is rising.

"In a report on proposed changes to the social security law," declares the N. Y. Herald Tribune, "the publishers were warned that many interests, including government agencies and labor organizations, are advocating proposals that 'are developing some situations where it could conceivably be more profitable to be unemployed than it would be to work.' Decoding the double talk, this means the publishers do not believe the postwar period will provide 60 million jobs. On the contrary, they expect a terrific depression."

Wages, they are convinced, can be forced down to a new bottom. But if demands of the labor movement for social security, for unemployment insurance, etc. succeed in becoming law, then the employers will have difficulty in forcing wages down to the level they hope could otherwise be reached. The bosses would even like to scrap the present inadequate provisions.

The capitalist press, coordinated through such organizations as the ANPA, can be expected to launch concerted propaganda against the progressive "proposals" advocated by "labor organizations."

KEPT PRESS

The meeting of the ANPA reminds us once more that the daily press belongs to the capitalist class, body and soul. In his book, *America's 60 Families*, Ferdinand Lundberg declares: "The journalism of the United States, from top to bottom, is the personal affair—bought and paid for—of the wealthy families. There is little in American journalism today, good or bad, which does not emanate from the family dynasties. The press lords of America are actually to be found among the multimillionaire families."

Lundberg's expose, has never been successfully challenged. "Newspapers as a whole are hostile to organized labor," he continues, "and the public is therefore suspicious of organized labor whenever it moves to implement its rights. Whether the hostility be open or covert it is nevertheless a notorious fact that all the effective efforts of labor to better its precarious economic position are misrepresented by the newspapers. The average newspaper reader believes that labor starts riots, throws bombs, and is the enemy of law and order."

"Misrepresentation of union labor is, indeed, fundamental in all newspapers, almost without exception, and is readily understandable since all gains made by labor, although of indirect benefit to the middle classes and to the farmers as well, are gains made at the expense of reduced dividends and management salaries for the rich families that own or control newspapers... This virtually unbroken coordination of the American press would seem a miracle of coincidence if it were not obvious that the press is owned by the wealthiest families, who must distort and suppress dynamic news to retain political, social and economic power."

LORDS OF JOURNALISM

Lundberg reveals startling facts about the financial lordship over the press. The Morgan family, for instance, holds the controlling strings of *The American Magazine*, *The Country Home*, *Collier's Weekly*, *Woman's Home Companion*, and *The Saturday Review of Literature*. "Perhaps

the most direct and significant Morgan journalistic connection is with Time, Inc. publisher of the widely circulating *Time*, weekly news magazine of thoroughly reactionary orientation. *Fortune*, chief apologist for the wealthy families, *Life*, largest picture magazine, and *Architectural Forum*."

Among other powerful newspapers obedient to the voice of the Morgans, Lundberg cites the *Chicago Daily News*. S. L. Avery, president of Montgomery Ward and Company, controlled by Morgan, happens to be a director of this newspaper. Most workers will recall the unanimity of sympathy among capitalist newspapers for Avery when he defied a War Labor Board order on the union contract.

The *Chicago Tribune* and the *New York Daily News* are house organs of the colossal wealthy McCormick dynasty. *News-Week*, competitor of *Time*, is the tool of the Astors, Harrimans, Mellons, Whitneys and Chencys. The *New York Times* is the creature of the Lehman banking family. The Curtis-Bok family holds *The Ladies Home Journal*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The Country Gentleman* and a number of Philadelphia newspapers.

The utterly venal and reactionary character of the press under the control of these wealthy families is well illustrated in the case of the nation-wide Hearst chain. "In 1898 it was revealed that six years earlier Hearst had signed contracts with the Southern Pacific Railroad, agreeing for a monthly consideration of \$1,000 not to be unfriendly. And in 1934, to mention a recent instance, the Hearst newspapers agreed to supply the Hitler press bureau with American news dispatches for the sizeable consideration of \$400,000 annually... After this arrangement with the Hitler regime the Hearst newspapers began beating the drum for the Third Reich."

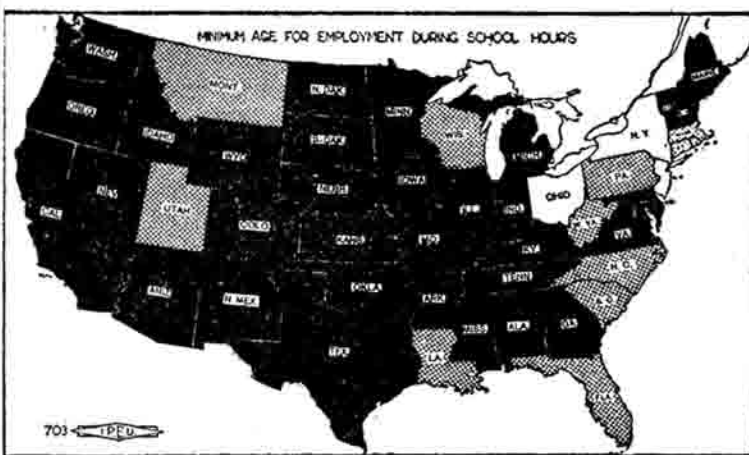
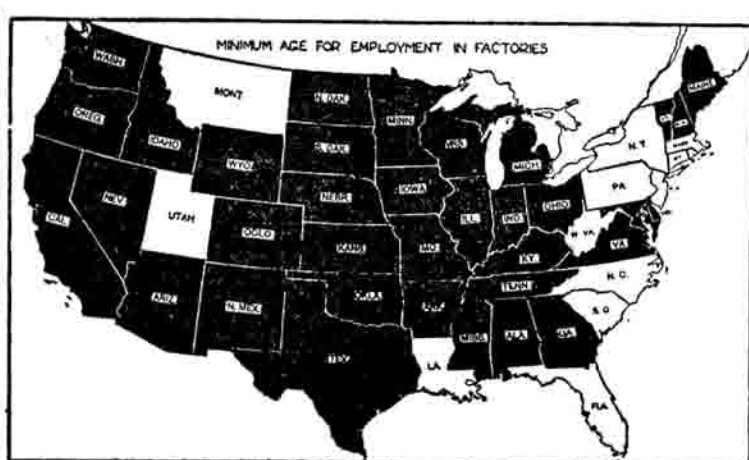
Small wonder that workers, beginning to see through the lies of the capitalist press, appreciate *The Militant*. In the face of all the most powerful vested interests the world has ever seen, *The Militant* courageously tells the truth. It is financed wholly by the contributions of workingclass readers who appreciate its fighting qualities and its role in defending the labor movement from the rapacious Wall Street cliques.

The ruling oligarchy likewise understands the role of *The Militant*. At the beginning of the war the government placed our editor together with 17 other trade unionists and leaders of the Socialist Workers Party on trial in the famous Minneapolis Labor Case and railroaded them to prison. On top of this in 1943 Postmaster-General Walker tried to suppress *The Militant* by taking away its second class mailing rights.

The Militant fought back without conceding an inch. We knew once the working class was aroused and informed it would rally to our support. The working class did rally. First, labor organizations representing six million members petitioned for the release of the 18. Then, in the course of two campaigns, tens of thousands of new readers have become subscribers to our paper.

With your help we intend to continue to counterpose the truth to the anti-labor lies of the big-business press.

CHILD LABOR



Child labor has mounted to five millions in the course of the Second World War. The charts show existing state laws—although even these have not been enforced during the war. Above: shown in black are states in which the minimum age for work is under 16; states shown in white have a minimum age of 16. Below the states shown in black are those which allow children to work under 16. The states in gray have a minimum age of 16 for work during school hours except on farms and in domestic service. Those in white have a minimum of 16 for any kind of work during school hours.

