

For a workers' world — peace and plenty, justice and freedom.

LABOR ACTION

Communist Party Apes Fascism See Page 5

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Valorous Austrian Workers

Battle Murderous Fascist Forces with Heroic Defiance FOR FOUR DAYS

Brings New Hope and Life To the Despairing Working-Class

By LUDWIG LORE

To the world's despairing and discouraged working class, the heroic struggle of Austria's proletariat brings new hopes and resolution. For the men and women who braved the fascist dictatorship with such heroic defiance, knowing from the first moment to the last that they were fighting a lost cause, braving machine guns and cannon for four endless days without flinching and even then refusing the treacherous compromise of a hypocritical government which accused their leaders of having fled from the country with gold-filled pockets, we have an admiration and reverence that no words can adequately express.

Dollfuss Lies

Nothing is more typical of the deceitfulness of the Dollfuss coterie than its efforts to minimize the number of dead and wounded before the world. In his radio address to America last Sunday, the Austrian Chancellor stated that 241 were killed and 658 seriously wounded. The Viennese correspondents of American newspapers, all of them, speak of more than a thousand killed and many thousands wounded. Where the truth lies between these two is not hard to decide.

In every phase of their dealings with Austria's labor movement in the past Dollfuss and his henchmen have so brazenly perverted the truth that their whining appeal for the sympathy of the world should fall on deaf ears. They present themselves as the innocent victims of social democratic plotters who, for years had planned the attack on the existing government. They speak of "armed provocation on the part of labor," although the facts show that the Social Democracy bore the aggressions of the Heimwehr and its government with an all-too-pious fortitude until the Dollfuss terrorists invaded the

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Police Attacks On Hotel Pickets Hit By Labor Lawyer

NEW YORK.—Calling on the fusion city administration "to end police lawlessness in strikes" the New York City Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union protested against "police brutality" in breaking up a picket line of striking hotel and restaurant workers before the Waldorf-Astoria Monday.

"Newspaper reports verified by our attorney, Max Delson, who represented those arrested, indicate," the City Committee asserted, "that the disturbance was precipitated by unintelligent, unnecessary, and violent police interference with the strikers who were exercising their right to picket peacefully."

The picket line of about 1,000 strikers with their wives and children clashed with the police who tried to break up their demonstration. Release of those arrested was secured by the A.C.L.U. attorney.

Dinner Meet Reviews New Party Set-Up

Industrial, Professional, Intellectual Workers Greet AWP

"The founding of the American Workers Party marks the end of the blight of sectarianism and division in the American labor movement and the beginning of the period of unification," declared A. J. Muste, chairman of the Provisional Organizing Committee, in the opening speech at the great Town Hall dinner meeting in New York, Friday, February 2.

The meeting was called as an initial step in the organization of the AWP recently launched at the Pittsburgh convention of the C.P.L.A. Louis F. Budenz, executive secretary of the P.O.C., described in vivid terms the economic struggles waged by organized and unemployed workers under the banner of the C.P.L.A., culminating in the formation of the AWP.

A Force for Unity

"The one unifying force in the American labor scene during the past four years," said Budenz, "has been the C.P.L.A. Above the babble of contending groups it has spoken to the workers in a clear and convincing voice—in a language they could understand."

Agnes B. Wieck, president of

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AWP Sets Tasks For Campaign

Conference of 100 CPLA Delegates for Party Branch Building

LEAGUE DEMAND

Resentment Reported Through Country as NRA Fails and CWA Cuts Start

"Build the American Workers Party, thoroughly and aggressively. Extend the organization of the employed and unemployed, through the leagues and dynamic industrial campaigns. Enlist professional workers in the fight."

These were the decisions arising out of the Active Workers Conference, which brought 100 C.P.L.A. representatives from various parts of the country to New York on Feb. 3.

Branch building of the party on the basis of the American scene—where C.P.L.A. activities have already shown that it can function more successfully than any other political group—was emphasized as Task No. 1 for all our members and active workers. The interest in the party, which has led other national groups to negotiate with the Provisional Organizing Committee, was reviewed in detail by A. J. Muste, at the morning session. This interest not only must be taken advantage of, it was agreed, but the work of drawing in workers who have never been affiliated with any other radical groups must be made a major undertaking. It is to these workers that the Active Workers Conference and the Party look to form the chief fighting force in the militant workers' struggle that will lead to final revolutionary action.

The quickening of the workers' resentment at the failure of the NRA to fulfill its promises to the workers and at the effort to shut off relief through ending of the CWA was reported from all sections of the country. The imperative necessity for large-scale industrial agitation and strike action by the AWP in automobiles, textiles and a major industry in Greater New York was stressed by Louis F. Budenz, in opening the afternoon discussion.

This was agreed upon as Task No. 2—not only because thereby the party takes the lead in the day-by-day battles of the workers but

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CWS Workers Force Gov't Authorities To Cancel Wage Cut

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Moving together in a mass protest against a wage cut, some 750 CWS workers at Columbia University secured from government authorities a reduction in the wage cut from 23 per cent to 14 per cent. At the same time these workers were granted a rebate payment on the last check for which the 23 per cent cut had applied; it was agreed to reclassify research clerks to research assistants with an appropriate increase in pay; and payment for absence on account of illness up to one week would be given if a doctor's certificate were presented to the authorities.

These workers also won the right to set up a table to distribute information and membership cards in the main entrance of Teachers College; the place used by workers to sign in.

NRA Board Backs Down On Hotel Pact

AFW Strikers Meet Herrick Decision With Parade In Hotel District

By RAYMOND ROBBINS

NEW YORK.—A mass picket line of 3,000 striking hotel and restaurant workers of the Amalgamated Food Workers Union paraded through the streets of the hotel district on Friday night, February 16 in answer to the decision of the NRA Regional Labor Board and the Hotel Men's Association.

At a meeting held before the militant parade, Secretary Field told the strikers that the NRA Board was backing down on its original agreement. "The strike will continue," said Field, "until the union is recognized by the bosses and every striker is reinstated."

The union leaders claim that the Regional Labor Board has made a complete repudiation of the agreement arrived at between it and the delegation of the Amalgamated Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union as embodied in a statement signed by Ben Golden for the Regional Labor Board. The proposals of this agreement were that:

1. All strikebreakers be discharged.
 2. The strikers to be put back in their jobs within two weeks.
 3. The management to consult with shop committee on reinstatement.
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Unemployed League Demands CWA Work and Wage Increase

O. U. L. DEMANDS

Demands formulated by the Ohio Unemployed League at its special convention January 21 and submitted to the United States Congress:

1. That all CWA work be resumed immediately, and that jobs be provided for all unemployed workers.
2. That a thirty-hour week and six-hour day be maintained, and that the first five days of the calendar week shall constitute the working week, and that Saturday shall be a holiday.
3. That all carry-over time or make-up work shall be performed within the stipulated five days, provided that no work day including carry-over time shall exceed eight hours.
4. That uniform rates of hours and wages be maintained throughout the state.
5. That all work be paid for at a minimum of \$1.00 per hour, \$30 per week; that this rate be increased in direct proportion to increases in averages prices; and that all work covered by union wage scales above the minimum rate shall be paid for at the prevailing union rate.
6. That straight pay of \$30 per week shall be the minimum wage on CWA and PWA projects regardless of time lost due to bad weather.
7. That wages be paid regularly on Friday of each week and that the distribution of pay-checks be done during the working hours.
8. That all tools, equipment and necessary protective clothing be provided through a CWA appropriation.
9. That free and adequate transportation be provided to and from the place of work for all CWA and PWA workers.
10. That heated shacks, wind-breaks and salemanders for fires be provided on all open CWA and PWA jobs for protection from bad weather.
11. That there shall be no infringement on the right of workers on CWA and PWA jobs to organize on the job into organizations of their own choosing for collective bargaining.

Organized Jobless Place Proposals Before State and National CWA

ASK FOR \$30 A WEEK

March on Ohio Capital Voted if Demands Are Not Met

BULLETIN

As we go to press, word comes from Ohio that at a special conference of the Ohio Unemployed League leaders in Columbus, February 11-12, it was decided to hold a Workers Legislature in the State Capitol during the first week of July, which will "propose the kind of legislation the workers in Ohio will carry out when they come to power."

Organization for the Workers Legislature will be conducted by the Ohio Unemployed League and its branches. It was decided that every county in the State must be solidly organized between now and July 1. V. C. Bauhof, secretary of the OUL, will be brought into the Columbus office immediately and William R. Truax, president, will tour the state, spending at least three days in each of the 88 counties in the state.

COLUMBUS, Ohio.—Immediate resumption of CWA work, extending it to provide jobs for all unemployed workers; a minimum of \$30 for a 30-hour week on all CWA and PWA projects; the right of CWA and PWA workers to organize into organizations of their own choosing—these are some of the demands which the Ohio Unemployed League, through its officers, William R. Truax, president and V. C. Bauhof, secretary, has submitted to the Ohio State Civil Works Administration and to President Roosevelt and the Federal Civil Works Administration.

Special Conference

These demands were drawn up at a special state wide conference of the OUL January 21. The conference, called on a few days notice "to formulate plans to cope with the imminent collapse of the Civil Works Program," was attended by 150 delegates from all sections of the state.

With grim determination the delegates voted "to mobilize all the workers throughout the state for a march on the state capitol" if their demands are not granted.

Reports from county after county in the state showed that thousands of families in this great industrial state are forced to live on starvation rations, even with some of the men on CWA. "We will not stand meekly by while our children starve," was the unanimous sentiment of the aroused delegates.

"The people of Athens County don't feel sweet about it," said Ed Michaels, president of the Athens County League, referring to the CWA cut. "This is the time for action, not for talk."

"The workers can give only one answer to those who ask 'What can take the place of capitalism,'" declared Charles Dunlap, chairman of the Mahoning County League. "And that is: the workers themselves must take over and operate the factories for their own use."

