

# Mr. John Barry And the Strike

Not many workers, even when on strike, have the time to keep up with those numerous columnists who adorn the pages of the Scripps-Howard press with their "personal reactions" to the events of the day—all the way from the Wally-Edward episode to the class struggle. But the column of John D. Barry in the S. F. News on Thursday, December 3rd, deserves their serious consideration. To the average reader, uninitiated in the real facts, the first few paragraphs of that column may have seemed like just another sample of Mr. Barry's vaguely friendly, vaguely reproachful essays in sociological sweetness and light. But to the waterfront strikers themselves and to those who know from what source Mr. Barry (and most San Francisco liberals) get their "inside" information on maritime affairs, the first section of that column will be recognized for what it is—whether Mr. Barry knows it or not—propaganda against the real militants among the waterfront leaders and a serious mis-statement of fact.

Let us quote from that column:  
"One danger certain leaders of unions at the waterfront don't appear to be considering. So far, they have had a good deal of sympathy from the public. They may lose it if the strike goes on much longer. A large number of union men are eager to work. Some of them declare quite frankly that they'd go back if they could. But they stand by their leaders. . . . The simple and fair proposition for settling the waterfront strike made by the News would undoubtedly have enthusiastic support if it were left to the men themselves."

The implications of this comment are clear: the men want to settle, but they are kept from doing so by "certain leaders." Actually, what Mr. Barry means, though he does not say so, is that they are kept from doing so by the leadership of the sea-faring unions. These implications are directly in line with the efforts of conniving elements to single out and isolate the seamen from the rest of the strikers and to place upon their leaders the onus for prolonging the strike unnecessarily. Mr. Barry has apparently received his information from interested sources. If he had read even the news columns of his own paper carefully during the past few weeks, he would know that his information is incorrect.

What are the facts?  
Of course "a large number of union men are eager to return to work." Of course they want to go back to work. Not some, but all. But they want to return as union men. That's the point. They are not strikers for the fun of it. Do Mr. Barry and other liberals think it a joke to be out on strike for five or six weeks, without income, without strike benefits, without savings to fall back on?

It is not "the Public," it is the strikers who do the real suffering in any strike, anywhere. When union men resort to the strike weapon, they know full well that they are going to suffer hardships and even physical danger. No leader could make them prolong such sacrifices a moment past the time when a definite and honest advantage to themselves and the labor movement could be gained by settlement. The strikers know what they are doing. Don't worry about that, Mr. Barry. The waterfront and seafaring unions are composed of labor militants who run their own unions. They are not the cowed henchmen of racketeering "labor czars."

The sea-faring unions and their leaders know this, even if the liberals don't. It is not they who are prolonging the strike. They have agreed repeatedly to certain compromise proposals—only to have those proposals flat-footedly refused by the employers. They even agreed to a compromise on the hiring hall issue—the point on which there is the most intense solidarity among the strikers—because they were assured that a compromise on this issue would settle the strike.

The terms of that compromise offer were contained in a telegram to Secretary of Labor Perkins by Harry Lundberg, Secretary of the Sailors' Union, just after it was rejected by the waterfront employers.

This telegram and the news that the employers had refused to consider such a compromise (considered reasonable by Federal mediators) appeared in full in the daily press.

And yet, in an attempt to put over its own pet settlement of the waterfront strike, the San Francisco News fails to mention the fact that the sea-faring unions had made any conciliations whatever on this issue or that it was the EMPLOYERS WHO HAD REFUSED TO COMPROMISE. Why? Because the News wishes to carry water both on its circulation and on its advertising shoulder by placing the blame for prolongation of the strike on "both sides."

The News knows the truth because it has already printed it in its news columns. If he distrusts his own news columns, Mr. Barry can get the facts from Assistant Secretary McGrady.

In the meanwhile, it behooves Mr. Barry to know when he is being used as a "stooge."

## What Will Happen If Wally Marries The Royal Clothes Horse Of British Imperialism?

By GRARY TRIMBLE

The time-honored American success-story slogan, "from office-boy to president," has taken on a twentieth century feminist angle, for now it reads "from divorcee to Queen." The American people, who so recently exchanged ballots in the midst of a barrage of verbal skirmishes to preserve that democracy over which they once exchanged bullets with the "king's men," are greedily lapping up the current royal scandal.

The fate of thousands of workers in Spain, and consequently that of the workers in the whole of Europe, is dropped from the front page of our American newspapers. The waterfront strike, on the outcome of which depends the future of the "American standard of living" for thousands of maritime workers, is practically reduced to

space-filler. Even the News has temporarily forgotten to mourn at the bier of Santa Claus and allows its cartoonist to wax romantic with cupid as the theme.

Why? Because one man who, by accident of birth is destined to be the clotheshorse that gives substance to the empty shell of royalty, is thinking of marrying a twice-divorced woman!

### Strange Interlude

We would apologize for giving space to the hysteria over "Wally" and the "democratic" king in a paper which devotes its space to news of real significance to the workers, were it not for the tragic comedy that is being enacted in English politics.

### Strike

The "people's front" at its most something-or-other is at work. The conservative government will re-

# First Fruit of Election Victory: WPA Cuts

# LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of California

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The World  
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# PROTEST W. P. A. LAY-OFFS

Arms For Spain - - - By Carlo



## Barcelona Workers Arrest People's Front Leaders In Wholesale Murder Plot

### German and Italian Troops Land In Spain

Official British corroboration of the landing of six thousand German soldiers and confirmation of the landing of several thousand Italian soldiers gave new proof, if more was needed, that Germany and Italy have irrevocably tied their fate to a fascist victory in Spain.

New huge shipments of air bombers and artillery kept the fascist troops ahead of the workers' militia in these basic fields of armament.

New contingents of revolutionary workers from abroad took their place on Madrid's bay.

### Over 100 Leaders of Bourgeois Parties Accused of Conspiracy to Kill Labor Leaders and Seize Control

Charged with plotting assassinations and seizure of control of Catalonia, leading figures in President Companys' party, Catalan Esquerra, and of the second liberal-bourgeois party, Estat Catala, were arrested last week and await speedy trial. Soon after discovery of the plot, President Companys hastily left the country "for a visit to France."

Andre Robertes, Commissioner of Public Order in charge of armed police and Civil Guards, a prominent leader of Companys' Catalan Esquerra, was among those seized. He "is said to have been a prime mover in the conspiracy and to have undertaken to procure the assistance of the police and Civil Guards" according to a special dispatch in the New York Times of December 3. Juan Casanovas, president of the Catalan parliament, and Companys' first lieutenant in the Esquerra, was seized but has been reported released. Casanovas is said to have "toyed with the proposals of the plotters, although finally rejecting them."

### 100 LEADERS ARRESTED

About one hundred leaders of the Estat Catala, including its General Secretary, are reported arrested. The Estat Catala was formerly part of the Esquerra, but split off after the abortive October, 1934 revolt when its founder, Dencas, then Companys' cabinet minister in charge of armed forces, engaged in mutual recriminations with Companys over which was responsible for refusing to arm the workers for a struggle against the semi-Fascist Madrid regime.

It is thought that the Esquerra and Estat Catala plotters were those who sent a delegation to Paris, widely reported in the press

several weeks ago. The delegation proposed to the French government that the war crisis be "solved" by the chief capitalist powers recognizing an independent bourgeois republic in Catalonia, which in turn would recognize Franco's Burgos government as the official government of the rest of Spain. The plot appears to have been an attempt to carry out this plan.

TRUE SIGNIFICANCES HIDDEN  
The New York Times' dispatch hides the real significance of the treacherous conspiracy by describing it as a "Fascist" plot, describing Estat Catala as a fascist organization, and failing to

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### Shainak Trial Postponed

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—Trial of William Shainak, organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union, Local No. 278, and member of the Socialist party, on charges of "conspiracy to commit assault with a deadly weapon" was postponed yesterday by Superior Court Judge Blsike until January 6.

His arrest was an outgrowth of the sixteen-week-old strike waged by the Amalgamated against Rosenblum's, Inc.

### Strike Vote On Santa Fe

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—Three thousand workers on the Santa Fe lines were taking strike votes this week in the face of refusal of the railroad management to meet union demands for higher pay.

Officials of the "Big Four" brotherhoods said the wage changes asked for by the unions were no more than other railroads operating in this territory were now paying.

## Mass Delegations Storm Local WPA Headquarters Demanding Reinstatement

### Christmas Gift for WPA Workers In L. A.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—White collar workers on WPA cultural projects received a Christmas present in reverse English this week, as orders came from Relief head Harry Hopkins to lay off 20 per cent of the personnel from each project.

The drama project has laid off some 300 workers and the writers' project 16, it was learned. The extent of the cut on the art and music projects, which are also affected by the reduction order, was not ascertained.

A co-ordinating committee, in which Socialist party members are participating, is being set up to push a campaign for rescinding the curtailment order.

### Dismissed Workers At San Francisco and Los Angeles Show Militant Resistance To Curtailment Program

By BRIAN GUILBERT  
Mass delegations representing the American Federation of Government Employees and the Workers' Alliance stormed the San Francisco Headquarters Saturday to protest the wholesale lay-offs of W.P.A. employees.

A delegation from the AFGA of about 200 members walked-in on James Hopper, head of the writers' project, demanding the reinstatement of those laid-off and withdrawal of the program for further curtailment of the personnel.

The result of an hour and a half's discussion with Hopper by a committee from the delegation was a phone call to Henry G. Alsborg, National Head of Writers' Projects in Washington, D. C., informing him of the situation in San Francisco.

As is usually the case, Mr. Alsborg and all of his assistants were not to be located. A telegram was then sent demanding the order for dismissal be immediately revoked.

Coupled with the militant action of the AFGA, a delegation of 300 members of the Workers' Alliance, locally composed of WPA laborers, carried on a demonstration on its own part.

## Roosevelt's Trip To Form A New 'Thieves' Kitchen'

### Scheme for An All-American Imitation of the League of Nations Under Guise Of Peace Conference

Columns of the daily press are being given over to the Inter-American Conference for the Maintenance of Peace now in session at Buenos Aires. The implication is that history is being written, civilization is on the march, the Roosevelt smile and the doctrine of "the good neighbor" have triumphed over the Forces of Darkness, and that all is for the best in the best of all possible Pan-American worlds.

