

# The Fighting Worker

Official Organ of The Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

Workers of  
The World  
Unite!

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## SOLDIERS STRIKE AGAINST U. S. IMPERIALISM

The world-wide soldiers strikes and demonstrations against the U.S. government's demobilization slow-down are the highest form of political struggle against American imperialism that any section of the working class has attained during the war. The soldiers strikes are a qualitative change from the old directionless and negative "want to go home" thinking to a purposive and positive denunciation of the War Department, Truman and the on-the-spot military leaders as incompetent, corrupt and lying, and use of soldiers as watchdogs of American imperialism. They indicate a complete split from following the lead of the generals, a fission from the ideology of "obey orders" and "you're not paid to think."

On Jan. 4 when the War Department announced the demobilization slow-down the soldier demonstrations were touched off. The soldiers felt that the generals were keeping the army large solely to preserve their fat jobs.

### The Boys Take Mass Action

More important than this, however, is the fact that the soldiers saw workers at home taking mass action to defend themselves against attack by the big corporations. They saw that whatever aim the war had been fought for had not been achieved but on the contrary had been vitiated by their use as policemen for imperialist ends.

Reason why soldier resentment, once it flares up can be so powerful is that the soldier has one direct enemy not several — only the government opposes him directly, usually in the person of the generals and colonels with the War Department behind them. They have only one enemy to hate, where the worker sees the boss, the police, the courts, the government in Washington.

### Strike Technique

In their methods of demonstrating the workers in uniform have used with telling effect the mass action tactics of their brother workers in the factories. Mass organization (directly counter to the Articles of War), parades, demonstrations, strikes, mass meetings, mass protests, speeches, petitions, letters to congress, cables, articles, press releases, advertising in press, pamphlets (mimeographed), leaflets, programs and plans of action, demands, grievances, protests to inspector generals, placards, picketing, yelling and singing at gatherings, joint discussions with officers at conferences, joining together with junior officers against senior officers, establishing of "liberation" committees, fighting denunciation — all these are workers' tactics.

### Strike is Political

The soldiers strike follows the workers strikes at home and are directly related to them. But they

(Continued on Page 4)

## Strikes Spread Against Boss Lockouts and Rising Prices

January 16, 1946 — 800,000 steel workers are on the march for higher pay. Breaking out of the wartime straitjacket the workers of America have forced the Murray-Reuther-Stalinist lieutenants of capital in labor's ranks to end the no-strike pledge. As we go to press electrical, packinghouse, General Motors and thousands of other workers are out on the picket line. A national telephone strike is postponed thirty days.

It is well-known that Murray and

Company privately did not want these strikes, as such authoritative bourgeois sheets as Kiplinger's News Letter have declared. But the end of the war hysteria left Murray, Reuther and the Stalinists no alternative. Company after company is cutting hours from 48 to 40, reducing earnings by at least 30%. Re-classification of hundreds of thousands to lower paying jobs is taking place throughout industry. Anyone who's been laid off knows that in getting another job he is forced to

work for 20c to 65c per hour less. Women now unemployed are generally being offered only 55c per hour.

The strike wave was inevitable. For almost three years there have been no general wage increases. The War Labor Board informed the steel workers, auto workers and all others that it couldn't break the "Little Steel" formula. Phil Murray himself had promised the auto workers in 1944 "as sure as I'm standing here the Little Steel formula will be broken." But the government refused to break that formula and it refused to allow wages to raise. And yet Murray and his cohorts refused to strike during war time when VICTORY WAS NOT ONLY POSSIBLE BUT MOST LIKELY!

### Government Aids Bosses

Now that the war is over, with millions already unemployed, and with all of industry being protected by the excess profits tax refund system by which the government gives a tax refund for most of the losses that industry suffers — at this most UNFAVORABLE moment, the labor fakery are finally agreeing to strikes.

The capitalists don't fear the present strike wave because they know the type of leadership that it has. As a matter of fact Morgan, Dupont and all the others are using the strike wave as a club with which to exact higher prices. And Mr. Truman is going right along with them. Steel will be raised at least \$4 per ton. Meats, butter, and almost all other commodities are about to go up. The "hold the line" order is melting away like snow in summer time. Inflation will not take on much increased momentum.

Any victory the workers gain, therefore, is short-lived and somewhat illusory. The oil workers union, CIO has settled its dispute with an 18% raise. Before they went out the companies offered 15%. They have had their hours cut from 48 to 40; their cut in take-home pay will now amount from approximately \$62.40 per week to \$56.40 — a cut of six dollars a week. With the rise in prices this cut will be even greater.

### 30% Raise Is Dead

The General Motors workers were offered 13½c per hour. For three months Reuther screamed that he would not compromise for less than 30%. Murray and Reuther both viciously attacked the fact-finding committee proposals of Truman. Yet the minute the fraudulent committee set up by the President came out with a recommendation for a 19½c raise; General Motors has turned down even this modest proposal, but Reuther, Thomas and the rest jumped to accept it even after the company rejected it! Such an ignominious sellout!

Not the workers but the employers are on the offensive, who are attempting to gain two major objectives during the present turmoil: 1—Higher prices. Mindful of mass pressure to keep the cost of living stable, the Truman administration has made a phoney show of attempting to resist higher prices. But prices of all things are ready to go up. Phil Murray is helping this farce along by insisting that the labor "leaders" don't bring the ques-

(Continued on Page 2)

## RETAIL CLERKS SEEK LOCAL RULE

1800 department store workers in Chicago last month seceded from the United Retail Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, CIO, to join the AFL. In itself this is not a great event, but it is an important barometer of the mood of the average trade unionist. Thousands of local union leaders are thinking in terms of getting away from their present international leaderships. The war brought them nothing either in terms of sound basic union organization or any betterment in REAL wages. Consequently they're looking for a new home. Unquestionably John L. Lewis' possible re-entry into the AF of L will set quite a few other locals stirring away from the CIO toward the older federation of labor.