Truax's Speech

In concluding his speech to the convention, President Truax said: "The Washington Administration tells us to have confidence. Are you going back into your communities and feed your children on confidence?"

"The time has come for American workers to act. Party differences have no meaning. There is only one element in Ohio which will relieve unemployment—that is you workers."

"If the federal government or the state government cannot provide adequate relief, then let the workers operate the mines, mills and factories, in order that they might produce the things necessary to support their families decently."

Penna. State Idle Launch U. League

Two-Day Conference In Allentown Outlines Militant Program

By MARGARET RODGERS

ALLENTOWN, PA.—With more than 200 delegates present, the Pennsylvania Unemployed League was enthusiastically launched on January 27 and 28 in Allentown, following the example of Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina and other states in the establishment of state leagues affiliated with the National Unemployed League.

Larry Heimbach, chairman of the convention, opened the first session by stating that not only economic action but also political action, as had been the experience of the Lehigh County League, would have to be taken by the organized unemployed, and outlined the program of the American Workers Party. Louis Breier, Secretary, pointed out previous attempts of the unemployed of this state to or-

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Unemployed Hit By Gov't Negligence

Ohio and W. Va. Jobless In Petition to Senate Assail Buck-passing

WASHINGTON.—Charging the relief administrations of their states with "buck-passing, playing politics and family favoritism," a committee composed of the representatives of the Ohio Unemployed League and the West Virginia Unemployed League submitted statements to the United States Congress and Senate, February 2, demanding a "complete new set up in state relief administration," and "increased CWA appropriations."

Appearing before Congress on the same day it was considering CWA appropriations, the committee succeeded in having its statements read into the official record. The statement by the Ohio League contained the full demands formulated at the recent OUL special convention and most of these demands were embodied in the statement of the West Virginia League.

"Long and bitter experience of the working people in the state," says the statement of the West Virginia League, "convince us that the combination of a banker, a coal operator, and a \$10,000 a year preacher do not have the welfare of the people at heart. They are unfit to fulfill their duties on the State relief board."

Pointing out that unemployed workers have been allowed to starve while thousands of pounds of food belonging to the relief administrations rotted in warehouses, the statements of both groups, representing more than 250,000 jobless workers, "call on the Legislative branch of the Federal Government to act or to admit that it is not concerned about the people who are the victims of unemployment."

Edward Snyder, president of the West Virginia U.L. presented the statement of his organization to Senator Neeley and Congressman Joe Smith, both of his state. Neeley promised to take the resolution not only to the Senate but also to the President in the fight to remove W. N. Boehler from the W. Va. relief commission.

The statement of the Ohio group was submitted to Senator Robert Bulkley and Congressman Emrath of Ohio, by William R. Truax, president of the OUL, Elmer Cope and Arnold Johnson.

To the Workers of the United States!

Statement by the Provisional Organizing Committee of the American Workers Party on the fight of the heroic Austrian workers against bloody, barbaric fascism.

IN Austria recently thousands of workers, including women and children, were shot down in their own homes by the cannon of a Fascist government. The only reason for this unprovoked and brutal attack was that the capitalists and profiteers of Austria could save their profits only by lowering the standard of living of the workers, beating down their wages, and shooting down workers who resisted their attack upon them.

These workers had organized unions for the defense and advancement of their interests. These unions had existed for many years and had grown very strong. They carried on all kinds of activities to make the lives of their members and their families happier and richer.

The Austrian workers had also built their own political party, the Socialist party, because they believed that they could not protect their interests through a political party financed and controlled by the bosses, any more than through a boss-controlled union. We need not argue now as to whether we agree with the program of the Socialist Party, regard it as too radical or too conservative. American workers, whatever their own politics, will agree that the

Austrian workers had a right to build a party of their own choosing.

This party of the Austrian workers also grew strong. It nearly had a majority of all the voters in Austria. It had the support of the overwhelming majority of the voters in the capital city, Vienna. For years the mayor, the police, etc., of Vienna were in its control.

Though the Socialist party in Austria was well aware of black, reactionary forces which wanted to destroy the unions, wreck the co-operatives, destroy all civil liberties, enslave the workers, as Mussolini had done in Italy and Hitler in Germany, the party persisted in sticking to peaceful, democratic methods to protect itself and the workers. It refused to defend itself by forceful methods. It trusted in "democratic" institutions alone, though it knew that the Fascists, standing for reaction and barbarism, had destroyed all democratic institutions where they had a chance.

In spite of this, in Austria also Fascism grew as the capitalists tried to save their profits at the expense of the workers. When Fascism felt strong enough, it started in to break up the unions and to

persecute the workers. The workers did not want to submit like cowards when that happened. They went on strike. Troops started to shoot them down. They fought back as best they could. Heroically the men and the women together defended their homes. Alas, it was then too late. They were brutally murdered.

Their unions, their co-operatives, their political party, their rights, are all being destroyed.

In America, as everywhere else, the capitalists can save themselves only by impoverishing the masses.

Some day, workers of America, what happened to the workers of Austria will therefore inevitably happen to you, to your families, your homes: You too will be shot down like dogs, by agents of tyranny and Fascism—unless you prepare in time—prepare now—to make this impossible. Unless, in other words, you take power to prevent the capitalists and profit-makers from using their power to crush you. That the workers will have to fight or be crushed, that no matter how peaceful, how fair, they may try to be, they will everywhere meet injustice, cruelty, treachery and guns from the capitalists, is now clear beyond a shadow of doubt.

Destruction will overtake us if we laugh at the danger and fail to prepare. A few years ago men laughed at Mussolini. A year ago they laughed at Hitler. A few months ago they laughed at the idea that Fascism could come to gentle, "democratic" Austria!

When war broke out in Europe, we were eventually dragged into it. This war between reaction whether it be called Fascism or by any other name, and the workers is also world-wide. We cannot keep out of it. We must organize to fight and defend our unions, our homes, our liberties, our right to live in security and plenty on this fair continent.

Those who speculated in human lives, debauched the government, plunged us into the depression and brought starvation in the midst of plenty to the American masses, those who today admit that we could each have an income of \$5000 per year and still try to make us contented with a pittance in wages while they destroy food and other goods, who club and shoot workers even in ordinary peaceful strikes for better conditions or union recognition, surely we can see that they will stop at nothing.

Let us make it clear, then, that we will not be trifled with, that

we foresee the danger, that we will organize, that we will take revolutionary action to defend our unions, our homes, our liberties and our rights.

Let us join the American Workers Party and under its banner put a complete end to the power of industrial and financial lords, and the profit system for which they stand, as in 1776 Americans abolished kings and feudal lords. Let us make it clear that we will not be fooled into defending the sham democratic government which protects capitalists and always in a crisis destroys the workers. No half measures will stand. The workers, farmers, intellectuals of the U. S. will some day be all under the heel of Fascist reaction or under the genuine democracy of a Workers Republic. Victory will be ours if we refuse to be fooled, if we mean business, if we develop an iron determination that Fascism with its prejudice, intolerance, barbarism, and destruction of all workers' rights shall not come in the U. S.

Hail the New American Revolution!
Hail the American Workers Party!
Hail Our Victory!

AWP Sets Tasks For Campaign

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also because this is an important link in the building of the party itself.

More Organizers

The National Unemployment League finds it impossible to meet all the demands for organizers, coming from every section of the country. Arnold Johnson, secretary of that body reported. From Texas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Connecticut and other states the call has come for representatives of the NUL to cooperate in the furtherance of jobless organization. Regular Active workers conferences in various localities were required by the present situation, and an extension of our work into many other centers was demanded by the workers in these various places. This crying need for additional personnel to meet the demands for organization was stressed by Anthony Ramuglia, president of the National Unemployed League, Elmer F. Cope and others.

"Despite the large membership enrolled in the leagues," declared William R. Traux, president of the Ohio Unemployed League, "the surface of jobless organization has not been scratched. Every county in Ohio is insistent that the state leagues cooperate in furthering the work, as the necessity for such action is increasingly felt."

The Unemployed Can Help the Employed

The role that unemployed leagues can play in the industrial labor movement was pointed to by Larry Heimbach, of Pennsylvania, who emphasized the cooperation of the leagues with union strikes and referred to the fact that a number of new local central labor body delegates in Allentown were active members of the unemployed leagues. Out of the unemployed agitation in Lehigh County had grown the demand for workers political action in that section, Louis Breier stated. Breier further stated that the AWP was being favorably received by the workers.

Dramatic appeals—through songs and uniforms—were brought out vividly by Agnes Burns Weick as essentials in mass organization work. The uniforms of the Women's Auxiliary of the Progressive Miners had symbolized for them a spirit of solidarity which had carried them forward in their battles.

Within the American Federation of Labor the embryonic revolt of the Federal labor unions against the policies of the internationalists was reviewed by Karl Lore, who had attended the Washington conference of the Federal unions as a delegate. Industrial unionism was recognized by these newly organized elements as necessary for effective union existence. Their youth was an asset and also a danger. Their rebellion at craft union tendencies within the A. F. of L. official family would be significant if properly led.

An informed membership, educated to the different tendencies in the labor movement, was called for by Ernest Rice McKinney, who also emphasized the urgency of industrial agitation. The education of AWP membership, the spread of its literature, and particularly of LABOR ACTION, and the systematic hammering home of AWP philosophy and objectives was agreed to be one of the chief jobs before the entire membership of the party.

James Burnham, of the Provisional Organizing Committee, reported on the newly formed Intellectual Workers League and its tentative plans, in research work, the preparation of pamphlets, the writing of three books, and a possible workers' school. J. B. S. Hardman added a report on a series of lectures to be held in New York on the philosophy of the AWP, probably later to be put in book form.

No Money for CWA?

Listen to the People's Lobby suggestions for federal revenue: Increased income and surtaxes, \$2,000,000,000; taxing liquid corporation surpluses, \$2,500,000,000; taxing land values 1 per cent \$900,000,000.