What has really happened, of course, is that the Latin-American countries have, in the words of Hubert Herring, New York Times correspondent, "lost faith in the League of Nations as the bulwark for weak people." Now that the "Thieves Kitchen at Geneva" has been exposed for what it is, something has to be done to keep our poorer and more obstreperous "good neighbors" quiet. The answer is a new and smaller edition of the Thieves Kitchen now underway in the form of the seventh Pan-American conference.

To the sincere cry of the South American masses for peace and security, President Roosevelt answers with his famous charming smile and vague phrases about "freer trade." Secretary of State Cordell Hull, in league with the representatives of ten Latin-American nations, has prevented any mention of the long and bloody Bolivia-Paraguay controversy, the Chaco affair; but, says the Times correspondent, "the Latin-Americans fear one of their colleagues will make some unhelpful reference to it." The theory is, as on all such hypocritical occasions, that if any situation is really a threat to peace, the thing to do is to ignore it.

Despite the most elaborate precautions, one cry from a troubled world has thus far shattered the smugness of the delegates. A young man, identified as Liborio Justo, son of Roosevelt's host, Augustin Justo, Argentine president, shouted: "Down with Imperialism!" from the gallery while Roosevelt was speaking. The newspaper men referred to the incident as "embarrassing."

An interesting side-light is thrown on President Roosevelt's role in the conference by the Times dispatch from Buenos Aires. Maritime workers will remember that the President turned his back on their troubles when he left for South America. World peace, he declared in effect, was more important than peace on the waterfront. He could not take the time to investigate the strikers' charges that the shipowners had precipitated the maritime crisis in a ruthless attempt to smash the unions.

## Frameup Trial Contradiction Brought Out

### Confession of Conner Extorted by Torture In Berkeley Hotel

The jury in the frame-up murder trial of Earl King local official of the Marine Fireman, E. J. Ramsay, F. J. Conner and George Wallace, union members heard prosecution contradictions mount this week as the trial proceeded.

Most startling revelation was testimony that the "confession" of F. J. Conner was extorted after a night of torture chained to a bed in a Berkeley hotel room. This "confession" is contradicted both by Conner and by the trial evidence. Defense attorneys have so far succeeded in thwarting prosecution attempts to introduce it as evidence.

### CONTRADICTING TESTIMONY

A striking contradiction was brought out by defence attorneys in questioning of two prosecution witnesses. The frame-up story is that the actual murder was committed by another fireman named Ben Sackowitz. Evidence presented in the space of a few minutes alleged that Sackowitz on the day of the murder was "wearing a blue coat with a zipper" and that he was blood spattered and, contradicting this, that there was no blood either on the suit he wore or the clothes left in his hotel room.

This testimony serves to bring out the uncertainty of the State's own witnesses and of their identifications. State witnesses have betrayed a glibness which indicates extensive coaching.

### WITNESS PAID SALARY

Another important defense point was made when Joseph Boyle, third mate of the Point Lobos and first State witness, was forced

## Committee Is Blocked At Office of WPA

### Police Hem In Group Of Demonstrators At Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—A determined committee of twenty women representing two thousand sewing project workers transferred from the WPA to the dole today refused to leave WPA headquarters until the administration promised the return of their jobs.

They arrived at the 1206 South Santee street headquarters at noon and asked to see Colonel Donald Connelly, local WPA head. When Connelly refused to meet the committee, it announced its intention to stay until the women were reinstated on their sewing project jobs.

Police called by WPA officials maintained a complete blockade around the committee, refusing to permit food to be brought to its members. After several hours, police relented in their blockade to permit several children, who had accompanied their mothers to the building, to be taken home. Still locked in the building, it was asserted, was one small child.

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to admit that he is receiving a salary of \$175. per month from the ship owners although he is doing no work at all at present, except testifying at the trial. The usual pay for third mates is \$135 a month.

Boyle claimed that he did not know why he was being paid. The courtroom is jammed every day, and there is strong feeling among maritime workers against this attempt to railroad militant workers and discredit the Maritime organizations.



# Barcelona Workers Arrest 100 Leaders

(Continued from Page 1)  
mention that Casanovas and Robertes are leaders of the Catalan Esquerra. Actually these bourgeois parties, faced by the armed proletariat, declared themselves not only anti-fascist but also assured the workers' parties that they were ready to support the socialization of Catalonia.

Both the Estat Catala and the Esquerra marched in the great parade of November 8 in Barcelona commemorating the anniversary of the Russian Revolution. At the head of the ranks of the Estat Catala was a great banner, "Estat Catala Salutes the U.S.S.R." In a speech on that day, Antonov-Ovseenko, Russian Consul-General, ended "Long live the Catalonian people and its hero, President Companys."

After wielding all power through revolutionary committees the workers' organizations on September 26 accepted a reorganization of the Catalan government which gave a formal cabinet majority to the workers but left Companys in the presidency with other members of his party controlling the strategic Ministries of Defense, Finance, Education and Internal Security. This arrangement was severely criticized by revolutionary sections of the P.O.U.M. and the C.N.T., who insisted that the workers' organizations establish an All-Workers Government.

Even before the republic came in 1931 the Esquerra had been the chief bourgeois party, and in the ensuing six years has ruled Catalonia in the interests of the bourgeoisie. Rather than support the workers against the fascist Gil Robles in October, 1934, the Esquerra capitulated to the Madrid troops. The five months following the Popular Front victory of February, 1936 saw thousands of strikers jailed by the Esquerra. Indeed, many of the C.N.T. leaders had to be released from jail to organize the struggle when the civil war broke out. Like the Madrid government, the Esquerra refused to arm the workers when Franco rebelled. Fortunately the workers remembered the fiasco of October, 1934 and did not wait for Companys, but raided the arsenals for arms.

Critics of governmental collaboration with the Esquerra

## Japanese Officers Want Bigger Army

Pressing for enlargement of the Japanese military machine, officials of the Japanese army last week issued a memorandum listing what they termed the vast armed forces and military budgets of the Soviet Union and China.

At all costs, stated the memorandum, the army must be replenished.

Trying to justify the pact recently announced between Nazi Germany and Japan, and furthering the imperialistic campaign to further psychologize the country for an attack upon the Soviet Union, the memorandum alleged that the U. S. S. R. is attempting to "bolshelize the world."

"The objective of the U. S. S. R. in the east is Japan and in the west is Germany," stated the memorandum.

## What Will Happen If Wally Marries the King?

(Continued from Page 1)  
and wages are still kept low to protect profits; while threats of wars over imperial hunting preserves are rampant, and "native" labor still sweats for the glory of old England's only significant royalty (the financial barons), the great issue is whether the king shall marry the much-divorced American Mrs. Simpson?

### Secrets Revealed

Like so many historic upheavals which superficially arose out of technical decisions about royal custom, there is a reason behind this excitement. Should the king, like any other man, marry an American woman, who like many another

pointed to this long record of bourgeois rule and treachery and questioned whether the liberal bourgeoisie's change of tune when confronted by armed workers could possibly be sincere or lasting. The latest sensational developments will probably strengthen the proponents of an All-Workers Government.

## Committee Is Blockaded At Office of WPA

(Continued from Page 1)  
Abe Harkavy, member of the Young People's Socialist League, who managed to enter the building with a parcel of food for the protest committee, was detained by the police for several hours, and finally escorted out of the building, his parcel of food undelivered.

Aiding the efforts of the blockaded committee was a picket line of Workers Alliance members, who marched around WPA headquarters carrying placards and chanting: "We want jobs—not the dole."

Members of the state executive committee of the Young People's Socialist League adjourned their meeting and hastened to the picket line in a body.

WPA officials refused to make any comment on the strike when questioned by the Labor Action reporter.

## Reserve Army For Next War

Lamenting the fact that the supplies left by the ending of the World War have now deteriorated and become obsolete, and that the World War veterans are now becoming too old to fight on the battle fields of the approaching war, General Mallin Craig, chief of the staff of the United States army, recommends the creation of a large enlisted trained reserve in his report recently released to the public.

The general in his report mentioned that all army equipment is being standardized and modernized but claimed this was not enough to make a crack fighting force for the new war. In addition to the National Guard, the officers' reserve corps, he asks that a huge reserve be built to replace the ageing veterans.

"In general, it may be said that the increase in military appropriations for 1936 over those of preceding years marks an epoch in the period that has elapsed since the end of the World War," the general says in his report. "It is a recognition of the fundamental changes in our military situation that have occurred during that period."

"The close of that war found us with a large reservoir of trained personnel and vast stores of war reserve material. Our available resources were then more than ample to provide for the national security. It was perhaps the feeling of confidence they inspired that led to the curtailment in military appropriations that followed in the subsequent years."

American woman has been twice divorced, he would deal a blow to the illusion that kings are different, greater, and endowed with mysterious powers more impressive than any other man. In short, the king would cease to be an opiate. His fancy-dress parades would no longer quiet the restlessness of the people when political crises threaten to bring the economic royalty out into the open. His boyish smiles and "democratic" visits to starving workers would mean no more than the sympathy of any other impotent social worker.

The world's stock of bread and circuses is running low. England must keep hers "at all costs."

# MINNEAPOLIS - - THERE SHE STANDS!

## Socialist and Labor Progress Under Militant Leadership

By CARL O'SHEA  
MINNEAPOLIS.—When the Pacific Coast longshoremen were having their first round with the bosses in the late summer of 1934, the Minneapolis General Drivers Union Local 574 was in the midst of its third strike within the year; a strike which, like the San Francisco general strike, made national labor history, and which was won of victory two years ago, it may

scarcely be said that the turmoil generated by the drivers' strike has not ceased to this day. The General Drivers Union Local 574 was expelled from the International Teamsters Union (in April, 1935). Fifteen months later the outlaw union made labor history by winning reinstatement in the International on the most honorable terms (in July, 1936). Its local number was changed to 544, but its program, its policy, its leadership and its set-up continued.

New Unions Spring Up  
New unions have sprung up by the score—the ornamental iron workers, the Arrowhead steel union, the Strutwear hosiery workers, the auto mechanics, the laundry workers, the flour and cereal mill workers, the wood workers, the Northern States Power electrical workers, the battery workers, the filling station attendants, the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, etc. The story of each union is the story of a victory over the Minneapolis employers organized in their Citizens Alliance. It is the story of militant strike action, directed by the progressives grouped around the Local 544 leadership. The story of Minneapolis labor since 1934 is the story of the ever-increasing growth of industrial union principles over the craft unionists.