During the war the URWDSEA whose slogan was "a million members by 1944" fell far behind. Torn by internal dissension, harassed by the war turnover in labor in the industry, the CIO lost about 25% of its members. When Local 291 came to the International for organizational assistance the International at first refused and then stalled.

### Tactical Error

Growing impatient, the rank and file leaders, thereupon decided to switch over to the AF of L — the Building Service Employees Union of Bill McPetridge. As an opposition to Wolchok, Pres. of URWDSEA, within the CIO they undoubtedly had many justified grievances. But their action in leaving without first spreading the struggle deeper into the ranks of the URWDSEA has undoubtedly confused hundreds of sincere militant workers who are still tied to the Wolchok machine.

In going over to the AF of L the department store workers will probably gain considerable help and harmony for a while. But unless they maintain autonomy and unless they keep a vigilant eye on an international leadership which is politically just as class collaborationist as Wolchok's — unless they organize

## His Name Is Mud

President Harry S. Truman when asked what the "S." stands for in his name is said to have replied: "The S. stands for nothing."

After Harry S. Truman's use of troops against strikers and proposal for fact-finding which is a step to compulsory arbitration and destruction of unions, it is suggested that the President's name be filled out to — Harry "Strikebreaker" Truman.

thousands of department store workers and spread the struggle for union democracy and fighting policies throughout the AF of L International some day they will again experience the same difficulties as they had with Wolchok in the CIO.

The shift of Local 291 focuses attention on the great problem of six million retail, wholesale and department store workers, potentially the largest union in the entire country. The wages in the industry are abominably low. Two million retail clerks were earning less than 40c per hour in August 1944. Since then their condition has improved very little. A drag on the wages of all other workers, this is the kind of industry whose workers are very undeveloped, in which turnover of labor is very high. Less than 250,000 of them are organized.

### Unity Can Win

The situation could be different, however, with teamsters and railroad men refusing to make shipments to department stores, retail stores and warehouses, with organized engineers, carpenters and maintenance workers giving full support, with the concerted effort of all other workers to help man picket lines and establish flying squads — With a UNITED labor movement behind them, this industry of six million workers could be scooped up almost overnight into the ranks of organized labor.

Unfortunately the situation is not one of unity but of increasing discord. The AFL Teamsters do not always even help their fellow AF of L locals in putting pressure on a recalcitrant employer. And the CIO generally has never put any concentrated effort into this field. At one time Sidney Hillman offered Wolchok considerable financial help PROVIDING the campaign was under Hillman's direction, with URWDSEA being set up merely as an "organizing committee," like the former Textile or Steel Workers Organizing Committees. As one bureaucrat to another Wolchok turned thumbs down on this deal.

Switching from one federation to another, although it is necessary under some circumstances, is no answer. The only effective answer is the creation of a national trade union progressive group in BOTH AF of L and CIO to fight for labor solidarity and drive towards creation of one national union, on a program of class struggle against the employers, their state and their labor lieutenants in the ranks of labor.

## Revolutionary Leaders Show the Way Lenin, Liebknecht, Luxembourg

As soldiers strike against the U.S. government throughout the world they are denouncing government and army leaders as imperialists who are attempting to use workers in uniform to police workers in Japan, Java, the Philippines, Germany and other countries. The soldiers have split from the generals and government leaders in the highest and widest working class political struggle against the government since the foundation of the U.S. by revolution 170 years ago.

During World War I, Karl Liebknecht, a revolutionist whom the imperial government of Germany drafted into the army, denounced the leaders of the German government as imperialists, landgrabbers, enemies of the workers, liars. He showed that it is not the drafted French worker on the other side of the fighting lines who is the enemy of the German worker but his "own" German capitalist government. His immortal words THE MAIN ENEMY IS AT HOME, OUR "OWN" GOVERNMENT have come down through working class history as a shining light of guidance to the oppressed masses of the world. For in the recognition of that one fact — that the capitalist government which represents the capitalist class is THE MAIN ENEMY — lies the essence of working CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS.

### PARTY IS BASIC INSTRUMENT

The international brotherhood of workers, their unity against capitalism everywhere (as American soldiers have today denounced U.S. imperialist adventures and seizure of bases and demanded hands off the Javanese revolution), is exemplified in the life of Rosa Luxembourg. Born in Poland, organizer of workers in many European countries, this courageous woman, possibly the greatest woman revolutionist who has ever led workers in the class struggle for power against the capitalist enemy, is an inspiration to all workers and soldiers who join together in common struggle against their common capitalist enemy.

As the national strike wave in the U.S. develops, as the soldiers strikes continue, and as revolution seethes in Java, India and is on the verge of breaking out in other areas — the most important weapon of the working class is absent: the POLITICAL PARTY. The fundamental instrument of working class mass action, the political party of revolution does not exist in any country on the war-torn planet. Only Nikolai Lenin, who led the Revolutionary Workers Party of Russia (the Bolsheviks) to the seizure of power in 1917, succeeded in creating such an instrument of struggle.

On this anniversary of the three L's — Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxembourg — workers throughout the world are showing that they in life are following the teachings of these leaders of revolution and that in their continuing struggles they will create again the REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS POLITICAL PARTY which will lead the world workers in struggle to wrest political power from the capitalist enemy.

## Company Security

In contract negotiations with the UAW, Ford demanded the union give the company security against strikes by making the union liable to fines for any strikes occurring during the life of the contract.

The UAW leaders have agreed, but with the modification that instead of fining the union for "wildcat" strikes the individual workers concerned be fined \$3.00 for the first strike, \$5.00 for the second "offense" and be fired by the corporation and thrown out of the union for the third strike; proceeds of the fines to go to charity.