British Puppet Government Slaughters Greek Workers

(Continued from page 1)

This can be proved by quotations from *The Militant*, written when the Partisans still controlled all Greece and were defending themselves against the British in Athens.

On December 9, shortly after the outbreak of the civil war, *The Militant* warned: "The main obstacle between the Greek working class and the advancement of the proletarian revolution is now Stalinism... Instead of opposing Allied imperialism and warning the masses, the Stalinists supported the Allied conquerors, accepting posts in their puppet cabinet."

WHAT WE SAID

The Dec. 30 *Militant* predicted: "The Greek revolution will end in a horrible blood-letting if the Stalinists succeed in their designs."

The *Militant* warned again on January 6 of Stalinist treachery: "Since the civil war broke out, the Kremlin has not said a word against Churchill's use of force and violence. Moscow did not even withdraw recognition of the Glucksburg dynasty as the official government of Greece. Churchill, Eden and Bevin have all declared that British troops entered Greece with the approval of Moscow. Churchill emphasized

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

The same issue of *The Militant* continues: "The Stalinists were the first to call for the regency. On the day the British provoked civil war, the Stalinist newspaper *Kizipastis* published an article by the Stalinist leader, Jean Zevgos, demanding the establishment of a regency."

When General Seraphis and others under Stalinist domination signed the January 12 "truce," *The Militant* of January 20 warned: "The truce is a victory for Allied counter-revolution... The severity of Allied regulations in Athens indicates they have little confidence in the permanence of the truce... The truce does not at all signify that Churchill has given up his policy of blood and iron... The regency established by the British is carrying out Churchill's brutal counter-revolutionary policy to the letter... Placating... prepares to act the role of butcher for the British... Although the truce went into effect Jan. 15, the British are still mopping up in the Athens area. When they have consolidated their positions they will probably move against the areas to which ELAS retreated. The civil war provoked by the Allies is far from ended."

Pioneer Paragraphs

HOW INDUSTRIALISTS ORGANIZE ANTI-LABOR FASCIST GANGS

(The following introduction to "Fascism—What It Is, How to Fight It," was written in August, 1944, before the court declared a "mistrial" at Washington in the case of the 30 native fascists.)

The writings of Leon Trotsky on Fascism, included in this pamphlet, prove that the present struggle of the Roosevelt administration, far from constituting a fight against Fascism, is merely empty, theatrical bombast.

To really struggle against the organizers of Fascism, that is, those who finance it, control it and set the Fascist movement into motion, one would have to struggle against the Fords, the du Ponts, the Girdlers and Aversys. To render really powerless these forces, one must destroy the capitalist system which gives them strength. At a certain stage, when the capitalist plutocrats feel their control, their privileges and rule menaced, when they fear for the capitalist system, they will attempt to set into motion the despairing middle classes against the labor movement in order to impose on the American people a bloody Fascist dictatorship.

We saw a preview on a minor scale of what Fascism really represents and how and by whom it is organized during the Little Steel Strike in 1937. We saw vigilante gangs made up of pool room

toughs and the scum of the cities organized throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania and lower Michigan. Under demagogic programs, clothed with the authority of the law or tolerated by the police, these gangs went out clubs in hand to smash the labor organizations and guarantee the autocratic rule of the steel corporations.

Who were the real inspirers of these Fascist-like vigilante gangs? The small fry leaders in Massillon, Canton or Kent? No, the leaders were the heads of the Republic and Bethlehem Steel Corporations and behind them the Wall Street bankers. What would you say of a campaign to bring to justice the perpetrators of these crimes, if the local toughs of Kent, Ohio was brought to trial but Girdler's name was not even mentioned. Such a trial is called a whitewash.

(From "Fascism—What It Is, How to Fight It," a compilation of writings by Leon Trotsky; introduction by E. R. Frank; pp. 5-6. Pioneer Publishers, 1944; 48 pp., 15 cents. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, N.Y. 3, N.Y.)

ELECTIONS SHOW FRENCH PEOPLE WANT SOCIALISM

By Albert Goldman

The results of the recent municipal elections in France clearly indicate that the French workers are ready to struggle for a Socialist France. It also indicates that the French workers are still unaware of the fact that the party which they are supporting is the greatest obstacle to the victory of the European masses.

Forty percent of the voters of Paris supported the Stalinists. The industrial suburbs of Paris gave the Stalinist party a solid vote. There can be no explanation for the support the workers of France are giving that party other than that they still believe that this party is a revolutionary party representing the program of socialism for France and Europe.

That the victories of the Soviet army have brought the Stalinists great prestige can be admitted; that the valiant struggle which the Stalinists carried on against the German army of occupation, after Hitler attacked the Soviet Union, attracted the support of many workers, peasants and lower middle class elements to them can also be taken for granted. But it is difficult to believe that the French workers are voting for the Stalinist party simply because it is connected with the Stalinist army and fought against the German army of occupation. The main reason is that the French workers believe that the Communist Party stands for a struggle for socialism and for the solution of their problems in a socialist manner.

Upon the shoulders of the French workers rest the responsibility and burden that rested on the shoulders of the German workers in 1918. At that time Germany was the key to the European revolution. It had a wonderfully-organized working class with tens of thousands of militants trained in the traditions of revolutionary socialism. Its industry was hardly touched by the war and although food was not plentiful there was enough to satisfy the hunger of the masses.

GERMANY TODAY

On the east of Germany was the Soviet Union. Its Red Army was not powerful and its industries were undeveloped. But its masses under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky were ready to fight and die for the German Revolution as they fought and died for the Russian Revolution. So powerful was the German working class, so mighty was German industry that a revolution in Germany would have been followed immediately by revolutions in all of central Europe and in all probability in western Europe as well. Germany was indeed the key to the European revolution.

But now Germany can be said to be the key to the European Revolution only in the sense of its potential industrial capacity. German industry is ravaged, a great many of its militant workers dead, its land occupied by American, British and Stalinist armies. For the immediate period one can hardly expect Germany to be the key to the European revolution in the sense that one can expect a revolution in Germany and thus set into motion the workers of all of Europe.

France is the country which can be said to be the key to the European revolution in the sense that the workers in that country have the best opportunity to take power and to spread the revolution to the rest of Europe. A great number of French workers have fought in the resistance movements against the German army. In that struggle the workers have acquired militancy, experience and above all confidence in themselves. Everything indicates that they are anxious to proceed farther and take power into their own hands.

What stops them? The answer is clear. It is the Stalinist Party. In 1918, at the end of the First World War the Social-Democratic parties constituted the main barrier in the struggle of the workers to achieve power and build a socialist Europe. The majority of the workers followed the Social-Democratic parties. The young revolutionary parties did not succeed in winning the masses to their side.

In 1945 it is the Stalinists who control the decisive sections of the working masses. This has been proved in France during the municipal elections; this is probably true of Northern Italy and of Belgium. The conclusion is inescapable. To the extent that the Stalinist parties now have the support of decisive sections of the working class and could lead the workers to power, if they wanted to do so, to that extent they are playing the same counter-revolu-

tionary role that the Social-Democrats played in 1918.

When one compares the present situation in Europe with the one that existed immediately following the First World War, one can note both advantages and disadvantages. The main factor that is unfavorable is that the Soviet Union is now under the control of Stalin who fears a successful revolution in western Europe because that would endanger the rule of the Stalinist bureaucracy. Whereas in 1918 the workers could count with absolute assurance on help from the Soviet Union, at present the Soviet armies would help the imperialist armies crush the revolution.

Another unfavorable factor is the more aggressive, more powerful and more demagogic apparatus that the Stalinist parties possess in comparison with the Social-Democratic parties in 1918. The mere fact that the Stalinist parties have the support of the G.P.U. is a terrible danger to the militant workers.