Two years ago, the craft union leaders held undisputed sway over the state labor movement. On September 23 this year the Minnesota State Federation of Labor meeting in its annual convention passed by a large majority a resolution backing the policy and program of the C.I.O., and calling upon the executive council of the American Federation of Labor to reinstate all suspended unions. Last Wednesday night the Minneapolis Central Labor Union elected a delegate to the A. F. of L. Tampa convention. That delegate was an industrial unionist advocate, a member of the A.C.W.A.

Union Membership Trebled  
The two years' struggle which has trebled the membership of the General Drivers Union and of the whole local labor movement has not been waged without meeting the most determined opposition on the part of the bosses, the reactionary labor officialdom, and the Republican and Democratic (and even some Farmer-Labor) politicians. In fact the smoke of the last battle has

depended Union of All Workers, largest packing house union), Red Wing, Willmar, Golden Valley and other communities. Revolutionary socialist work has been made easier in this state by the desertion of all revolutionary positions by the Communist Party, and the many stupid blunders which that party has committed during the past year. The only two strikes which have not ended in out-and-out victories for the Minneapolis workers have been those ill-fated struggles of the petroleum workers and the flour and cereal workers, in both of which the C.P. had a preponderant influence. The memories of the Minneapolis unemployed still rankle with resentment at the communist leadership of the local Workers Alliance which so recently pulled a hopeless adventure in the form of a Hennepin county-wide strike, which only resulted in ten thousand workers losing two or three days' pay.

So successful (in a Peoples' Front sense) has the C.P. line been in Minnesota that in the recent election some of the candidates, such as Farmer-Labor Senator Lundeen and Representative Dewey Johnson, had the enthusiastic and uncritical endorsement of the Democratic, Communist, Farmer-Labor and Union parties. It is certainly evident that these politicians cannot follow out the policies of all these parties, and it is more than questionable that the organized workers will be the chief beneficiaries of such unprincipled blocs. Just as the chances are that before snow falls, the Communists will have some talk explaining to do over the approaching actions of the Roosevelt administration, so will their uncritical support of these local political chameleons likewise boomerang in their faces.

Communist-Farmer-Labor-Democrats Sweep Elections  
The electoral bloc between the Farmer-Labor, Communist and Democratic parties in Minnesota swept everything before it. In brief, Roosevelt, Senator Ernest Lundeen and Governor Benson received pluralities approaching the 300,000 figure. Of the nine congressmen, the Farmer-Laborites got five and possibly six. Farmer-Laborites also won out for the positions of lieutenant-governor, attorney-general, state treasurer and all three railroad and warehouse commissions, giving to that party control of the powerful state executive council for the first time.

However, it appears that the state legislature will still be in the hands of the Republicans, due to the skillful gerrymandering with which the legislative districts are set up. This is important because it means that the Farmer-Labor Party can continue for another period to give as its excuse for failing to defend civil liberties and advance social legislation the control of the state

Revolutionary Movement Grows  
Since the cadres of the old Communist League of America, the so-called "Trotskyites," first turned to mass work in the fall of 1933 the intervening period has been marked by a steady and solid growth of the revolutionary movement in this state. When the Minneapolis branch of the Workers Party dissolved into the Socialist Party this spring, the Minneapolis militants brought them into the new party the leaders of many strong trade unions, plus much the strongest unemployed organization in the state: the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 with many branches and a membership that runs into the thousands.

The reconstituted Socialist Party local in Minneapolis has taken on new life during the last six months; a thriving local with many active trade unionists and a fine headquarters is now functioning in St. Paul; and promising branches are now operating in Austin (the home of the In-

## Bag Industry Still Tied Up By Strike

Six weeks ago the Ames & Harris plant, which is a branch of a local firm now on strike here, struck in Portland for better wages and conditions. Their work was diverted to the Ames & Harris plant here in San Francisco and the Bemis Bag Co., also in S. F. The rushing of work and the obvious preparation for a lockout, forced a spontaneous strike in the Bemis shop three weeks ago. Wage agreements were voted upon and presented to the Employers in the meantime. They refused to negotiate and as a result a strike vote was taken in the Ames & Harris; the Pacific, and the Cooperative was for a strike! What also helped to precipitate this strike was the fact that the workers in the Ames & Harris and the Pacific, particularly felt that they were working on "hot" goods from Portland and the local Bemis plant.

Struck plants are, Bemis Bag Company; Ames, Harris & Neville Company; Pacific-Diamond Bag Company; and the Cooperative Bag Company, with a total of 550 workers. This is a complete tie-up of the new bag making industry in San Francisco, and throughout the northwest.

Strikers demands are:  
1. Union recognition, with a steward system and no discrimination on Union affiliation and activity.  
2. A 40-hour week.  
3. Time and a half for overtime.  
4. 15 per cent raise in wages for all workers.

With the support of labor in this

dependent Union of All Workers, largest packing house union), Red Wing, Willmar, Golden Valley and other communities.

legislature by the Republicans. Because of the shortcomings in the national election campaign of our party, and because the Communists and Major Berry between them swung the workers behind Roosevelt, the Socialist ticket suffered in Minnesota proportionately as we fared in the country. Thomas and Nelson received 2,500 votes (several hundred more than Browder). V. R. Dunne, of the General Drivers Union 544 and Socialist candidate for secretary of state, received 4,000 votes. Minneapolis accounted for three-fifths of the Socialist vote.

## S. P. Attitude Toward Farmer-Laborite Stew

The Socialist Party in Minneapolis did not place a full state slate in the field this year against the Farmer-Laborites. We conducted an independent election campaign, urging the workers to vote for the P.L. candidates where no Socialist candidate appeared on the ballot. We accepted no responsibility for those elected on the P.L. ticket, but on the contrary, in view of the program and record of the Farmer-Labor Party, urged the greatest amount of vigilance in pressing these officials to carry out their election pledges. We stated our confidence that the followers of the Farmer-Labor Party would learn through their experience that only a revolutionary Socialist Party can in reality champion the immediate and ultimate needs of the toilers.

How true was the Socialist criticism is shown by the unprincipled blocs which were resorted to by the Farmer-Laborites in their appetite for office—blocs with the Democrats, the Townsends, the National Union for Social Justice, and the Communists.

Benson Reassures Business Men  
Workers in other states will be interested to know that the last election judge hadn't turned his back before Governor Benson was assuring everyone that he would "do nothing to alarm even the rock-ribbed conservatives. They can forget now that I am a Communist. . . . No individual or business man need be alarmed." The Farmer-Labor Senator, Lundeen, was not far behind in renouncing everything that his working class supporters expected of him. He pointed out that his son attends the Valley Forge Military Academy and that the name "Valley Forge" was hearkening to him because of its patriotic significance.

It goes without saying that if the Socialist Party will only tighten up its ranks we will be in a tremendously advantageous position for the coming period. If we energetically follow out revolutionary policies, we (as the only honest working class opposition to the Democratic-Communist-Farmer Labor bloc) stand to capitalize heavily on the inevitable disillusionment that so soon lies in wait for the American masses.

## Republican Pledges Aid to Democrats

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 5.—Disregarding the fiction that the Democratic party is supposed to represent the people and the Republican party the "economic royalists," Joseph M. Schenck, Republican movie magnate associated with "Louie" B. Mayer, last Wednesday offered his heart, hand and pocketbook to the Democratic party at a \$1.50 per plate luncheon staged at the Biltmore Hotel by Democratic party leaders.

Although his offer was veiled by the altruistic statement that "every citizen in this country is entitled to a fine living," experienced political observers saw more material things behind Mr. Schenck's offer of his pocketbook.

Houston news item: Dr. H. W. Cook told the Association of Life Underwriters here that the mortality rate rose sharply during the years of the business depression.

## Bosses Outfit To Join Real Organization

LANSING, Mich.—Another company union is turning against Papa Management at the Reo plant in this city. Company union officials have agreed to put to its membership the question of amalgamation with Local 182, United Automobile Workers of America, according to Lester Washburn, executive board member from Lansing. Deciding the question will necessitate the calling of the first membership meeting ever held by the company union, whose business heretofore has been conducted without meetings. In the last few months members have been rapidly deserting the management-sponsored organization to come into the Automobile Workers.

## Company Union At Reo Plant Discusses Plan

Members of the bona fide union feel certain that the remaining members in the company group will vote for affiliation with Local 182, Washburn said.

Washburn also reported a sit-down strike last Friday on the fender paint line of the Olds plant here.

## Behind The Moscow Trial

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# The Action Army

By FRANK STERN  
It's raining subs at 628 Montgomery street!  
The ACTION ARMY this week went to work with vim and vigor and not only got subs and bundle orders but also got new recruits which is most important.

From Walla Walla, Washington, to Wahoo, Nebraska and from Minneapolis to Los Angeles the Army responded. Let's see what some of our go-getters have to say.

## Minneapolis Announces Erber Visit

MINNEAPOLIS.—Ernest Erber, National Chairman of the Young People's Socialist League, will speak in Minneapolis some time during the latter part of December. Erber has just returned from the front line trenches of the Spanish workers. He will speak on his experiences in the civil war and analyze the international significance of the Spanish struggle.

During his stay in Spain, Erber spent most of his time in Barcelona where he was enthusiastically received by the working class forces. The organ of the P.O.U.M., "La Battalla" (The Struggle) devoted its entire first page upon his arrival to an article of his analyzing the significance of the Spanish struggle to the international working class movement. He was given a full hour's broadcast on the radio station of the P.O.U.M. in order to appeal to the English and American workers for aid for the Spanish workers and to analyze the situation for the benefit of his English speaking listeners.

AT INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS  
During his visit to Europe Erber also attended the International Youth Congress which was held in September in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations Society as a delegate of the Young People's Socialist League. In the course of his lecture here, he will also touch upon an analysis of this Congress.

Mr. Erber is at present touring the country under the auspices of the Young People's Socialist League in order to raise money to aid the Spanish workers. He will speak in Minneapolis under the auspices of the Minneapolis Circle of the Young People's Socialist League, 631-3rd Ave. So.

