Spot News: New Year's Eve Housewarming Party and Dance At New Socialist Party Headquarters, Biggest and Best in the Country, 236 Van Ness Avenue

Voice Of Socialism In The West

LABOR ACTION

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of California

"--and a Happy New Year"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1936

Workers Of The World Unite!

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Wage War We'll Be Seeing on Union in San Diego

Negotiations Drag As party at the grand new headquar-Growers Push Drive For Company Union

By RICHARD FRASER SAN DIEGO, Dec. 20 .-

Negotiations between the joint committees of the Am-Unions and representatives of the Celery Growers, course of the negotiations the yellow-dog contract, a company union, etc. and have started a concerted drive to lock-out the unions. At the same time they flaunt the name of Chet Moore in the face of the workers, hoping an early compromise with company unionism, which is portant and vital problem faced by the agricultural unions all over the state.

The introduction of Chet Moore into the San Diego County celery harvest situation shows the activity of the banks in the effort to

CHET MOORE Who is Chet Moore? Chet Moore

has furnished the strike-breaking plan and apparatus for scores of culture during the past few years. sota locals of the Worker's he wanted to protect himself. coord runs right through to Allience of America was hear about the case, and I sai Salinas. He has inspired a "three- held last Saturday and Sun- yes. He talked about it the rest fornia Agriculture—the third point day, Dec. 12 and 13, in the of the day. being company-unionism. Chet Moore has organized the Shipper-torium, St. Paul. The concountry district attorney's office being company-unionism. Chet State Office Building audi-Growers in the name of the banks. vention was attended by sev- and the Swayne and Hoyt Steam-As a tribute to the class struggle eral hundred delegates, and ship Company ever since early in strategy upon the "labor problem." by Herbert Benjamin and August. He had taken a flying

lems. They are lined up not against only a few small growers. The whole financial oligarchy is in the convention failed.

You All New Year's Eve

The "Absurdities of Capitalist 1936" will be the theme of the party, and everyone is expected to come and have a good time.

Costumes portraying the actual ity of hard times or the illusion of "prosperity" (1936 version); carierican, Mexican and Filipino catures of micro, masses, king, the archbishop—anything

To our readers in San Francisco started Nov. 14, have so far | we issue an invitation to join with been unsatisfactory. The us New Year's Eve; evolve growers' attack on the some sort of costume get-up, dig unions continues. During the |up a mask, and come to 236 Van Ness Avenue any time after 8:30 growers have introduced the | p. m. to join in the dancing, entertainment, and fun. Tickets are

Minnesota owners nad conflicted with District Attorney Earl Warren to pay at least one witness, Roscoe C. face of the workers, hoping in this way to cow them into Convention The revelation came from H. M. Mann, third mate of the steamfast becoming the most important and vital problem Of Alliance supportant and vital problem

Provoke Split Is Frustrated

By CARL O'SHEA

ST. PAUL, Dec. 20.—A un- ship murder frameup. He said broken strikes in California agri- ity convention of the Minne- his life had been threatened, and

It is thus becoming increasingly David Lasser, national offic-trip by plane—he didn't say what It is thus becoming increasingly ers of the W.A.A. An at- in August. Impossible to localize their problempt of Communist Party elements to provoke a split

Company unionism has appeared Minnesota have been divided into owners—had approached him in within the last few months in two groups. First from point of San Francisco and offered him a three important districts in some view of size and effectiveness has long-term engineering contract in form or another. In Salinas, the been the Federal Workers Section South America if he would testify company-union hiring hall was of Local 544. This organization, 'properly' at the trial. raised to its most vicious height sponsored, financed and organized by the guarded Filipino camps. by the General Drivers Union Lo- who supposedly went down the That the union did not penetrate cal 544, has been in existence ever gangplank of the Point Lobos." (It these camps with its membership since the 1934 drivers' strikes in was aboard this latter vessel that the Shipping Register, organ of plant last year. An unsuccessful was fatal. More recently in Santa Minneapolis. Because the F.W.S. Chief Engineer George W. Alberts the shipowners, Dec. 5. Some appeal to the District Court of Maria the Moore machine was has this tie-up with the organized was murdered in Alameda harbor able to buy off one of the Filipino union movement, and because it last March 22.) union leaders who split the union has been able to organize the Hennepin County unemployed al-showed him pictures of the men Despite everything the unions most completely, the workers in he was to identify, and told him

(Continued on Page 2)

$\|\mathbf{Frameup\ of}\|$ Union Men Is Exposed

Conspiracy Against King Revealed By Witness

Within a few days, the world will know if California's newest labor frameup -the "ship murder"" caseis to be defeated or not.

Attorneys defending four members of the Marine Firemen's Union against the frameup in Oakland will have presented all their evidence soon—possibly by the end of this week.

The defense startled the jury last week with a sensational revelation that San Francisco ship-

ship Katrina Luckenbach. Mann tremendous rewards to participate in the foul affair. Slade was sec-Attempts of Clique To ond assistant engineer of the vessel, which was in Seattle at the

ing," said Mann, "and asked if he

"He told me he had been on

"APPROACHED BY SHIP-OWNERS"

"Then he said a representative The organized unemployed in of high financial interests—ship-

"He was to 'identify' two men

"The shipowners' representatives are making definite headway in this area have obtained probably he'd be 'taken care of.' He told

Is a Phoney

In a Beef Against **Editorial Policy**

One of the most heart-rending squawks against the editorial policy of The Voice of the Federation we have yet noticed appeared in thing really ought to be done to curb the editor. Read the editorial yourself and see if it doesn't make you think of home and mother: "Disinterested observers have

expressed amazement that any one

group, meaning the workers, could be so utterly partisan and selfish. Anyone reading one of their union papers finds not one jota of blame directed against the strikers, the boys' are always victims of some soulless and oppressive corporation.' For instance, in a recent edition of the Voice of the Federathe company is berated for using I walked in and the bookkeeper foul tactics, enmeshing 'innocent know how workers lose there self asked me what my business was victims,' etc. Not one word is to find anything like a football respect while engaged in the fight and I told her. She pushed a said of the guilt of the convicted rade Russel has been forced to recouple of buttons and sent me to felons. That point is entirely overthe second floor. The stairs were looked, and not one word gives out is that what pride I have is old and slippery and I nearly even a vague impression that the awkward, and, if graduating from inherited. Since I can remember, killed myself by the time I men so convicted were breaking

> "And so through the whole pubication. Men hired by steamship companies to protect their propsomething about names—some So I waited and watched the men beasts,' 'thugs' and 'gangsters,' work in the filth. What a stink! | making it appear that the inno-Then it happened, a few min- cent and gentle stevedores and

Socialists Aiding Spanish Workers

CHICAGO (LSP) .- Socialists are concentrating their efforts on collecting funds and supplies for the Spanish workers and peasants now in a life and death struggle E. Burt, newly-elected executive attention of the public. That's why I broke the little secretary of the Socialist party.

Every Socialist headquarters has been turned into a depot for supplies. Special meetings are being and conviction of the others who

Shipowners Socialist Youth Guild Wins Say "Voice" Gets Jail Term Demands In at Minneapolis

BILLION

the Minneapolis Circle of the was sent back to the Linneapolis Workhouse to serve out the remainder of a term of four months which he received in connection with the strike of the Hosiery workers at the Strutwear Hosiery Appeals by the Worker's Defense week, as a result of Guild nego-League was concluded last month, tiations.

Despite conclusive testimony as to the innocence of Comrade Russel and the others involved, anti-

The importance of the case lay in the fact that a precedent inanti-injunction law had been set. afternoon papers. Because of this fact, the W.D.L. adverse decision was handed down based on a technicality, and comturn to jail. Communications can be sent to him at the Minneapolis Workhouse, Parker's Lake, Minne-

Bay Region Organ of Bosses Puts the Minneapons Circle of the All S. F. Dailies Sign

DOLLAR

BUDGET

And 5-Day Week

For the first time in history, every working newspaper man or woman in the Bay Region is guaranteed a decent living wage, minimum pay graduated with his experience, and a 5-day, 40-hour All Guild-organized papers in the

Bay Region are operating under Guild conditions. And the one paper which has not recognized labor Federal Judge Molyneux the Guild formally, has tacitly sentenced them to a six month acknowledged the effects of Guild collective bargaining-the Oakland Tribune management informed its staff the same wages and hours would prevail on that paper as the volving a new way to evade the Guild has negotiated on the other

> The Post-Enquirer and the Call-Bulletin have recognized the Guild. and posted agreements establishing the 5-day, 40-hour week, and minimum wage scale as first established on the News. Thus the Guild has fixed identi-

> cal minimum wage scales for all afternoon papers, and a slightly higher, identical scale for the two morning papers.

Thomas Is Speaker At **Shoemaker Meeting**

TAMPA, Fla. (LSP).-Marking the first anniversary of the death ion will compel authorities to act," of Joseph Shoemaker, Tampa un- said Aron S. Gilmartin, secretary employed leader, who was kid- of the Committee for the Defense napped and murdered by Florida of Civil Rights in Tampa, 112 E. vigilantes, Norman Thomas spoke last Friday at a mass memorial meeting. Thomas, chairman of the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa, was the against fascism, according to Roy first to bring the case before the

Florida authorities have so far succeeded in postponing the trial held and committees are visiting were indicted. The charge of cluded life since the death of her the Hearst-Liberty League crowd

"Only the force of public opin-

DEBS WIDOW DIES

Mrs. Katherine Debs, widow of Eugene V. Debs, labor and Socialist leader, died at her home an editorial of September 8th that, here last week after a long ill- Roosevelt did make clear, howness. Mrs. Debs had lived a se- ever, that despite the attacks of Socialists. homes and stores for donations. murder still hangs over their head. husband more than ten years ago. he will not cut down on federal

Owners Offer Agreement to Sailors' Union

All Basic Union Demands Conceded in Settlement Proposal. Sailors Will Not Sign Until All Unions Get Agreements

Early settlement of the maritime strike on terms complying with the basic demands of all the unions was forecast this week by the agreement offered to the Sailors' Union of the Pacific as a result of new negotiations conducted by Harry Lundeberg, secretary of the Sailors' Union and Thomas G. Plant, chairman of the shipowners' committee.

Martin Hits gottations are still snagged with the Cooks and Stewards over the 8-hour day and with the Masential hiring of union members. Negotiations have not yet been resumed with the Longshoremen. Gift' of GMC The sailors' agreement, which has already been informally ap-

Auto Union President Shows Wage Cuts Offset Bonus

DETROIT, Michigan-The genrosity of General Motors in announcing a Christmas bonus of \$10,000,000 and a 5-cents-an-hour vage increase was described by solidarity principle of the Federa United Automobile Workers as a farcical sleight-of-hand perform-

Prices for piecework have been cut as much as 25 per cent at the Fisher Body plant at Atlanta, Georgia, on the 1937 models while additional cuts have been made

"Despite the much-advertised bonus and 5-cents-an-hour wage increase, so-called, General Motors will find that their workers are Up for Pay Increases universally dissatisfied because they realize that both the bonus and increases are more than taken up by wage slashes and speed-up.