Parisians Riot Against Dictator



This radiophoto shows a night scene in a Paris boulevard as thousands fought police in a great, riotous demonstration against Fascism. Striking workers fought police and troops as a million walked out to challenge dictatorship.

Dinner Meeting Reviews Penna. State Idle Launch U. League

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the Women's Auxiliary of the Progressive Miners Union of Illinois, told a stirring story of the coal-diggers' struggle to build a union to combat Lewis gangsterism. "The women of Illinois can no longer be scared by the word, revolution," she said. "The struggles of the past year, the brutality of the bosses and of the state have given them a political education. We shall not soon forget our heroic dead—murdered by the hired gunmen of the coal operators and of the state of Illinois."

The program of the CPLA among the unemployed was outlined by the president of the National Unemployed Leagues, Anthony Ramuglia. He stated that the millions of jobless workers starving amid the untold wealth of this country were organizing in terms of a new social order—a workers' republic. "But the radical groups in America," Ramuglia declared, "are almost totally isolated from the workers. Despite the deepening discontent of tens of thousands of workers; industrial and professional, the Socialist and the Communist parties are not showing any perceptible growth in membership or influence."

In Keeping With Revolutionary Traditions

In discussing the program of the new party J. B. S. Hardman, Vice Chairman of the P.O.C., said: "There has never been a situation more sorely in need of revolutionary cleansing than the present. American labor needs it in order to rid itself of stagnant leadership, of superannuated ideas, and of ineffectual organizations. Our revolutionary effort is in keeping with the American revolutionary tradition. We want to apply the militancy that is in the blood of American workers to objectives and social goals in keeping with the marvelous technological progress of this century and the resources of this nation."

A letter of greeting from Prof. George Counts was read. He criticized the educational set-up as it existed under capitalism, claiming, however, that "teachers in growing numbers realizes that the present economic system must undergo a revolutionary change."

New Members Speak

Sidney Hook, Marxian critic and new addition to the P.O.C., explained that the avoidance in the program of the AWP of both the belief in democracy and parliamentarism of the Socialist Party and the revolutionary romanticism of the Communist Party boded well for the formation of a really effective revolutionary party. "Of all the radical parties in the field," said Hook, "the AWP distinguished itself by its realistic approach to the American scene and to the fundamental problem of the

conquest of political power within that scene."

New members of the AWP who spoke in support of the program were V. F. Calverton, editor of the Modern Monthly, and James Burnham, leader of the radical student movement.

George Schuyler, Negro journalist, claimed that the AWP does not mean suicide for the Negro—but gives him a chance to affiliate with a revolutionary party with a level-headed program. He urged the necessity of organizing the black and white workers.

Macy Leads Lay Off Campaign in New York

NEW YORK — Despite the fact that January sales volume by department stores in the metropolitan area was 8 per cent above the 1933 level for the same month, personnel departments continued their policy of discharging workers or putting all of them on part-time. One of the chief offenders in this direction was R. H. Macy Co., a store which seems to have a definite understanding with the Hitler government.

Sales clerks who were not fired were asked to return at odd intervals. This is the only way open to them for finding out whether or not they may work one day in a fortnight. Part-timers are usually hired for Thursday and Saturday, since the store is kept open an hour longer on the former day; while the latter day is the busiest in the week. By forcing workers to come in after 10:30 A. M. on Thursdays and Saturdays the stores are able to cut their pay proportionately.

Meanwhile, R. H. Macy Co., Jewish owned department store, continues selling German underwear, rugs, and chinaware despite the fact it claims to be a member of the boycott organization against the Hitler government. In return for these favors, the German Ambassador patronizes Macy's. During the Christmas season he bought at this store silverware which was sent to the embassy at Washington.

Department store magazines published in this city for the benefit of store owners are now running articles upon methods of cutting labor costs or making labor more efficient. In "The Dry Goods Economist," for instance, an article points out that wrappers can be used when they are not too busy to take care of such stock work which part-time workers are unable to do.

Plans for unionizing department stores are meeting with enthusiastic response from workers, especially salesclerks. The aggressiveness of taxi-cab strikers, as well as that of the striking waiters in New York City, has made department store workers more amenable to unionization.

ganize solidly. All indications were that this league, with calls from all parts of Pennsylvania urging organizers to come in, would be successful in pushing forward a militant and fighting program to stop relief abuses and increase relief throughout the state.

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Ernest Rice McKinney, secretary of the Allegheny County Unemployed League, illustrated how in Pennsylvania as elsewhere, the unemployed have won demands only by fighting for them. "Demonstrate first," he urged, "and then talk to the relief authorities. That's the only way to get what you want!"

Allegheny, Lehigh, Carbon, Northampton, Northumberland, and Philadelphia Counties, all represented at the convention, united in demanding that the convention find ways and means for raising sufficient funds to send out organizers under the banner of the P.U.L. not only into the counties present, but also into other sections which have requested organizational help of the National Unemployed League and of already organized counties.

A State Paper

The affiliated leagues, until the June Convention, will raise 1 cent per member for state work and one-half cent per member for National Unemployed League work. These funds will be disbursed by the State Executive Committee to keep at least one organizer in the field, to maintain state headquarters in Allentown. And to publish a state paper. This paper will be edited by E. R. McKinney, and the convention voted that it should "carry on education toward the abolishment of the entire capitalist system."

Louis F. Budenz, director of organization of the National Unemployed League, urged CWA strikes, demonstrations, and organization reaching into every corner of the state. He related the recent CWA strike in W. Virginia, the many strikes in Ohio and North Carolina, which, if repeated in Pennsylvania, would have even more effect on the relief authorities than in other states. He also pointed out the need for the unemployed to find political expression for the entire unemployed movement, and discussed the program of the American Workers Party.

Officers of the new league include Harvey Wilson, Allentown, President, R. W. Rolly, Pittsburgh, Mike Demchak, and Hahn Waldon, Allentown, Vice Chairmen, Louis Breier, Allentown, Secretary, and Ralph Weaver, Northampton, as Treasurer.

Austrian Workers Fight Dollfuss Gov't Troops

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hoped of the workers and suppressed the Wiener "Arbeiter Zeitung," the best-edited Social Democratic newspaper in the world, to provoke it to resistance. Even then the party leadership tried to prevent open hostilities, but nothing could check the honest resentment of the rank and file, once it had taken matters into its own hands.

Socialist Leader Gives Story

In an interview given by Dr. Otto Bauer, the outstanding leader of the Austrian Social Democracy to a New York "Times" correspondent we find a chronological presentation of the efforts made by the Austrian Socialist Party to come to an understanding with the Dollfuss government that would prevent an open rupture and undermine the growing influence of the German Nazis.

"In the first days of March, our leaders were still in close personal contact with Dollfuss," says Dr. Bauer, "and frequently tried to get him to agree to a constitutional solution. At the end of March he promised personally that at the beginning of April he would open negotiations with us for the reform of the Constitution. This promise he never fulfilled, for at the beginning of April he passed over definitely to the Fascist camp and refused to speak to any of the Socialists. . . . As we could not see him again we tried to negotiate through other people. Honestly, we left no stone unturned. We approached President Miklas. . . . Then we tried the clerical politicians. . . . A group of religious Socialists got together with a group of Catholic democrats. . . . This also failed and finally the Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna, Dr. Innitzer, was approached. . . . 'but he could do nothing. . . .'"

Further than that, surely, no socialist labor party could or should go, not even to avoid the bloody reckoning that had to come. But the Austrian Social Democracy did more. "It offered," in the words of Otto Bauer, "to make the greatest concession that a democratic and socialist party had ever made."

"We let Dollfuss know that if he would only pass a bill through Parliament we would accept a measure authorizing the government to govern by decree without Parliament for two years, on two conditions only—that a small parliamentary committee in which the government had a majority, should be able to criticize decrees and that a constitutional court, the only protection against breaches of the Constitution, should be restored. Dollfuss refused."

Repeat Mistakes of German SDP

In other words the Austrian party was prepared to exceed in its toleration policy the German Party which Bauer and the others had so vehemently criticized not long before. They were willing to grant Dollfuss unrestricted control of the government for the fascization of Austria since they knew—again we quote Dr. Bauer—"That he (Dollfuss) at the beginning of April passed definitely to the Fascist camp." The parliamentary commission was to have a Dollfuss majority while the constitutional court was to consist of Dollfuss appointees. . . . They were willing, in short, to concede everything to the Dollfuss regime, to deliver the working class bound and gagged into its hands, in the hope that by so doing they might prevent the Nazis from carrying out the fascist program to which Dollfuss and his Heimwehr backers were already committed.

No less tragic than Otto-Bauer's unconscious self-mortification is the realization that Austria's labor movement repeated the mistakes of its German brethren in believing that its support of Dollfuss would keep Frauentfeld-Hitler from coming to power. Had not the German Social Democracy been shipwrecked after issuing the parole: "A vote for Hindenburg is a vote against Hitler"? Yet with the fate of the SPG still fresh in their memory, the Austrian comrades repeated the same mistake, and suffered the same disappointment. For a Dollfuss-Starbemberg coalition under existing conditions in Austria must inevitably follow the logic of German events and arrive at the same conclusion. Fascism can have a concrete meaning and can present economic advantages only if it offers the possibility of an organizational union between the two na-

tions. Its present alliance with Italy may bear within it certain immediate advantages, political rather than economic, but Austria would still be unable to exist by its own strength, would still continue to live on the charity of its more powerful neighbors.

Best Socialist Movement in World

The best-disciplined and relatively strongest Social Democratic movement in the world has gone the way of the German movement before it. Had it ventured to strike the blow ten or even six months ago, when Austria's working class cried out for action and demanded that its leaders challenge the government and its fascist supporters, the outcome would have been doubtful but the outlook under all circumstances would have been much more favorable than in February 1934.