One can say that the "Socialist" Government of Germany did not hesitate to use violence against the workers. Perfectly true. But it is also true that the Social-Democrats had to grant some democratic rights even to their revolutionary opponents. The Stalinists are more ruthless and will not hesitate to eliminate from the scene every militant worker opposed to their policies of betrayal. Right now in France the revolutionists of the Fourth International are hounded more by the Stalinists than by the official government.

FRENCH WORKERS

But the masses following the Stalinists are more militant and more conscious than the workers who followed the Social-Democrats in 1918. In general the workers who supported the Socialists subsequent to 1918 were not yet ready to take the path of Lenin and Trotsky. The workers who support the Stalinists do so in the main because they mistakenly believe that the Stalinists represent the traditions of the Communist International when it was led by Lenin and Trotsky.

On the basis of the fact that the masses are more revolutionary now than they were in 1918 we are justified in hoping that they will soon learn the real nature of the Stalinist parties. Aided by the propaganda of the French Fourth Internationalists the advanced workers in France should quickly learn that the path of power to the workers is in a direction directly opposite to that followed by the Stalinists.

Morgan Holdings In France Saved By Nazi Friends

(Continued from page 1)

inter-European and particularly the inter-continental business will, after the settlement of the present German-British conflict, take such an upswing that his firm will be in a position to take an active part in the developments through the granting of reparations credits."

Thus, having profited from the imperialist war preparations, and then from the war itself, raking in millions from both belligerent camps, J. P. Morgan and Co. were getting ready as early as May, 1941 to coin fresh wealth from the imperialist peace.

Although protecting and doing business with the Morgan bank in Paris, the Nazis preferred dealings with the British banks. Dr. Caesar revealed, "The German occupying authorities decreed that British and Canadian banks in the occupied zone of France 'no longer be considered as enemy banks.' These branches provided long-term credits to assist the German war machine. They supplied the Germans with general economic information obtained through their offices in unoccupied France, and they were particularly useful as depositories to the German authorities."

As we see, the international plunderbund, the big finance-capitalist plutocrats, stick together in war as in peace. While the armies and the peoples pour out their blood, these leeches preserve their profit partnership and gather in millions from both sides of the battlefield.



By V. Grey

Pile-It-High Patterson was talking to Hallory, the foreman, today (Sort of one bull-shooter to another). He said, "I see the aircraft plants have been laying off gradually for several months." And Hallory said, "Yes. That's a good thing, too. If they laid everybody off at once when the war with Japan ends, it would be a terrible calamity. It's a great boon to have it this way."

You see Hallory must have read the editorial in yesterday's paper. Same with Pile-It-High Patterson. That editorial said it was a boon too. When those two birds haven't got any stuff of their own to shovel and pile, they get somebody else's out of the newspapers.

Maybe they have a point at that, though. When you stop to think of it, maybe it is a great boon to be laid off "gradually" instead of suddenly. You see, if you get laid off on the same day as five or ten thousand other people, why that's kind of sudden. In fact, it's a calamity.

But if you get laid off all by yourself, or with only a couple hundred other lucky people, it's a "boon." (A boon, they tell me, is something a big shot gives you for nothing.)

SOUNDS PRETTY GOOD, DOESN'T IT?

It's much better, after all, to get laid off now, isn't it? You wouldn't want to get slapped in the face with a lay-off right in the middle of that big victory celebration the bosses will be having, would you?

By getting laid-off now, you get more time to get used to the idea and adjust yourself to post-war conditions. Not only that. Maybe you've been making a dollar and a quarter an hour over at aircraft. And if you get laid off soon enough you might get in a couple of months over to our shop, or on the furnaces. You get 78 cents an hour and up—to about 88 cents. . . You'll get used to lower wages quicker that way, too.

That's a break, isn't it? And you might have three or four weeks between jobs, too—just enough not to collect on unemployment insurance. That ought to help a guy get back into the old harness.

So Pile-It-High Patterson sighs—you know, just as though all the problems of gouging Bethlehem's 38 million dollars average profits out of the workers, were on his shoulders alone. He sighs and says, "I suppose we'll have some of those aircraft workers over here. That means an awful lot more paper work for me."

And Hallory says, "They'll be hard to handle, too. One thing, at least, the union can't say anything for 30 days. Maybe they'll be out by then."

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it?

Reader Angrily Protests Anti-Japanese Atrocities

Burning with indignation against the terrible suffering inflicted upon the Japanese people by the incendiary bombings of the principal cities of Japan, a reader of *The Militant* sent us the following letter. Her letter eloquently presents our own opinion of Wall Street's vicious anti-Japanese terror.

* * *

Editor:

I honestly admire *The Militant*, but I am driven to write to you, to take up a certain matter that seems to be crying out to the heavens. You speak of Wall Street's dishonest campaign against German and Japanese atrocities and you speak of Admiral Halsey's statement concerning "drowning and burning the bestial apes" whom you call "Japanese workers and peasants in uniform." You declare that an "occasional item" appears in the press which shows that the American imperialists are not "averse" to atrocities!

In the same issue you declare that 3,000,000 Japanese civilians, workers and peasants NOT in uniform have been the victims of the air attacks of American imperialism.

But, oddly enough, you do not list this colossal crime as an American atrocity! If it is not an atrocity to burn 3,000,000 helpless men, women and children to death in fire raids, then what does constitute an atrocity? I ask you! You tell me!

I agree with you about Admiral Halsey and every other butcher, but what of General Arnold, who plans even worse massacres of Japanese non-combatants this summer? Surely, to condemn the one and not the other is in itself a capitulation to Wall Street's war crimes!

And what of the capitalist press? Almost every day in the joke columns of the newspapers of Boston, there are ghastly JOKES about the suffering in German and Japanese cities. Jokes, I tell you; it is the truth. . . I could send you some of them if you wish! In what does this differ from the crimes of Hitler? I'll tell you; only that it is more horrible because Wall Street has more death-dealing instruments to be used against the helpless masses than Hitler ever had!

In the name of socialism, why not stress this fact more? Why not publish articles and short stories upon the horrible suffering of butchered civilians who are not even fighting against Wall Street?

"Don't Let Wall Street Get Away With It"

Why not remind the American workers of the fact that Wall Street does not even any more pretend that these massacres are strictly "military," but deliberately maps out whole areas and slaughters its victims BY MILEAGE. Was this ever done before in the world? Was it? You tell me. Isn't it the apex, summit and culmination of all the crimes of man against his fellow man? Again, you tell me! If you can find a worse example of "nauseating cruelty" than this, I'll be glad to be corrected.

In the name of Marx and Engels, don't let Wall Street get away with it! Don't let the capitalists fill the workers with nonsense about atrocities on the other side, while murdering ten thousand for every one killed by Germany and Japan!

And what of the maimed and mutilated? Children, old people, young girls, robbed of eyes and hands and feet and minds? Isn't this ghastly butchery? Haven't the capitalists broken their "own" laws of warfare? Haven't they descended to the level of prehistoric monsters on the loose? You tell me!

I feel you must agree with me in this, if you think it over carefully. I am with you in hopes for the day when the men who have slain and tortured millions of helpless workers and peasants for financial reasons will meet the fate they deserve. Speed the day of socialism by all means, but don't pass by in silence Wall Street's deliberate tortures—admitted and boasted of in the phrase "morale raid"—tortures of the world's millions.

You may print this letter if you wish. I have nothing to hide in this; it seems to me that every voice raised against the blood-curdling crimes of Wall Street means something, however insignificant the speaker!