## Want More Men For Navy In War

Claiming that there were not sufficient men at present enlisted in the Navy to supply the battle fleet of the United States when war starts, Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews, chief of the Bureau of Navigation, asked for a larger personnel to man new fighting vessels and maintain an efficient crew on each of the vessels now prepared for war.

"While an 85 per cent allowance is sufficient for the peace-time needs of the individual ships," the admiral said, "the total personnel thereby assigned to the fleet is not adequate in number of experienced men for the needs of mobilization. This bureau's responsibility extends beyond provision of personnel for the active fleet. It must maintain mobilization plans which contemplate complete manning of useful combatant vessels now in reduced commission, the manning of useful combatant vessels that are decommissioned, and the manning of many auxiliaries that will be obtained from the merchant marine in time of war.

Up Already  
"To provide sufficient trained men, in addition to available Naval Reserves, for the commissioning on mobilization of vessels now out of commission and for other needs of mobilization, vessels of the fleet should be fully manned with complements of war strength.

For every club of four subscriptions turned in to LABOR ACTION the sub-getter will be awarded an individual print of any of the cartoons which have been appearing in Labor Action. These prints are beautifully done and suitable for framing.

WEEKLY AWARD  
The artists who execute the cartoons are the best in the field of radical cartooning and the originality of their work are highly valued. Yet we are even willing to part with the original drawings. The comrade turning in the greatest amount of subs weekly will be awarded an original artists drawing of a cartoon appearing in LABOR ACTION.

MONTHLY GRAND AWARD  
But we're not finished yet. For the member of the ACTION ARMY who turns in the largest number of subscriptions for the month we will award the new one-volume edition of Trotsky's "History of the Russian Revolution," or any book of equal value.

The ACTION ARMY is open to all. Anyone who turns in at least one subscription besides his own becomes a member of the ACTION ARMY and is eligible to receive these awards for service to the revolution. Names of winners will be published in every issue. Workers in the ranks of Socialism—Join the ACTION ARMY. Build LABOR ACTION!

## American Socialist Monthly

November-December Combination Number Off the Press December 8  
CONTENTS:  
The Elections of 1936 and the Prospects of a Farmer-Labor Party Norman Thomas  
Billnd Alley in Tampa—A review of the A. F. of L. Convention Sam Baron  
Some Notes on an All-Inclusive Party Haim Kantorovitch  
The Moscow Trial David P. Berenberg  
An Eye Witness in Spain Ernest Erber  
The Labor Party and Socialism Herbert Zam  
The Farmer and Collectivization Justus Ebert  
Haim Kantorovitch: A Tribute David P. Berenberg  
Socialism and Pacifism Caroline Urie  
For a Socialist Palestine Frank N. Trager  
Who Are the Socialists? Sol Pifer  
Readers Forum Notes of the Month Book Reviews

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## AMERICAN SOCIALIST MONTHLY

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21 E. 17th Street, New York



# The Notebook of an Agitator

### The Color of Arsenic—and Just As Poisonous—Fog Over the Waterfront—Keep Cool, Pal

It is common knowledge among informed union men on the waterfront that a factional clique operating in the maritime unions exerts an influence in committees and other delegated bodies out of all proportion to its real strength in the membership. The name of this clique is the Communist Party—and that is no secret either.

But what is puzzling and confusing quite a few maritime unionists, who understand communism as extreme radicalism is the increasingly evident fact that the Communist Party is putting forward and trying to put over a line of policy in the unions which Sam Gompers would have attacked from the left. These misnamed radicals appear more and more in close alliance with people who are notorious for their conservatism in theory and practice, today and yesterday. At the same time, despite the indubitable militancy and class struggle spirit of the rank and file, the most militant and progressive elements in the unions and in the leadership find themselves victims of well-organized and all-too-often successful "campaigns."

### A Conservative Combination

They are undermined, slandered, shoved aside and jockeyed out of positions by this new conservative combination engineered by the Communist Party. And, since people are important mainly as symbols and representatives of policies and programs, it must be understood that the attempt to "gang up" on the genuine militants has something behind it. What is really involved is a deliberate purpose to switch the maritime unions from the line of class struggle militancy to the line of class collaboration—that is, conciliation with the bosses and craven subordination to the Government.

Of course, these ideas and these attempts are not new. What is new is the organizer and director of the enterprise, the erstwhile radical, and even revolutionary, Communist Party. There was a time when the Communist Party was called radical and revolutionary with a certain justice; and that was to the credit of the party. But this description is decidedly out of date. Things have changed since Stalin began to imprison and kill the revolutionary Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union and to rely on pacts with capitalist governments abroad. The wisest capitalists caught the drift of things long ago. Ignorant "red baiters" who still attack the Communists are entirely out of date. Red is not their color any more.

### Capturing and Wrecking

To give the devil his due it must be acknowledged that the Stalinite Communists are experts in their line. They are almost as good at "capturing" unsuspecting organizations as they are at wrecking them. Almost, but not quite; for when it comes to wrecking unions under their control their batting average up to date is 1,000 per cent—a home run, or a least a two-base hit every time they come to bat. If anyone tries to refute this by saying, "The Communists control such-and-such a union and it isn't ruined yet" my statement still stands. Just give them time. Rome wasn't destroyed in a day.

The Stalinist technique in "taking over" a union is not confined to manipulation at the top, although that is their long suit, especially since they have taken a position in the right wing of the labor movement and the left wing of liberalism. Like the cynical gentry who played the people for suckers in the prize fight and wrestling rackets, they take care of all the "angles." All experienced confidence men, fixers and bunco steers proceed according to one central theory enunciated by the illustrious Barnum: A sucker is born every minute. But the successful disciples of Barnum all know that it is not enough to cheat the people; the thing is to make them like it. This is the function of hallyho or, if you prefer, propaganda.

### The Green Sheets

In addition to the numerous organs of general circulation published by the Communist Party and its stooge organizations, the business of misrepresenting, falsifying and befuddling the situation in the maritime unions requires special publications. These are the Maritime Worker and the Beacon. The mimeographed green sheets, of the color and also the quality of arsenic.

They are supposed to be deucedly clever, using the intimate, you-and-me, hello, pal style of approach which every confidence man has adopted since the first gold brick was sold to the first farmer. The latest issue of the green Beacon undertakes to sell the strikers the idea of voluntarily moving "perishable" cargo, and if that isn't a gold brick the man who bought the Brooklyn Bridge as a bargain made a shrewd busi-

### Letter To the Editor

Editor, Labor Action:  
I enclose herewith a one dollar bill for a years subscription to Labor Action.

Hoping you'll be able to educate the Native Sons and Daughters on class conscious lines, although I know you'll have a hard job on your hands.

I myself studied the Marxian school for years and I memorized a good deal of it. I am making a bare existence sniping on the Yuba River above the Narrows and I see they are going to get ready to put in a dam and then we all have to get out. But where to go is the next thing.

Yours truly for revolutionary Socialism,  
SAMUEL FOSTER,  
Smartville, Calif.

### Is This a Class Struggle?

The Beacon points out that if "perishable" cargo (What is perishable cargo?) is not moved forthwith the shipowners "can act very indignantly and demand that the unions furnish 'safety crews' to keep the perishables from rotting." And, "what could be more demoralizing than 'safety crews' working day in and day out behind the picket lines."

Of course, if the shipowners "demand" that the unions furnish safety crews there is nothing to do but accede to the demand forthwith. Do you think this is a class struggle you are conducting? The bosses may get real sore some of these days and "demand" that all the strikers go back to work without any more stalling around. You will have to agree that that would be very "demoralizing."

### Better Be Smart

And, here is another argument from the Beacon if you are still not convinced: "It's not impossible for a federal marshal to deputize some men for this work, lines unloads the perishables." There's an angle, pal, which you probably never thought of. You wouldn't think of interfering with a deputy marshalls going through your picket lines, would you? And you surely wouldn't object if the coast guard and marines stepped in to do strike-breaking work. The green Beacon is just suggesting this angle to you. Better finally, "The smart thing to do is think it over. The Beacon says to get rid of this issue." You surely want to be smart, don't you?

Keep cool, pal. Keep your head. Don't fly off the handle and talk about the class struggle and the Russian revolution and Lenin's Communist party. The class struggle is out of date, Lenin is dead and so is his party, and this is not 1917, my boy.—J. P. C. (To Be Continued)

### Strike Strategy De Luxe

You may have the old-fashioned idea that strikes are for the purpose of stopping the production or distribution of the commodities or services affected until the bosses feel the pressure enough to accede to the demands of the union. But you don't know the trade union policy that emanates from 121 Haight Street and spreads out over the waterfront like a San Francisco fog. Here is the real dope from the Bulletin: "A working class housewife goes to the store and asks for a certain article. She is informed that due to the strike she cannot get it. She goes home and reads in the paper that the strikers are permitting perishable cargo to rot aboard the ships. You can see what effect this has on the average family."

Isn't that argument clear, pal? You are probably one of those dumb clucks who would think that a shortage of "certain articles" shows the strike is effective and is all to the good. But you are all wrong, and you probably have "socialistic tendencies" besides. The central aim of "strike strategy" is to win over the well-known "public" and to see that nobody is inconvenienced, for doesn't everybody belong to the public?

Look what says the Minneapolis teamsters were to call a coal strike in the dead of a bitter winter, making exemptions only for hospitals. True, they won the strike in three days by taking such an unfair advantage. But at what a cost! The "public" will never think the same of them again. And think of the political immaturity of street car men in the past who have gone on strike and obliged the public to walk or take a jitney bus? "You can see what effect this has on the average family."

If you answer that in every effective street car strike on record the "average family" has proudly refused to ride street cars during a strike and that quite a few of them have cheerfully tossed cobble stones at the scab motormen, the green sheet has

## Soviet Foreign Policy And The Franco-Soviet Pact

"Izvestiya," the official organ of the Soviet Government, carries in its issue of November 11, the following letter:

"Those who are reading the press attentively and following the relations between the U.S.S.R. and France are seized involuntarily by a feeling of perplexity.