...hus, though they recognize and oppose the openly union-busting proposal of Truman's fact-finding as a form of compulsory arbitration which would mean liquidation of the union, the UAW leaders give Ford an ideal mechanism for union busting by firing militant workers.

### Continues No-Strike Policy

Company security against strikes in peacetime is a continuation of the "no strike" policy in wartime. It attempts to restrain labor on the basis of class collaboration by forcing all militant workers desiring to improve job conditions to face the corporation not as a united mass in a single organization but as individuals. As such it is diametrically opposed to the very basis of all union organization: the solidarity of organized workers against the employer. This solidarity wipes out competition between individual workers and presents a powerful, united workers front in collective struggle of all kinds for improvement of wages, working conditions and organizational power of the union. Company security ties the workers to a static contract which favors the corporations preventing workers from conducting continuing action against the rising cost of living.

Why do UAW leaders in open collaboration with the boss favor this proposal for striking blows at militant individual members of the union?

Under pressure of the workers who are driven by the rising cost of living the UAW leaders found it to their interest to call the strike, though it was at the wrong time strategically. These misleaders are anxious to prove to the corporation that they do not conduct frivolous actions, that they treasure and cherish contracts, that they can control the members.

### Blow At Union Militants

Union leaders have many times sought for ways to curb the continuous expression of working class rebellion against conditions in the plant and in the consumer market. In the recent past these leaders have threatened, fined, disciplined and expelled "wildcat" strikers.

(Concluded in the next issue)

## COAL MINERS MURDERED BY CAPITALISM

Eight men were carried out alive from the tunnel of a coal mine near Pineville, Ky., where they had been trapped for five days at the end of December 1945, when an underground explosion flashed through the mine workings. Many others were not so fortunate.

Outside the mine, as the sun slowly rose over the snowy mountains of Kentucky, one could see the shallow, hollow-eyed faces of women, children and weary coal-blackened faces of the resting rescue workers. The few that were not there were home catching a quick bit of food between the hours of anxious and almost hopeless waiting. Voices were dragging and soft, mostly tear-choked and woe-begone. A brave feeble voice could be heard saying: "My big brother's down there. But we think he'll come out all right. He always has." One realizes dimly that this sort of scene is not exactly rare in a coal mining town. Indeed, previous mine disaster experiences proved to be the deciding factor that resulted in the saving of half a dozen or so of the 31 entombed victims.

### WORKERS' COURAGE

A negro miner who had been entombed in the Kettle Island mine disaster in 1929 and had survived, took over the leadership of the men he was entombed with and showed them how to conserve their strength. He scratched arrows on the slate walls for rescuers to see, should they come. He took charge of the food and water in their lunch pails and began rationing both. At his direction the men stretched out on their backs to conserve their supply of oxygen. Thanks to his foresight, all were alive when the rescuers broke through. His comrades couldn't praise him enough.

The explosion "almost tore our ears off," said the black, be-grimed worker, "but the fire didn't touch us. At first we tried to work our way out but the heat was too awful and the gas and smoke made us go back." The red badge of workers' courage!

But most of the other men were not so fortunate. Two bodies

were found in a kneeling position and there was evidence that they had dragged themselves several feet before dying right there on their knees. Two other bodies were found badly burned, probably from the roaring flame that billowed forth from the underground explosion. One body was so completely disfigured and burned it could not be identified. One burned body was the remainder of what was "Daddy" to three little ones.

### HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

How did such a horrible catastrophe occur? The mine was gassy, had poor electrical system with exposed wiring, underground communication by telephone was unprovided. Rock-dusting coal dust to prevent fire was not done. The ventilating system was inadequate, not even fire fighting equipment was available. None of the escapeways were in traversible condition, and no safety instructions or drills had been given.

Need any more be said? Well, this one fact ought to be made known also. The families of these dead men will receive no money, for the miners were not protected by insurance because their work was too dangerous. Even after the explosion, insurance was refused to the volunteer rescue workers because of the danger. What insurance company, in business to make profits, would risk money to insure human beings working in such a mine?

### MINE OWNERS RESPONSIBLE

Knowing inspections proved the mine unsafe, the company owners saved a great deal of money by not purchasing the latest safety devices. Still, the owners sent the miners down into the deadly mine day after day.

The mine owners sent miners to be gassed and burned and entombed alive and suffocated and buried in water, to be blasted and blown to pieces — to die in agony.

Miners and their families know that mine owners who do not safeguard human life, can be called only . . . MURDERERS!

You mine owners are murderers, murderers, murderers . . .

## Strikes Spread Against Boss Lockouts and Rising Prices

(Continued from Page 1)

tion of prices up. During the war the CIO leader's position was "we don't need raises so long as prices are constant; our job should be to police prices rather than get raises." How times have changed! Murray now has the opposite position — a position which is equally a sellout.

2—"Company Security." After the first war the capitalists openly smashed unions left and right, including the packinghouse and steel unions. The railroad unions were completely emasculated by the Railway Labor Act which prohibits closed shops and has a long arduous procedure for delaying strike action. The best the capitalists can hope to achieve after this war, however, is emasculation of the unions, destruction of their militancy and hamstringing of their militant members. "Company Security" is an ideal proposition for this. The labor fakers and the company agree that there shall be no strikes during the term of the contract and that anyone who does strike shall be fined or discharged. The Kaiser auto plant agreed to eliminate a bonus for those employees who strike without the permission of their masters. Ford's demands that any employee who engaged in a strike shall be fined \$3 and \$5 per day, and that those who lead the strike

shall be discharged. Unquestionably all companies will be asking for one form or another of this "security." In effect this smashes at union security. In addition many corporations, such as GM, are asking for an end to the "maintenance of membership" provision that existed during the war. This provision required that all union members must maintain their membership in good standing during the life of the contract or be fired. Although it is a rotten compromise and a poor clause, nevertheless its elimination will pave the way for an "open shop" in the future.