LEFT-HANDED BONUSES of the left-handed bonuses granted into a formal union agreement by the same company a year ago when the same sort of reductions | Federation of Miners and the in piece rates and increase in I. W. W. at Goldfield, thirty years speed-up actually resulted in a net ago.) loss for each worker of \$2 a

It is reported that an agreement has also been moffered to the firemen. Negotiations are still snagged sumed with the Longshoremen.

proved at a membership meeting attended by 2,000 union members at a meeting Monday afternoon, will be sent out for a coast-wise referendum, with all indications of proval. However, Harry Lundeperg made it clear in a statement that the agreement will not be formally signed until satisfactory agreements are concluded with all the striking unions. This is the

SWEEPING VICTORY FOR UNION

The agreement offered to the Sailors represents a sweeping victory points. The main points of the agreement are:

1. The employers agree to recognize the Sailors' Union of the Pacific as the representative of their unlicensed deck personnel for

2. The employers agree to give preference in employment to members of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific and to secure their unlicensed deck personnel through the offices of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific. (This is to our knowledge the most sweeping provision for "This action is but a repetition union control of hiring ever put since the hev-day of the Western

> 3. Cash is to be paid for all Continued from Page 2.

Communist Candidate For Congress Joins Socialists

Benson, C. P. candidate for Con- the drought and the unemployed. gress from the Seventh Massachusetts district in the last election has joined the Socialist Party member in good standing in the C. P. for over four years, being organizer of the branch at one time, and through his militant, in the unemployed movement won tion of Comrade Benson to our ranks is a valuable addition to the cause of revolutionary socialism. Upon joining the S. P. he made the following statement:

AN OPEN LETTER

'Dear comrade workers: "Although a candidate for U. S. Congress from the Seventh Mass. it impossible to agree with the the Socialist Party. 'defeat Landon at all costs" line, and took only a passive part in the C. P. for a united front with the campaign, being greatly im- the Socialist party and all workpressed with the campaign of the ers was completely and utterly Socialist party for Socialism-not exposed to me here in Lynn where reformism. Being a WPA worker the Socialist comrades repeatedly TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (LSP).- I am amused to re-read my old asked the C. P. for united action "Daily Worker" and see the man- to build a branch of the Workers' ner in which the C. P. misled the WPA workers by telling them in refused by the 'unity shouters.'

LYNN, MASS.-French Austin | relief activities for the victims of A SHIFTY LINE

"The change in the line from social-fascism, dual unionism, etc., local of Lynn, Mass. He was a without any discussion among the party membership, proved conclusively the strength of the bureaucracy that has stultified the C. P. determined and sacrificing work as a revolutionary instrument of the working class. The classthe support and admiration of collaboration character of the those workers in Lynn. The addi- Peoples' Front in Spain and in France and the desire of the C. P. U. S. to unite with "good" labor leaders, 'honest' professional people, pacifists of every shade and description in order to carry out orders and manufacture a Farmer-Labor Party, thereby dropping the revolutionary teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin, has compelled me, a sincere and militant district in the last election I found worker, to leave the C. P. and join

"The oft-repeated pleadings of Alliance-only to be ignored and "I now take my place again in

the ranks of the Revolutionary

"With comradely greetings, "FRENCH AUSTIN BENSON."

JOB--A Short Story

BY RUGG

Not everyone can be seventeen You'd have to look mighty close hero or a-a Max Baer. What I mean to say is that I'm pretty tall, fairly well proportioned, not too thing, not too dumb. That's me good day's work and I look it.

Like everyone else I have my moments but I don't go around fellow enjoys thinking that he carries something around with him ple's emotions. Maybe all folks think the same thoughts but, hell, or my brother haven't any purses you can't blame a chap for thinking he's different, can you?

BROTHER SAM

I should've mentioned my oldest brother, Sam. He's part of my being. I've been living with him Allright, so I'm STILL a kid . . . Anyhow Sam has been like a real around. father to me since the old man was killed falling off a ladder. reputation clean. If you believe immediately ran down, that's easy among working men Boy, what a lousy stink catches

mine. Now don't get me wrong. live in a cloister or you don't

What I've been trying to bring high school at fifteen means any the whole family has always had a climbed them. Then a red-headed the law. on the surface: I can put in a of the group was duty bound to wearing 'em on my sleeve. A thing like, "If you pick my purse thats different from other peo- idea even if the quotation is kind

I want you to understand what kind of a person I am so you'll For a guy who's worked hard all see why I didn't take the job. his life to support his family he When you phoned that the leather sure has succeeded in keeping his factory could use some help I

keep the family name clean. I think Shakespeare once wrote you steal trash, but if you touch my good name-." You get the utes after the other bosses came sailors never so much as menharping too much on a trivial matthing when I'm pointed out by people as being Sam's brother.

firm realization that each member pair of khaki pants introduced of wrong; even if people like me that could be picked. Maybe I'm ter but believe me it means some-

They know our family doesn't take since I was a kid, you know . . . any guff from bosses or scabs or wise guys who try to fenagle

squirt's glasses and ran out of the

when you have to depend on your nostrils in that place! But tion, the story of the 'Standard bosses in order to obtain a square that wasnt so bad. I've worked Oil Victims' is set forth, wherein decided to appeal the case. An and stroll around in a body like meal, you're crazy. Either you in worse places.

> himself to me as one of the owners. He told me to wait until the other three partners came along. erty are characterized as 'wild

> in. One of them, a little squirt tioned even an unkind word in with a pince-nez (those are phoney | their entire lives." eye-glasses) walked up to me and without saying a word he began to feel my muscles! Honest, he began to feel me up

like I was a girl or something! I thought he'd yank my mouth open and see how old I was! Christ! What in hell was I supposed to be—a horse? Were they buying me for keeps?

Maybe I'm crazy. I dont know

Minnesota Convention Of Alliance

(Continued from Page 1) the highest relief and work relief standards in the United States. The same leadership which, functioning at the head of the General Drivers Union, has been able in a little over two years to transform Minneapolis from one of the worst scab towns in the country into a strong union town, has also lead

CONVENTION GERRYMANDER Those workers organized by the Communist Party into various Workers Alliance locals throughout the state comprise the other What strength it has is almost completely in the rural areas. The Federal Workers Section has more members; but because at the last moment the national officers ruled that contrary to previous agreement, voting power at the convention was to be apportioned by total dues stamps convention to be held February 21, ganization, and to seek to insure

Last week the official organ of the Teamsters' Joint Council, The Northwest Organizer, warned the WPA workers and those on direct relief that the same Communist Party clique might attempt the Party position and strength up to mittee. Until now the Beacon was same trickery and unprincipled manipulation which brought to sis of economic conditions in vari- YPSL and Socialist Party only, naught last year's convention. It ous localities; estimate of party and was a highly politicalized insoon became apparent that the strength; organizational and con-ternal bulletin. Stalinists, guided by Herbert Ben tact work; basis for recruiting and jamin, national secretary-organ personal assignments; education. izer of the W.A.A., were deterits actual organized members. DISORGANIZERS AT WORK

tear the F.W.S. away from its tie we support or organize a united ment in Minneapolis. Note this! under what circumstances? Here in Mineapolis a unique situathe solid gains made by the F.W.S. And yet the Stalinists had the gall to seek to break up and disperse this strong and militant organiza-Benjamin's followers.

Blandly, the Stalinists informed case of a split in the A.F. of L.? the Federal Workers Section that Should we organize Socialist it could not even choose whom leagues within the various trade it wanted to represent it on the unions? If so what should be state executive committee. Even their functions? In the event of more. After the nominating com- Socialist participation in a strike mittee of the convention had ar- situation, what policy should be rived at an agreement on a slate, followed in relation to policy and the C.P. held a caucus, came on personnel within a union with the convention floor, and reversed which we disagree? Should we the report of the nominating com- maintain a "hands off" policy in mittee. This trick, which was put trade union affairs? What should over with the full knowledge and be the policy of party members assistance of the national officers, in unions now aligned against the was done deliberately to provoke C.I.O.? the F.W.S. delegates to walk out of the convention, thereby placing the U.S. government in any war?

Grant Dunne, a member of the In case the U.S. lines up with General Drivers Union executive fascist countries? What should be hoard, and a delegate from the our attitude toward pacifist F.W.S., rose and declined all posts groups, anti-war groups, church on the state executive committee groups? What preparation should for the Federal Workers Section. be made for Party war-time activ-He also presented a statement ity? which declared the willingness of Workers Alliance.

SPLIT MOVE THWARTED sixty workers who worked actively aimed to demoralize the honest in the various committees to which efforts of the majority in the Conthey were assigned, presenting vention." among others the major resolutions listing demands on the federal and state government which

Letter to the Editor

Editor, Labor Action: The paper so far has been excellent. The class struggle implications of the union struggles are drawn out, rather than covered up. Also, you are not afraid to roast Blum. "Notebook of an Agitator" is fine, also the cartoons. Socialism has a worthy representative in

Labor Action. JOHN W. PARSHALL, 5437 Kimbark Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

Convention the unemployed to victory after Agenda Is Announced

State Executive Gives List of Points for Discussion

A tentative agenda for the state purchased from the national W. 22, and 23 in Berkeley has been A.A. office during the past four or announced to locals. In preparafive months, the Stalinist-con- tion for the convention the State trolled groups had a substantial Executive Committee has issued majority on the convention floor. a list of topics and questions for (The Federal Workers Section has local discussion as a basis for purchased stamps only the last recommendation to the delegates However, the F.W.S., at the convention. Locals are sure of the correctness of its pro- asked to discuss these subjects gram and policy, which have been thoroughly at regular educational proven in action time after time, or special red-card meetings bedid not fear to go into the new tween now and the convention in Minnesota Workers Alliance as a | February. If your local has any minority. The only major concern resolutions to offer for considof the Federal Workers Section eration at the convention, send was to maintain intact its own or- them in by January first if possible, so that they may be summed that a democratic regime would up and re-submitted for further local discussion.

> SUBJECTS ANNOUNCED The subjects as announced are

as follows: (1) Immediate program on the following basis: analysis of the the time of the convention; analy- published for members of the

(2) Farmer-Labor Party: analymined that unity should not pre- sis of farmer-labor party; shall vail this year. In the usual me- we organize either a farmer-labor it was decided to permit distribuchanical fashion for which the or a labor party? If and when a tion of the Beacon to people who C.P. has become notorious in farmer-labor party is formed, what are close to the YPSL and who recent years, they forced through action should the Party take? show that they are willing to work a slate of officers and an execu- Function of a farmer-labor party; with and be loyal to the principles tive committee which is outrage- definition of minimum basis for ously unfair to the F.W.S. and genuine labor or farmer-labor

party. (8) United Front: what consti-Not content with this, the C.P. tutes a united front? Should we caucus did its utmost to seek to participated in a united front? If with the organized labor move- front, what kind should it be and

(4) People's Front Governexists. Here a progressive ments: analysis of people's front A.F. of L. union has actually spon- government; if socialists particisored and financially supported an pate in a people's front governunemployed organization, assuring ment, under what circumstances; that unity between employed and and what should be their role in unemployed would be a reality. that government? What should That this organizational principle be our attitude toward socialist is correct is shown to the hilt by participation in people's front governments in other countries?

TRADE UNION POLICY (5) Trade Union Policy: shall

tion, to scatter its membership we support craft or industrial into yet-to-be-created neighborhood unionism? Should we support and project locals officered by Lewis and the C.I.O.? If so to what extent shall we work with And this is by no means all! Lewis? What is our stand in

(6) War: should we support the onus of a split upon their In case the U.S. lines up with democratic countries against fas-But it failed; for at this point cist—what should be our attitude?

the F.W.S. to abide by the con- the leadership of this one group stitution of the state and national deemed it necessary to subordinate the general interests of WPA and unemployed workers to their The F.W.S. section was repre- personal ambitions, based on a sented by a delegation of over disruptive splitting policy, which

WATCH MINNESOTA!

were accepted by the convention. | the setting up of county central Hence, there is almost unanimous committees of the Minnesota Workagreement on the program to be ers Alliance, and it is fair to assume that the Communist Party the Nation nor the New Masses, provoke a split at the convention, nice new dishes for the unem- cident before indulging in any genthe Stalinists are apparently striv- ployed workers. The Stalinists eralizations. ing to achieve the same end by have yet to prove to Minnesotan different means. On Dec. 16 they workers that they can make gains mailed letters to all delegates con- for the unions or the unemployed ed as the year of the great cult- first propaganda book, "Tragic confused as his Communism. and desire for a united State or of the Stalinist leadership of the that year was Theodore Dreiser- rary critics.