Yours for socialism and an end to all atrocities, and stern punishment of the worst criminals the world has ever seen, who can be convicted out of their own mouths.

Belle Montague
6 Gracewood Park, Cambridge, Mass.

Beginning Next Week, May 26

"The Militant" Will Publish on This Page

Weekly Installments of

JAMES P. CANNON'S 'History of American Trotskyism'

A Report by a Participant

The Background and Struggles of the Socialist

Workers Party Told by Its National Secretary

TRAILBLAZERS VISIT STEELWORKER AREA

The *Trail-blazers* have secured a total of 845 subscriptions to date. Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes write on last week's work in the Pittsburgh area.

"Thanks to the advice of a friendly steel worker who subscribed last night, we found a housing project to work in today where the majority of the men are Homestead Steel mill workers."

"It was V-E day and we had the May Day issue to work with. One of the strongest reactions to V-E day we encountered was deep concern over the inevitable industrial 'cut-backs'. Several working men's wives who have been hard pressed to stretch their income to meet the high cost of living pointed out that without overtime pay it would be impossible to feed and clothe their children properly."

"Those with large families told us that their men had to work three-double shifts a week (16-hours) in the mill to earn enough to cover the necessary expenses. Most of them know that their earnings are due for a sharp slash with approaching curtailment in production. Consequently the lead story on the closing of Willow-Run and the editorial: 'No Idle Factories' were in most cases viewed with keen interest."

STEEL WORKERS

"Among the 27 subscribers we got today, 20 we know of are working at the Homestead Mill. The subscribers we get are those workers who are anxious to see what we have to offer as a solution to their fundamental problems. One of them looked through the pages of *The Militant* with interest and inquired about our successes among the steel workers. He is a man who has obviously been searching for a fighting program and he was concerned with the reception our ideas are getting among his fellow workers. According to his explanation, militancy and the will to fight exists mainly among the younger steel workers. The Steel corporation management, he claims, has tamed many old-timers with a combination of intimidation, small-time bribery and discouragement."

"But the young men have grown up with no illusions and they will lead the struggle. He also remarked that the Corporation which once fought unionism with blood and violence has found it also effective to operate through a union leadership that is 'house-broken', i.e. the Murray machine."

"One steel worker held us in discussion for almost an hour while we explained the program of Trotskyism. We were intrigued from the start by this worker's appreciation of the role of Stalinism. When we had barely outlined our class program, he volunteered the information that he favored the Soviet system for the working-class minus the Stalinist bureaucrats."

"Workers here seem to sense the imperialist nature of the war. They all know the capitalists are growing fabulously wealthy today, and that the whole story of equal sacrifice is a hoax. We have heard a few women express the conviction that 'they' will have another war on their hands when the European war is ended—a class war at home. One woman remarked 'I'm a Communist at heart, aren't you?' and 'I think all working people are at bottom Communist.'"

"Another woman whose husband is a railroader, expressed interest in PM because it occasionally exposes the corporations and Wall St. politicians. She took *The Militant*, she said, because PM doesn't answer the question 'What is to be done,' and also because its policy of supporting some capitalist politicians

('friends' of labor) causes it to 'cover up' much that workers should know."

"An elderly Italian steel worker listened to us for a brief moment and launched into an attack against Stalin's betrayal of Lenin's program. He explained how Stalin had abandoned the working class and instead made alliances with capitalist powers. He insisted that the present war could never have begun had Lenin's program not been buried by Stalin. He took *The Militant* for his son, pointing out that it is the youth who must be educated in the ideas of the class struggle today."

"In Braddock, Pa., a mill town that rests in the shadow of the gigantic Edgar Thomson Mill, a U. S. Steel works, we obtained 47 subscribers, 22 of whom work in the mill. Among the others are 10 who work at Westinghouse East Pittsburgh plant, a couple of railroaders and some men from Signal Switch."

"Braddock is scarcely more than a dark strip of workers' dwellings wedged into a flat ledge between the huge steel works on one side and a towering mountain range on the other. It was populated originally by workers imported from Europe by the union-hating steel magnates. One glance at the fabulous wealth crystallized in the machinery of the powerful mill, and the pitiful shabbiness of the workers' quarters reveals more clearly than any words could convey the ugly contrasts created by capitalist capitalism. The homes of the workers are blackened from years of smoke clouds from the mill. Workers' children play in the narrow filthy streets of the town. The main business street boasts countless pool halls, saloons, cheap movie houses—recreation centers for the adults."

STARK CONTRASTS

"Brutal repressions, intimidation, bribery, competition and outright terror to which the steel workers have been subjected for years has left its mark. While the sweep of the CIO movement before the war apparently lifted the hopes of the mass of workers here, its systematic retreat before the corporations today leaves many of them sickened and disheartened. On all sides we hear inferences that the Murray machine has 'sold out'. The men seem completely cynical toward this labor leadership; in fact, one gets the impression that these mill workers who have been crossed and double-crossed so many times, will move again only behind a harshly tested leadership and for goals that aim farther than the limited ends of simple unionism."

"In one home the little middle-aged wife greeted our remarks with an excited outpouring of agreement. Her words literally tumbled over each other as she denounced the war and assured us that she was prepared to fight. She thumbed through *The Militant*, shouting 'See! See! I always said the bosses everywhere have forced and fooled the people into this war!'"

"She shouted for her husband to come down and meet us. When he looked over the paper he remarked firmly: 'I want this paper. Put my name down.' Afterwards we saw the little woman running up the street ahead of us advertising 'the new workers' paper that tells workers the truth!'"

16,283 Subscriptions Pour Into 'Militant' Office As Campaign Enters Last 2 Weeks

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

During the first eleven weeks of the 13-week Militant Subscription Campaign members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party have secured 16,283 new readers. This is already 163 percent of the original goal of 10,000 new subscriptions to *The Militant*. During the week 1,114 more subscriptions were obtained, which is a little below the average weekly. With only 14 days left to go, a little extra spurt can bring us the margin of subscriptions necessary to double the quota.

FROM THE BRANCHES

Ruth Grayson, New York Trotskyist Youth Group: "With the fire and enthusiasm that is native to youth, the New York Trotskyist Youth Group (although severely handicapped by the loss of our 18-year old males) is nearing its quota of 500 subs. At present we have 420. Our Pace-Setters are Rose Brandt with 49 subs and Ruth Grayson with 117. Our 13-year old Rose is now averaging between eight and 12 subs a week."

Bob Kingsley, Cleveland: "We aim to quadruple our original quota of 200 subs."

A. Field, Minneapolis: "The standing of our two teams is—Go-Getters 431, Sub-Builders 454. Rivalry between these two teams is intense right now, for each team has about the same number of subs to its credit and a continued neck-to-neck pace is anticipated. The St. Paul Branch is certainly turning in its quota and more of subs and there is a great deal of friendly competition between the sub-getters of the two cities."

Jerry Kirk, Detroit: "On V-E day one of the comrades who got off early from the plant rounded up four other comrades (one was in the bathtub, another sound asleep) and went out to sell *The Militant* headlining revolt in North Italy. They sold 50 subscriptions."

"By very rough figuring I see that during this campaign we have sold directly in the auto factories 440 subs."

"I mentioned that 35 friends are selling subs with us and that six of them joined the Socialist Workers Party. This does not mean that all six joined only as a result of our sub work in this campaign. And so there will be no misunderstanding, let us say that several joined as a result of sub work in this and the last campaign."

Inez Cope, Youngstown: "Enclosed are 66 new subs. We're certainly glad to have such active competition as Cleveland. They have us on our toes."