### Truman Anti-Labor

The Truman administration is attempting to maintain the appearances of the Roosevelt regime. Actually, however, there is a struggle going on in the ranks of the bourgeoisie as to how to deal with the strike wave. The capitalists around Truman are FOR preserving the unions, but building up the labor fakers inside the unions to smash all militancy. Thus Henry Kaiser, one of the inner circle of Roosevelt's supporters, readily signed a contract with the UAW-CIO after their leaders gave him "company

security."

Another group of capitalists, around DuPont, is anxious to deal with labor a little more firmly, to weaken the whole structure of labor unions.

It is absolutely false to look at the government, which is using considerable demagoguery, as a "friend of labor." Actually it is the major enemy. It has injected itself into the present situation to do four things:

- 1—Smash the strikes—as in the oil strike where troops took over.
- 2—Raise prices, thus washing out the wage increases.
- 3—Publish phoney statistics showing that the rise in the cost of living since 1941 is 33%, when in reality the figure is closer to 75%.

—Cut down the concessions to labor. It is already apparent that the Murray-Reuther-Stalinist clique has given up the request for 30% and will now be satisfied for about half. It must be emphasized that even the 30% raise request was very moderate, considering the rise in prices, the cutting of hours and the fact that there has been no general increase for three years. It is also very moderate when we consider the growing unemployment. A na-

tional progressive movement is needed in the CIO-AFL and independents to propose a militant class struggle program around demands that put labor in the offensive:

- 1—A 30 hour week with 52 hours pay.
- 2—A guaranteed annual wage.
- 3—Trade union wages to the unemployed.
- 4—Stabilization of wages throughout industry on the highest rate paid anywhere.
- 5—A union shop.
- 6—Organization of all the workers, particularly in the low-paying industries.
- 7—A sliding scale of wages, with automatic increases for workers as prices rise.

### Strikes Unite Workers

The present strike wave must be spread not only vertically from industry to industry, but it must be spread horizontally within each area. The Stamford demonstration is a good beginning. 15,000 workers in this Connecticut town, both AFL and CIO, organized the Combined Stamford Labor Organization to defend the 3,000 Yale-Towne strikers. This is a step in the right direction — although its leaders were filled with many illusions about Truman. The strict CIO, AFL lines must be broken. Workers in each area should organize councils, with delegates from each plant (regardless of whether it is AFL, CIO independent, or even unorganized) to plan a general campaign to raise the living standards and protect the unions.

With this workers councils must organize effective Flying Squads and veterans' defense groups to fight back against vigilantism and police brutality.

The working class faces critical days. As soon as the strike scene lifts a bit (and Murray and Green and Stalinism will do all in its powers to do so) the capitalists will start an open offensive. Fascist hooligan squads, anti-labor legislation, extension if decree government — all this is on the order of the day.

The answer to these moves is not a reformist Labor Party, which will sap labor's energies into good, safe capitalist channels. The answer lies in organizing these Workers Councils and the Flying Squads to carry on the struggle of labor at the point of production.

## WORKERS OF THE WORLD

Italy — On Jan. 1, thousands of unemployed workers demonstrated on the streets of Florence, demanding "bread and work." The workers' flames up again and again.

Indonesia — British and Dutch forces armed and trained by the U.S., with the help of Japanese forces, are waging ruthless war against them. On Dec. 2 the British announced the formation of a 6 gun Japanese battery, to be used against the rebels.

A class division in the Indonesian population has taken place, one group for continuing the uprising in order to oust the imperialists; the other, under the leadership of the unrecognized Indonesian government compromising with the Dutch and British, opposing the first group and preparing to use the Indonesian Peace Preservation Corps against them. At present the Corps is conveying British supplies.

On Dec. 27 while British forces completely encircled Batavia, preparatory to wiping out all Indonesian forces and strongholds in the capital city, British Lt. Gen. Christison, allied commander in the Dutch Indies conferred with Sjarir and Sjarifudin. The latter promised to cooperate to restore peace. On the 29th the British moved into Batavia, disbanded the Indonesian police and took over all utilities.

The imperialists are getting ready for the all-out fight to regain complete domination of the rich colony. On Dec. 30, 2,000 American trained and equipped Dutch marines arrived near Batavia. The Indonesian masses can win their struggle for independence only if the workers of the world, particularly in the U.S., Britain and the Soviet

Union, protest imperialist slaughter, halt the flow of munitions and troops, and put pressure on British and American imperialism to keep HANDS OFF the Indonesian revolution.

Japan — Several thousand municipal employees marched into Tokyo metropolitan headquarters demanding a 300 per cent wage boost. Men currently receive \$11.33 and women \$3.33. Workers of the world, spread the strikes!

5,000 American soldiers demanding to go home, marched down des Champs-Elysees in Paris to the historic Place de la Concorde, where guillotines took place during the French revolution, and demonstrated before the American Embassy.

A year and a half ago in August 1944 the workers of Paris had risen up in insurrection against the hated Fascist Germans and collaborationist French masters. While the workers of Paris fought the Germans, the masters of the U.S. Army kept American soldiers out of Paris until the Parisiens were much weakened in the death struggle against the German Fascists. Finally the U.S. Army leaders sent in Leclerc's French division (under control of the U.S. Army) to take the city over and force out the workers from their attempt to seize power.

Now U.S. soldiers are in open struggle against the same U.S. Army leaders who had used workers against workers. These soldiers have found that their war has just begun against their real enemy — their "own" officers and government.



## Behind the Crime Wave

FBI report shows crime is on terrific increase throughout country (throughout world for that matter). The FBI tries to show crime wave is result of releases of prisoners from jail, loose law enforcement and not enough church influence.