Owners Offer Agreement to **Sailors Union**

(Continued from Page 1)

5. The employers recognize the labor. union delegate aboard each ship union and the men aboard.

In view of the original scheme to particular attention.

and skill of its leadership.

tural," too, not a staged demonstra. listing information about his em- \$2,000

"Strike-crazy Lundeberg"—as he has been dubbed by people who want to eliminate the class struggle from strike strategy-has proved that the art of negotiating is not such a complicated and difficult thing. In fact, it is fairly easy if you know what you want and have a strong picket line behind you. In the last analysis the picket line decides the issue of a strike. Negotiations only formally ratify it.

> BEACON TO BECOME POPULAR ORGAN

The Beacon, official internal discussion organ of the Young People's Socialist League of California is to become an organ for distribution to advanced contacts of the YPSL, according to a decision made by the District Com-

Because of the great interest shown in the League by young workers, especially in the agricultural and maritime industries, of the organization.

Letter Tc the Editor

Enclosed, one dollar for a one month's subscription to Labor Action. Labor Action is certainly a momentous publication to make its appearance in emi-fascist California. Long may its print expose the nefarious capitalist society, and class collaboration of would-be saviours of the working class. May it clarify the path to unity of purpose of labor, that emancipation of the working man and woman can be achieved.

Hail Labor Action!-PAUL KOLINSKI. San Francisco, Calif.

P. S. Being a rolling stone, I gather very little moss in capitalist society. So I have no permanent address, that is why a one month sub. I feel it's worth the buck, though. PK.

New Federal Law A Mockery | Roosevelt Is Of Genuine Social Security | Showing His

hard-earned wages which they miserably low figure, but far isolate and smash the Sailors' Un- cannot afford, the Board has done above what the average benefit ion, and the perfidious propaganda nothing to assure workers that will be. to the effect that the sailors were they will not be discriminated the "stumbling block" to a settle against by employers if their emment of the strike, the agreement ployers do not turn the blanks the sailors have secured attracts back to them. The law allows the 1985 will become eligible for old The crushing defeat of the iso- information, to be given to the viable amount although calculated lation scheme, as well as the cam- union, the postoffice or the em- on the basis of a lifetime of earnpaign of "sailor-paiting," bears tes- ployer for transmission to the ings. But the workers who will timony to the power and militancy board, but labor circles feel that be 65 or over by 1942, the earliest of the union, and the effectiveness the fact that the employer is date for the first payment, will Harry Lundeberg received a permit him to misuse the they have been lucky enough to stormy ovation when he entered authority of his position and the union hall Monday to present require that the blanks be given the agreement. And it was a "na- to him in order to obtain blacks" these

CRITICISMS OF ACT are to be paid: (1) monthly through the rest of their lives. benefits at 65; (2) lump-sum-beneworker finds it difficult to get at all.

WASHINGTON .- Although the steady employment long before he blanks for registering 26,000,000 reaches 65. These benefits will workers for old age pensions have not be based upon need, but inbeen sent out by the Social Se stead upon the total past earn-4. Wages are to be increased curity Board, no move has as yet ings of the individual after Deabout \$10 per month, a general av- been made to eliminate those as- cember 31, 1936. In other words, erage increase of about 16 per pects of the new act which have the unemployed or partly emaroused the vigilance of organized ployed worker will be singled out for the lowest benefits which can Aside from the fact that work be as low as \$10 per month. Unas the official representative of the ers will still be required by law der no conditions will the benefits to contribute a portion of their reach more than \$85 per month, a

> MERE PITTANCES AT BEST Even workers, now young, who blanks, which contain confidential age pensions will receive no en-The law also provides that if earnings do not total

1936 and the time the age of 65 at the Act, which, it is claimed, ment equal to 31/2 per cent of to administer a measure which in the name of "social security" will fall miserably short of pro-many a working class family will viding for the real needs of old receive the magnificent sum of persons. Three types of benefits \$30 to \$50 to continue them

necessary, since the average included in any benefit payments

Frank Trager Roy Burt, New Begins Work | Secretary Of As Secretary Party, At Work

CHICAGO.-Frank N. Trager began his new job as labor and organization secretary of the Socialist Party on Dec. 15.

For the past year Trager has been state secretary of the Socialist Party of New York. Even while an instructor of phil-

the struggle of the workers. He was one of the founders of the ance. He has held such posts as a thorough knowledge of the prob the National Labor Relation Board. secretary of the Baltimore chap- lems facing labor. ter of the League for Industrial Democracy, secretary of the Maryland Anti-Lynching Federation secretary of the Baltimore Negro Labor Committee, and national

TOKYO.-Labor disputes involv-

a year ago. into the old law."

CHICAGO (LSP).-Fresh from the organizing field comes the new national secretary of the Socialist party-Roy E. Burt. He takes the place of Clarence Senior, who resigned because of ill health. Often compared to Eugene V.

osophy at John Hopkins Univer Debs as a Socialist orator, there sity he participated actively in has been a constant demand for Burt's services. In the past few Eastern Federation of Unemployed years he has visited almost every Leagues and the Workers Am war and enters his new past with labor to increase the nowers of

FARM BOY

family moved to south-eastern Kansas when he was nine years for the Workers' Rights Amend- old. From that time on he worked Modern Labor on the farm and in and around the coal mines of that state.

He has been a member of the ing 61,865 workers in Japan were Miners' Union, Retail Clerks' Unreported for the first eight months ion and now is a member of the been published by the Three Arputes, 1,268, was an increase of fore audiences of trade unionists, cents each or ten for \$2.50. 152 over the corresponding period farmers, professional workers and The calendar contains illustra-Complete details of the new law many varied groups, he has come Daumier, Masereel and others, and are unknown, but its asserted in direct contact with practically quotations from Debs, Tolstoy, purpose was to put "new teeth every significant thought trend in Whitman, Marx, Lincoln and America today.

allowed to collect them at all will receive a mere pittance even if point. Pious speeches on peace

between December 31,

In addition, the Act leaves out fits at 65; and (3) death benefits. important classes of workers en-Coming only at the age of 65 tirely. Agricultural workers, dothe benefits often will not be paid mestic servants, sailors and sevuntil long after they first become eral other categories will not be

True Colors

Slash In WPA Rolls Shows Direction of Policy

By JOEL SEIDMAN Labor Economist and Educator Instructor at Brookwood Labor College

Within several weeks the 75th Congress will be in session. Those workers who supported Roosevelt and the Democratic party in the giving subs as Xmas gifts—and recent election are due for a rude awakening. Now that the election is safely

over and labor's votes no longer needed, Roosevelt is showing his true colors. The drastic slash in the W. P. A. rolls is a case in but at the same time new war vessels are launched and authorized at home. The bill that labor most desires

is the 30-hour week measure. Yet is reached, which will be the this is not given the slightest Much more fundamental criticase for thousands, the workers chance of passage, though prescisms, however, have been leveled will receive one "lump-sum" pay- sure from Roosevelt could force it through. Roosevelt will unqueswill establish a huge bureaucracy their total wages. In other words, tionably oppose the bill, passively if not actively.

LABOR'S HOPES DIMMED Labor's hones of legislative gains at this session are dimmed by Roosevelt's growing beliefs that recovery has already taken Berkeley Young People's Socialist place, and that propsperity is now at hand. For those who accept a natural and their choice of any these beliefs, there is no further need of emergency measures, regardless of the presence of 10,000,-000 unemployed. Far more im- of the rest of the YPSL in boostportant to the comfortable is the ing Labor Action that the others reduction of expenditures so that don't even seem to be in it. the budget may be balanced.

For what can labor hope at of the N.I.R.A.—reduced producwages,, shorter hours, and collective bargaining-to specific industries such as coal, textiles, and

NINE OLD JOKERS

The Supreme Court will probably hold these measures unconstitutional, however, as it has already done in the case of the Guffey Coal act. Moreover, these proposals balance production with consumption at a level of security | tinues: instead of plenty.

Some attempt may be made by Such a proposal may indeed pass Congress, but its practical effect will be zero because the Supreme Born on a farm in Illinois, Burt's Court will almost certainly hold the basic act unconstitutional.

CHICAGO (LSP).—An artistic

students. Having met with so tions by Rivera, Grosz, Orozco,

of this year, according to figures American Federation of Teachers. rows Press and Rebel Arts and is post-scripts: "I like your paper. Early in 1934 he was named being sold by the national headreleased by the Bureau Home Minnational organizer for the Socialquarters of the Socialist party, 549 that's what we want." istry. The total number of dis- ist party. He has appeared be- Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., at 35

Cultural Front Again Or, Theodore Dreiser and The New Masses

Readers of The Nation who have not forgotten the other erstwhile literary converts, | Committee to visit Comrade Dreis-Hapgood-Dreiser-Anti-Semitism controversy which raged notably Sherwood Anderson, were er and request an explanation. The in the pages of that liberal weekly a little over a year ago rapidly losing faith in the Revolutive of the Committee's inter-

were startled last week by a half-x

Salute You, Oh, Pioneers") of the group. name of Theodore Dreiser - the same Dreiser whose outburst of anti-Semitism was the sensation Soon calls will be sent out for of liberal and radical literary circles only a year ago.

GREAT MIGRATION The year 1932 will be remember-

ance, in the list of contributors shekels and more newspaper space novelist. (featured under the headline "We than any other party periphery

page display 'ad' which appeared tionally stirred by the tragic ef the agrarian sub-conscious for wash and then a pained but gentle on the Nation's back page. The fects of the depression. This fam. some mystic "American dream" repudiation. advertisement was an announce ous literary figure was a prize that would lead them out of the ment of the "25th Anniversary catch for the New Masses and it economic wilderness. (Earl Brow nothing from this experience. Issue" of the New Masses. But beat the drums accordingly. Dreis- der had not yet discovered the Shortly after, it was exploiting and liberator, edited by Max East- was popularly known as "the Party still clung to the Dreisreaders. It was rather the appear- sequence reaped in more liberal ment, no doubt, of the famous

NAIVE ANTI-SEMITE

Then in 1935, The Nation pub-When some of the more cautious writers—an exchange of letters beand experienced radicals (who had tween Dreiser and Hutchins Hap- Anderson's two country papers win the prize for each club of four seen the famous intellectuals come good in which Dreiser propounded supports the Republican Party, the of a print of one of Carlo's carand go for thirty years) question the theory that what really ailed other, the Democratic? They are nighted souls who read neither up" for well-meaning but wholly In answer to Hapgood's attack all, when you pay Smedley Butler the one sending in the most subs unreliable converts they were at upon this theory, Dreiser expanded to denounce you from the plat-Thwarted in their attempts to disorganizers will cook up some it may be well to review this in- tacked as "defeatists" and "coun- his argument to include practicalter-revolutionaries." The Party was ly all of the shop-worn bug-a-boos willing to overlook a few devia- on this subject with the exception broad-minded, don't you? Oh, tions in exchange for the prestige of the Protocols of Zion. Dreiser's Pioneers! of the Dreiser name. The author's anti-Semitism was as naive and

ganization. We deeply regret that Workers Alliance in Minnesota, a great novelist who was smo- By 1934, Dreiser and a dozen cleared up, they decided to send a tions.