P. Mertens, St. Paul: "Enclosed please find 20 subs. That brings our total to 183 percent. And three weeks more to go!"

Libby Jones, Buffalo: "We are all sure that the party as a whole, and the Buffalo branch certainly, will make 200 percent by the end of the campaign."

K. Karl, Philadelphia: "Our branch now stands at about 160 percent of its quota, with 62 to go in three weeks to make it 300 subs. We anticipate no difficulty in attaining this or better. And as to Bayonne, well—they'll just have to keep eating our dust."

Ruth Haddon, San Francisco: "We are hoping that these last three weeks of the campaign will see us well over the 500 mark. The national results are wonderful!"

Dorothy Lessing, Newark: "During this campaign we have branched out into workers sections which we never canvassed before. The results in these areas showed us that there are hundreds of workers ready and willing to read *The Militant*. And by the time our comrades have finished their talk the prospective subscriber has a pretty good idea what kind of a paper *The Militant* is. His readiness to subscribe is an indication of a desire to see what we have to say on the problems that are confronting him."

Rose Stevens, Seattle: "Because of the difficulty caused by employment conditions plus travel our sub campaign suffers. However, we are happy to report that approximately 50 percent of our subscriptions have been gathered in the city of Tacoma. Our work in Tacoma so far has produced two workers who have stated they will join our party when we establish a branch there in the very near future."

Al Lynn, Los Angeles: "The branches of Los Angeles stand as follows in the campaign—East Side 124 percent, Southside 106 percent, San Pedro 85 percent, West Side 77 percent, Central 54 percent. Our Pace-Setters are: Leo Lussetti of the Socialist Youth Club with 95 subs, Jack Gail with 92 subs, Abe Bors with 78, Lyle Miller with 69, and Herb Cappy with 62 subs. Individual competition will probably pick up a little next week as there are 12 comrades at the 50 mark and all of them will be going out during the next three weeks. Every branch but one has a mobilization scheduled so we ought to reach 100 percent by this Sunday."

MILITANT PACE-SETTERS

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

Name	Branch	Subs Sold
Mike Warren	West Side, New York	812
Jerry Kirk	Detroit	346
Paul Kujac	Chicago	270
Doris Hilson	Akron	227
Howard Mason	Detroit	211
Ernest Drake	Detroit	196
E. Logan	Detroit	184
Joe Simpson	Minneapolis	180
Marion Winters	Brooklyn, New York	178
Fred Kaminsky	Buffalo	172
Jack Wilson	Youngstown	141
K. Kane	Minneapolis	133
Dorothy Hill	Brooklyn	132
Dorothy Lessing	Newark	125
Bill Horton	Detroit	124
Ruth Grayson	N. Y. Trotskyist Youth Group	117
E. Kennedy	Detroit	117
Izzy London	Cleveland	113
Kay O'Brien	Detroit	113
Justine Lang	East Side, New York	112

SCOREBOARD

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party	Quotas	Subs	Percent
Akron	85	443	521
Allentown	50	217	434
Flint	50	169	338
Cleveland	200	508	298
Minneapolis	300	854	285
San Diego	50	116	232
Toledo	250	545	218
Detroit	1000	2129	213
Youngstown	300	627	209
Milwaukee	100	191	191
St. Paul	100	183	183
Rochester	50	86	172
Buffalo	350	550	157
Philadelphia	150	229	153
Reading	75	113	150
New York	2500	3660	146
Bayonne	150	182	121
Chicago	1000	1200	120
San Francisco	350	400	114
Boston	200	218	109
Newark	350	378	108
Seattle	400	408	102
Los Angeles	2900	1661	83
Groups, Members-at-Large and Friends	140	273	195
Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes, (Trail-Blazers)		845	
TOTAL	10,000	16,283	163



Agents for *The Militant* report a few of the many instances in which the paper is discussed among shopmates.

Dave Jeffries of New York: "A girl in my shop to whom I have been showing *The Militant* told me that she had gotten into a conversation with the washroom attendant during which they discussed various newspapers that they read. The attendant mentioned that among other papers he read *The Militant*, and he thought it was excellent. It seems he had subscribed to it during the last subscription drive when the housing project in which he lives was canvassed."

H. Newell of Allentown: "Comrade Fitch sold a sub to a worker in steel who bought the paper on the strength of the recommendation of his buddy. His buddy had shown him the paper in the shop."

Reports from agents in other sections of the country also indicate the ever-widening circle of workers to which *The Militant* is becoming known.

Ruth Haddon, San Francisco: "I went out with the East Bay people last Sunday. One of the subscriptions I secured was from a member of the Bakers Union. He immediately recognized the paper, saying: 'Oh, sure, I saw that paper at the San Francisco Labor Temple. Yes, I'll subscribe.'"

Inez Cope, Youngstown: "We occasionally run into workers and find the person's brother or friend in another district is receiving *The Militant*. Naturally this stirs discussion and as a result these friends and families get together and discuss articles in *The Militant*. And wanting to be in the 'know of it' they are eager to subscribe."

"We had a successful May Day meeting with visitors from Akron and New Castle, and, of course, our local friends. We're trying to get New Castle to cooperate with us in this subscription campaign."

"New Castle isn't too far from here so we plan to sell subs there this Saturday. The reception should be good as it was formerly a very militant town. I know when we sold our paper on the streets there about six years ago we sold them like hot cakes, until we were interrupted by the police and politely told to vacate."

These incidents were experienced by our agents while securing subscriptions.

Joyce Hess, San Francisco: "One of our old subscribers, a young Negro housewife, bought the enclosed trial sub for her sister in Alabama. She told me that she had been trying to sell some trial subs: 'But all my friends already subscribe to *The Militant*.'"

New York

SOCIALIST YOUTH FORUM
Friday, May 25, 8 p. m.

"Italy and Germany—Has Fascism Been Destroyed?"
Questions...Discussion

Speaker: SANDY ROBERTSON
116 University Place

Free Admission

Stalinist Ranks Aid French Trotskyists

The March 17th issue of *La Verite (Truth)*, organ of the Internationalist Communist Party, French section of the Fourth International, has just reached this country. The following is a summary of some of the articles in the paper.

Freedom of the press remains a mockery under the de Gaulle government. The government uses its dictatorial powers over the supply and allocation of newsprint to foster reactionary newspapers and to discriminate against working class periodicals. New capitalist papers are permitted to appear daily in large format while working class papers are forced to continue in small tabloid size, mostly single sheet. None of these papers conform to the government rule of having appeared illegally in struggle against the German occupation.

L'Humanite, the Stalinist paper, stated that it appears that the quantity of paper allocated to periodicals is distributed in inverse proportion to the number of issues which appeared illegally. Verite ironically comments that on such a basis it would not receive a single sheet of paper BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST PERIODICAL TO RESIST THE HITLERITE OCCUPATION.

The Stalinists continue their scurrilous smear campaign against the Fourth Internationalists in France. One Stalinist paper speaks of the Fourth International as "the Trotskyist scum and the Fourth International of Berlin." L'Humanite goes further in libelling the Trotskyists with the charge that the "Hitler-Trotskyist literature, as everyone knows from a recent inquiry is turned out by Darnand's men (fascists) who are dipping into the cash register of the Liquid Air Trust which is run by the traitor Georges Claude."

Verite replies by repeating the

challenge it has made each time the Stalinist leaders have published these lies. "If the leaders of the C.P.F. (French Communist Party) believe the charges they hurl against the Trotskyists what are they waiting for? Why don't they institute trial proceedings in broad daylight so that the labor movement may be definitively purged of the scum. On more than one occasion we called upon Cogniot and Monmousseau (Stalinist leaders) to proceed with such action."