Manifest nonsense. War turned loose youth from control. Need for workers in war production brought youth out of schools and homes and into industry. Economic breakdown of war and general capitalist disintegration of morals forced sections of the very poor and demoralized elements of petty bourgeoisie, not to mention the psychologically unbalanced rich, into crime.

The crime wave is the expression of the social conscience of human beings who have been fed propaganda of kill, kill, kill, die, die, die for years throughout the war. Taboos against murder, proscriptions against destruction and ruthless action are not easily reinstated on the exploited mass which produced materials and actually fought the imperialist war.

Degenerate criminal atrocities are in essence the same as the degenerate war atrocities which capitalism creates. Mass murder of war continues on into "civil" life at a slightly reduced level. People become accustomed to violence as a means of settling personal grievances.

Soldiers coming back to \$15 a week jobs can be killers or can be wonderful revolutionists, leading the workers in political and economic struggle against the national capitalist enemy. They are the youth. Crime wave from standpoint of participation by some returning soldiers is a negative reaction to the class struggle. Hostile to the system that prevents them from getting a decent wage they have a chance to fight or slug it with other workers in unions and political organization (the class way), or of being driven to rob.

For civilians, there was a huge break between men and women with the younger and more vigorous men being sent off to war. Shortages of food, clothes, shelter were bitterly resented. Unable to take out their resentment by grappling with and crushing the reasons for its existence some civilians turn against each other. Unable to take effective class action to improve their standards of living they are driven by capitalist pressure to fighting among themselves. Farmers who had good jobs in war production, who had been drawn out of the backwardness of rural life, now are forced back to their former lower standard of living, and resent this bitterly.

Arrests of many workers in the investigatory stage of crime detection and their treatment as suspects is a filthy, vicious blow at the whole working class. For example, in Chicago many janitors were arrested after a kidnaping and gruesome murder, though there is no real evidence linking them to the crime.

The FBI claims inadequate police forces, but police labor battalions in many big cities and private employer police battalions have grown tremendously during the war. Capt. Barnes of the industrial detail in Chicago is listed as having a selected force of police specially trained to deal with strikers. It is common to read in the press of a 40-man picket line guarded by 100 police.

## Freedom? Ain't So!

One month after V-J day, Negroes who had been 11% of all workers in industry were 18% of those laid off. In New York City total war employment dropped 22% while non-white employment fell 45%. In Philadelphia non-white disemployed were 30% of the total. In Cleveland total employment dropped 19%, non-white employment in war industries dropped 28%; in Portland, Oregon, where the Negro population increased during the war from 2,000 to 25,000, 50% of all Negro workers were displaced. Freedom from want?

What has happened to the Congressional Bill which promised "fair employment practices." Many war industries are closing down. FEPC has been given "power" to investigate, "probe and report" on practices in U.S. industries until June 30, 1946. With the fall of war production, as German and Japanese Imperialism were eliminated as competitors of American Imperialism, the Negro workers — cannon-maker and cannon-fodder — are now tossed back onto the unemployed scrap heap where the American rulers will attempt to use Negroes in the industrial reserve army of labor as a threat to labor on the job. Freedom from fear?

Negro workers, women, Jews, other minorities and white workers will be forced to make room for the vets; many vets will join the soup line too. The same class, the same problem! Freedom to starve!

### THE FIGHTING WORKER

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# Inflation Starves Workers

The U.S. isn't the only country in which the \$1.00 of 1941 bought as much as \$1.41 now buys. Inflation is on a rampage the world over. In human terms it means hunger, freezing, disease and death — not for Morgan, Rockefeller, Truman or Eleanor Roosevelt, but for workers and poor farmers. In political terms it means growth of military dictatorships to force the masses to accept lowered standards of living and to crush the mass rebellion against American imperialist intervention in the war-shattered economy of many countries.

Inflation is not caused by a disturbance of the money market, as capitalist economists allege (though government- or bank-induced "money inflation" has occurred for short periods in history). On the contrary, not too much money but war-time destruction of capital goods, raw materials and human productive forces drives prices up. It is social sabotage of the productive forces by the capitalists. Thus the economy of one country after the other, including the U.S., is unbalanced, with capital in the form of plant and equipment overexpanded, and consumption goods lagging far behind. This has led to an increased impoverishment of the exploited masses of the population.

French devaluation from 50 francs per dollar to 119 francs per dollar is a good object lesson on how inflation develops (Greece, Hungary, China are good examples too). Already on the verge of economic collapse in 1939, France was bled white by Nazi removal of large parts of French industry and the billions of francs in occupation costs for five years. What the military campaigns and bombing by the Allies did not destroy, the Nazis destroyed in their retreat. The French Empire was badly shaken, with American imperialism penetrating in North Africa, in islands in the western hemisphere and in Pacific islands such as New Caledonia (large producer of nickel); with Britain squeezing into French Indo-China, Syria and other areas. To pay the great costs of war, much of France's foreign investments have been liquidated by sale or transfer. With the fall in production for export, valuta from abroad have been re-

duced to the vanishing point, whereas gold is being drawn out of France. Only 180 million dollars of gold reserve is said to be available. Value of the franc which formerly was worth almost 20c is now less than 1c (.89 of 1c) and is very unstable at that rate of exchange.

To rejuvenate its capitalist economy, French imperialists need credits and foreign money to purchase capital equipment and raw materials. Thus far France has borrowed 550 million dollars from the U.S. Export-Import Bank, a tiny sum compared to the billions destroyed in the war.

Backing of the franc not only in productive effort, but in national wealth and gold reserve is low, De Gaulle, therefore, was forced to devalue the currency in order to achieve a temporary foreign trade advantage and gain considerable foreign valuta. Instead of an American importer getting 50 francs for the dollar, he can now get 119 francs, which makes it profitable for American importers to buy French goods for half of the previous listed price (even making allowance for the rising prices).