Fight Heroically

The men and women in the Austrian movement have tried to atone for the omissions of their leaders. They stood firm against the hirelings of capitalism in their native land and chose death to a life under fascist rule. Their leaders, Dr. Dautsch, Otto Bauer and Karl Seitz, stood to their guns. Those other men and women at the head of the Austrian movement, though unmentioned in the excited dispatches that reach us in these first hectic days, insofar as they were not already behind prison bars, will not have shown less courage and feeling for their great responsibility in this terrible crisis than these three.

The greatness of the Austrian tragedy lies not in the fact that a thousand and more working men, women and children died for the cause they loved, for the class they knew as their own, for the achievements to which they had dedicated their lives. It lies above all in the realization by those who remain that fascism has won a new victory, that another army in the great international labor movement lies crushed and beaten.

Local 3 Wins Fight To Sentence Racketeer

New York—A victory for the membership of Local 3 of the electrical workers union was scored on February 8, when Harry Van Arsdale, Jr., business manager, appointed by the executive committee of the union, together with a gangster supporter by the name of Max Rosenberg were convicted in criminal court by a jury and sentenced to from 6 to 12 years in Sing Sing prison for the shooting several months ago of two members of the local.

The shooting was part of the terroristic tactics used against the opposition group within the union which has been combating the tyrannical rulings of ex-President H. H. Broach against the membership for more than four years.

During the course of this struggle against the autocratic Broach machine one member, Henry Godel, has been murdered, another member, Adelbert Letcher, has had acid thrown in his face, and many others were brutally beaten and disfigured.

Through a series of open letters issued in the name of the New Deal Group, having the active support of the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, the opposition at the last general election succeeded in overthrowing former President Broach's chief lieutenant, William A. Hogan, as financial secretary.

Hogan, convicted in 1923 for robbing the union treasury and stealing the beneficiary moneys from widows of deceased members is the instructor of Van Arsdale. It is these two whom the members of local 3 hold responsible for most of the brutalities and violence committed upon the members.

However, the fight of the members of local 3 against their corrupt and autocratic officials is far from ended. For ironically enough, now the same above-mentioned Hogan becomes business manager of the local.

The Conference for Progressive Labor Action calls upon the members of Local 3 to continue their brave fight for a clean union, and pledges its full support in the future as it has given it in the past to this effort.

AT HOME

By KARL LORE

Company Unions Bite the Dust

Yellow dog unionism got another licking this week as workers of the Superior Steel Co. at Carnegie, Pa., the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co. at Covington, Va. and of the Cleveland Welding Co. of Cleveland turned in overwhelming majorities for organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks has established system boards on half a dozen company union roads. The National Labor Board announces that 75 per cent of the 39 elections it has supervised have been won by "bona fide" unions.

Employees of Wierton Steel and Budd Wheel, however, who have had company unions imposed on them are still waiting for the NRA to go into action. From Sioux City, Iowa, comes word that the big packing houses are stubbornly fighting the unions and maintaining their company affair even though 75 per cent of their employees are members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers. The same situation exists in the Akron, O. plants of the General Tire & Rubber Co. where the United Rubber Workers Union claims the allegiance of nine-tenths of the workers. AWP'ers in Jersey City are preparing to go into action against the Pennsylvania Railroad effort to force its employees to pay a dollar each as dues to its remodelled company union.

Education

Education is taking it on the chin in the year of the New Deal. American cities are spending \$133,000,000 less this year to educate their children than in 1931-32 according to the U.S. Commissioner of Education. City schools alone are manned by 18,000 fewer teachers than in 1930 although they have about 250,000 more pupils than in that year.

The National Educational Association reports that 111,000 children are being denied education with 250,000 more getting only part time. Eighty thousand school teachers are unemployed with 30,000 of them on relief, they say.

The Teachers Union claims that these figures are ridiculously low. In Montgomery County, Alabama, all schools have been closed and only immediate relief will prevent the closing of all schools in the state by March 4.

Still a Few Unemployed

News reports from all over the country indicate that there's still plenty of work for the National Unemployed League. The Philadelphia County Relief Board admits that 245,000 persons, one-eighth of the city's population, are being wholly or partially supported by relief funds.

In Denver, Colorado, a group of unemployed assembled 50 trucks, told legislators that they had enough guns to get what they wanted from warehouses and stores themselves if there was no other way to get it. 20,000 families in Denver were suddenly cut off from relief. The situation is the same in many other parts of the state.

In New York City an unemployed man attempted suicide and was arrested. Examined by doctors and found to be sane he was forced out on the streets again where he was jailed as a vagrant.

Please Like Our Union . . .

Another one of the typical class collaboration schemes which has cursed the labor movement in the past is being offered to the cigar manufacturers by the Cigarmaker's International Union. Offered as a bribe to gain recognition, the Union has set up a fund of \$50,000 which it offers for use in advertising the cigar. According to the plan the International will contribute \$10,000 for advertising purposes to the industry for every 5,000 new members enrolled in the organization with the help of the bosses. Just another attempt to bring workers into a labor union without getting out of the swivel chair and organizing.

From Pennsylvania comes the story of the unification of Rayon workers organizations from many parts of the country at a conference held to formulate a program to force action by the National Labor Board on the demands of the rayon workers which were laid before the board on December 22 and have received no definite action since.

Economic System Forces Girls Into Prostitution To Exist

By G. M.

ON a recent trip to Cleveland I was walking on Euclid Avenue to my temporary home on 55th Street, in a very discouraged frame of mind, when I met a girl who spoke to me and called me by name. For the moment I did not recognize her. Then it came to me that this girl had graduated from a Youngstown school two years ago and had worked Saturdays and nights after school in the store where I was employed.

She was nineteen, but looked much older. There was something furtive and evasive about her manner of answering the usual questions as to her health, etc., until I finally asked her about her job and she did not answer. I looked directly in her face and she was crying. I suggested that she walk along with me and tell me "all about it" and she told me this story.

Parents Die

About a year before she graduated her mother died. Two months later her father died. By working Saturdays and evenings in the store she managed to finish school. An acquaintance in Cleveland had written her about a small clerical position that was open, so she had left Youngstown.

In the latter part of 1932, the firm she was with went bankrupt and she was out of a job. After a little time she got a place in a dime store. "Just to tide her over until business picked up." Two wage cuts in six months brought her wages down to \$5 a week. By living in one room in a semi-basement with another girl and cooking her meals on a stove in the laundry she managed to get along. When the Blue Eagle with its codes forced wages up to \$13 a week in her store she rejoiced with the rest, but not for long. The store combined counters, closed half of one floor and laid off more than one-third of the crew.

She was one of them. Even then she didn't worry much because she had heard that the unemployed were being taken care of by the Associated Charities. She thought all she had to do was to go down there and tell them her story and get a little help while hunting another job.

The next morning, before all of her money was gone, she filed her request for relief, then proceeded to look for a job, any kind of a job.

She had no housework experience and no one wanted inexperienced houseworkers. She applied at restaurants, but with a waiting list of hundreds of experienced waitresses on file they gave her no encouragement. She called several times at the relief office but was told to be patient because she had to be investigated.

She Meets the Welfare Worker

On the tenth day after applying for relief she was permitted to talk to a "visitor." This woman told her that she had made a complete investigation of her case and could do nothing for her. It seemed that her room was in the basement of an apartment house that had a "very" bad reputation. "In fact," said the visitor, "no

decent girl would live there." The poor kid tried to explain that economy had forced her to live in the cheapest room she could find but the "visitor" wasn't interested.

The girl had spent her last dime that morning for coffee, so having no money, she walked back to her room, a distance of three or four miles. When she entered the building the custodian met her at the door and told her that until she paid her rent she could not go into the room or take any of her clothes out. This was the proverbial last straw. She went out and wandered around for hours until she was completely exhausted.

Evicted

A cab was standing by the curb with the motor running and as she looked at it the driver opened the door and she got in. He asked her, "where to," and she told him she had no place to go. He questioned her and finally offered to fix her up a "date" with a "swell guy" who would take care of her and pay her rent if she would be "nice to him."

She went with him and the next morning after a good breakfast the swell guy gave her five dollars and a lot of advice as to how she could make a few "Johns" pay her rent and she wouldn't have to worry any more. After that she lived pretty well. She moved to a better room and bought some clothes, also saved a few dollars. The night before I met her she had been "picked up by a couple of dicks" and had spent the night in jail.

The Majesty of the Law

In court that morning she was charged with "suspicion of being a prostitute" and "occupying a room for immoral purposes!" After paying her fine and being subjected to the usual physical examination she was turned over to a female officer who talked to her about her sins, her morals and the eventual destination of her soul and was then released. The fine had taken her last cent. Without a dime in her pocket, no job and no home, she was told to go forth and sin no more.

Attached to this court are half a hundred people drawing large salaries, living in good homes, driving big limousines, all supported by the 7,000 prostitutes of Cleveland. Seven thousand went through the court last year and were registered by the Board of Health. Not one of them was offered any way to make her living or a solution of her economic problem although the judge of this court, in a statement to the press, admits that the depression caused the number of girls living off the streets to increase from 2,000 to 7,000 in two years. He further comments that the increase has forced the court to employ more officers and the docket is always crowded.

"Something should be done about it," he says. Just increasing the payroll of the vice court doesn't relieve the situation. He thinks that some of the "habitual offenders" should be permanently put away.

Seven thousand girls walking the streets, knowing that periodically they will be picked up and made to contribute to the support of a court that is interested only in seeing that they pay their fines. Which is the greater social offender, the girl of the street or the judge that lives off her earnings?

Or the economic system, which makes both of them possible?

READ

"Toward an American Revolutionary Labor Movement" by the American Workers Party.

CLU Lawyer Attacked by Rich Farmers

Attempts at Unionization In Imperial Valley Fought

LOS ANGELES. — Kidnapped, robbed and beaten by the "forces of law and order," A. L. Wirin, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union began a counter-attack against his assailants this week. Sent into Imperial Valley to safeguard the right to free speech and assemblage for exploited Mexican workers in that territory, he was kidnapped by a group of wealthy vegetable growers, robbed of \$25 in cash, a fountain pen, a brief case, and wrist watch, and released after being beaten.