But the New Masses learned

it was not the well-known fact er's name was featured on the Founding Fathers and Mike Gold the ex-Marine, Smedley Butler, that the New Masses was born in letter-heads of half a dozen in-1926 and has no relation—spiritual nocent clubs. The Committee for "Daniel Boone Belongs to Us.") it had greeted Dreiser and Anderor physical—with the old Masses the Defense of Political Prisoners For all his unorthodox mysticism, son. And in the past few months, since it turned its back completely man, that puzzled the Nation Dreiser Committee" and as a conout to become the cultural organ of the American People, it is busy restoring its lost idols of yesteryear. What is a little anti-Semitlished—with the permission of the sim among home-folks? What does in those subs real fast. Even if you both American, aren't they? After original drawing by Carlo goes to form for helping the Spanish workers, you prove that you are

The revolutionary movement needs the support and co-operation taining the following tid-bits: . . . organizations that they control, or ural migration in America. Among America," was hailed as a great | The Dreiser-Hapgood correspond- of the country's writers, artists, "With the exception of a single that they can even maintain such the thousands of intellectuals and social document. It was probably ence fell like a bomb-shell in New musicians and professionals. But group in the convention (now organizations. It should prove in- artists, (real and pseudo), who the most tragic hash of undigested Masses circles. When the editors the cultural front of the labor WHO could that be) there was teresting and instructive to all suddenly turned to the Left and and misinterpreted material ever had recovered themselves slightly, movement must be built on someevident a general understanding workers to follow the future course began flirting with Communism in demolished by the capitalist lite- they expressed doubts of the let- thing more substantial than vague ter's authenticity. With this point sympathy and glittering reputa

The Action Army

by frank stern

Since this is the season for swapping four-bit ties "we imagine" that one of our readers may absent-mindedly send us one. Honest, we can't use any neckties, but if some of you play Santa Claus for a lot of workers by giving them subs as Christmas presents you'll be doing a lot of good for both the workers and Labor Action.

Last week we wrote quite a splurge about Xmas, but our Roman Catholic Irish editor X

whose first initial begins with James Patrick Cannon took extaken by a son of Isreal and just cut the whole business out. Anyway, we mean that about

put us on your list for a cash gift (that is, if you still have some) on account of we always need money to keep putting out this swell paper.

Just as we got to this point in the column the mailman came in and placed in our lily-white hands a brief note attached to a 28 dollar check, said money coming from Comrade R. R. Brownson of Upland, California for a two-years sub and a 25 dollar donation. Thank you Comrade Brownson for a swell boost.

And before we could recover from that in walked Tom Kerry the defendants because the shipof Oakland and laid down a couple of subs on the line along with a little something as a contribution.

But first place in the ranks of the Action Army goes to the League who turned in seven for of the original drawings of Carlo's cartoons that they want. Those discovered the murder. He did Berkeley Yipsels are so far ahead

In second place we find Ernest this session? The most important | Peri of Los Angeles who placed measures, in all likelihood, will first last week. Good work Ernie be those that apply the principles -and you still haven't let us men; Ernest G. Ramsay, former know which of the drawings you patrolman for the Firemen and tion, controlled prices, higher want. Now you have a print coming to you too.

> with a blast of four subs from Wallace. the Windy City (Chicago to the uninitiated) and the following remark-"I'm aiming to get the his- Ramsay and Conner are accused tory of the Russian Revolution so of "plotting" to kill Alberts, each expect more from me." and as a being specifically exonerated of commentary on Labor Action gen- any share in the crime. And erally, Comrade Sparrow con- Wallace's "confession," obtained

"The real story of the west has not yet been written but a start is being made in Lubor Action.' It's the best damn radical sheet in the country, bar none. I would sooner miss a meeting than an issue of Labor Action." Well, Ray, to tell you the truth, we feel exactly the

From Tom Johnson of Sioux Calendar Published City, Iowa comes the following (accompanied by a pair of subs): "Your paper is O.K. A good two-"Modern Labor Calendar" has just fisted hard fighting paper." and E. A. Donelson of the same place You are talking Socialism and separate maintenance, Mrs. Tillie

> Eddie Parker. State organizer of the Illinois Workers Alliance, sends for a bundle with the following comment: "I saw Labor Action for the first time this morning. To say that the paper is a masterpiece would be putting it mildly. At last there is a revolutionary paper that the average worker can understand. More power to you!"

We would like to quote everybody, but the editor says there isn't enough space. So well just say thanks to those Action Army members who have come through this week, and to our well-wishers who took the trouble to write.

That goes for Pete Gallagher of Plentywood, Montana; Ernie Norback, Ruth Holtz and Del Owens tion. They were groping about in view was a half-hearted white Denver; Chas. Fischer of Kansas City, Kansas; Rae Saunders of Washington; Bert Cochrane of Cleveland; Bill Gannon of Berkeley, and Paul Kolinski of the U. S. A. Keep up the splendid work comrades. Labor Action is already becoming a force for revolutionary action in the west.

> Don't forget that with the thirtyfirst of December comes the closing of the first month's contest for the grand prize of Trotsky's "History of the Russian Revolution," so you all had better start getting member us with an Xmas gift.

> > Just Off the Press THE MOSCOW TRIAL By Max Schactman Price 25 Cents

> > > MODERN BOOK SHOP 1161/2 West 9th St. Los Angeles, Calif.

James Patrick Cannon took exception to such liberties being Union Men Is Exposed

me he actually had no idea who the two men were.

"I asked him if he thought the defendants in the trial were guilty, and he said he didn't think so. He called the whole thing a frameup. He said he was afraid to testify as the shipowners wanted because he'd get in bad with the unions. But he said he was afraid to tell the truth and testify for

owners would blacklist him. "The next day, October 20, he came into my room and told me a car had come for him and he was going to San Francisco."

Slade, first assistant engineer of the murder ship, had been the last man to see Alberts alive and had not, at the trial, make any identification of the men he said went down the gangplank, but he declared that he COULD do it.

DEFENDANTS IN CASE Defendants in this new Tom Mooney case are Earl King, head of the Pacific Coast Marine Firenow secretary of the Fish Reduction Workers' Union; Frank J. Conner, former ship's delegate of Ray Sparrow comes through the Point Lobos; and George

The absurdity of the charges is made clear by the fact that King. by the usual third-degree methods, says he himself had nothing to do with it-that a mysteriously missing man named Bob Sakovitz mmitted the actual murder

But Wallace admits he didn't see the murder, and didn't know until several days later that a murder had been committed.

Prosecution witnesses, some of them rank perjurors, have contrated each other to such an extent as to demonstrate clearly that the case is framed.

Evils of Education

CHICAGO, III.—Testifying against her husband in a suit for Osberg, 48 years old, stated that her husband, Jacob, 48, loved her "until he learned to read and write English. Now he wants an up-to-

late wife." She was granted a temporary veekly allowance of \$10 by the



The first and only work on the sensational trial of Zinoviev, Kamenev and the fourteen others who were executed for plotting the assassination of Soviet leaders.

It is a thorough review of the trial, its background and significance written by the noted revolutionary journalist and editor of Trotsky's Works. It contains a detailed analysis of the real facts in the trial and provides concrete proof of how and why the frame-up was arranged.

144 Pages Paper 25c. Cloth \$1.00

PIONEER PUBLISHERS, 100 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Please send me ... copies

of "Behind the Moscow Trial,"

for which \$..... is enclosed. Name

City

(Adopted by the State Executive Committee)

In support of the National Executive Committee decision, and for the guidance of our membership the California State Executive Committee endorses the following position on the Spanish

The conflict in Spain is likely to prove for Europe and for the world as a whole to be the decisive battle between the organized working class and the The heroic nature of the struggle should mark the end to a long rear of the fight against fascism cember, 12, 1936). It has become ten months' stay . . . I was also series of capitulations and defeats Austria and many lesser European posure of the plot of Catalan nations; victory will be a long middle-class politicians. step toward world socialist revolu-

ish workers is the fight of all class conscious workers throughout the world. Direct aid to the rebels from the Fascist governments of Italy and Germany and indirect aid through official protection of private arms shipments to the Fascists from the democratic-capitalist governments of Great Britain, France and the United States must be answered by independent working class aid to the Spanish workers. Their need for munitions, war equipment, men, food and medical supplies will be met only by the or- Spain is the clear appeal to work- bart, to Andre Gide. Herbart had ganized action of their class brothers throughout the world. their real interests as expressed Union, and was one of Gide's com-Only organized, independent workers' action can block the ship- TO THE WORKERS AND PEAS- Jef Last, Guilloux,, Schiffrin and ments of the "merchants of death" to the fascist rebels by declaring TILL IT," "INDEPENDENCE all such shipments "hot cargo" and refusing to load, transport or ALL WORKERS, AND WORKERS main) a Stalinist in good standship them.

SOLE GUARANTEE

itself the only guarantee of com- THE REAR." plete and final victory over fasearth.

tory. More, it's ability to rally the masses of workers and peasthey suffer from and the fascist counter-revolution. Above all, to capitalist betrayal as has been demonstrated in the recent ex-

Therefore, the fight of the Span- But the revolutionary socialist movement of the world must particularly lend every possible encouragement to our comrades in those parties and groups who are moving away from crippling compromise with the parties of capitalism and toward a clear-cut program for the socialist victory. The increasing evidence that the Catalonian workers are rapidly moving in this direction is particularly heartening.

A CLEAR APPEAL

ers and peasants on the basis of spent ten months in the Soviet in such slogans as "ALL POWER panions on the tour, together with ANTS," "LAND TO THOSE WHO Dabit. FOR MOROCCO," "ARMS TO CONTROL OVER THE ARMY," "FIGHT FASCISM BY DESTROY- troubled and frightened"" by the It is equally true that in Spain ING IT AT THE FRONT AND IN

cism depends on independent paign to render every possible aid published Herbart's letter in the ter of course, that equally indisworking class action. Spanish to the Spanish workers in their periodical Vendredi for November fascism cannot be destroyed unless present struggle are we justified 20, 1936, with a brief statement to the leader, which sometimes is the victime of an enemy invasion, its roots are forever banished in offering comradely criticism the effect that the reactions of his spontaneous in character, but from Spanish soil. The roots of and suggestions. Such friendly fascism lie in the capitalist sys- criticism is, on this condition, not would doubtless prove of interest. tem of exploitation and profit and only a right but a duty. Failure so long as that system endures to speak now before final decision fascism will grow. The final de- is made would be a serious blund- anguish at the publication of Could more irrefutable evidence of the Polish people . . . the fense against fascism is working- er, and harmful not only to the Gide's book, points out in his let- be adduced to Gide's contention class victory for socialism, in Spanish working class but to the ter that two important conclusions Spain and in every nation on cause of world socialist revolu- must follow from it: (1) That in world is the human spirit more tion which we and they serve.

Obviously a so-called "Peoples' | The fate of Spain is now being Government" . which de- written in letters of blood. The a priviliged bureaucracy, a great pends upon the support of sup- cause of the Spanish revolution differential between wages, etc.; porters of capitalism and which is the cause of every worker in (2) That the dictatorship of the is itself pledged to the present the world. We must not fail proletariat has been transformed ened despotism. It is in reality many as the actual threat, the system cannot achieve this vic- them!