On the other hand, French importers purchase American goods at a considerable loss. For a \$4.00 machine part, a French importer formerly paid 200 francs; he now pays 476 francs. It thus is unprofitable for him to send his francs abroad and France thereby gains a more favorable balance of trade.

To encourage foreign trade which practically died during the war, the French government will either have to give importers a direct subsidy in cash or an indirect subsidy by permitting them to raise prices domestically on materials purchased from abroad for sale within France. To finance the subsidy to capitalist importers, the government has to raise prices and taxes. Real wages fall. The masses starve. Meanwhile the terrible shortage of consumers goods grows worse. In the second winter of "liberation" the French working class is far worse off than at any time during the German occupation.

The condition in France holds true for China, Hungary, Italy and elsewhere.

Even the Bretton Woods agreement and the International Monetary Bank will not stop devaluation of the currency of more countries. America and Britain will hold out a little longer, but they cannot stand idly by for too long as devaluation places them in a temporary trade disadvantage. Counter-measures must be put in operation; refusal to grant loans or granting of small, token loans; withholding of UNRRA relief, using food and raw materials as a political weapon over small countries; higher tariffs; quota and empire preference systems; dumping measures (like the former German aski or blocked mark "barter" system); and eventually devaluation of the dollar and pound.

To attempt to solve the economic crisis, capitalism is forced to do two things:

1—Clamp down on Unions and political organizations of the working class, and exercise decree control over prices, wages and other economic factors by use of devices such as devaluation. Increased military dictatorship at home is aimed to force the masses to accept the considerably reduced standard of living. Workers' refusal to accept this slashed living standard voluntarily is the basis of the strike wave in the U.S. and explains why the government is increasing its compulsory pressure on unions not to strike.

2—Take action against its economic rivals by political as well as economic means, use of new forms of sanctions, pressure in UNO, political terror and intervention (atomic bomb, supervision of elections, negotiation of trade agreements), armed pressure (British in Italy). The national capitalist state which strives to hold the expanding capitalist economy within national boundaries is unable to solve its problems except by intensified economic, political and military competition to burst out of those national boundaries — to war for world markets and world political supremacy. Every act of capitalism leads to war. Export or die is the law of the capitalist jungle.

Meanwhile in France, in America and in many other countries workers are on the march to force wage increases, to raise the standard of living of the mass. The real war of workers against bosses, bottled up in part during the imperialist war for the world, is now exploding with terrific pent-up force.

## Big 3 Meet --- Settle Nothing

Meeting once again at Moscow, the foreign ministers of the Big Three, Molotov, Byrnes and Bevin, have issued a buoyant communique about their "full and complete agreement," in sharp contrast to the previous London meeting's statement that no agreement had been reached!

Upon closer examination, the "full and complete agreement" amounts to how to agree on the procedure for beginning talks on peace terms for Italy and the Balkans; on setting up an International Commission for Japan with power to veto major changes in the Japanese constitution, but with no power to overrule American imperialism in all other matters; an International Commission, under the United Nations Organization to "handle" the atomic bomb.

The atomic bomb agreement for instance provides for: "free exchange of basic scientific information; controls to see that atomic energy is used only for peaceful purposes; elimination of atomic and mass destructive weapons; and effective international inspection of atomic activities."

A few days after this farcical announcement, Dr. Raphael Armattoe in Ireland announced that the Russians now have an atom bomb that can be produced in mass production and that it has a "horizontal pulverization range of 53 miles (about 10 times that of the American bomb) and a vertical lift of more than 6.2 miles." Obviously no power is eliminating atomic mass destructive weapons. In fact all powers are striving like mad to perfect more murderous weapons.

The whole concept that "war weapons" can be controlled is ridiculous. A nation fight a war with every ECONOMIC weapon at its disposal. In wartime EVERY plant, every mine, every industrial facility is a war weapon. The building up of peacetime economy is in itself an increase in the war potential. The attempt, therefore, to have "effective international inspection" of war weapons is an impossibility under capitalism. Only a truly united world workers state—a dictatorship of the proletariat — can effectively eliminate war by removing its causes.

The Moscow communique is a farce in other respects too. It had nothing to say about the unbearable freezing and starvation in Europe today; nothing to say about the disgraceful counter-revolutionary role of the Allies in Java; of the persecution of Jews throughout Europe and even in Palestine. The Moscow communique did nothing to reassure small-nations Turkey or Iran about the "integrity" of its territory. It did nothing to check inflation and increase world living standards.

Those are the real issues before humanity today — not issues of procedure. Behind the secret debates of the "Big Three" powers, lurks the secret agreements that have been made between Stalin, Truman and Atlee against the masses of the world, the secret pacts to maintain an order of hunger, inflation, death and destitution.

The hypocrisy of the publicized communique must be exposed to all the oppressed. In the face of an ever-growing hunger, it is time for the masses to act and act decisively; it is time to build a New Revolutionary Marxian Party and to wrest power from the imperialists.

Only a Proletarian Revolution can unify humanity. Everything else is merely a sham.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bulletin of the Provisional International Contact Commission.

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FEBRUARY, 1946

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## LAND OF THE FREE

American investors with a stake in the immense Ruhr properties of Hugo Stinnes, German industrialist, are interesting themselves very actively in policies that will determine the fate of these properties when reparations are paid and settlements made in Germany. (U.S. News Jan. 4). WHO ARE THESE INVESTORS? Let's have a public printing of the names and investments of all officials and industrialists who have investments anywhere in Germany. Many of these are the men who helped finance Hitler.

Warning to Veterans. One in every six small business enterprises that were started in 1944 was reported dead in 1945 by the Commerce Department. Worst mortality rate was in retail trades and services. Soooo — why sink your small money in some small business? Join the workers.