The attack upon the Civil Liberties Union attorney was the culmination of a series of attacks upon Imperial Valley workers. Not only ranchers and growers are responsible for these acts of violence, but also state officials. This is not at all peculiar when it is realized that both of these groups are the same. Further Governor Rolph, the lynching advocate, is compelling the State Motor Vehicle Department to use State Highway Patrolmen in the Imperial Valley strikes.

The lengths to which the Fascist elements will go to fight workers is indicated by the statement of the Commander of Post 25, El Centro, of the American Legion. He said in regard to the industrial union which is leading the strike:

"The way to get rid of the Communists is to dynamite them out. That's what we did in Imperial Valley."

Even the United States Government was told to keep out. Captain Frank Oswald, chief of police in El Centro, and cultivator of some 400 acres of land told the investigator, sent by the Los Angeles Regional Labor Board, to get the hell out and stay out.

"We don't want no conciliation," he said, "we know how to handle these people and where we find trouble makers we will drive them out, if we have to dynamite them."

This bare-faced violence comes after a workers' uprising against slavery conditions in which they were compelled to get drinking water from irrigation ditches, work for 12½¢ an hour, and eat the bosses' boarding houses.

U. S. S. R. Embarks On 2nd Plan Amid World-Wide Crisis

MOSCOW.—Amidst the world-wide decline of capitalism with its concomitant horrors, war and fascism, the Soviet Union embarks upon its second Five Year Plan of organized economy. The keynote of the new plan will be the production of consumer's goods. The advances made under the first plan will be consolidated in the next five years, so as to make the U.S.S.R. "the most advanced industrial nation in Europe."

The Soviets are undertaking a huge project, but the fact that every worker will witness the success of the plan in the day-to-day improvement of his living standards guarantees its completion. Light industry will increase its annual average output by 21.9 per cent, bounding ahead of the advance of heavy industry. By the end of 1937 every Soviet worker will be able to buy two and a half to three times the amount of commodities he can acquire at present.

The agrarian situation will be greatly improved. The grain harvest alone is expected to amount to 110,000,000 metric tons in 1937 compared to 89,800,000 tons in 1933 and 60,000,000 in 1932. The value of the technical crops—cotton, flax, and so forth—and of dairy products will more than double.

The possibility of war has figured prominently in the drafting of the new plan.

Emphasis is to be placed upon the strengthening of the transportation equipment. Automobile factories, copper and coal mines, cotton mills all come under the new plan. The heavy industry plants between now and 1937 will be concentrated in the interior regions of Russia, the Volga and Ural-Siberia, which are more inaccessible to attack.

THE PROSPECTS OF A PATRIOT



"Patriotism is the last resort of a scoundrel," was the witty retort of Samuel Johnson when the bands began to play and the flags were unfurled in England a long time ago.

Under the cover of this rabble-raising shibboleth, for centuries millions of workers have been slaughtered and maimed in defense of a country owned by the bosses. After the carnage, they returned to "their country" only to find unemployment and breadlines were the bosses' reward for heroism.

Rising Prices, Falling Wages Drive Down Living Standards

By O. R. FUSS

Caught between steadily rising prices and slowly falling wages, American workers are being shoved downwards to standards of living below bare subsistence. This is revealed by a study of statistics released by the Departments of Labor and Commerce.

The purchasing power index shows the internal value of the dollar has fallen from 139.9 in April to 129.4 in December, the 1923-25 average being equal to 100. As the prices of commodities move upward, this index moves downward. And as it is recalled that the aim of the Roosevelt administration is forcing prices upward, it is obvious that workers' dollars will fall in value with each upturn in prices, since each dollar will buy less and less.

Prices of Staples Soar

In 51 cities the retail price of food has moved upward in degrees ranging from 23.6 per cent for Philadelphia to 7 per cent for Butte, Montana, in the period from April 1933 to January 1934. Detroit, Minneapolis, and St. Paul show increases of over 20 per cent. A 19 per cent increase describes conditions in Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Little Rock, and Norfolk. New York and Pittsburgh pay 16 per cent more for their food in January than they did in April 1933.

In this period, potatoes have increased in price about 50 per cent. Bread, lard, rice, and navy beans have moved up some 20 per cent. The advance is uneven, moving faster in some parts of the country than in others. But taking the average for the entire country, the Department of Labor shows that milk, pork chops, and corn meal have increased 10 per cent in price. Flour costs twice as much in January 1934 as it did in April 1933.

Wages Decline

Meanwhile what has happened to wages? During the short-lived summer revival payroll totals increased until in September they stood at 57.6 per cent of the 1923-25 levels. But in October they began to fall, so that by the end of November they had dropped 4 per cent.

Pay-roll totals merely means the amount of money that all the industries pay out. But if employment goes up faster than payroll totals, it is obvious that each individual worker gets less since there are more workers among whom the money must be divided. And that is exactly what happened. The summer revival was a spread-the-misery campaign.

But meanwhile even payroll totals were falling. And in the words of the Department of Commerce:

"The reduction of payroll disbursements in the month of November was almost twice as large as the average for the past ten years."

What Has Happened to Increased Purchasing Power?

Thus while in terms of money received, workers' wages were up some 3 per cent by the end of the year, they had fallen 8 per cent in terms of what they need to pay for food, rent, clothing, etc. So, even the National Industrial Conference Board, an economic research board for capitalist industries, was moved to admit that:

"The buying power of the wage-earners' income declined after July as the slight increase in weekly earnings was more than counterbalanced by the advance in the cost of living."

It is obvious that if workers want to be able to meet the increase in the cost of living which the Roosevelt administration is forcing upon the country, they must organize. For as case after case has demonstrated, it is the strong unions which have been most able to force wage scales upward.

The wage scales upon government PWA and CWA projects must be maintained since not only do 4 million people depend upon them but also because they offer goals toward which lower wage rates can be forced. At the same time all temporary wage cuts must be rescinded, as for instance the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the CWS employees at Columbia University were able to obtain by persistent attack. And which the railroad employees will demand in the near future.

DU PONT SEES LABOR'S ROLE UNDER NRA

WASHINGTON (FG). — Three months' experience as head of the NRA industrial advisory board and member of the National Labor Board have cleared up a lot of doubts in Pierre S. DuPont's mind about NRA. "I fear," he said in summing up his experience, "that many people, many of us, overrated the opportunity offered to labor in the recovery act. It was thought that labor was being given the whip hand, to the great disadvantage of industry."

"Such is not the case. Labor now has the right to organize in any way it chooses, or not to organize; it is an open field, for each laborer to decide what union or what association he belongs to, or whether he himself alone will deal with his employer.

"That is a great definition for labor. Heretofore the individual laborer was frequently led to think that he must join a union. But such is well defined not to be the case today." Due to NRA, he added, "labor leaders and industrial leaders are beginning to see each other's problems and are acting accordingly. . . . I feel that the result of the national labor board effort will soon be—if it can establish its record properly—to do away with the necessity of strikes."

Bosses Give In To Workers On Threat of General Strike

By GERRY ALLARD

CENTRALIA, ILL. — Organized labor exerted its supreme efforts—the general strike—in displaying real solidarity to 450 striking shoe workers who walked out January 29, in protest against the arrogance and abuses of two Barnes Shoe Co. bosses.

Approximately 3,000 trade unionists were already mobilized in well organized strike action and the strike was prepared to reach greater proportions, when it was reported that the strike was settled February 3.

The impetus for the broadening of the strike movement was given by coal miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, employed at the Marion Coal Company, who walked out to a man, and appealed to the other crafts to follow suit. Summarily, barbers, motion picture operators, hod carriers, electricians, bakers, plumbers, brick layers and plasterers downed tools, practically tying up the city.

CWA workers Down Tools in Sympathy

So effective was the strike that even CWA workers downed tools in support of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union and the other workers who had joined the walk-out. The movement, under the leadership of the trades and labor assembly, displayed discipline and intelligence by permitting union men to work on emergency, such as power and water plants, during the first stages of the strike. All other union and non-union men were called upon to strike.

The strike was caused by the slave driving tactics of two shoe company bosses, Walter Carlin and Mrs. Lora Deadman, who the shoe workers charged with discrimination against union members which was further aggravated by the bosses rendering special favors to friends and company flunkies.

Leaders Defeat Strike by Compromise

The strike was reported settled when company and union representatives completed negotiations which resulted in the dismissal of the two bosses. The Boot and Shoe Workers Union, however, compromised by agreeing to remove from

office the militant leadership of the local shoe workers union. James Holder, president of the local union, the chief petrol in the controversy, was reported to have agreed to the arrangements.

Officials of the Barnes Shoe Company had threatened to close the factory if the workers did not return to work. "We had no alternative," Holder was reported to have said, "the officers had to resign or 450 persons would have been thrown out of work."

Union men pointed out that the resources of their economic power was by no means exhausted. In the first stages of the strike they had prevented imported labor from taking their jobs. Near the city limits watchful pickets turned back several bread trucks which had attempted to take advantage of striking bakery workers. A movement had also been started appealing to the merchants to close down their shops during the period of the strike.

Centralia is noted for its coal mining and railroad shops. It is located in the southern part of Illinois. Although this is the first general strike to effect the city, the miners and other workers have a splendid record of unionism.

W. Va. Steel Workers Discover New Deal To Be Bosses' Fake

WEIRTON, W. Va. (Special).—

Steel workers here are becoming increasingly aware that the New Deal is a fake and that the National Labor Board is as helpless as a child set down in an African jungle. There is more and more talk of revolt in case the Weirton Steel Co. does not allow a fair election of union representatives. This sentiment is heard not only among the mass of ordinary workers, but even privately among the officials of the A. F. of L. unions who are presented with the government's helplessness when a steel baron put his foot down.