DEMANDS OPEN TRIAL

"Our party challenges L'Humanite to produce the evidence for its anti-Trotskyist charges before a commission composed of all tendencies of the labor movement and the resistance movement. If L'Humanite refuses to prove its charges in the open, that will show that it and the Stalinist leaders, by their slanders and their lies are introducing filth into the labor movement."

Some idea of the increasing support received by Verite among the workers under difficult conditions of persecution and repression can be gathered from a small item addressed to "The Friends of La Verite." In it they state that for every bundle of Verite's that a frightened bureaucrat destroys, innumerable copies are distributed secretly with an infinite variety of ingenious methods by communist, socialist, anarchist and non-party workers. An example is given of one French factory where some workers placed copies of Verite on every work bench.

FIGHT FOR THIS PROGRAM:

1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!

A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay!

A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living!

Operate all government-built plants under workers' control!

2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!

Rescind the no-strike pledge!

Withdraw union representatives from the War Labor Board!

3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!

4. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities! Down with Jim Crow!

5. Working class political action!

Build the independent labor party!

Establish the workers' and farmers' government!

6. Tax the rich, not the poor!

No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!

7. A working class answer to capitalist militarism!

Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!

Trade union wages for all workers in the armed forces!

8. Hands off the European and colonial peoples!

Withdraw the Allied Occupation Troops from Europe!

Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the European and colonial peoples!

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

116 University Place
New York 3, New York

I would like:

- ☐ To join the Socialist Workers Party.
- ☐ To obtain further information about your organization.
- ☐ To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

Name (Please Print)

Address

City Postal Zone State

10 Years Ago In The Militant

MAY 18, 1935

TOLEDO—Ending their historic three-week strike in the first pitched battle against General Motors, the Toledo Chevrolet workers voted to accept an increase of four cents per hour and minor concessions, yielding their demand for union recognition.

"Out of this fight," *The Militant* reported, "has grown a force of militant progressives in the auto unions who have demonstrated conclusively their power and ability."

"Tonight these progressives are planning to get together, to lay out a national program, to organize, train and discipline themselves more thoroughly. . . The men unanimously pledged themselves to stick in the union, throw out their false leaders, and build the organization toward a fight to the finish with General Motors."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—For the third time the Illinois Workers Alliance massed its forces to march on the state capital demanding immediate relief for the starving unemployed.

Governor Horner of Illinois, elected as a "humanitarian friend of the poor," threatened: "Not one cent" for relief until the Assembly voted to increase the state sales tax from two to three per cent, thus throwing the burden of relief upon the underpaid workers.

Fearful of the threatened hunger march, however, some counties were already yielding a measure of relief, while the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission suddenly "discovered" \$1,250,000 of available relief funds.

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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

Walter Held's Fate

Last week *The Militant* reported that Walter Held, a heroic working class fighter against Hitlerism, had disappeared together with his family in the Soviet Union while in transit from Sweden to the United States. His friends believe him a victim of Stalin's secret police, the dreaded GPU.

They fear Stalin took personal revenge on Held because of his investigations in the Moscow frame-up trials. Held uncovered facts that helped expose these trials as monstrous fabrications arranged by Stalin to justify his slaughter of the leaders of the Bolshevik revolution.

The last man to report Walter Held alive was Erlich, well known figure of the Polish labor movement, who shared a cell at Saratov prison with Held. Shortly thereafter, Erlich was executed by the GPU on frame-up charges.

The press has recently been filled with indignation over the fate of 16 leaders of the Polish underground who disappeared in the USSR. The British and American governments have demanded information from the Stalinist bureaucracy as to their fate and are utilizing every ounce of pressure at their disposal to receive a satisfactory answer.

The same press is not concerned, however, over the disappearance of Walter Held, for he opposed the capitalist profit system. Only the labor movement has a direct interest in his fate. It is up to the labor movement to put pressure on the Stalinist officialdom. Why did the GPU seize Walter Held? Let them answer!

Pacific War

With the shift of the war to the lands and waters of eastern Asia, the second phase of World War II is commencing.

In Asia is concentrated more than half the world's population and immense natural riches. The peoples of China and India alone number 835,000,000. In the archipelago of the Netherlands East Indies is crowded another 67,000,000. The Western imperialists freebooted in these lands for two centuries and more. They enslaved the inhabitants and despoiled them of their wealth.

In a succession of swift campaigns after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese imperialists grabbed the Oriental possessions of their Dutch and British rivals and snatched the Philippines from the American imperialists. The losers are now trying to get back what they lost. American imperialism, in conformity with its role of the dominant world power, aims at establishing its own hegemony in Asia against all other rivals or claimants.

This is what the war in the Pacific is really about. It is a war to decide which set of imperialist slave-drivers shall wield the whip of colonial servitude and exploitation over the teeming multitudes of Asia.

The Asiatic peoples want their independence. They want to be free from alien domination and exploitation. They don't want to be ruled by any imperialist power, white or yellow. The Koreans have fought as vigorously for their freedom from Japan's yoke as the masses of India and Burma have fought to free themselves from the British yoke. The Indonesians have resisted the Japanese conquerors with the same determined opposition that they displayed toward their Dutch conquerors. The people of the Philippines strove for their independence from American imperialism just as formerly they fought the Spanish Conquistadores and, more lately, the Japanese.

As the war in the Pacific unfolds and Japan's grip is loosened, the millions of colonial slaves in the countries of the East will intensify the struggle to make themselves master in their own house, to free themselves, once and for all, from the chains of imperialist domination. Their cause is just and progressive. Every class-conscious worker must give it his fullest support.

Program For Jobs

Mounting cut-backs portend a most serious situation for the workers. Instead of 60 million jobs promised by the administration last fall, workers and returning veterans face widespread unemployment. For lack of adequate wages, working class families are being squeezed tighter in the vise of sky-rocketing prices and a shrinking income.

The government, however, is doing nothing to relieve the situation. On the contrary, the Washington representatives of Big Business are maintaining the wage freeze, permitting and even encouraging the closing down of plants, and passing regulations to ensure monopoly profits.

Great concern over this grave situation is evident in the labor movement. At Detroit, for instance, 40 presidents of (CIO) United Automobile Workers Union locals met last week to consider ways and means of protecting labor's interests.

They represented more than 400,000 workers, the bulk of the Detroit industrial area.

They agreed to begin a campaign for 48 hour pay for the 40 hour week to which plants are being cut. An excellent step forward! But every thinking worker must feel that this alone cannot possibly solve the growing crisis. It is only a beginning. Jobs must be provided for tens of millions of workers. Wages throughout the country must be increased to meet the rising cost of living.

What to do?

First of all, the government-built plants must be kept in full operation. Those that have been producing war goods should be converted immediately to the production of peace-time products. The present scarcity of essential goods that still afflicts us with rationing and price-gouging must be eliminated. No idle factories so long as anyone is without work!

Next, these plants must be placed under the control of the workers. Big Business sabotages production, fights to increase profits no matter what suffering it may impose on the majority of the population. Workers control is the only effective means of safeguarding labor's welfare against the self-seeking designs of the capitalists.

Third, a sliding scale of hours must be adopted. By taking the total number of labor hours available and dividing it by the total number of men in need of jobs, the day's work can be shortened so as to take care of everyone. This spread of work must be accompanied, naturally, by no reduction in weekly pay which during wartime has never kept up with soaring prices.

If organized labor fails to adopt and fight for such a program, a post-war depression far worse than the depression of 1929-33 will inevitably paralyze the nation.

Withdraw The Troops!

Germany has been defeated and is now in process of being completely disarmed by the Allied victors. Yet the American imperialists have declared their intention to keep large military forces in Europe for an indefinite period of time. In addition to the regular troops, an American air force requiring ground crews numbering between 75,000 and 100,000 men is to be maintained on the Continent. Why?