Truman asked Congress to double the \$10,000 annual salary of members, but they haven't passed the bill yet. Agitation for the increase is supposed to be growing recently since several members have quit for higher paying private jobs. Hey, Strikebreaker Truman, how about DOUBLING THE ANNUAL PAY OF WORKERS?

WHEN IS WAR MURDER AND MURDER WAR? Paging Gertrude Stein . . . On the grounds that a state of war did not exist between the U.S. and Japan until Congress issued its declaration of war on December 8, 1941, two federal and two state courts have recently ruled that persons killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor were victims of murder, not casualties of war, and that their life insurance, therefore, had to be paid, despite the fact that the policy contained a clause releasing the insurance company if death was "due to war or incidents thereof." Boy oh boy, would the Chicago Spitoon like to know that the Japanese bombing at Pearl Harbor wasn't war, only murder, and that Roosevelt declared war. This life insurance is a pretty rough proposition. Pays off only after you're gone. We think that both the courts and insurance companies are dead wrong: capitalist war is murder.

N. Y. STOCKS DECLINE ON GLOOMY STRIKE NEWS is headline in Chi. News Jan. 12. Remember when war headlines were: STOCKS CLIMB SHARPLY AS ARMIES STRIKE ON. War means high profits; stocks climb sharply. When labor seeks share of profits created by labor, STOCKS FALL.

CARRY ME BACK TO HIGH WAR PROFITS . . . The "carry-back" provision of the tax law which is a virtual government subsidy to employers may be investigated by Congress. This "carry-back" permits a corporation, when figuring its taxes, to apply a loss in one tax year against profits in the two previous years. Thus, a firm losing money in 1946 could "carry back" the loss to 1945 and would be entitled to a proportionate refund of taxes paid on 1945 profits. When millions of workers lost take home pay after V-J day and through unemployment, the government didn't give them any tax refund on income taxes paid in preceding years. Let's end the income tax for workers incomes below \$5,000 a year, and continue and increase the tax on profits of bosses.

THE HIGH PROFITS OF WAR IN WORLD WAR II. Approximately 2,000 U.S. soldiers received a severed spinal cord, one of the worst types of war wounds. Called paraplegics, such wounded men are paralyzed from the point of injury down and are almost completely helpless. Says Time: "At one time or another, nearly every paraplegic wishes he were dead."

OFFICERS TREAT ENEMY OFFICERS AS NON-WORKING EQUALS . . . Japanese Submarine Captain Iko Hashimoto testified at the courtmartial of U.S. Captain C. B. McVay of the Indianapolis that he had sighted the ship at 11,000 yards, had fired 3 torpedo hits right into her, blowing her apart and leading to the death of some 800 sailors. After his testimony, Hashimoto was led to Navy Yard quarters "commensurate with his rank of commander."

DEPARTMENT OF DENSE GENERALS (A HEAVILY POPULATED DEPARTMENT). Of the recently deceased brutal French General Dentz, French soldiers are reported to have said, "if ordered to attack Dentz, Dentz would unhesitatingly have shot Dentz." If all other generals were only one-tenth as dense as Dentz, they'd still be about 100 times as dense as any soldier.

## Soldiers Strike Against U. S. Imperialism

(Continued from Page 1)

do more than follow; since the soldier's antagonist is the government itself and within the government the core of capitalist armed force — the militaristic pinnacle of class rule — the demonstrations immediately assume the high political level of open opposition to the government, open challenging of its armed forces structure. Political strike action is at a higher level than the workers economic strikes. In this sense, the soldiers who initially followed the example of their worker brothers in the U. S. have gone far beyond them to attack the government politically and directly, and are actually leading the workers struggle. As in the Kiel mutiny in the German Navy in 1918 which at first arose on the impetus of strike action by workers, then went on to lead the German revolution, so this soldiers strike has moved the entire struggle against American imperialist policy to a far more advanced stage.

Calling themselves "political prisoners of war," the soldiers raised the demand that War Secretary Patterson, top man in the army hierarchy be removed. They called Patterson "public enemy No. 1." Soldiers declared Patterson was convicted of incompetence by his own statement that he didn't know men overseas were not accumulating discharge points since Sept. 2 when points were frozen. Patterson is the same man who admitted signing the order to destroy cyclotrons (atom smashers) in Japan, without knowing what he was signing.

The high point of planned objections to the slowdown in demobilization arose from the soldiers in Paris. They developed the "enlisted man's Magna Charta," a mimeographed list of grievances and demands, and organized a "GI Liberation Committee."

### Democracy Demanded

What is manifested is the fact that drafted workers refuse to be treated as slaves and will fight for their democratic rights even in the Army. They will struggle to democratize the army instead of yielding to army dictatorship, and use as policemen.

Top army generals and congressmen declare the U.S. has commitments in Europe and Asia and must guard government property abroad. Soldier groups deny this and declare the army was being used as a show of force:

1—To back up U.S. imperialism in the Far East and Germany. This imperialism consists of seizure and retention of practically all of the Pacific islands, policing of Japan and Korea, backing Chiang Kai-Shek,

supplying, training and transporting British troops to crush the Javanese revolution.

2—To keep soldiers in the army as a cheaper device than sending them out to breadlines.

3—To guard against workers revolution. Left wing groups are extremely active in the Philippines and if they should move towards the seizure of power, revolution would spread like wildfire throughout the Far East and ignite the whirlwind of world revolution.

### Draft Hit Hard

Some pamphlets charged that "redeployment has been deliberately slowed down to force compulsory military training. The point system is a two-edged sword used to keep men in instead of getting them out." A soldier overseas is made to feel the only way he can get home is if some replacement takes his place. So he is forced by the army's one-sided presentation of the problem to "support" further conscription. Fact is we do not need occupation forces or a big army at all. We should recall the U.S. armed from overseas, liquidate the army entirely by beginning a move to end conscription now. All arguments for continuing conscription are based on continuing imperialist intervention and crushing of workers revolutions in other countries. Draft law will expire May 15. Already Truman's gunfire to have it continued under the form of universal training has been seriously weakened by the soldier strikes which have exposed military training as an instrument of imperialism.