Resolution on Spain INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Gide's "Return" Is A Bombshell

Instead of indignantly refuting

respect to the first, that Gide had

has been signed, sealed and de-

nothing else but "Trotskyism!"

DEFENDS DICTATOR

the second conclusion. Incredible

as it may sound, he tries instead

Because, you see, to "transfer

to the hands of the still inexper-

ienced producers would undoubted

ly weaken the land of the Soviets

which is confronted with capital-

to engage in war." The dictator-

be "absolute" lest the bureaucracy

To avoid this frightful danger

Herbart approves of the concentra-

tion of power in the hands of one

man-apparently on the basis that

pensable is: "The mysticism of

that in no other country in the

degraded than in the Soviet Un-

ion, under the Stalinist regime?

COOLIE PHILOSOPHY

We are offered here the entire

'turn into a class."

Nor does faithful Herbart deny

Alas, poor Herbart!

Andre Gide's book, written on at any rate, that of a very restrict ants is weakened by the fact that his return from a five months' ed group of people." it is bound to the very system sojourn in the USSR, from June to October, 1936, has had the these two "important conclusions," effect of a bombshell on Paris, Herbart proceeds to affirm with according to the French press. (Extracts from this book were presented the case truthfully. He class collaboration exposes the published in Labor Action for De- too, must admit that: "After a one of the most widely discussed able to convince myself that the books in years. Even a left Dep- existing regime in the USSR IS uty (elected on a People's Front NOT SOCIALISM." (Our emphaticket, but a "non-party man") has sis). We wait with some anxiety taken up his pen to write an the news of what will happen to The fight of the working class article, dealing with the book, Herbart for saying this, after the is under all conditions our fight. entitled, "Truth About Everything, "irrevocable triumph of socialism" Even the Soviets" (in La Fleche). Many columns have been devoted livered in the "world-historic Stalto Gide's book in the press, ex- inist constitution!" This is worse cept, naturally enough, the Stalinist press.

The Stalinists in France and elsewhere have been stricken dumb-they have had nothing to say as yet, waiting no doubt for a lead from Moscow. The confusion and consternation in the Stal. to defend it. "Absolutism," he inist ranks is strikingly reflected argues, is absolutely necessary in the only document that has, to our knowledge, emanated from political and economical power inthat source to date. It is a letter Essential to socialist victory in by a young French writer, Her-

"MUCH CONFUSED" Herbart is (and wants to reing. He was so much "confused, appearance of Gide's book that on the spur of the moment he wrote be unable to "turn himself into a Only as we rally to the cam- of his reactions to Gide, who has class." Then, it follows as a mat-"young companion (on the tour) Yes, indeed!

Herbart, giving expression to his the USSR there exists a tendency towards the formation of classes.

THE BATTLE FOR RED BARCELONA!

in public the holy communion of publishing it, that is, by Gide's "Socialism in One Country"—only, they never dare express these private convictions. It took Gide's ion with Stalinism as Herbart book to bring these cynical un-does. But even this complaint is spoken thoughts into the open. qualified. Herbarts' chief griev-And naturally enough, they have ance apparently is that the book been avidly seized upon by the was published at this time. Most bitterest enemies of the October inexpedient, indeed - for Stalinrevolution, the Russian White ism! "Very confusing!" "Very

for Gide's disillusionment (and fusion, trouble, and fear that Stalthat of others) on the "absurd inism is able to breed and maindeclamations" of Soviet propaganda aboard which must needs must seek to suppress with filth arouse boundless illusions that are and blood every vestige of truth, in turn rudely dispelled by the clarity and courage. first contact with reality itself. Herbart, apparently, would have pared for the "shock." This poison

"VERY TROUBLING"

does not and cannot dispute a be kept fully informed as to the than heresy. This, we believe, is single statement in Gide's book, developments on Gide's "Return." nor the conclusions that flow from |-Ed.)

"conscious" supporters of Stalin- it. His only complaint is that ism subscribe while they profess Gide "hurt" the Soviet Union by refusal to identify the Soviet Untroubling!" "Very frightening! Sadly, Herbart places the blame It is only in this medium of contain itself. That is why Stalinism

(As surely as there is no socialall future travellers better pre- ism in Stalin's land of absolutism, Gide, whether he wished it or not bears within itself its own anti- has started something by his sincerity as a writer which no one has as yet dared to challenge. In sum and substance, Herbart | The readers of Labor Action will

Polish Socialists Turn Patriotic

The "Supreme Council" of the | measures" must be supported. ist countries whom it is destined Polish Socialist Party (PSP) met Hitherto the PPS has not come on November 7-8 in Warsaw. This out openly for national defense. ship, according to Herbart must body adopted a number of resolu- Its present position on this key tions of utmost importance on the question is in all respects similar main points on the agenda, which that the Polish CP. This fact, towere: Relations with the CP and gether with the attitude taken by the Impending War Danger.

On the war question, the Couna single man, even Stalin, would of national defense as follows: "The impending threat of a sudger of her being transferred into the present stand of the PPS. with the (consequent) loss of her Stalinist proposal for a united which, in any case, must be as independence." In the face of this front (i. e., a People's Front), and rade Burt remained in California siduously and artfully supported," threat, the Polish Socilaists, in took an extremely sharp attitude Kant had a name for such artful the opinion of the leadership, must towards it, as the following exlogic, calling it "psychologic logic." turn pariots. To assure the liberty tract from the resolution clearly ization of the California Socialist essary that such measures are taken for the defense as would en-

pel the danger that threatens. "DANGER" ABROAD The Council specifies that it oriental "philosophy" of enlight- considers Hitler and Nazi Ger-

the PPS in the Spring of 1936 toward the C. P., when the trend cil motivated its position in favor was clearly for establishing a more or less friendly relationship with the Stalinists on the basis to the Socialist cause. Comrade den flare-up (of the war) creates of a possible non-aggression pact, for Poland the wholly actual dan- makes all the more astonishing fornia, both as a lecturer at So-

The PPS flatly rejected the indicates:

FLAT REJECTION

"The attitude of the Communists to the so-called 'People's able the country at any time to re- Front' and especially to the Socialist parties has remained as inresort to their old maneuvers, and izations. Under such conditions only persecutions and mass murders are reserved for the socialist and communist opposition —must be looked upon as a hollow phrase behind which lurks the Secretary in New York. His recintention to disorganize the Socialist movement in order then to subject it to the command of the Communists. The PPS which has ness as State Secretary recom- make full use of the enlarged always maintained the viewpoint he has been assigned by the ing regular Sunday evening Forof the genuine unity of the working class, the unity of its political

REASONS FOR CHANGE The PPS has been under great pressure for its previous friendly En Route attitude to the CP. This pressure was primarily exerted by the Polish government which has made a bogie of Communism ("Communism is the main danger!"") to hide the disastrous conditions in geography of Barcelona was leavdefeating Franco and go back to surged up and down the streets, of the attack. The list of CNT them. It has been more republitoward the CP will no doubt serve the country. The hostile attitude in part as a cover for the patriotic position that the PPS has assumed on the question of national defense and which is in direct conflict with the revolutionary Social-

Commenting upon the causes that might have impelled the PPS the CP, the Sotsialesticheski Vestnik suggests the following: (1) the Moscow Trial; "the shooting Third International and the trial that preceded these executions aroused in the party (the PPS) as among the majority of the working class profound disgust and self, but both the fascists and the fascist dogs." The POUM is not indignation; (2) the PPS was also incensed by the vile attack launched by the Third International grouping headed by the British against de Bruckere and Adler "because of their famous Moscow telegram;" (3) the conduct of the French communists towards Blum. All these reasons are implied in the body of the resolution itself."

NORRIS, Tenn.—At a recent meeting here of Fellowship of Southern Churchmen, the organization issued a strong statement dom to become part of the or-

tural workers into trade unions. that they think it is a splendid ance of local ordinances.

Los Angeles

The Party At Work

New Year's Eve Party Los Angeles announces a New

Year's Eve costume dance and "rousing fun frolic" to be held at 1105 North Serrano Ave., Hollywood, at 8 p. m. Music will be furnished by Roy Clark's Revelers, and there will be refreshments and entertainment. Admission price will be 35c for tickets bought in advance, 40c if bought at the door.

California Welcomes New National Executives

Working faithfully during some ing to the job through financial worry and an arduous campaign in spite of serious personal illness, Comrade Clarence Senior has finally given over his duties in order to take a much-needed rest for his health. On December 12 a testimonial dinner was held in his honor in Chicago. Early last week, DIDATE ACCEPTS! Comrade Senior made final arrangements for a trip to Mexico. California takes this opportunity in the columns of Labor Action to thank Comrade Senior for his splendid work for the Socialist Party nationally, and for his cooperation with the State Office of begin early in January. Registered California.

We wish, also, to welcome the new Executive Secretary, Comrade | Call will be used as a basis for Roy Burt and Frank Trager, who will act as Labor and Organization Secretary in the National Office.

The record of both of these comrades is one of active service the third Wednesday of each Roy Burt is well known in Calicialist meetings, and as a teacher in the summer schools conducted by the Party in this state. Comsections to assist in the re-organ-

Comrade Burt has been active in trade union work, particularly among the miners. He has served as National Organizer for the So- ject of the first discussion which cialist Party and has kept in close sincere and even as hostile as touch with organizational and eduhitherto. The Communists still cational work all over the country, has toured the west several times, and is well qualified to take over incessently undermine the Socialist and is well qualified to take over the responsibilities placed upon the Party and the trade union organithm. National Franking Secretary the National Executive Secretary. He was elected at the last meeting vanced everywhere except in Rus- of the National Executive Com-

he was called to serve as State January. mended him for the work to which

The State Secretary, on behalf social affairs.

of the California Socialist Party, assures these two comrades of full cooperation in the cause of building a strong, clear, effective and militant Socialist Party in the United States.

Delegates to National Convention

Because the State Convention comes so close to the special National Convention (to be held March 26-28 in Chicago), it will be necessary to change the procedure usually followed in nominating California's delegates to the National Convention. Instead of nominating at our state convention, the Socialist Party membership will make nominations at local and branch meetings or in the case of members-at-large, individually. All nominations must be sent in by mail sending in nomiof the most difficult months of nations not later than January 20th Socialist Party history, and stick- to the State Office. Ballots will then be sent out under the usual procedure for electing delegates.

ALL MEMBERS OF LOCALS WHO WISH TO MAKE A NOMIN-ATION MUST MAKE SURE BE-FORE THEY SEND IN THE NAME OF THEIR CANDIDATE WHETHER OR NOT THAT CAN-

Palo Alto Plans Organization Drive

Palo Alto Socialist Party local is planning a membership drive to Socialist and subscribers' lists of Labor Action and the Socialist house-to-house contact work.

The local is planning at the same time to expand the educational and organizational program. A public Forum will be held on month in Union Hall on University Avenue, Palo Alto. First Forum will take place January 20, and the speaker will be announced as soon as the local can find out whether Comrade Ernest Erber (recently returned from Spain) will be in California at that time. The Young People's Socialist

League announces the first 1937 meeting of the new series of Sunday afternoon classes. "The International Labor Movement since the World War" will be the sub will take place January 10, at 3 p. m. at 804 Hudson St., Redwood City. Lenin's "State and Revolution" will be used as a study text.