Not only has Ernest T. Weir, president of the company, refused to give to the National Labor Board a list of names on his payroll, so that the workers may be polled in the election of union representatives, but he has also threatened to sue the government's men in case they put a foot on his property. The National Labor Board at Washington, faced with Weir's determination, does not know what to do and is trying to crawl out of the situation. This they will do unless continuous pressure forces them to hold an election.

Betrayed by the Government

Last September, steel workers gave up a strike on the assurance of government officials that an election would be held in which workers could elect representatives of their own choosing. In December a mock election was held in which, faced with a loss of their jobs, these workers turned in a small majority for the company union. But militant workers did not give up, and A. F. of L. officials went to Washington with cards showing that the outside union represented more than 5,000 workers.

Faced with incontrovertible evidence that Weir had been coercing his employees, together with the knowledge that the majority of the workers wanted an outside union, the National Labor Board effected a weasel compromise in which they agreed to find out whether or not workers wanted to have an election in which to elect other union officials. Weir fought even this.

Under the NRA, workers find that they are working less hours than before. Though the pay has been raised from 35¢ to 40¢ an hour, they do not work enough to make \$10 a week on the average. Faced with these conditions, together with the knowledge that the government can only help them when the steel barons have given their previous o.k., militant workers have forced locals 30, 31, 33, 35, 38, and 39 of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers to carry on the fight in an atmosphere of growing sentiment.

Following the Town Hall Banquet, New York students have shown increased interest in the AWP, and several active members of the National Student League have applied for membership, while our Programmatic Statement is being studied and discussed on many campuses.

A. J. Muste will meet Earl Browder of the Communist Party in a symposium at N.Y.U., early in March.

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Taxi Strike Spurs Union Solidarity

General Groups Present Consolidated Front Against Bosses

NEW YORK.—The recent strike which swept the taxi cab industry of New York is indicative of the growing militancy of the workers. This industry was infamous for its miserably low standards and inhumanly long hours. Police oppression and racketeers complete a picture of degradation. Yet in the short space of seven days struggle at least 20,000 taxi drivers became acutely union conscious.

The major achievement of the strike is the formation of one big union for the cabmen, the Taxi Drivers Union of Greater New York, the result of the consolidation of four unions, the United Taxi Drivers Union, the Taxi Workers Union, the Empire Chauffeurs Assn. and the Taxi Chauffeurs Protective Assn.

The spark which set off the fire was the five cent tax. This tax cut into the drivers' main source of income, the tip. But after the strike gained headway, the drivers saw new perspectives open before them. They demanded the recognition of their union, minimum wage and maximum hour provisions to be incorporated in a code for the taxi industry.

La Guardia, liberal Mayor of New York, working hand in hand with the NRA in the person of Mrs. Herrick, managed to force the men back to work without coming to any definite agreement on any of these points.

The operators were willing to deal with the Committee of Thirteen as long as they were arbitrating the tax, but they balked at the mention of union recognition.

As William Gandall, leader of the United, said after a long conference with the bosses:

"The bosses are willing to recognize the principle of unionism, but they'll be damned if they'll recognize the union."

Already the big companies are starting an offensive against the rapid unionization of the industry. They are setting up the apparatus for company unions. One boss who swore he will never recognize the union claimed he will submit to an election of "union" representatives under the supervision of the local NRA board. Let the taxi drivers learn from the events at Wierton!

New Wage Cuts Show CWA Administration Spreading Misery

(Special to Labor Action)
PHILADELPHIA.—That either the Roosevelt administration is fast adopting the wage cutting system of the Hoover regime, or that CWA officials are engaged in an unscrupulous juggling of relief funds is fast becoming evident.

White collar and professional workers engaged on various Civil Works projects in this area have just received the second wage cut within as many weeks.

These workers were all engaged on a 30 hour work week basis at a rate of 80 or more cents per hour.

Rather than cut down the number of hours these relief "experts" devised a better plan. They approached the workers with the announcement that instead of 30 hours they should have worked 36 hours; but since Washington has reduced the hours to not more than 30 they will receive a pay cut instead.

The plan worked very smoothly the first week. The second week rolled around and the workers were informed of another mistake. This time instead of 36 hours they should have been working 30 hours so they would have to take another cut.

The plan didn't go so well this time. Workers began to cut down on the amount of work performed. Supervisors have started to clamor to Washington for an investigation in an effort to get production back to normal again.

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Mary Van Kleeck Presents Plan To Nationalize Coal

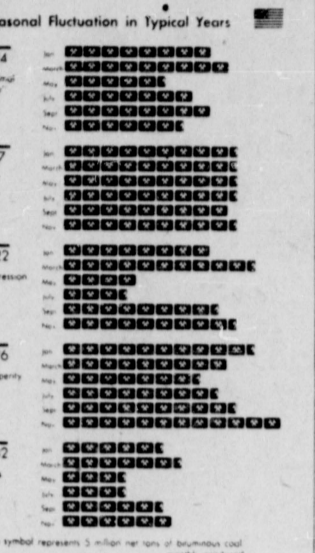
NEW YORK.—"Socialization, or the collective ownership and operation of all natural resources, as a part of a planned economy, is the only solution for the breakdown of the coal industry in this country," declares Mary Van Kleeck, director of the department of industrial studies of the Russell Sage Foundation, in a report which represents 15 years' intensive study of the coal industry.

"The struggle for power to bring this change about will be between workers and owners," she says. "In that task, which may be the historic task of this generation, the miners will have an important part to play." Therefore she suggests a 4-part immediate program designed to "strengthen workers' organizations" since "it is the workers who must lead in the rebuilding of the new system."

Miss Van Kleeck's plan for immediate action is as follows:

1. Unemployment funds for miners. "Relief agencies in every coal mining state face a task they cannot fulfill... children are suffering and social and living conditions have reached an alarming low level... some form of unemployment insurance should be developed to meet these needs."
2. Freedom for workers' organizations. "Set the workers free to organize... no NRA procedure"

should be tolerated and no new laws enacted which discourage strikes."



3. Workers' education and the cooperation of all workers, industrial, technical and scientific. In study of economic problems facing the nation.
4. Education of the general public so that "a widening circle will understand the issues and throw their influence toward the protection of human rights against property rights in the inevitable struggle."

Capitalistic System Closes Way To Future Employment

By O. R. FUSS

Six out of every eleven individuals will have to depend upon their family, their friends or the government for their livelihood in the next few years.

Less workers will be needed to turn out more and more goods. The professions and the service industries will continually cut down the number of successful applicants to jobs within their fields.

This is what the capitalistic system offers to its workers according to its own statistics. Consider the case of workers in manufacturing industries. Take the 1923-25 averages as being equal to 100 in all cases. Then in June 1933 it took 71 workers to produce the same amount of goods that required 100 in 1923-25. This is mainly due to the fact that the introduction of machinery had increased the efficiency of these workers 42 per cent in eight years.

But in 10 years the number of workers in industry has increased from 30 million to 35 million. Thus in 1934 if the same amount is to be produced as in 1923-25, some 12,200,000 will be without work. If hours are cut to 35 a week by law about 9 million people will still be unemployed. It will take a work week of 26.6 hours per week to absorb all the workers who want jobs. Or considered another way, if, on a 40-hour week, production is in 1934 1.1 times that of 1930, a pretty good year, some 10 million people will be jobless.

Can Unemployment be Abolished Without Abolishing Capitalism?

Is it possible to put an end to this, short of abolishing the capitalistic system? David Weintraub who has made one of the few authoritative studies of the situation says definitely that in periods of depression the output per man-hour increases. But there is no proportionate increase in employment to this increase in production and efficiency.

The statistics bear him out. From 1919 to 1925—a period both of prosperity and depression—the physical volume of production increased 25.6 per cent, but the number of employees in manufacturing industries fell in the same time about 8.6 per cent. In a longer period of time, from 1899 to 1925, the number of workers increased about 87 per cent but the amount they produced increased 172.4 per cent.

Even General Johnson in a moment of candor said: "Our figures show that if we return to the 1928-29 standard of prosperity, there would still be a million unemployed."

And the General is more than optimistic, in a period when the automatic process of making 25 and 45 watt electric bulbs turns out in

every man-hour 31 times as many as the hand process did. And as the talkies threw out of work thousands of musicians, so now the introduction of the Simplex and Multiplex machine is doing the same to skilled news telegraphers. Where shall these people find work? Or those made unemployed by improvements in the steel industry, the machine and railway repair industry and the paper box manufacturing?

Shall they or their children turn to the professions? (Grant for the moment that they somehow get the money to pay for the education, if only to answer the argument which holds that workers discharged from one industry are "absorbed" elsewhere.) A recent survey of journalist schools shows that there are now more students in these schools than there are reporters in the whole country.

In New York three out of every five law students fail the bar exams; a method used to reduce the competition among the already well-nigh starving lawyers. Those who pass are restricted with all sorts of duties. In New Jersey, the method used to discourage the prospective lawyers is forcing them to spend a year in a law office at practically no pay before they are permitted to take the bar exams.

The medical schools raise their entrance requirements to keep out the incoming doctors. And in every case it is done, not because society cannot use these professional people, but only because the capitalist system cannot make a profit from them.

ROOF REMOVED FROM FAMILY OF NINE
By BILL REICH
COLUMBUS, Ohio.—The Ohio Unemployed League has so effectively stopped evictions in Columbus that landlords are trying new stunts to rescue their property. One of the most novel occurred recently.

John Hughes, unemployed, has paid no rent for some time but had received no eviction order. One morning as the family sat down to breakfast plaster from the ceiling fell on the table narrowly missing three of the small children. Smoke began pouring from the kitchen stove. Investigation proved that the house was being torn down. A huge piece of slate had been placed over the chimney to smoke the family out. Laborers had been hired by the landlord, A. M. Maedir, to raze the building.

Pickets were immediately sent to the scene by the Ohio Unemployed League and the workers were pulled from the job. But too late. Most of the roof had been removed and the house was uninhabitable.