### Reprisals Start

When two or more soldiers meet in the army to engage in a concerted action, under the Articles of War (the army criminal law) they are liable to courtmartial for subversive activity. Yet in these massive political demonstrations we see 20,000 soldiers in Manila holding a mass meeting just like their fellow workers in the U.S. on strike. These demonstrations were too widespread to be halted by the usual cutting off of leaders by courtmartial. Dictatorial army rough stuff on the soldiers would have led to worldwide revolt. As it is there is an important lesson in the demonstrations: Where individual action is ineffective, large-scale soldiers action cannot be stopped.

Meanwhile the War Department attempted to strangle the strikes, to intimidate the soldiers and to misrepresent the aims, at the same time concealing real War Department imperialism designs. Eisenhower has finally banned all dem-

onstrations, many soldiers are imprisoned, reprisals will be extended by the generals.

### Workers and Soldiers

In the soldiers strikes what has come out in the open with amazing clarity is that soldiers fought for American imperialism without having any reason or aim in the war. For the first time soldiers have started to fight for themselves, for the interests of the whole world working class. Soldiers when they return will learn immediately that the ruptured duck or homing pigeon (discharge emblem) is of no help in getting and holding jobs, that the ruptured duck has to make way for the union button. The soldiers struggle and the workers struggle is a united struggle. The real enemy of both is not the Japanese or German or Javanese workers, but the bosses, the generals, the U.S. government — this is the biggest lesson soldiers and workers have learned.

### What Is To Be Done?

In industry, there is no DEMOCRACY — workers are steadily fighting to wrest control of industry out of the hands of the dictatorial bosses.

In the army, there is no DEMOCRACY — soldiers are moving towards smashing officers' dictatorship and, in unity with their fellow workers, struggle against industrial dictatorship, are laying the foundations for the political struggle to liquidate the army of imperialism — murderous enemy of workers in the U.S. and other countries.

Meanwhile the following slogans, for use in the armed forces now, should be raised on high:

Recall all U.S. occupation forces from abroad.

End conscription now  
U.S. imperialism, clear out of Asia and the Pacific.

Halt shipping of arms to British forces crushing Javanese workers.

Fraternize with Japanese, Chinese, Javanese, German workers — our class brothers.

Demand war trials of top military and government leaders for forcing American workers to slaughter Japanese and German workers for the profits of American imperialism.

For the right to political organization of soldiers.

For right of soldier committees to meet with officers.

Democratize the armed forces.

End officer dictatorship over soldiers.

For right of free speech, press, voice, vote, thinking in armed forces.

For right to hold meetings, demonstrate, picket and strike.

End Jim-Crow in armed forces.

For election of officers.

For abolition of saluting.

For soldiers being on all courtmartial boards, empowered to try officers.

Release all soldiers held prisoner for political actions and revolutionary thinking.

SPREAD THE SOLDIERS STRIKES. WORKERS AND SOLDIERS UNITE!

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## Bloody Patton Is Dead At Last

The most hated man in the American armies in Europe, General "Old Blood and Guts" Patton, better known to the men who suffered under his command, as "Our Blood, His Guts," died as ingloriously as he had lived, from injuries received in an automobile accident in occupied Germany. Before his death, the paralysis which had affected him from the neck up for so many years, extended from the neck down.

Commander of the Third U.S. Army which had more casualties than any other American army in Europe, in Asia, or at any other time or place in American history, Patton was a roaring, swearing, fiery vicious brute, ever armed with two pearl-handled revolvers which he declared gave him the glamor his position demanded.

### Best-Dressed Thug

Possibly the wealthiest officer in the army, "The Green Hornet" (from a uniform he designed for tankers), was ever an instrument of the wealthy classes and a vicious enemy of the workers, oppressed minorities and fighters against Fascism. Like many other extremely rich men "gorgeous Georgie" was a vain and conspicuously fancy-dressed man, wearing riding breeches with puttees and sometimes a needle-pointed French sword. His shiny lacquered helmet was one of the outstanding jokes of the European war. To achieve a high luster, Patton had sent dozens of picked officers and men to search throughout the American-held areas in Europe for the extremely scarce lacquer with which he wanted his helmet covered. At last report the helmet

(really a helmet-liner) had eighteen (18) coats of lacquer on it. Soldiers declared it could be seen for miles.

Noted as an authority on tanks and map-reading, Bloody Patton was also an expert on swearing, swanky dress, polo-playing, blabbing his mouth off about his fascist beliefs, retaining in office the very fascists he was supposed to be fighting against, and slapping, slugging, and mentally brow-beating soldiers.

Already propaganda has gone a long way to make it appear Patton was a great hero comparable to Pershing. It is a fitting comparison. Pershing is the same general who in World War I demanded of President Wilson that he be permitted to sentence soldiers in France to execution before a firing squad for its disciplinary effect on other sol-

diers.

As an epitaph for Patton's grave in Luxembourg, it is suggested that we use these brief words of Patton's in a speech to soldiers of the 35th Division of the 3rd U.S. Army, before Christmas 1944, when the onslaught against Metz, one of the citadels of western Germany, was about to begin:

"I am going to take Metz by Christmas if it costs two truckloads of dogtags."

(NOTE: from each dead soldier only one of his two dogtags is removed and sent back for casualty records).

To vicious killers of the Patton breed, workers and soldiers roar back their defiance:

You plan the wars, you masters of men. Plan the wars and point the way. But we will point the gun!

# ONLY PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION CAN DEFEAT FASCISM!