S. F. Headquarters To Open Soon

Alterations are being made in the new San Francisco headquare Comrade Frank Trager is also ters at 236 Van Ness Avenue in known to comrades in California. preparation for the Socialist Party He was in this state just before to take possession on the first of

space and equipment by conduct-

ums, weekly classes, and monthly

West on its tour of Locals in the will be necessary to cover the exstates of the Western Federation. If the first two weeks of the tour have progressed as planned the truck has left the Joplin area, League of California is preparing finished its work temporarily in to take full advantage of the opthe Tulsa region, and is now work- portunity to have Comrade Erber ing from headquarters in Dallas, in California. Comrade Erber, hav-Texas. A report of the work done ing recently returned from Spain, in these localities will be carried can give first hand information in next week's Labor Action.

New Mexico will probably be was an eye witness. the first state where weather con- Note: The December issue of ditions will permit detailed organ- the "Western Socialist," monthly izational work of some extent. The bulletin of the Western Federa-State Secretary, Comrade Pearl tion, will be issued by the Secre-Swan Powell, has sent the Federa | tary shortly. Please send names tion Secretary a tentative outline and addresses of active members for a tour covering the important of the Socialist Party who should sections of that state. The major receive this bulletin and are not towns to be covered will probably yet on the mailing list. Also be Clovis, Clayton, Roswell, Las please appoint someone to take Cruces, Albuquerque, and, if pos- responsibility for getting news tible. Gallup.

Meanwhile the State Secretary and the "Western Socialist." Degiin New Mexico.

Comrades are again reminded to take this responsibility when ned.

Response Favorable To Erber Tour

idea and will make plans to cooperate. Kansas seems favorable to the idea, but reserves decision The Red Special is now headed until we can find out what fee

penses of the tour. The Young People's Socialist about the struggles of which he

about your state to "Labor Action"

The following items of infor-

mation are essential in planning that they will assist in keeping the work of the Red Special. tour expenses at a minimum if Please send them in to the Fedethey will furnish hospitality for ration Secretary at once, whether the organizer, Comrade Douglas the truck can be used in your Anderson and his wife, wherever state right away or not. The possible. This does not mean a best results will be obtained from heavy burden, but merely furnish- this tour if we have the informaing bed and meals at the home of tion some time in advance so that some comrade who is in a position the tour can be efficiently plan-

1) We must know what the weather conditions are in the various parts of your state. Also, the condition of roads between localities where work is to be done. 2) We must know the legal re-

that Comrade Ernest Erber be quirements for licenses on a small

me as an American from my attempts to order from a Spanish menu. "Rojo" (I was not sure whether he got his name from the color of his hair or his politics) had lived in New York for some nine years and was always on the look-out for Americans who could bring him the latest news on the New York "Yankees" in the pennant

By ERNEST ERBER

race and what the latest films were on Broadway. I satiated his appetite for news on baseball and Hollywood and then got him to italism or Socialism'! It's either cornered hats in the midst of a movement who had fallen there. about these plots by the demotalk about his experiences in the eventful July days when the work- ants' government or it's going to stirred such a deep hatred in the the anarchist leaders of the CNT. The CP has been responsible for ers of Barcelona crushed the fas-

He began to describe the defeatures, "Rojo" suggested that we visit the main scenes of the July street fighting. We walked up "La Rambla," the main boulevard that runs up from the harbor to the park bench in the Plaza and "Rothat had taken place there.

Heroic Role of the CNT

He repeated again and again the the POUM (the Workers' Party of Marxist Unity) of which he was a member, of the UGT, the Socialist and Communist led trade union movement. He told how they "Behind the mobilized the workers, how they organized the fighting, and how their members swept the streets of the fascist troops. It was "the workers, the anarchists, the Socunions," until I could not keep quiet any longer and asked the question prompted by all the propdefend the Republic, "But what time, what were the ministers

"Rojo" hesitated for a minute. He wanted to give me a Marxist explanation and analysis. Yet "Rocopy of "La Batalla," the POUM capitalist class. daily, out of his pocket.

velopments and as it became ap- The workers would have to be hours of the fighting. The masses storm a single fascist-held build- Action parent that my ignorance of the fools to surrender their arms after of workers and the fascist trops ing unless they stood at the head ing me out of the most exciting be exploited in capitalist factories. fighting.

"We Revolutionary Marxists had Role of the said this in Spain for a long time. We kept on pointing to the declining influence of the center parties of the democratic capitalists. "Plaza de Catalun" in the heart Spain was dividing into two of the "Guardia Civile" barracks Did the Fighting of the city. We sat down on a camps. As group after group dis- swung open and they marched out. covered that there was no middle jo" began describing the fighting ground they lined up to the left can reporter a few days later ity to organize street fighting Of on the POUM. It now calls for came along and the Communist role of the UNT, the powerful made. This gave the democratic Republic." They too, said "Rojo," This graphically illustrates the nounced as the representative of the majority of places in the elec- it.

Wrong Lines"

"The uprising of July 19 found the government in the hands of get?" those who still sought a middle ialists, the Communists, the trade road. All their long-term economic interests tied them to the fascists. Yet they were tied politically to aganda and all the explanations caught them behind the wrong I had heard about the fight to lines. They did nothing but sit was the Republic doing all this al bureaus while the issue was is the answer to your question as to what the ministers did during nist International, Ercoli: these decisive days."

"Rojo's" apt phrase, his razorjo" had never gone to school in keen political characterization of his life and reading was such a the democratic politicians, "caught tedious task that he never ven- behind the wrong lines," will fortured into anything deeper than ever remain in my memory as one a newspaper. He suddenly remem. of the clearest Marxist criticisms bered something and pulled a of the policy of coalition with the

"Rojo" then went on to des

The "Guardia Civile" had for ages | Press Correspondence, October been the royal guard of the king. 24, 1936). They were a set of trained mer-

Civil Guard

The fascists were getting the worst of it. Suddenly the gates President Companys told an Ameror the right. The March elections that he stood rooted to the spot with fear and then gave a leap of that the workers responded to the newspapers. In Madrid the Young and the democratic capitalists for their left arm in the workers' the streets more than 12 hours upon the headquarters of the the defense of the republic was salute and shouted "Long live the politicians a new lease on life. had been caught behind the wrong true character of the struggle. It the "Gestapo," as led by "counter-Particularly since they were given lines and were making the best of was not a republic defending it- revolutionary Trotskyites," by "mad

> One is prompted to ask, "What make? Will they not seek a bar- thority. gain with their real allies, the fascists, the first opportunity they

think so. They defend the line "extremists," the anarchists and persecution.

"Had the development of events been different it is possible that some of these people would have sought for a compromise with reaction. But the fascist rising, depriving them of this possibility, showed them the necessity for defending the republic and democracy by all "Rojo" and I walked down "La

"See here," he said, "this is the serve the government. The ap- saw chalked up the name of some Russian Revolution, the Commucentral issue—this slogan of, 'Cap- pearance of their high, three- prominent leader of the workers' nist Party, is singularly silent going to be a workers' and peas- strike or demonstration always The overwhelming majority were cratic politicians. And no wonder. be a fascist dictatorship. Five workers' ranks as to cause blood- They fought bravely and well. the coalition with them. years of the Republic have proven shed. The "Guardia Civile" was Whether it was foolhardy or not, that there is no middle ground. nowhere to be seen in the first they did not send their men to Stalinism in able.

The Workers

kind of allies do these people uprisings to establish their au affiliated to the international

ficians?"

means, linked up their fate with | plot to betray the anti-fascist ultimate goal.

A Worker Participant Tells The Story Of The Heroic July Days the role of the "Guardia Civile" | that of the fighting masses of struggle gives an indication that "Rojo" approached me in a cafe. He had recognized in the first days of the fighting. the people." (International those "caught behind the wrong lines" are busy trying to serve and trade union movement, theretheir real allies. This is the time fore rejects the slogan of the cenaries who had developed into Rambla" again in the direction of the revolutionary workers must united front. True to its princia military caste with no interests the harbor. Here the hottest fight act against those who would be ples, the party will work to unite in common with the broad masses ing had taken place around the tray the struggle. Yet the party framework of the PPS and the of the people. After the Republic huge stone barracks. On the wall that wraps itself in the revoluclass trade union organizations was founded they continued to of one building after another we tionary banner of Lenin, of the against the Communists."

martyrs is a long one. No other can in its policies than the repubparty can point out sacrifices in licans. It therefore, in this mothose days in any way compar- ment when the workers stand in danger of open betrayal by their "allies" who were "caught behind the wrong lines," seeks to defend the democratic politicians and di-Not only did they show per- vert attention from their actions tremendous significance is the fact the suppression of the POUM before the fascist troops rose. POUM youth. The POUM is deworkers taking to the streets in a "Trotskyite" organization. It is Today's news reports tell of the ILP. Yet to the extent that it resignation of Taradelles, as head even approaches a Bolshevik polof the Catalonian cabinet. His ex- icy in Spain, it is singled out as The Communist Party does not cuse is that he could not keep the the target of abuse, slander, and

of a People's Front policy, of the POUM, in check. One is But the issues are becoming in-

It has pampered and protected

coalitions with these people. In prompted to ask: "Where are the creasingly clear to the masses in the workers. The sudden uprising fact they regard their being buildings that bear the names of Spain. "Rojo's" line of "Capital-"caught behind the wrong lines" Mr. Taradelles' political cohorts? ism versus Socialism" will become (and being in the leading posts Where were he and his allies the rallying cry of millions of indecisively in their government- at the head of the wrong lines) when the "extremists" were giv- Spanish "Rojos." They will say as a brilliant victory for the Peoling their lives on the streets? Is like he did, "We would be fools being decided on the streets. That ple's Front policy. Says the latest Mr. Taradelles angry because the to fight and sacrifice in order to theoretical pundit of the Commu- workers of Spain refuse to follow go back to the factories where the the path of the workers in Ger- capitalists can exploit us. We in favor of the organization of many and so many other coun- want democracy, but real democ- labor, declaring that they "believe tries who defeated reaction only racy, a workers' democracy, an it is essential to the self-respect to hand over the fruits of their industrial democracy, we want of the workers that they have freevictory to the democratic poli- Socialism." The Spanish masses are on the march. If a revolu- ganized labor movement." Already the story of the arrest tionary leadership is offered them of prominent leaders of the demo- no power in the world, not even cratic capitalist parties, "Estat the Communist International, will

ist position of our party. sonal courage. They showed abil by launching a vicious attack up to take its present stand against line of a coalition of the workers joy as the "Guardia Civiles" raised call of the CNT and turned out in Stalinists led an armed attack of these former leaders of the

Churchmen Favor Organized Labor

The Southern Churchmen further condemned the system of land toured under the sponsorship of truck equipped with sound. This tenancy and sharecropping, and the Western Federation, we have is important so that we won't get Catalan" and the "Esquerra," in be able to divert them from their urged the organization of agricul received word from New Mexico into difficulties because of ignor-

Western States Federation Of the Socialist Party

Red Special

of Arizona, Comrade Marguerite line for news in "Labor Action" Potter, has been asked to survey is Saturday of each week. the possibilities in her state for organizational work with the Red Special after it finishes its work Information Required

the organizer is in town.

In response to the suggestion

LABOR ACTION

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SATURADY, DEC. 26, 1936

Training In Worker's Democracy The National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party has announced an emergency national convention for the last week of next March. It is timely. The cleavage in the American Federation of Labor, the heroic workers' war in Spain, the rapid shift to the right of the international Communist movement, the cleansing of our own party ranks of old guard opportunists and labor politicians who clambered onto the Roosevelt bandwagon, and the swelling of our ranks by enlistment from the left because we alone offered a clear Socialist alternative to capitalism—all these events require that our party meet for a thorough stock-taking and to plan for action based on our own strength and the needs of our

Already the Socialists throughout the country are arranging systematic, careful discussion as preparation for the national meeting. Resolutions are being drafted, possible delegates discussed. The papers and periodicals of the party, including Labor Action, will print full and free consideration of all problems from different and often conflicting points of view.