Boss Slander Progresses Fails As U.L. Workers Struggle For Relief

United Negro and White Workers Struggle For Relief

(Special to Labor Action)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—The rapidly growing Unemployed League here is arousing the local bosses and their political henchmen to active hostility. The usual charge of "foreigner" is being brought against the leaders of the unemployed and the customary tactic of stirring up race antagonism is being employed. "It has come to our attention during recent days that an organization made up largely of people who come here from out of town are going about the city selling memberships in their 'league' for 10 cents each," says a statement issued by officials at City Hall.

Charging these "foreign promoters" with stirring-up the poor, "both white and colored," to ask for "more relief than they have been receiving formerly," the statement then goes on to reveal a very terrible discovery.

"It is understood," declares the statement, "that in some cases colored organizers are visiting homes in the white section and soliciting memberships in this unemployed organization."

But these old gags of the bosses are not working so well any more. To workers who have been starving for months without any move on the part of the City Officials to do something about it, it does not seem so important that the person who tells them how to get more relief was not born in their town. And it is slowly beginning to dawn on the white workers of the south that the colored workers are their allies; that their common enemies are the bosses and the public officials.

The class war, which the bosses have always tried to keep hidden, pretend that it does not exist, is beginning to emerge, and the race war which they have always tried to foment in times of industrial conflict is beginning to recede. The southern bosses will have to discover some new tactics, soon.

NRA BOARD BACKS DOWN ON HOTEL PICKET

(Continued from Page 1)

4. Hearings on wages, hours, etc., to be held by the Regional Labor Board two weeks after the men are put back.

Mrs. Herrick, administrator of the New York Regional Labor Board, sent the following telegram to union officials:

"We now withdraw the suggestion made to you yesterday that in seeking reemployment workers approach the hotels through small committees.

"At the time the suggestion was made we believed it might facilitate re-employment. We are now recommending to the workers that they apply direct at the hotels for positions. This action on the part of the Regional Labor Board is necessitated because of the unwarranted and presumptuous manner in which you are attempting to force workers back without relying upon the expressed cooperation of the Regional Labor Board and Hotel Association members who voluntarily stated they would make every effort to effectuate reemployment as agreed upon in the original statement of settlement. A further reason for this action is because of the failure of the union to remove pickets and call off the strike before any of their members approached the hotels for reemployment."

The union claims that they proceeded to carry out the agreement by sending shop committees of delegates of each hotel elected by the strikers. The hotel men refused to receive these delegations of their own strikers or consult with them, thus the strikers claim violating the terms of their agreement with the Regional Labor Board.

Mrs. Herrick and Mr. Golden openly supported the breach of faith of the hotel men, relieving them of their agreement to receive and consult with the workers' delegations.

The hotel men now go back to their original position that they will take back men only one by one as they see fit. This proposal has been consistently rejected by the union and the strikers.

Roosevelt Breaks Promise To Remove War Profits

WASHINGTON.—During the political campaign of 1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt, candidate for president, repeatedly asserted that "taking the profits out of war" should be made a national policy, and to that end he proposed to confine the construction of naval vessels and the production of munitions of war to government owned navy yards and arsenals. The A. F. of L. at their Boston 1933 convention, backed up Roosevelt's proposal by voting for a resolution which "endorses the principle that private profit must be eliminated from the production of material for national defense."

The Vinson-Trammel bill now before congress, part of the gigantic navy-building program inaugurated by Roosevelt after his election, makes no attempt to provide for their construction in navy yards or to control the profits to be allowed private manufacturers. Due to pressure two amendments were adopted which will make it mandatory for the construction of 50 per cent of the tonnage in navy yards, limiting the profits to 10 per cent. The bill is now pending before the Senate.

The extent of the profits of private

manufacturers when government contracts are awarded to them is revealed in the following quotations from a recent report of the Foreign Policy Association:

"For the single item of armor plate between 1887 and 1915 the Bethlehem companies secured contracts from the U. S. Government amounting to \$42,000,000. The Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corp. under the 1916 naval program received \$134,000,000 for construction of 85 destroyers. At the time that this company was building ships for the American Navy it was also filling orders for foreign governments: in 1908 Bethlehem built five submarines for Japan, during the war it built 20 submarines for Great Britain; and in 1913 it constructed a battleship for Argentina. . . ."

"Profits of the parent company and its subsidiaries were enormous during the World War. In 1915 its net income was \$24,821,000; in 1916 it jumped to \$61,717,000, and in 1917 and 1918 was above \$50,000,000. Gross earnings in 1918 reached the high mark of \$488,000,000. In 1919 the net income of the Bethlehem Steel Co. was \$42,242,000 and it dropped to \$23,803,000 in 1930. . . ."

Forward To A Revolutionary American Labor Movement

We publish herewith the "forward" to the pamphlet "Toward an American Revolutionary Labor Movement" just issued by the American Workers Party. Other sections from this pamphlet will be published in future issues of Labor Action.—Ed.

FOUR and a half years of depression have been teaching the people of this country that something is basically wrong with the present system. History itself is driving home the utter senselessness of unemployment, hunger, and misery existing side by side with the most marvelous industrial and agricultural productive plant yet built by man, a plant adequate to fulfill every normal need of every citizen of the country. Every day is demonstrating more clearly the incompetence of our present leaders to solve our problems. Many persons are beginning to realize that this incompetence is not due merely to the stupidity or corruption of individual leaders of industry and the government, but that the system itself cannot work properly any longer, whoever is in charge. These persons are beginning to understand that the present system of society must itself be done away with and a new system substituted—that we must have not merely honest men, vigorous reforms and new deals, but a revolutionary change in the whole structure of society.

Such persons, however, have not always clearly formulated the exact nature of the required change. And, even if they have done so, they do not know what group or party to support in order to help bring the change about.

The American Workers Party claims to know the nature of the revolutionary change that alone can save our society from continuing and increasing disintegration. The American Workers Party claims, further, that with the support of the workers of this country it will be able to lead correctly in the movement to bring about this change, and to establish a free workers' democracy guaranteeing peace, security, and the opportunity of individual development for all. . . .

The failure of the revolutionary movement in the United States to develop effectively up to the present time is clear to everyone. The justification of the claim of the American Workers Party to lead the revolutionary movement to victory cannot, of course, be demonstrated in pamphlets and articles; it will be proved in action. The only assurance that the American Workers Party will lead, and will lead correctly to the final goal, will be the determined union of the advanced workers and producers of the United States in its ranks. We call upon all workers, upon all who are no longer willing to suffer needless injustice, who have decided not merely to complain at but to change society, we call upon all the forces determined to bring a new social order out of the ruins of the old, to unite.

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Toward An American Revolutionary Labor Movement

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1. The Decline of Capitalism
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Continual and persistent pressure by workers forced a trial for Terzani and when he was acquitted for the lack of evidence, the New York State Bar Association appointed a committee to investigate the conduct of the District Attorney who arrested Terzani and let Smith and Moffer go. Led by Arthur Garfield Hayes, this committee will investigate a charge of negligence against the District Attorney of Queens County in New York, Charles S. Colden.

Meanwhile Fascist organizations are preparing to get Moffer and Smith off by any means. They have hired a noted criminal lawyer, Edward J. Rieley, and the money necessary to run the case will come from Colonel Raynard Litchfield Chandler, who is at present engaged in organizing Fascist bands in New Jersey and New York.

Moffer admitted that he fired the shot which killed Fierro, but at the trial of Terzani, Art Smith accused Terzani of the deed. After listening to Colden and Smith the jury acquitted Terzani in half an hour. When caught here, Moffer first confessed, but later when Fascist organizations came to his aid he pleaded not guilty. He will go to New York to stand trial.

Continual Pressure Forces Wage Pay Up Twice in Ohio

TOLEDO, Ohio.—A delegation from Lucas county went out to Mill Creek township, Williams county, a few Saturday nights ago and held a red-hot meeting and set up a league on the spot. The men from Mill Creek township had been getting only 20 cents an hour on relief jobs. The trustees and a county commissioner attended the meeting and were so scared by the idea of a militant unemployed league that they immediately raised the wages to 30 cents an hour. Monday morning when the new league members went on the job, they decided that if a single meeting could get them a raise, a little more pressure would get them still more. So they immediately demanded 40 cents an hour and got it. Wednesday morning a letter came into the Lucas county league office from fellow-worker, Roy Stahl, in Mill Creek, asking if they should go on strike for 50 cents an hour. Those boys are sure working fast.

Send orders to Literature Department, AWP, Room 702, 112 East 19th Street, New York City.

ABROAD
By LUDWIG LORE

AUSTRALIA

Three hotels, 13 shops and 2 boarding houses were burned down in Kalgoorlie, West Australia, on January 30, following the death of a man in a hotel bar and the arrest of a foreign bartender on a charge of manslaughter. The mob, a thousand strong, demanded the ejection of all foreigners and attacked foreign establishments and hotels. One Englishman and one Italian were killed and six seriously wounded. All mines were closed. Local grievances against foreigners are of long standing because of the low wages they accept in the mines. The census shows 7,295 foreigners in the Kalgoorlie mine district.

FRANCE

The Coalition Ministry led by the Right-Republican Doumergue, in which reactionaries like Andre Tardieu, Louis Barthou, Marshal Pétain sit side by side with liberal Republicans like Edouard Herriot, Albert Sarraut and the neo-Socialist Adrien Marquet, appointed a directorate consisting of Doumergue, Tardieu, Herriot and Barthou to take charge of foreign affairs, which began its activity by appealing to the other great Powers of Europe against Hitler in the interests of Austria. It is already clear, however, that the Austrian situation is being used as a pretext for the creation of this four-man directorate and that this body was in reality called into being to give the Ministry a strong and reactionary counter-weight against the Chamber of Deputies. On February 12, a protest movement of French workers against this attempt to prepare the way for Fascism by the appointment of a "strong man-government" found concrete expression in a 24-hour general strike called by the Socialists and trade unionists. . . . The dockworkers of Havre have again refused to ship munitions from Schneider-Creusot. It was intended to load the Portuguese torpedo-destroyer "Lima" with 95 cases of shells and 3 cases of ordnance pieces. Five dock workers employed by Chevill refused to carry out the orders and representatives of the Havre Dockers Union made it clear that not one docker would do the work. Finally employees of the Schneider firm loaded the munitions.