Press reports tell of American soldiers in Europe anxiously calculating the number of their service points in the hope that they have qualified for discharge and will be sent home. Sickened by war's agony, they want to get out of the army and back to normal civilian life. But although the fighting has ended, large numbers of them are to be kept in uniform and must endure continued separation from their homes and families. Why?

The imperialists make no secret of their reasons for keeping large military forces in Europe and the purposes for which they will be used. As the Associated Press reported on the very day of Germany's surrender, they are to be used to "maintain order."

Against whom? Obviously against the peoples of Europe, above all the workers, who are manifesting a growing determination to put an end to the capitalist system which has plunged them into the unspeakable horror of two world wars.

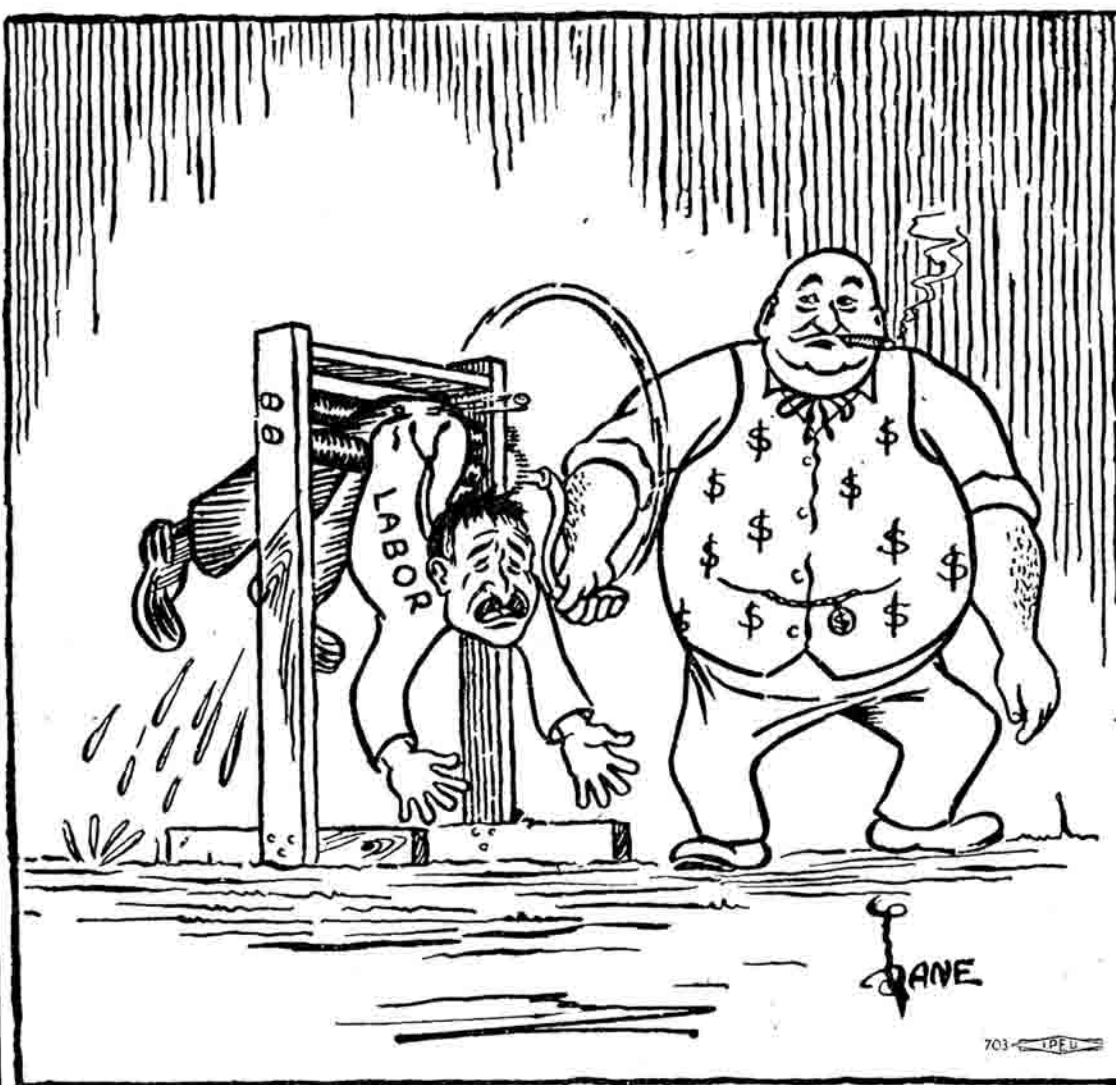
The imperialists, however, have their own plans for the tortured people of Europe. They know that the socialist revolution, beginning in any one country, would sweep across the whole continent and set aflame colonial revolt in Asia, in Latin America and in Africa. The entire world system of capitalist exploitation would be imperiled.

And so they intend, if they can, to preserve European capitalism by armed force. The Atlantic Charter promised freedom from want. But wherever the hungry masses rise up to demand food, the imperialists intend to suppress them. Wherever as in Greece and Belgium the masses attempt to overthrow the reactionary military, police and monarchist regimes imposed on them by the Allies, and move in the direction of a socialist future, they will be shot down.

It is for this that American soldiers are to be kept in Europe, separated from their homes and loved ones. The great majority of these soldiers are part of the American working-class. The American labor movement must not permit the government of the Wall Street bandits to use them for carrying out the nefarious purposes of the imperialists. From the ranks of organized labor the cry must go up:

Hands off the European revolution!
Withdraw all American troops from Europe!

That Old Familiar Feeling



Reprinted from "Spicer Unit News."

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of The Militant. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Must Newark Be A Slum City?

Editor:

A report submitted to the City Commission by Newark's Planning Board reveals the deplorable housing conditions in the City, without offering any solution to the problem.

The Planning Board shows that there are 38,413 substandard dwellings, housing one-third of the city's population. Newark requires 56,000 new dwelling units and the modernization of 22,000 more, at an estimated cost of \$300,000,000 over a period of 25 years!

How are these houses to be built? Presumably, by a combination of public housing, subsidies, and private enterprise. Why should private capital, having refused in the past to invest in new housing and renovation in Newark, do so in the future? No convincing reason is offered.

Much of the real estate in Newark is owned by huge corporations such as Prudential Insurance Co., Public Serv., Building and Loan Associations, etc. They have no interest in improving the housing conditions in the city. They are solely interested in reaping profits with the least possible expenditures or improvements.

These same corporations use their influence to see that Commissioners are elected to the City Commission who will aid the Corporations in keeping these slums in existence. It is more profitable to have slums, so there are slums. What do they care about us living in dark, damp, dirty hovels, where the sun can never shine? It is our children who will get T.B., not theirs. Newark needs low-cost housing, which can only be obtained by subsidies from the Federal Government. The Government which has spent so much money on the war for destructive purposes, should surely be willing to spend a few million dollars for decent houses in Newark.

Is Newark an example of the much talked about "American Way of Life," where one-third of the city's population lives in substandard dwellings?

Joe Ford
Newark, N. J.

Fascist Poison

Editor:

The following is information on developing fascist activities. The April 25 Eastside Journal, a community paper of the eastside section of Los Angeles, prints information evidently given by Jewish workers employed at the Naval Drydocks, Terminal Island. Leaflets of anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, anti-"Oakie" type have been appearing with increasing frequency on the bulletin boards at the drydocks. Workers have been complaining to the Naval brass hats about this situation, and the complaints are ignored.