"In France there is in power a government which bases itself on the People's Front. It would seem that all the sympathies of the French Government should be on the side of the Spanish people heroically fighting in defense of their liberty. However, there is nothing of the kind. The policy which France is conducting on this question really helps the Fascist rebels; it is diametrically opposed to the policy of the U.S.S.R.

"I believe that I express not only my personal opinion, but the opinion held by many citizens in the land of the Soviets in saying that the Franco-Soviet is of greater importance to France than to us. For it is probable that in the next war Germany will first attack France to which it is contiguous. And I cannot at all understand why on a whole number of questions France submits to the influence of Germany, forgetting her own interests which are expressed in the Franco-Soviet pact.

### Guarantee of Security

"The amity and assistance of a country so great and powerful as the Soviet Union is a serious guarantee of the security of France. The French Government should show itself more consistent and more determined in questions that involve the interests of both countries and of general peace. France, however, does not show these qualities, while we for some unknown reason do not demand this insistently enough.

"Our country is strong. We know how to be consistent and firm. Then why do we show such incomprehensible tolerance in our policy towards France. This letter bears the innocuous

### Another argument for you.

another argument for you. The Beacon points out that if "perishable" cargo (What is perishable cargo?) is not moved forthwith the shipowners "can act very indignantly and demand that the unions furnish 'safety crews' to keep the perishables from rotting." And, "what could be more demoralizing than 'safety crews' working day in and day out behind the picket lines."

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# International Notes

## New Strike Wave in France—Rumors of More "Moscow Trials"—Episode In Switzerland

A frightful explosion at a munitions plant in Saint Chamais took the toll of 54 dead and 200 wounded. The catastrophe at Chamais illustrates in a tragic manner the intense preparations in all European imperialist countries for the next slaughter.

In France this preparation is proceeding against the background of an ever-sharpening class struggle. A new wave of strikes is spreading over France. In the majority of cases the workers are striking to maintain their gains of last June. This time the occupation of factories is being met by the bosses with an organized campaign of violence, with the armed Fascist gangs serving as the spearhead of the attack. Several workers have already been killed and many wounded in forceful ejections of strikers from mills and factories. In many cases, the police are brought in to expell the strikers.

The French capitalist press reports these incidents as if the factories are being occupied by a handful of "communist-minded agitators" whom the aroused "loyal workers" are ejecting from the premises in order to resume work. At the same time an intense campaign is being carried on to compel the Peoples Front government to take energetic measures against the sit-in strikers. The bosses have refused to participate in any further arbitrations. Undoubtedly, France is on the eve of a new conflict on a colossal scale which will no longer have the peaceful character of the June days.

### New "Moscow Trials?"

Rumors of a new trial for four of the northern part of the state with reports of increased Ypsel activity in most places. He spoke at many successful meetings in Fresno, Stockton, Berkeley and San Francisco. At these meetings he explained the efforts of the ship-owners and the government to break the Maritime unions, and answered questions pertaining to the justifiable demands of the workers. We do not doubt that this tour has done a great deal to swing the sympathies of young workers and students to the side of the strikers.

Thus, the issue of November 18 carries a brief biography of Sokolnikov who, together with Pyatakov and Putna, is next on the schedule. The Russian exiles who are in the Menshevik camp have also taken note of these rumors. In the November 8 issue of "Sotzialisticheski Vestnik," Abramovsk, leader of the Russian Mensheviks, has an article the substance of which is that he hopes the Soviet government has learned from the last fiasco and will have the good sense, if not the decency, not to stage any more trials.

In the meantime, the trial in Novosibirsk in Western Siberia has taken place. There is every indication that this latest "trial" is only a prelude to something much bigger to be staged in European Russia in the near future—unless the plans miscarry.

### Popular Frontism—French Style

The Manchester Guardian Weekly for November 13 carries the following eloquent item: "The Blum Government accepted on Friday a Senate motion which was, in effect, a rather sharp rebuke of M. Blanche, the Under Secretary for Marine. M. Blanche is a Socialist and when he recently visited the arsenal at Brest the workers received him with a display of red flags and the singing of the 'Internationale'.... M. Dumensil in the Senate on Friday declared such political demonstrations among the arsenal workers to be intolerable.... M. Dumensil said that by encouraging such a demonstration, and by giving the Front Populaire salute, M. Blanche had placed the naval officers in an awkward and humiliating position. "M. Blanche replied, rather apolo-

### Cleaners and Dyers Win Strike

SAN FRANCISCO.—A strike of three hundred cleaners and dyers in the F. Thomas, J. Allec and Taco plants ended in victory this week for the union. The firms have been bitterly anti-union for many years and the victory brings one hundred per cent organization in sight. The agreement provides the eight-hour day, forty-hour week, union recognition, preferential hiring and wage increases of from one to ten dollars a week.

### Letter To the Editor

Editor, Labor Action:  
The Western Worker has seemingly learned nothing from the Spanish slaughter. Its policy, dictated by the Comintern, has been a great eye-opener for the need of a correct militant organ of struggle. The shift of the readers is on, from the "Western Worker" and the status quo, to "Labor Action" and a Workers' World. SHIFTER, Glendale, Calif.

### Switzerland

The Communist Party of Switzerland has recently addressed an open letter to the Swiss Socialist Party with the usual offer of "united front." The Open Letter contains, of course, vows of unswerving faithfulness and devotion to democracy; and profound concern for the cause of national defense.

Taking cognizance of this public offer, the National Committee of the Swiss Socialist Party, a reformist organization, replied with an Open Letter of its own rejecting the proposal and motivating its position in part as follows: "Your declarations are proof of the fact that you have sacrificed the fundamental points in your own program. If these declarations are sincere, your party has no right to any further existence alongside of the Socialist Party. The logical conclusion of your new political program should be the establishment of a united front, but the liquidation of the Communist Party of Switzerland."

# Socialist Youth

## California YPSL On The March

Murry Weiss returned from his tour of the northern part of the state with reports of increased Ypsel activity in most places. He spoke at many successful meetings in Fresno, Stockton, Berkeley and San Francisco. At these meetings he explained the efforts of the ship-owners and the government to break the Maritime unions, and answered questions pertaining to the justifiable demands of the workers. We do not doubt that this tour has done a great deal to swing the sympathies of young workers and students to the side of the strikers.

Stockton netted plenty dinero on the Weiss tour... Palo Alto is getting all set to apply for a charter thanks to the efforts of a couple of plugging comrades... Millie Goldberg travels to Redwood City every Sunday afternoon to teach a class in Socialism for young workers... Los Angeles has four circles and is gunning for more. The Ypsels all over the state are cutting a wide swath in the ranks of working-class youth and the organization is really growing.

Young workers and students—Your place is in the ranks of the Young People's Socialist League. We have groups functioning in your community. San Diego meets every Friday at 8 PM at 3751 S. Shamoune St. San Francisco meets every Friday night at 8 PM at 1057 Steiner St. Stockton circle meets Friday night at 8 PM at 511 East Channing St. Berkeley circle meets Tuesday night at 8 PM at 2533 Telegraph Road. Palo Alto-Redwood City group every Sunday afternoon at 804 Hudson St., Redwood City. Dominguez Hills meets Wednesday nights at Socialist Headquarters. Watts study class meets Wednesday nights at Townsend headquarters on Wilmington and 103rd St. Los Angeles-Debs Circle No. 1 meets Wednesday at 8 PM at 116 1/2 West Ninth St. Jimmy Higgins Circle meets Tuesday at 8 PM at 717 N. Fickett St. Circle No. 3 meets Friday at 8 PM at 717 N. Fickett St. Pasadena circle meets Friday at 8 PM at 268 W. Mountain. If there is no group listed for your community you can get information concerning The Young People's Socialist League by writing to District Secretary, YPSL, Room 334, 628 Montgomery St., San Francisco, California.

Young People's Socialist League circles throughout the country please take note. Send us interesting information on your activities and projects. We want to make this column your column. This applies especially to circles west of the Mississippi. All copy MUST be in by Saturday of each week.

At the present time there are three hot-spots in which the Ypsels are active. First and foremost among these is the maritime strike. The role of Young Socialists in this strike is recognized by all militants as a progressive one.

From San Diego comes word that Dick Fraser and other comrades are busily engaged in organizing and assisting the tomato workers who are preparing a strike under the leadership of the Federation of Agricultural Workers' Unions consisting of unions of Mexican, Filipino, Japanese and American workers. And in Stockton Socialists are actively engaged in aiding the celery strikers.

We welcome into the YPSL the newly chartered circle in Dominguez Hills. The comrades in that circle have learned their lessons in the school of struggle against the agricultural barons and are well steered to fight in the forces of the social revolution. Congratulations to Paula Aragon and Myra Tanner for sticking to their posts in one of the most difficult organization jobs in the state. And they have so far turned in more than a hundred dollars in contributions and a large stack of subs. Good work comrades. WHERE AND WHEN WE MEET The Karl Liebknecht Circle of San Francisco ran a successful fair Thanksgiving Eve to raise funds for the District office...

## Laundry Drivers Make Demands

The present agreement of the San Francisco Laundry Drivers Union, Local 256, has expired. A new agreement has been drawn up by the union and approved by the Joint Council of Teamsters. In the near future it will be presented to the Laundry Owners Association. It demands that inside drivers, who now get from \$30 to \$32.50 and commissions, be given \$35 to \$45 a week and commissions. Hours, now 48, are to be 44. Outside drivers are to get small concessions. A permanent arbitration board, consisting of a representative each of owners and drivers, balanced by an "impartial" third man, will settle disputes that arise during the term of the agreement.

This is the first time in 17 years that this conservative union has made demands. The union owns stock in Independent Laundry, and with this and other laundries that do not belong to the Laundry Owners Assn., should be able effectively to finish any fight the owners should start. This is in spite of the fact that the industry in San Francisco is only 30 per cent organized. Some plants have the Workers and Engineers organized, but not the Teamsters International. Some years ago efforts were made to organize the French laundries. A Ways and Means Committee, composed of representatives of the Laundry Workers Union, the Drivers and Engineers has existed for sometime but so far no progress has been made.

# The Party At Work

NOTE: Locals, don't keep your activity to yourselves. SEND IN NEWS FOR THIS COLUMN! Get your local Labor Action agent to sit down as soon as this issue reaches you and start writing up the news of the past week so that it will get to the Labor Action office by Saturday morning or not later than the first Monday mail!