In all this one thing will stand out. Here ks genuine democracy. Serious, honest, and independent comrades join in searching for victory for the working class by frank, open discussion of the problems which are ours. This is no well-oiled, jobmachine like the twin parties of capitalism. Nor is it a one-man "movement" like Coughlin's, Townsend's or Hitler's. Here is none of the stifling dictation from the top which has turned the Communist International into a fundamentalist church with Stalin as its prophet. Socialists are free men and women united in the common cause of winning a workers' world.

Let us hope that every state and local division of the Socialist Party will stimulate and encourage the fullest and freest possible discussion of every current issue. It is out of the comradely clash of varied experience and viewpoint that truth and effective action are wrought. We cannot expect every problem of our movement to be solved in a single national session, but. to the degree that real workers' democracy is exercised, not simply given lip service, we will move forward.

United Front

The united front of fascists and Stalinists, which finally drove Trotsky from his last European place of refuge in Norway, is matched by another united front of San Francisco newspapers to deprive him of asylum in Mexico. The editorials in the Chronicle and the Western Worker strike such an identical note of protest and warning to the Mexican Government that they might have been written by the same hand. At any rate they correspond to the same formula.

The Western Worker bemoans the stand of the distinguished publicists and writers who are defending Trotsky's right to have a place to live and a chance to be heard. Willie Schneiderman shakes his head sadly over "the group of misguided intellectuals who have fallen into the trap of demanding the right of asylum for Trotsky." Little Willie is quite ferocious on the subject of the organizer of the Red Army. He smacks his grim revolutionary lips over the killings that have already taken place in Moscow and demands that Trotsky "be treated no different." Willie wants the blood of Trotsky, and he will not allow one per cent discount.

The editorial writer on the Chronicle has the same idea. He warns Mexico against "the volcano of revolution" and bluntly asserts that Trotsky will always be dangerous until he is put out of the way for keeps. Listen to this in the Chronicle of Dec. 19:

"Agitation, intrigue, propaganda, revolution have been his life since boyhood. In him it is an unquenchable fire and its heat and smoke are bound to erupt in spite of everything. Trotsky has been a veritable volcano of revolution and like any other volcano he will be dangerous until he is dead for sure."

This San Francisco United Front for the head of Trotsky, may not have any serious practical consequences. The most these bloodthirsty scribes can shoot is paper wads from pop guns. But just the same, there is a profound political significance in their jointly expressed sentiments. And it should not be forgotten that the bullets fired into the hearts of Zinoviev, Kamenev and the others were real bullets, and the

Better Yet To Come

"You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet." That is what Al Jolson used to say when the crowd began to applaud before he started to do his real stuff. Only four issues of Labor Action have been printed, and this makes the fifth, but already we have heard a collective and almost unanimous report of approbation from the socialist and labor militants of the west.

words to that effect, is the gist of the really glowing messages of cheer and greeting we have been receiving from the doers and builders on the firing line. And they are just the people we are trying to serve and want to hear from.

Labor Action was started on a shoe string, and none of us thought it had more than a fighting chance to succeed. But from the way subs are rolling in and bundle orders increasing it begins to look like the paper is a sure success. We are going to proceed on that assumption, anyway, and settle down to a serious steady job.

The too generous praise we have received has not thrown us off balance but it has convinced us that we are on the right track. We are well aware of the deficiencies of the paper—the result to a large extent, of inadequate facilities and the haste and turmoil that always accompany the launching of new enterprises.

We haven't hit our stride yet, not by a long shot. We can do better and we will. We follow no pattern. We aim to make our own. We aim to turn out a hard-hitting socialist paper which every comrade can put into the hands of average workers with confidence that they will understand it's

Monday Versus Tuesday

The old prophets of Socialism undoubtedly had their points, but they can't hold a candle to the modern stream-lined experts, who employ the technique of "twentieth century Americanism." Wilhelm Liebknecht, for example, once said he could change his tactics within 25 hours if conditions changed. But if he were among us now we could show him people who can change their position in 24 seconds without bothering about conditions.

Take the recent events in China as a case in point. On Monday, December 14, the Chinese situation was explained in The Daily Worker as follows:

"Tokyo realizes only too well that the 'mutiny' of the Chinese troops in Shensi and the seizure of Generalissimo Chiang Who Changed Kai-shek are but the sensational symptoms of a more elemental upsurge of the 400,-000,000 Chinese people." And then, to make it clear who deserved credit for this upsurge of the Chinese masses against Japan, it is modestly added that the "policy of the Communist Party (is) undeniably behind the present occurence."

But that was Monday, December 14. And what has that got to do with Tuesday, December 15? Nothing whatever, for on that day in the same paper we read that the uprising against Japan, inspired by "the policy of the Communist Party," had gone through a metamorphosis and come out as follows:

"The causes of the revolt of the troops of Chang Hsuch-liang must be sought in the plots of pro-Japanese elements in China which use every means of facilitating Japanese Imperialism's enslavement of the country."

You may think that makes it one up for each of the contradictory positions, with each having an equal chance to come out on top the following day. But that is a bad guess. Monday's position never had a chance. The position taken that day was formulated in the Daily Worker Office by the foreign editor, Harry Gannes. The Tuesday position was a cable from Mos-

The Tuesday position immediately became official without further parley and Gannes promptly got on the band wagon of the winner. Quick work. There is nothing Look At like American efficiency. The German The Record Liebknecht required a change in conditions before he would consider changing his tactics. All the Daily Worker needs is a cablegram.

Congratulations?

In fairness to our readers we ought to explain that the incoherence of the Action of his own mouth" that Social-Army column during the past few weeks ists, not the Stalinists, were corhas very probably been due to the nervous condition of Frank Stern, who got a lucky break and has been going around as dizzy as an Irish Sweepstakes winner.

Our business manager, who is known from coast to coast as a man who has no business trying to manage anything, took an hour off (on company time!) and got married to Esther Levine, the comely and competent secretarial worker who used to help make the wheels turn in the National

The office of Labor Action has been over-crowded with comrades who keep dropping in to express themselves volubly on this momentous event. The mail has been clogged with congratulatory messages, but we notice all the congratulations are for Frankie. However, that is not because Esther lacks popularity. The general sentiment seems to be: Esther is a blood that was shed in Moscow was real | nice girl and a fine comrade, but where's her judgment?

The Siamese Twins Of U.S. Capitalism

"Keep on pitching, you're doing fine," or The Demo-Reps, and Along Comes A Triplet

BY BLEN TRIMBLE

On December 5th I addressed an open letter to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the United States appealing for revolutionary unity in the fight against capitalism and for the victory of world Socialism. The committee has not seen fit to answer, but the Western Worker of December 14th contains a six-column defense of compromise and refusal of unity until such time as the Communist Party is given the privilege of selecting the membership of the Socialist Party.

A Serious

Charge It seems that I and many other Socialist comrades have "swallowed the Trotskyist bait hook, line, and sinker" and that this bait is "super-revolutionism which, subjected to the clear light of Leninist analysis stands revealed as opportunism of the worst kind." This is a serious On what does editor charge. Ross base it? On the fact that Socialists maintain, as they have maintained since the founding of the party, that there is no fundamental difference between the Republican and Democratic parties, and both are parties of capitalism and enemies of the working class!

Let me assure editor Ross that "swallowed" that conviction long before I met a "Trotskyist" or read a line from Leon Trotsky's pen. Was it "Trotskyist poison" which caused Eugene Victor Debs to stump the nation for twenty years preaching the message that the Republican and Democratic parties were the 'Gold-Dust TWI'S of capitalism"? Was it, horror of horrors, "counter-revolutionary Trotskyism" which caused the 1932 Communist Party to maintain that there was no difference between the THREE parties of capitalism-the Republican, Democratic, and Socialist parties? What startling change in "the clear light of Leninist analysis" has taken place?

And Why?

Bluntly, there has been NO change in Leninism, or in the fundamentals of Marxism on which Lenin based his life and work. The change has been that of the Comintern and its branch offices from advocates of world revolution to ardent and unprincipled defenders of the sta-

tus quo. As a matter of fact the Westtern Worker editor proves this to the hilt himself and proves, too, that the Communist Party is less interested in the misguided radicals who voted for its candidates than in the more discerning "comrades" who followed the party's actual instructions and voted for Roosevelt. To take the first first, let me quote a paragraph designed to justify separating the siamese

twins of capitalism: "We declare that a Republi-.. victory in the elections would have resulted in an openshop, wage cutting, and reliefslashing drive against the Amer ican working class, accompanied by a series of suppressive and restrictive measures which would have made doubly difficult the task of organizing the American workers to fight for their immediate demands and for the final victory of Socialism."

Change only "Republican" to "Democratic" and "would have" to "has" for a clear statement of the actual situation today.

If editor Ross will read his own paper he will find the actual record of relief-slashing and wage-cuts, of anti-picketing measures against agricultural workers, of martial law, suppression and restriction in brutal form, after a Democratic victory. Surely here is proof "out rect in campaigning against both parties of capitalism!

One of the most infamous and immediate of these suppressive measures he has deliberately "played down" for reasons of Soviet diplomacy. This is the vicious, black-listing, fink-herding Copeland Act, signed by President Roosevelt, and designed to crush maritime organization and make the seas "free"

for the next war. "The Socialists", says Ross, "are permitting themselves to be fenced off from the masses by the Trotskyites in the Socialist Party. The results of the election prove this conclusively."

The Socialist presidential candidate received more votes than Browder in California, more than two and a half times as many votes in the national totals. Yet Socialists are fenced off from the masses-Communists are not! Why not? Because,

Secretary, writing on the same page of the Western Worker, the Communist "slogans", and their analysis of the situation, were eagerly accepted and picked up by millions". What millions? The millions who voted for Roosevelt. Three cheers for revolutionary clarity! Planned

This confusion is not accidental. It is a deliberate and calculated outgrowth of the present foreign policy of the Soviet Union. That policy is the preservation of the status quo at all costs. A part of such a program

Confusion

must be an attempt to thwart every effort toward the winning of Socialism in any present capitalist nation, whether it be Spain, France, China or the United States, How? One method is to muddy the waters of radical thought, to foster and encourage confusion. The same editor Ross who

finds Socialists "too pure" because they see no fundamental difference between the Republi can and Democratic parties, reveals in the first sentence of his article that he sees no difference between at least four separate and distinct tendencies in America. The sentence is:

"As a result of the election campaign the movement for a Farmer-Labor Party has been sharply stimulated throughout the country, orgnized labor and other progressive groups have become more keenly aware of the need for the building of an American People's Front, more conscious of the necessity for Independent working class political action, anti-fascist in aim, based on the immediate demands of the people."

Strange Quadruplets

(1) A "Farmer-Labor Party" would be an alliance between the present leaders of organized labor and the "farmers," who are not one class but several, fighting bitterly among themselves and, often, against the industrial working class. (2) An "American People's Front" is the creature of Stalinist im-

magination. It would be an All Class combination, based on demands to which all agreed. Necessarily, then, it could not be anti-capitalist and would be the ideal preserver of the status "Independent work ing-class political action" is ONE-CLASS action and is therefore, obviously, neither a Farmer-Labor Party nor a People's Front. It would be based on the immediate demands of the workers as a class not of the imaginary, classless "people." (4) The

fourth tendency in American politics is the party that actually won the election and thereby "stimulated" all the Communist self-congratulation. The Democratic party welcomes all classes. The workers, small farmers and middle class are welcome to supply the votes; the capitalist class is welcome to supply the orders.