Several weeks prior to April 25th a group of CIO workers formed a committee to stop this fascist propaganda. Three leaders of this committee were Bronson

Parrett, William Rosenthal, and Charles G. Greenwood Jr. When an anti-Semitic leaflet appeared in the following days, Rosenthal appeared before the Naval brass hats, and was promised action. Then the committee removed the anti-Semitic bulletins from the boards.

A few days after Rosenthal was fired from his job. Parrett was also fired, and Greenwood was given a warning notice and his occupational deferment reconsidered. Thus the Navy and the government give support to the fascists.

In addition there have been increasing physical attacks upon Jews in the Boyle Heights section of L. A. by young hoodlums. A letter has been sent by Jewish leaders of Boyle Heights to Mayor Bowron, but nothing has yet been done.

L. T.
Los Angeles

"Liberated" Italians

Editor:

I just had a letter from my sister dated March 19th, 1945. She lives in central Italy in a town that was occupied by the Allies only a short time ago. The conditions she describes are unspeakable and filled me with anger at those who brought my folks to such conditions.

She relates that as the armies approached the town they took to the hills with all of the other inhabitants of the town. In the woods they "lived like animals on

roots and acorns." When they returned to the town under American occupation, they found many of the houses destroyed and everything in sight had been looted. She says that they all felt that, now, at last, under the Americans they would get a good meal after starving so long. But under the Americans it is worse than before. She says that even if there were jobs to be had the men are so weak that they could not work from lack of food.

My sister writes that she would like to send me a picture of her family but doesn't have any money for a photo. Besides, she adds, "for the sake of decency, I would not send you a picture of us as we are, without shoes and very little clothing."

Will you please publish this in your fine paper so that more people may know how conditions are with the people who have been "liberated" by the Allies.

A. P.
Toledo, Ohio

For Slave Labor

Editor:

The War Manpower Commission is importing West Indian workers from the islands of Jamaica and Barbados to work in the Youngstown steel area under virtual slave conditions. The pretext is an alleged manpower shortage, but the real reason is to build up a labor surplus to make it easier to fight the unions.

As a result of an agreement between the British and American governments, these workers are to have their transportation paid by the employers to and from the port of entry. The workers are to work under 90 day contracts and longer if it turns out "satisfactorily." They will have the same wage rates as the workers here get now and they will have the right to join the union.

But—and here is where the hitch comes in—these workers are to have none of the privileges of the "native" workers, in that they will have no seniority. Any "native" can by-pass these imported workers on the job. This arrangement holds the constant threat of firing and deportation over the imported workers' heads. The union officialdom have already agreed to this plan. They too fear the militancy of the workers and are not averse to having a little surplus of docile labor on hand.

Speaking before the CIO Council here, the WMC agent stated that there is an abundance of labor in the South, but it hasn't worked out so well. He meant that southern workers won't have the threats hanging over their heads as do the imported West Indians.

American workers will accept the workers from the West Indies and any other country, but they oppose the use of these workers by the employers and their government agents to drive down standards of living union men have won through bitter struggle. They do not want others to be used as slave labor and thereby injure all workers.

C. Peters
Youngstown, O.

The Bigger the War -- The Greater the Profits

So you've been told that your plant is going to shut down? So you're going to have to take your hundred dollars worth of war bonds and cash them in—without interest—to feed your family while you're being "reconverted?" Well, if you think you've got it tough, look at what the big corporations have to put up with!

C. M. Reckert, in the financial section of the N. Y. Times, May 7, tells us mournfully that "corporate profits were not so impressive" in 1944. It seems according to him that a survey of 857 leading manufacturing companies shows they made net profits, after all taxes, of \$2,763,171,176 in 1944. This was—horrors!—"only 4 per cent better than the \$2,668,634,842 net for the same companies the year before." Imagine, "only" 4 per cent more than the record take of 1943, which was double that in 1939!

Some of the dollar patriots did a little better than that. Sixteen automobile companies raised their take 11 per cent in 1944 over 1943, from \$201,409,923 to \$223,073,582. A group of 27 oil companies shot their net up 25 per cent in one year, from \$462,512,436 to \$579,566,388.

Now, to workers struggling along on \$20, \$30 or \$40 a week with prices soaring higher daily that might seem pretty fair profits for the industrialists. But consider, says Reckert, how "high taxes, operating costs and wages and manpower problems . . . reduced profit margins." Just think what the employers could have made if they didn't have to pay some taxes and wages!

Of course, Reckert concedes, there were some rays of sunshine in this gloomy scene. "The war, however, has provided many industries with stabilized and profitable business, enabling many corporations to strengthen working capital, reduce debts and eliminate dividend arrearages. . . Most of these companies have set up contingency reserves to meet post-war adjustments."

Still, it's not like the good old times, when a concern "might operate fairly profitably on a 40 to 50 per cent capacity," says Reckert. What the corporations want is to be able to fire half the workers and still clean up.

Government Takes Good Care of Big Corporations

If Big Business is not too overwrought at the prospect of war production cutbacks and long lines of unemployed, there is good reason, explains Ralph Hendershot, financial editor of the N. Y. World-Telegram.

"Despite high taxes and close pricing on war goods," he wrote on May 1, "most corporations will emerge from this war period in much better financial condition than was thought possible a year or so ago."

"For one reason these companies have been very conservative in their dividend disbursements, preferring rather to set aside heavy reserves each year out of earnings for postwar emergencies."

Moreover, "the heavy depreciation allowances on plants and machinery" for war use "have given these companies an important lift." At 20 per cent a year allowance, most of the companies will have received plants from the government free of charge.

Also, "substantial credits have been rolled up through excess-profits tax levies. These funds will come in handy in the reconversion period." Mighty handy for the plutocrats to loll at luxury resorts, while workers are out on the street.

German Workers Were Main Victims of Atrocities

After 12 years of the known existence of the Nazi "horror camps," the Allied propagandists have suddenly unleashed a frenzied campaign of "exposure" in an attempt to place responsibility for these atrocities on the whole German people.

By telling a half-truth, however, this propaganda perpetrates an enormous lie. It carefully conceals the fact that these atrocities were directed first and foremost against the German masses themselves.

Walker Stone, writing in the New York World-Telegram, May 10, reports that these camps contained no American and British prisoners of war. At Buchenwald and Dachau, "there were thousands of GERMAN citizens, whose only crime was resisting the Nazi political machine." And there were WORKERS, slave labor, of all nationalities, "the corpses of GERMANS, Austrians, Poles, Russians, Hungarians, Czechs," etc.

Reporting an interview with 15 American newspapermen, the New York Post, May 8, stated: "M. E. Walter, managing editor of the Houston Chronicle, however wanted to assure parents and wives of American soldiers that prisoners-of-war, generally, were not subjected to the atrocities they witnessed at Buchenwald and Dachau. These outrages, he said, were reserved for POLITICAL prisoners." That is, in the main, GERMANS.

Time magazine, May 14, reports that Allied officers "unexpectedly" discovered "2,000 GERMAN prisoners who had a plan for a liberal, anti-fascist Reich . . . They had organized a strong underground within Buchenwald, so strong at one time it had liquidated 125 SS informers." But why does Time describe the discovery as "unexpected" when it knows that hundreds of thousands of GERMANS have died in these camps since 1933? But to admit that is to explode the lie that the German people are responsible for the Nazi atrocities.

The only explanation for Hitler's treatment of so many GERMANS in this fashion was because he himself understood that the German masses were against Nazism and could be kept in line only by the most ruthless terror. That is why, as Scripps-Howard correspondent Henry J. Taylor reported on May 1, "frequently, after six months or so here or in another camp, a starved and broken man or woman would be sent back among former comrades. . . as a LIVING EXAMPLE of what it meant to be sent away."