### U. S. Drive

Final report on the standing of locals in the United Socialist Fund Drive for 1936 was sent to locals and members-at-large last week. Because of individual contributions sent direct to the National Office by members of locals or members-at-large, some locals went 'way over the top in fulfilling their quotas.

Palo Alto, with a quota of \$26.55 for the National Office, sent \$157.70. Los Angeles, with a quota of \$80.00, sent \$377.25. San Francisco, with a quota of \$134.75, sent \$265.88. Members-at-large, to whom a quota of \$108.00 was assigned, are credited with \$138.56 to the National Office, Bakersfield, with a quota of \$36.75, sent \$44.86.

Especially honorable mention is due Bakersfield, mainly because all their contributions were sent through the State Office, thus giving the State Office a share, and because their total represents faithful payment of pledges from members of a small local.

Local organizer, David Stevens, has been assisting with the work of building the Harbor City Branch which is getting under way and will soon be ready to function as a full-fledged, chartered branch.

Active work is being done among the maritime workers in the San Pedro area. Several new members of the Socialist Party have been recruited.

Market workers in Los Angeles, who have been working for several weeks on organization into a union, have grown more than 200 per cent, having recently taken in more than a hundred new members at a single meeting. The Socialist Party of Los Angeles has been giving them space for their meetings, and the Industrial Organizer has been giving every assistance possible to further their growth.

### BERKELEY

In spite of final examinations and the coming vacation at the University of California, the Y.P.S.L. circle is carrying on the regular class on "Capital," given by Comrade Sam Meyers on Sunday afternoon at the headquarters on 2533 Telegraph Road. A new class on "The History of the American Labor Movement" will be begun around January 14.

# Western States Federation Of the Socialist Party

### Red Special

Nothing further has been reported about the Red Special Tour. Western Federation Secretary, Cray Trimble, has sent out a Bulletin to Executive Members asking them to send in proposals for use of the truck in their state, giving an outline of the places where organization is strong enough to be a centre from which the truck can work; condition of roads and weather in the sections where work is to be done; an analysis of conditions which the organizer will meet on the organization tour; and suggestions for the progress of the tour geographically.

A proposal is up for voting by the Executive Committee to invite Comrade Ernest Erber, recently returned from Spain, to come through the West on a speaking tour under the sponsorship of the Western Federation and the Young People's Socialist League.

State Secretaries have been asked to send regular reports of activities to Labor Action for the weekly Western Federation column.

### New Mexico

From the State Secretary of New Mexico we received an enthusiastic reaction to Labor Action, two months' dues for the Federation, and assurance of co-operation to make the Red Special Tour a success.

We quote from Comrade Powell's letter: "You may tell the editors of Labor Action that we Socialists here are proud to see them standing for Socialism against these petty reform moves. We are afraid of these Labor-Party moves. If what has gone under these names in the old world, the nation, and this state are what we'll get—we want nothing of it. A Labor-Party would be a haven for political discontents and opportunists. I for one cannot see much good being done by the Labor Parties in the old world. When they get in power they forget the class struggle and revolutionary change, and work for nothing but mild reforms. I think working with unions, the

At the last regular Monday educational meeting Frank Stern led a discussion on "The Role of a Revolutionary Press," and next Monday, December 14, the subject for discussion will be "The Organization of N.Y.A."

Y.P.S.L. members in Berkeley will concentrate during the vacation on house-to-house canvassing to build the circulation of Labor Action.

## SOCIALIST CALENDAR

### SAN FRANCISCO:

Socialist Party Local: December 16, Wednesday, at 8 p. m., 1057 Steiner Street, business meeting will be held.

Socialist Study Classes: Every Monday, 6:45 p. m.—Socialist Fundamentals.

Every Monday, 8:30 p. m.—History of Socialist Thought (Class now studying the Russian Revolution.)

Every Thursday, 8:00 p. m.—Trade Union History and Tactics. Discussion led by Barney Mayes.

### BERKELEY:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Thursday at 8 p. m., 2533 Telegraph Avenue.

### PALO ALTO:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every second Wednesday of the month at 915 Channing Avenue, at 8 p. m.

### STOCKTON:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Monday at 8 p. m., at 234 N. Sutter Street. First and Third Monday regular business meetings. Second and Fourth, open educational meetings.

### OXNARD:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Monday at 8 p. m. (Address will be announced next issue). First and third meetings, regular business meetings; second and fourth meetings, social and educational.

### LOS ANGELES:

Socialist Party Local: Meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 116 1/2 West Ninth Street.

Socialist Party Jewish Branch Meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 126 North Saint Louis Street.

Sunday Evening Forum: Every Sunday, 8 p. m., at 116 1/2 West Ninth Street.

### NOTE

ALL Socialist Party Locals should send in WEEKLY news items they wish listed in the calendar. Be sure to notify the State Office of any corrections or additions in this calendar. Locals not reported in this issue, please get the information in IMMEDIATELY. Send in NEWS!

unemployed, helping in all labor struggles will give us the means of educating the people and showing them that Socialists are the only ones working for their emancipation."

### Kansas Issues A Challenge

From the Kansas Socialist, monthly bulletin of the state organization: "The election is over—but the fight for Socialism goes on... The heart of the revolutionary socialist never beats retreat. A defeat is not something to grieve over; but something from which we may learn... As a party we are faced with two major problems: (1) the building of an efficient, functioning organization; and (2) the launching of an educational program that will draw the line sharply between socialism and every brand of reformism. For us, as individuals, the tasks are many and the responsibilities great: increased devotion, more hard work, greater determination, more thorough self-education, and closer co-operation all down the line. We have lost a battle—we shall win the war. FORWARD TO 1940!"

We note, with regret, that Comrade Whiteside, State Secretary of Kansas is forced to resign his post because of ill health. Comrade Whiteside has been a courageous fighter and loyal worker for revolutionary socialism in the west, and he has put a great deal of effort into the building of support for the Western Federation. We take this opportunity, however, to greet the new State Secretary, Comrade Pearlanna Briggs of Wichita, and extend our hope that Kansas will continue to keep in close touch with the W. F. S. P. and keep Labor Action posted with news from Kansas.

Socialist Party branches and locals outside of California please take note—If you want to build an active group of Young Socialists in your community, and if your state organization is affiliated to the Western Federation of the Socialist Party, the YPSL of California will give you organizational aid. Write to our office for more information.



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JAMES P. CANNON.....Editor  
GLEN TRIMBLE.....Associate Editor  
FRANK STERN.....Business Manager

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**Revolutionary Truth and the Spanish Situation**

"We do not blind ourselves to the dangers of Popular Frontism," declared the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party in its recent resolution calling for support of the heroic struggle of Spain's workers and peasants.

The NEC did not have to wait long to have its warning words proven to the hilt. Leaders of the two "anti-fascist" bourgeois parties of Catalonia have been caught in the act of organizing a plot to assassinate the workers' leaders of Catalonia. Since the outbreak of the civil war these bourgeois leaders had given lip service to the anti-fascist cause, flattered the workers' parties and unions, even had marched in honor of the Nineteenth Anniversary of the Russian Revolution—but behind this false-front, the "liberal" bourgeoisie was waiting for an opportunity to betray the fight against fascism, to stab the workers in the back. We give the full details of this counter-revolutionary attempt in another place in this issue.

The dangers of Popular Frontism have been demonstrated to be the dangers of open, outright counter-revolution by the bourgeois elements in the Popular Front. Revolutionary Socialists in America and throughout the world have been warning the working-class against this danger lurking behind the People's Front in Spain, France and anywhere a People's Front is set up.

The very idea of a People's Front program, a joint program between workers and "liberal" bourgeoisie, was denounced by the leader of the Russian Revolution in words which read as though written against the Stalinist antics of today.

"All attempts to draw a line, or to define by specially formulated 'points' . . . the limits beyond which begins the hypocrisy of the bourgeois friends of freedom, or, if you like, the betrayal of liberty by its bourgeois friends, are inevitably doomed to failure, for the bourgeoisie, placed between two fires (the autocracy and the proletariat), is by a thousand ways and means capable of changing its positions and slogans, of adapting itself just an inch to the left or an inch to the right, always bargaining and haggling like a broker. The task of proletarian democracy is not to invent such sterile 'points,' but to unceasingly criticize the developing political situation, to expose the new unforeseen inconsistencies and acts of treachery of the bourgeoisie." (Lenin's "Two Tactics of Social-Democracy," p. 106.)

Hopelessly compromised by the Stalinist line of collaboration with the "anti-fascist" bourgeoisie, of shamelessly defending these false friends from the criticism of revolutionary socialists, the *Daily Worker* has completely suppressed the news of the attempted counter-revolution in Barcelona.

Instead, the *Daily Worker* of December 5 launches a murderous attack on "Trotskyist Assassins of Unity," alleging an incident of several weeks ago in Paterson, New Jersey which, the Stalinists say, "vividly illustrates the Trotsky-infected position adopted by the Socialist Call, the Socialist Quarterly, and the new thoroughly Trotskyist 'Labor Action.'" The Paterson Socialists are charged with issuing a leaflet which says: "Down with the traitorous and betraying People's Front Government! All Power to the Peasants and Workers Committees!"

We have not seen the Paterson leaflet, but even if it includes what the *Daily Worker* claims, then it is clear that the *Daily Worker's* attack is deliberately designed to confuse the workers and to hide the fact that the Communist Parties have repudiated in word and in deed the very foundations of the revolutionary doctrines which carried the Russian Revolution to victory in 1917.

Against the various Peoples Front Governments of February to November, 1917, Lenin and Trotsky launched the slogan, "Down with the capitalist ministers"—a slogan designed to force the workers' leaders in the government to break their collaboration with, to kick out, the capitalist ministers. In the very heat of the struggle against the Kornilov counter-revolution in September, 1917, when Kerensky and the other bourgeois ministers in the Peoples Front Government were certainly—as such as Azana, Companys & Co. today—shouting for smashing Kornilov, the Bolsheviks issued a proclamation warning the workers that the Provisional Government was impotent and that only the workers' own discipline and power could defeat Kornilov.