All four won the election! Is this "the clear light of Leninist analysis"? It is rather the inkthrowing of a scuttle-fish exposed by the true light of revolutionary Socialist realism.

Comrades of the Communist Party! I repeat my appeal. Rid yourself of counter-revolutionary Stalinism. Grow up to a revolutionary stature and revolutionary freedom of choice. Only a world march toward Socialism can be a genuine defense of the Soviet Union and of the workers in all countries.

Your leaders have flatly refused unity on this program. Very well, unite with us in dragging them out into the light of day. Join us in forcing them to a series of open, public debates on the pressing issues that confront the working class.

Challenge To Debate

As California State Secretary of the Socialist Party I stand ready to debate any representative of the Communist Party on any, or far better, on all of the following propositions:-

(1) That the 1936 election policy of the Socialist Party advanced the real interests of American workers, while that of the Communist Party did not. (2) That the trade union policy of the Socialist Party is progressive, that of the Communist Party reactionary.

(3) That the Socialist Party program is the only genuine defense of the Soviet Union. (4) That the "Peace Policy of the Soviet Union" is a defense of the status quo and a betrayal of the cause of world

socialism. (5) That the war policy of the Comintern is worse than that of the "Social Democratic" betray-

ers of 1914. (6) That the Communist Party is opposed to revolutionary unity of the working class. (7) That the Communist Party has abandoned Marx, Lenin, the class struggle and world

(8) That the Socialist Party program provides the only road for smashing capitalism and winning workers' power.

Let's hear from the Communist Party on this proposal for public debate. Don't dodge, please. Answer yes or no.

San Diego Growers Offer "Yellow Dog" Contracts

local American, Mexican and Fili- an entertainment at which they pino Agricultural Workers' Unions, would serve a great deal of free the result of last season's militant liquor, thereby admitting that Celery Strike, automatically ended even they realized that no worker cipitated a protracted period of would sign the "agreement." The negotiations between the Unions entertainment was also a failure. and the growers for a new contract. The demands put forward make the situation a real test for by the Unions are based upon 40c the Unions. The "City Dads" of per hour minimum wage, 90 per District), among whom are several cent Union Labor in the industry, growers, saw to it that an antiand the eight-hour day.

Unions' negotiation Committee tion of a struggle. Needless to have made it clear that the Un- say they receive full support from ions will only strike as a last re- Mayor Brown of Chula Vista, himsort when all other avenues have self a grower, who last year was been closed, the Shipper-Growers most vicious in his attempt to gave an unofficial answer to the break the strike. Unions last week with the attempt to force a "Yellow Dog" contract upon individual workers. In some cases they have attempted without much success to force workers to sign this "Yellow Dog" contract and take out a card in the newly formed Company Union before permitting them to work in the fields.

"YELLOW DOG" CONTRACT

This "contract" is a more or to the employers and is "subject Celery Growers' 'Association or its agents are named "sole arbitrators . . the decision of said arbitrators shall be accepted as binding upon both parties."

according to the G. P. State had failed to result in more than meaning.

Several factors are combining to Chula Vista (center of the Celery picketing ordinance was passed Although the members of the during the past year in anticipa-

Taking the cue from Salinas gas bombs, ammunition, etc., have been reported placed in the hands of the Chula Vista and National City police for issuance to "special" deputies.

Several weeks ago over 3000 ankrupt farmers from the started him coasting. drought areas of Oklahoma, Arkansas, etc., and their families less typical "Yellow Dog." But were shipped into the Imperial a campaign vote-catcher, promised in some respects it outdoes itself | Valley to provide cheap labor for to free Mooney—none did—none and furnishes a bit of comic re- the pea harvest. However, a kill- has been elected to a second term lief: the "agreement" is to termiling frost has put about 2000 of of office. Even the money and nate at any time that is agreeable these out of work and many of power of those who would not perthem are being shipped to the mit the governors to carry out to change (by the employers) San Diego area. The Growers are their promises were not sufficient without notice." The agreement lodging them in camps designed is binding upon the workers but to be inaccessible to Union Organnot upon the employers. The prize izers and aim to use them in an

It is small wonder that after have long since raised the banner ing, and other types of coercion and are giving this slogan a real

SIDELINIES

By JONATHAN DOE

As this is written, the maritime strike seems to be moving toward settlement. We doubt, however that negotiations can be completed in time for a Merry Christmas But the editorial writers need not despair. They can start a drive for a Happy New Year. Or a Bright Washington's Birthday.

The Shipping Merchants Asso-

ciation estimates the cost of the

The \$400,000,000

Mystery

\$7,000,000 a day. That means about four hundred million dollars gone with the wind thus far. We get light in the head whenever we get up into the financial stratosphere and begin talking in hundreds of millions, but it seems to us that about the same people | Nuts to You, who were broke before the strike Mars are broke now and that those who drove Packards are still driving them. If we didn't live in these parts, we know we would get the impression from the shipping merchants' figures that all Pacific Coast bankers, shipowners. industrialists, big and little business men, clerks, etc., must have taken to the mountains long ago and are engaged in frantically digging up roots and turning over flat stones in an effort to keep a faint flicker of life in their emaciated bodies.

More Banana Oil

Those banana cargoes have been 'hot" for so long now that if this strike is ever settled and the bananas finally reach the market, life hereabouts will be just one

banana fritter after another. and all the talk about balancing spirit of Christmas reverence.

the budget, some people are beginning to wonder if the Literary Digest poll wasn't right after all. Who the devil did win the election anyhow?

Please, Mr. Blum!

The Communist Party got down on its knees to Blum and begged forgiveness for not whooping it up for the People's Front policy of non-intervention in Spain. It promises to do better in the future. We might shed a few tears for the plight of the French Communists, but they just won't come. Those boys spend so much time on their knees nowadays that they strike to the Pacific Coast at have callouses there an inch thick. The soles of their feet have become the most tender sections of their anatomy. If they ever stand on them again, that will be the time for us to extend our sincere

"Be aloof to war," says Senator Elbert Thomas of Utah.

"Be coy toward slaughter," is ur private slogan. Also:

"It's SMART to be SNOOTY When the call comes for DUTY. We seem to remember, though,

that some people were "aloof to war" in 1917. Where were the Democratic senators like Mr. Thomas and their slogans then?

Moors Say There Ain't No Santa Claus

Madrid's war chieftains warn the workers' militia against going home for Christmas dinner. It seems that the Moors who, according to the press, are fighting for the preservation of Christianity against the infidels of the Left, are forgetting themselves this year and are not approaching What with the WPA lay-offs the Yuletide with the proper

Mooney "Justice" Peels Skin Off Reactionaries Hides

By GEARY TRIMBLE Anyone familiar with the good

old-fashioned New England winters knows that when you put your hand on a frosty metal door-knob you can't take it off without leaving on it some of your skin. Evidently the representatives of California "justice" were "native sous" who knew nothing of this phenomenon when in 1916 they imprisoned Tom Mooney on a framed

They built up an elaborate case to convince the court and the world that Tom Mooney was guilty class. "Justice" is a catch-word, of the Preparedness Day bombing. permitted only when the accused Misguided folk who believe justice to mean a fair deal to the accused, a fair trial on the basis of the old principal that a man is "innocent until proved guilty," were disturbed by the trial. The 'skin began to come off," however, when the powers-that-be prepared to forget the whole business

having succeeded in putting Mooney behind prison bars.

RED INSURANCE The case was built up as a 'lesson" to those who would further the cause of organized labor. It was to assure those who wished to come to the land of gold and sunshine and join in the owner-SAN DIEGO. — The agreement the stool-pigeons signing up, some ship and exploitation of its rebetween the San Diego County of the employers announced that sources that they would be safe Vegetable Growers' Ass'n. and the their Company Unions would give from molestation by radicals, labor-leaders, and those who believe in decent standards of liv-

But the trial did not smell good -even as far away as Washing-ally succeeding in securing. It is in August of this year. This pre- in full possession of his senses ton, D. C., and Mooney was not almost a foregone conclusion—so executed. He was allowed to live vicious is the justice of capitalism and keep alive for twenty years in California-that he will not be the issue which has at once black- freed by any act of California offiened the history of California and cialdom. If he secures release served as a fighting inspiration to from the Supreme Court it will many thousands of workers who only be because they, themselves, have learned the "lesson" of the are in the limelight of suspicion California courts-that there is no and cannot afford to give further justice under capitalism for the proof that the court is not imworker who tries to better his con- mune from class prejudice. ditions by union organization.

their hands unscathed from the hope that Tom Mooney may be frosty door-knob of this case, the freed, but we have no illusions representatives of California law about the meaning of justice under and order have scarred them capitalism. We maintain and deeply. Fickert, the prosecuting strongly emphasize the FACT that attorney who expected to use the Tom Mooney was convicted by and Orange, large stores of tear Mooney case to advance himself, capitalism. That he has been kept slid rapidly down the rungs of the adder which were covered with the italism. That capitalism is reslime of his career, and it is a peatedly on trial, has been retribute to a higher justice that the peatedly convicted, and it is high slimiest and slipperiest rung-his conduct of the Mooney case-

> COINCIDENCE? Every governor of California, as

to re-elect them. While Mooney remains imprisoned, he is a constant reminder to tem is the article in which the attempt to lock out Union Labor. the workers of the world that tion of railway employees to re-The Unions, however, are least vigilance and organized power are store a 10 per cent wage cut. Inof all to be caught napping. Nor their only guarantee of freedom. formed sources say the governwill they let such valuable, though | It is a tribute to his loyalty to | ment may bring pressure for a 5 disastrous experiences, as Orange his class that Tom Money has not per cent restoration in hope of and Salinas go by unheeded. They lost heart. His indomitable will, averting a strike. his fine courage and undying de-

Mooney remains in jail the "justice" of California stands on trial.

CAN'T LET GO It may seem strange to liberals

that the powers-that-be fail to recognize this fact. It would seem wiser to drop this case-to let go of the frosty door-knob and preserve what skin there may be left. But if Mooney were freed, California "justice" would stand convicted. Class-conscious workers

know what the liberals have yet to learn, that government is the executive committee of the ruling has not committed the crime of questioning the right of that rul ing class to exploit the workers without interference.

Were Tom Mooney to be freed today by action of California officials, it would be an admission that California convicted a man on evidence of bribed witnesses, framed charges, and has since repeatedly refused to recognize evidence which unequivocally exonerates Tom Mooney of any connection with the bombing charge. It would even lend support to the oft-hinted and definitely not impossible probability that the bombing itself was instigated by a paid

agent of the powers-that-be. STILL FIGHTING

Tom Mooney, with head still high and courage undaunted is at present working on the habeas corpus proceedings which he fin-

Labor Action joins with all en-Far from being able to remove lightened workers in the fervent in a tomb for twenty years by captime that it be given the extreme penalty!

Wages Reduced and Dividends Doubled

OTTAWA, Ont.-Wages of Canadian railway workers have been cut in half since 1920, although in the same period returns to investors have been doubled, according to figures before the railway labor

conciliation board. The board is considering a peti-

George Hodge, Canadian Pacific threats, intimidation, stool-pigeon- of solidarity of all nationalities termination have kept alive a case official, holds that the petition is which the world otherwise might | "unjust," as "shareholders are have forgotten. As long as Tom titled to some consideration."