In a special letter to the Bolshevik Central Committee, Lenin castigated those who

uttered "phrases about the defense of the country, about supporting the Provisional Government, etc." "We will fight, we are fighting against Kornilov, even as Kerensky's troops do, but we do not support Kerensky," said Lenin. "On the contrary, we expose his weakness. There is the difference. It is rather a subtle difference, but it is highly essential and one must not forget it."

And there was not the slightest thought of waiting until the struggle against Kornilov was over before taking power for the workers. On the contrary, Lenin said, "even tomorrow events may put power into our hands, and then we shall not relinquish it." (Works, Vol. XXI, Book I, p. 137).

Our Paterson comrades were absolutely correct in the slogan for Spain: "All Power to the Workers and Peasants Committees." They failed to understand, however, what was indicated by Lenin, in the same letter: "It would be erroneous to think that we have moved away from the task of the proletariat conquering power. No. We have come tremendously nearer to it, though not directly, but from one side. This very minute we must conduct propaganda not so much directly against Kerensky, as indirectly against the same man, that is, by demanding an active and most energetic, really revolutionary war against Kornilov."

Really revolutionary war meant using against Kornilov not only military, but also political weapons. Therefore Lenin advanced the slogans of transfer of the landowners' land to the peasants, workers' control over bread and factories, etc. "Down with the Peoples Front Government" is a bare, abstract slogan which, moreover, runs the danger of not making clear to the workers that it is the bourgeois character of the government that is being attacked, and not the workers' organizations participating in it.

No serious worker will permit himself to be confused about the essential issues by the screeching of the *Daily Worker*. No amount of hysterical yowling will hide the fact that the Stalinists are the most vociferous, most systematic, and biggest force pushing for the pernicious Peoples Front policy everywhere.

Let us throw all our energies into the campaign for rendering material aid to the Spanish workers and peasants, as laid down by the last meeting of the NEC. The more that we can do to aid our Spanish comrades, the more will they appreciate our comradely criticism.

Let us make every Socialist and trade union headquarters a depot for supplies for the Spanish masses' struggle against fascism!

**Let Them Eat Quotas!**

Hunger and arrests finally broke the "sit-down" protest of Los Angeles women fighting against the firing of 2,000 of their sisters by Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration.

The same official brutality which marks every conflict between private employers and their workers was used by the administration recently overwhelmingly elected as the "Friend of Labor," the defender of the common man.

The United Press gives the story briefly and brutally: "Five women capitulated because of hunger and two, Mrs. Myrtle Callahan and Charlotte Boynton, were arrested by the police 'red' squad on charges of malicious mischief. Then the water was shut off and the women's rest rooms locked."

This is the chivalry of the Democratic Administration to women fighting for the right to bare subsistence in free America, the land of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Major T. D. Weaver, assistant Los Angeles County administrator, justified the action on the ground that there "is absolutely no way these women can be put back to work under the quota."

The quota! A quota concocted in a Washington back room decides whether women and children in Los Angeles shall eat or starve! This is the humanitarianism of the Democratic Party of capitalism. With the blindness of privilege in every age our Bourbons tell us that if we have no bread we can eat quotas.

This is in the richest nation on earth. This in America where an "over production" of all the good things of life jams warehouses to overflowing. Still, intelligent workers should not be surprised. It has always been, and always will be, this way under capitalism. Capitalism which grows fat upon the want of the workers who produce its wealth; the monster which uses the very machines that could produce plenty for all to destroy the jobs and the livelihood of millions.

To twelve million family heads PERMANENTLY jobless until the capitalism which cannot make a profit out of their labor is destroyed, the moguls of America send Major Weaver's message:

"There is absolutely no way these men and women can be put back to work under the system!"

And the "quotas" of government, Democratic and Republican, will be exact reflections of the system which buys and pays for capitalist government.

There is still just one road to plenty, peace and freedom—

The road of the class struggle for Socialism!

**Andre Gide's "Return From Soviet Union"**

**'Departure from Ideal Not Subject to Dispute'**

In 1932 Andre Gide came out in support of communism which implied in effect that while intending to aid the cause of the world working class he had rallied to the support of the ruling bureaucracy in Moscow. The outstanding man of letters in France was naturally courted, flattered and exalted by the Stalinists. Andre Gide, they thought, would serve them faithfully and well as an imposing facade to hide their actual policies and practices. During Gide's recent visit to the U.S.S.R., they outdid themselves in hospitality. Gide has just published a booklet containing his impressions of this journey, entitled *Return From the U.S.S.R.*

This little book is a milestone in the evolution of the French intellectual circles vis a vis Stalinism; and will undoubtedly have repercussions among intellectuals the world over. Although there is no reference in the book to the Moscow Trial, the latter has considerable bearing on the book itself.

To be sure, one could hardly expect from an artist like Andre Gide a synthesized political analysis. In a certain sense, his testimony is all the more invaluable because free from any compulsion to hew to a blindly accepted political credo. As a creative writer, Gide has always maintained a certain integrity—the integrity of an artist who seeks to convey reality not in terms of logic but through his senses and emotions. During his visit to the U.S.S.R. he kept his eyes wide open, refused to allow his brain to dry up and his intellect to become deranged. On his return, he translated what he had observed into a precious psychological document.

In a series of succinct sketches Gide truly and vividly conveys everything in the Soviet Union that marks an advance over capitalism in Western Europe: the full extent of that colossal material and cultural impulsion which was supplied by the October revolution to drag the peoples of Russia from barbarism. But he does not conceal the bitter kernel of truth, namely, that this progress is already beginning to react against the proletariat dominated by a State bureaucracy and hemmed within the national frontiers.

In the preface, he writes: ". . . There are things of greater moment than myself, of greater moment than the U.S.S.R., namely, humanity, its destiny, its culture."

"But perhaps I was deceived from the outset? Let those who have followed the evolution of the U.S.S.R. a little more than a year judge whether it is I who have changed or the U.S.S.R. And by the U.S.S.R. I mean the rulers there."

We reprint below a number of significant passages from the book, without any comment upon them at present.

**Extracts from Andre Gide's "Return from The U.S.S.R."**

This petty bourgeois spirit which I fear tends to develop over there, is, as I see it, profoundly counter-revolutionary through and through.

Yet it is not that that is being called "counter-revolutionary" in the U.S.S.R. today. It is almost just the opposite.

The spirit which is being called "counter-revolutionary" today, is the very same spirit, that same ferment which toppled the half-rotten props of the old Czarist world. One should like to be able to think that men's hearts are filled to overflowing with love for their own kind, or at least with an imperative yearning for justice. But so soon as the revolution is accomplished, has triumphed and is stabilized, it is not that which is any longer in question; and these sentiments that in the beginning animated the pioneer revolutionists turn into impediments, becoming obstructive as things no longer of service. I would compare these sentiments to a scaffolding by means of which an arch is raised, but which is dismantled once the keystone has been lodged in place. Now that the revolution has triumphed, now that it is being stabilized and domesticated, now that it is compromising, and as some will say, becoming wiser, those who are still animated by this revolutionary ferment and who considered as compromising all the successive concessions, they are held in shame—suppressed.

This seems to me absurd. I protest that Stalin is above such fawning. I argue in vain. There is nothing to be done. They will accept my wire only if I consent to the additions. And since in question here is a translation which I am unable even to check, war-weary I concede, but in so doing I refuse to assume any responsibility to place between Stalin and the people an awful and

less be a piece of courtesy, on my part to send him a message in acknowledgement of the reception given us by the U.S.S.R., being everywhere acclaimed, feasted and pampered. I will never find a better occasion. I order the automobile to pull up in front of a postal station, and present the text of a telegram. It reads substantially as follows: "In passing through Gori on our marvelous journey I am impelled cordially to extend to you . . ." But at this point the translator halts abruptly. I must not talk that way. "You" is not enough when that "you" is Stalin. That is most improper. Something has to be added. And since I betray a certain stuper, they hold a consultation. I am proffered: "You, Leader of the workers" or "You Master of the peoples" or . . . I no longer recall what else.

**Criticism Stifled**

Would it not then be much better instead of playing with words to recognize that the revolutionary spirit (and even the whole spirit of criticism) is no longer permissible, no longer necessary? What is now in demand is acceptance, conformity. What they desire and exact is an approbation of everything being done in the U.S.S.R.; what they strive to attain is that this approbation be not passive but sincere, and even enthusiastic. The most astonishing thing is that they do attain it. On the other hand, the slightest protest, the least criticism is liable to harshest penalties, and, in fact, is instantly stifled. And I doubt whether in any other country today, even in Hitler's Germany the spirit is less free, more constrained, more timorous (terrorized), more slavish.

The effigy of Stalin is everywhere, his name is heard on every lip, rhapsodies in his praise are infallibly included in all speeches. Especially in Georgia. I was unable there to enter a single obscure room, however humble or sordid, without perceiving a portrait of Stalin on the wall hanging on the spot where previously, no doubt, an icon used to hang. Whether from adoration, love or fear, I do not know: he is everywhere and always.

**Compulsory Fawning**  
On the road from Tiflis to Batumi, we pass through Gori, the little town where Stalin was born. It has

occurred to me that it would doubtless be a piece of courtesy, on my part to send him a message in acknowledgement of the reception given us by the U.S.S.R., being everywhere acclaimed, feasted and pampered. I will never find a better occasion. I order the automobile to pull up in front of a postal station, and present the text of a telegram. It reads substantially as follows: "In passing through Gori on our marvelous journey I am impelled cordially to extend to you . . ." But at this point the translator halts abruptly. I must not talk that way. "You" is not enough when that "you" is Stalin. That is most improper. Something has to be added. And since I betray a certain stuper, they hold a consultation. I am proffered: "You, Leader of the workers" or "You Master of the peoples" or . . . I no longer recall what else.

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\*It does appear as if I were inventing, doesn't it? Alas, no! And yet no one unnecessarily tell me that this incident merely involved a stupid underling, or some maladroited zealot. No, we had in our company, partaking in the discussion, several personages of sufficiently high rank, in any case, perfectly informed as to the "customs."

**Another Would-Be Fascist Outfit**

The would-be fascists keep trying. In the last few months another international incipient Fascist organization has appeared in California—The "4-4-3-4 Club."

Qualifications for membership are based upon anti-semitism, mass ignorance, and superstition. Abounding with sophistries and banalities, its platform is directed to pseudo-intellectuals and misguided workers.

Bold-face type, capitals and italics run rampant through the textbook which is supposed to be handed to prospective members for three days only. The world with a fence around it is promised to the followers of the organization if the directions are followed. These directions or directives as outlined in "Mankind United" consist of organizing a 4-4-3-4 Club for the purpose of discussing the questions of the day. Further: when and if the organization has a membership of some fifteen million people the "Leaders" will carry on a thirty-day radio and press campaign informing the faithful just how they intend to take over the world.

**Attack "Hidden Rulers"**  
A ferocious attack is carried on against the "Hidden Rulers" and the "Money Changers." A complete expose of the methods used by these people to silence an attack upon the existing system is given gratis within the first

impassable gulf. And as I had had the occasion to ascertain similar retouchings and refinements in the translations of various brief remarks which I was prevailed upon to make in the U.S.S.R., I straightaway declare that I will not acknowledge as mine any text which had appeared in Russian during my stay there, and that I would say so.

**Departure from Ideal**

That there has been a departure from the initial ideal, is not subject to dispute. But can we, in the same breath, question whether what was initially desired was immediately realizable? Is it bankruptcy? or is it an opportune and indisputable adaptation to unforeseen difficulties?

Does this transition from the "mythic" to the "political" carry degradation fatally in its wake? For here we no longer touch upon a question of theory; we are in the domain of practice; it is necessary to reckon with the *menschliches alzumenschliches*—and to reckon with the enemy.

Numerous resolutions by Stalin are adopted, and in recent times almost all of them reflect the relationship with Germany and are dictated by a fear of Germany. The progressive restoration of the family, of private property, and of inheritance find a valid explanation: it is necessary to instill the Soviet citizen with a feeling that he has some personal property to defend. But it is thus that the initial impulse is gradually drained and lost, and the eye ceases to be fixed ahead. I will be told that this is necessary and urgent because a flank attack threatens ruin to the undertaking. But one by one, the adaptations put the undertaking in danger.

**Fear of "Trotskyism"**

Another fear is that of "Trotskyism" and what they label today the spirit of counter-revolution there. For there are some who refuse to believe that this compromise was necessary; they view all these adaptations as so many defeats. There may be explanations and excuses to be provided for the deviation from the original directives; but in their eyes it is this deviation that is alone of importance. But today it is the spirit of submission, it is conformity that is demanded. All those will be considered as "Trotskyists" who do not declare themselves contented. And matters are at such a pass that one begins to question whether if Lenin himself returned to life today . . .

We were promised the dictatorship of the proletariat. We are far from the mark. Yes, a dictatorship, obviously; but the dictatorship of a man, and no longer that of a united proletariat, of the Soviets. It is important that we do not dupe ourselves, and it is imperative to state with complete clarity: we have not got what was wanted. A step further, and we will even say: this is exactly what we did not want.

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**SIDELINES**

By JONATHAN DOE

We . . . Oh, to hell with this "We" business—I, Jonathan Doe, wish to make an affidavit. I hereby solemnly swear—(Yes, I know. Lily Pons dreams too much and I swear and smoke too much). Nevertheless, I swear, affirm, and all the rest of it that I came with in the skin of my teeth of being captured last night!

The last of my Socialist comrades, so the Communists tell me, was captured by the Trotskyites some time ago, so I haven't much to hope for. But anyway I'm still at large, though badly shaken after my night of terror.

It was like this: I went out for a walk yesterday evening. I knew it was foolhardy, but forewarned is forearmed and I intended to keep well-clear of all dark and blind alleys, one-way streets, etc. I thought then I'd be safe. Which only serves to illustrate the trusting nature and naïveté of left-wing Socialists.

**Seven Trotskyites**

encountered seven Trotskyites. In a single, well-lighted block I encountered seven Trotskyites. The first tried to capture me with a big fish net, but I got away from him. The next tried a harpoon, but his coil of rope got tangled and the thrust fell short by inches. A villainous son-of-the-Fourth-International tried to scalp me, but I don't scalp easily. Too much dandruff. The flurry always used to blind the Indians when they tried it. They would think it was the blizzard of '98 coming on and scurry for cover. The fourth Trotskyite pushed a gun against my ribs, but after three hairbreadth escapes I was getting mad and I got the gun away from him.

The next fiend, even for a dark-plotting Trotskyite, was damnably clever. He had fixed up one of those sidewalk freight-elevator openings to trap me. I thought I was stepping on those familiar steel doors which open skyward when truckmen knock on them. Instead, the doors were gone and had been replaced with some sort of metal cloth. It even had wet-looking, shiny spots and cigarette butts woven into it to make it look more like the rest of the sidewalk. I stepped on it all right and was shooting first for the basement where the Trotskyite was lurking among the steam pipes, but I flung my arms to one side, hung by my elbows on the edge for a moment and then managed to wiggle up out of that hole.

**A Decoy!**

I won't go into detail of the next

attempt at my capture and how I felled it. Trotskyite No. 6 used a decoy. I don't remember much about her except that she had stream-lined ankles and was the sort of a girl you could count on to keep the seams of her silk stockings straight.

It was the seventh Trotskyite who almost did for me. I remember there was a vacant lot and all I saw was a poor, dejected-looking creature sitting in the center of it with a gunny sack and a lantern. Now if there are two things in this sorry world which would interest me outside of my efforts to acquire a correct, principled leftist orientation, it is snipe-hunters and excavations. I can't keep away from them. I'm always getting too close and falling into excavations. Now I find I'm likely to get too close to snipe-hunters. Only this fellow wasn't a snipe-hunter. He was a devilish Trotskyite disguised as one. I slashed my way out of that gunny sack somehow and got back home. Don't ask me to be more specific because it still makes me shake to think about it.

**Quick, Herbert! The Flit!**

You would think that was enough horror for one poor Socialist—the last of his kind at liberty, for the night. But later after I'd had a few drinks and had turned out the lights to go to bed, I heard a rustling sound. Quaking and cringing, I flashed the lights on again. It wasn't Trotskyites that time though. Stalinists were pouring out from behind the wallpaper and streaming from the cracks around the kitchen sink. I soon fixed that however. I always keep the flit-gun handy.

**The Blue Pants Tragedy**

An anonymous writer in *Harpers* magazine discusses the hardships of living on an income of \$50,000 a year. A grave crisis occurred in the author's family during the depths of the depression. Milady's chauffeur wore out his uniform, a new one would cost \$50, and so Henry had to appear at an important function clad in his gray Norfolk uniform coat but with blue trousers. Blue trousers, imagine that! Mrs. Senator, we are told, looked at him "peculiarly." The implication is that if income taxes are made any higher, Henry will be appearing without any trousers whatsoever, and then Mrs. Senator will not only look "peculiarly," she will begin to feel that way. If the readers of *Harpers* fall to sympathizing with the "X" family in its dilemma, we suggest that "anonymous" take the matter up with some of the Southern share-croppers.

**BOOKS and AUTHORS**

The Spanish Revolution Vol. 1, Nos. 1-4, Oct. 21, 1935-Nov. 11, 1936, "Weekly English Bulletin of the Workers' Party of Marxist Unification of Spain (P.O.U.M.). Price 5 cents a copy. Distributed by The Labor Bookshop, 28 East 12th Street, New York City.

**Review by Glen Trimble**

One of the first reflections of socialization in Barcelona to reach these shores is the weekly English "Spanish Revolution."

The printing presses of capitalism have been turned to the service of the workers and all this is but one of several foreign-language bulletins intended to keep workers everywhere informed of the course of events in Spain.

A few of the titles drawn from the first four issues should serve to indicate the provocative and timely character of the publication: "The Socialist Revolution or Fascism," "Two Spains—Madrid and Barcelona, For a Red Army of the Spanish Workers, the So-

viet Government's New Attitude on Spain, The Militia and the Unified Command, the Military Situation (reprinted in this issue of Labor Action).

**RARE CHANCE**

Here is the rare opportunity to follow events, opinions and conflicting political trends among workers parties in the very midst of a revolution. No socialist can afford to miss it.

Readers will of course be curious as to the political position of the P.O.U.M. weekly. In so far as it can be compressed into a brief quotation it is stated in the article "Two Spains: Barcelona and Madrid." "Here is the elemental difference: Catalonia is fighting against fascism for the consolidation of a government or a council of a frankly proletarian character, because it believes that this is the only guarantee against the fascism of today and tomorrow. It is not enough to protect oneself from fascism. It is necessary to crush it. A worker's government or council in Madrid would give the anti-fascist struggle an impulse which would bring us incalculable advantages, both revolutionary and military."

**NOT AN INCH!**  
"Today more than ever this impulse is vitally necessary. Let us hope for it, and sincerely we do hope for it. But all the same we consider it one of our revolutionary duties to point out errors and propound our program. However many and deep may be the ideological differences which separate us from Madrid, they do not manage to separate us, even an inch in the close side-by-side collaboration which is the first demand of the struggle against fascism. We will neither give nor receive our criticism except on the most cordial plane of revolutionary democracy; any other attitude would be inconsiderate and disastrous, it would be a crime perpetrated not only against the Spanish revolution, but against the world revolution whose future lies in our hands."

An interesting sidelight on the ability of the Spanish comrades to maintain their interest in international affairs is the following note in the November 11th issue:

Headed "The USA Strikes," it reads, "We learn with the greatest sympathy of the strike being carried out by the American seamen. The strike movement has reached as far as the Gulf of Mexico; we wish it every success."

**The Mystery Explained**

The cabalistic and numerical jibberish by which this organization chooses to name itself is explained as follows: A labor schedule of 4 hours a day—4 days a week—8 months a year. An assured vacation (with pay) of 3 days per week and four entire months a year. A minimum salary of \$3,000.00 (Three thousand dollars—no cents) per year for all adults—men and women—irrespective of race, color, creed, class, profession or vocation. A pension of not less than \$3,000.00 a year for all men and women over the age of 40 provided they have worked a total of 11,000 hours and a pension of \$2,000 for everyone over 60 years of age regardless of time worked.

With such drivel and mystical sophistry are the nucleus of organizations to be gathered from among the superstitious and ignorant. It is encouraging to note that to date the membership is made up of "faddists," "screw-boxes," religious nuts, and "fool maniacs." It would seem incredible that any real worker should fall for this line of buncombe.