GERMANY

Several hundred steel helmet men who had protested against the amalgamation of this monarchist veterans' organization with the SA were arrested and interned in a concentration camp. . . . On February 1 a spy sent by the Nazis into the Communist Party several years ago, was shot. This man, Alfred Kattner, had wormed his way into the confidence of leading Communists, he had been for years the Secretary of Ernst Thaelmann. The police took vengeance for the assassination of this scoundrel by shooting four well-known Communists "while attempting to escape." Among them was the former Landtag deputy, John Scheer, who, since the arrest of Ernst Thaelmann, had been the official leader of the KPG. . . . In Zoppot the Danzig police unearthed a Communist central organization. Two students were arrested and more than ten arrests were made during the next two days. . . . The Hitler government prohibited the sale of all books by Selma Lagerlof because the income from her latest book is to be devoted to a sustaining fund for German refugees. . . . The SAP (Socialist Workers Party) suffered severe losses during the last few weeks. In Freiberg (Saxony) ten comrades were condemned to 5 years penal servitude and 9 years in jail. In one locality 10 SAP members were condemned to long prison sentences for high treason (publication of forbidden newspapers). Fritz Lamm was convicted and sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison by the Reich Supreme Court. The SAP needs funds to defend and support its members who are carrying on the work in Germany under the most difficult conditions. The Eckstein Fund exists for this purpose. Send your contribution to

MURAL DESTROYED

The Rockefeller family has wantonly destroyed Rivera's masterpiece of modern mural art painted on the walls of that monument to American plutocracy, Rockefeller Center. Last summer these wealthy "art patrons" dismissed the great Mexican proletarian artist on the pretext that he had refused to obliterate the portrait of Lenin contained in the mural.

The Communist Party Apes Fascism

Statement by the Provisional Organizing Committee of the American Workers Party.

AT Madison Square Garden, New York, on February 16, the Communist Party, U. S. A., broke up a meeting of 20,000 workers called by the Socialist Party and a number of trade unions to protest against the killing of Austrian workers by the Fascist of that country. This action of the Communists was a climax to the policy of sectarianism, disruption and hoodlumism which has marked the course of the CP in recent years. It was a deliberate action. The foremost figures in the CP including Clarence Hathaway, editor of the Daily Worker, and Robert Minor, led the insane movement to break up the Socialist meeting.

That the statesmanship of the Communist Party, the representatives of the Third International in the U. S., which lays claim to being the vanguard of the workers' revolutionary movement of the world, could rise no higher in this crisis than a gangster attack on Socialist fellow-workers is a tragedy for the working class. It is the final proof that so far from being the leader of the revolutionary movement of the workers, the CP has become a stumbling-block to the revolution.

All the workers, as well as many other elements in the U. S., had been stirred to resentment by the unprovoked attack upon the trade unions and the civil rights of the

"Labor Action," 112 E. 19th Street, New York City.

GREAT BRITAIN

The "International Committee of Revolutionary Socialist Parties" met in London on January 31, attended by delegates from the Norwegian Labor Party, the Independent Socialist Party of Holland, the German Socialist Workers Party and the Independent Labor Party of Great Britain. The immediate tasks of the committee were defined as follows: (1) The revision of its basic principles in view of the development of the world situation and in order to further the unity of the working class of the world. (2) Preparation of a program of concrete action to intensify the revolutionary Socialist struggle by the working class and to resist (a) capitalist attacks on the standards of life of the workers, (b) Fascist terror and its growth, and (c) danger of war. (3) The calling of an enlarged committee to include representatives of the associated parties with a view to endorsing such a basis of principles and programme and giving it expression in propaganda and action. The purpose of the committee is to secure international working class unity on a revolutionary Socialist basis. With this object in view the committee will take steps to prepare for a World Congress of all working class parties and organizations to be held on a later date. The Secretariat of the International Committee is to be transferred from England to the headquarters of the Independent Socialist Party of Holland. . . . At the request of the ILP of Great Britain which evidently still hopes to be able to come to an understanding with the Comintern, it was decided at present to take no steps toward the organization of a new International.

SOVIET UNION

The Congress of the Communist Party, USSR, ended on February 9 with the unanimous re-election of Stalin to the Central Committee. This committee now consists of Stalin, Molotov, Kalinin, Kaganovich, Voroshilov, Litvinov (new), Orjónikidze, Kuibishev, Andreyev, Koster and Kirov. Kalinin is President and Molotov, Premier of the Soviet Union. Rykov, Bucharin and Tomsik, hitherto members of the Central Committee were demoted to the status of "Candidates" (alternates). They were the leaders of the right Opposition, but returned to the Congress—together with Sinoviev—as penitent sinners. Among the new "Candidates" is Yagoda, Assistant of the GPU, Postachey, Ukraine, Rudzutak and Bluecher, Commander of the Far East army. The Congress endorsed mostly Stalin and his policies.

SWITZERLAND

In the national referendum held on January 28 in which all citizens of Zurich participated, the subsidy of 25,000 Kronen for the building of a new Trade Union Center moved by the Social Democrats and Communists was defeated by 10,000 votes. All bourgeois parties voted against it.

people by Austrian Fascists and by the wanton destruction of workers' homes and brutal massacre of men, women and children, when in the face of terrible odds these workers sought to defend themselves, their homes, their children. Everywhere admiration had been aroused for Austrian workers who chose to die fighting rather than in the concentration camps of an Austrian Hitler.

HERE was an opportunity, then, such as has never before occurred in the U. S. to picture to the workers of the U. S. what Fascism really means, to arouse hatred for it in their breasts, to show them how certain it is that reaction and Fascism will some day attack their homes and seek to abolish their liberties, to arouse a sense of solidarity with the workers of other lands, suffering under the Fascist terror—above all, to unite the workers both radical and conservative, regardless of political affiliations, in a common protest and so to lay the foundations for a genuine united front against Fascism and the war danger.

The common sense, not to speak of the revolutionary statesmanship, to take advantage of so tremendous an opportunity proved to be utterly lacking. The word that went out to the workers and to the ruling class in the U. S. was that in the presence of the menace of Fascism, of the working-class dead of Vienna, Communists and Socialists of the U. S. were beating each other up and ending their meetings in a riot, the capitalist police having finally to step in lest actual loss of human life occur. So far as the Madison Square Garden meeting is concerned, the word that goes out is one of despair to the workers and of hope to Fascists in the U. S. and throughout the world, the word that radical workers cannot unite among themselves, that in the face of the greatest challenge they can only fight each other instead of the enemy.

CAN it be that the Communists, irritated by the fact that Socialists in Austria had put up a courageous even though hopeless battle at the last moment, had dem-

onstrated "that they could and would fight," while the Communists in Germany had for one reason or another failed to put up any fight when Hitler came to power in that country, felt that they had to demonstrate that they too were fighters and could think of no better way to do so than to engage in the insane and sadistic adventure of breaking up a Socialist demonstration?

No intelligent worker or intellectual can support a policy of disruption, infantile adventurism, breaking up workers' meetings, hoodlumism, a policy of aping Fascism. The Communist Party no longer has any other policy. It has demonstrated that in the presence of the deepest tragedies for the workers and of the greatest opportunity to advance labor solidarity, it can only disrupt and destroy. Relentless opposition must be offered to the desperate and criminal adventures in which it engages in the hopeless attempt to give an impression of life and vigor as it loses the support of the masses, undermines the morale of its own membership, and becomes organizationally and intellectually bankrupt.

WE are not offering a defense of the Socialist Party or of social-democratic policy in the U. S. or elsewhere. Nowhere have the Socialist parties given a clear and uncompromising revolutionary leadership to the masses. They have not led the masses to take power in order to abolish the capitalist state and the capitalist economy, but have clung to the fetish of parliamentary democracy, have been much more concerned about defending middle-class republics than about establishing Socialism, have at critical times bolstered up the capitalist business system instead of abolishing it, have betrayed the workers with the illusion that a scientific economy really gives plenty and security to the masses could be established gradually under a capitalist state, have collaborated with capitalist industrial leaders and politicians, pursued the policy of "the lesser evil" and in Germany voted for the militarist and reactionary Hindenburg in order to prevent the accession of Hit-

ler to power and thus paved the way for Hitler. They have trusted to capitalist agencies such as the League of Nations instead of the militantly organized international working-class to prevent war.

In Austria, where there was a powerful trade union movement and where the Socialist Party was the unquestioned leader of the workers' movement, untroubled by Communist or other rivals, they failed to take decisive measures to oppose Fascism in its beginning, clung to the belief that the workers could defend themselves by purely parliamentary methods, permitted Fascism to gain more and more ground. Fascism chose its own time, therefore, to launch the attack upon the workers. The heroic resistance which the Socialist workers offered to that attack is an inspiration to the workers everywhere, new evidence of working class courage and militancy. Alas, it came too late. Social-democratic policies had placed these heroic workers in an impossible and tragic position.

All this could have been made clear, too, the fallacy of the whole policy of "gradualism" shown to the American workers, but this opportunity was likewise destroyed by the insane tactics of the Communist Party.

The Socialist Party like the Communist Party has failed. It is now clear beyond any question that neither can give leadership, neither can unite the healthy revolutionary elements, neither can rally the working masses. A new revolutionary party must be built. The workers of the U. S. will not despair even in the face of such tragedies as were enacted in Madison Square Garden on February 16. These events sound the death-knell of false, inadequate leadership. They clear the ground of obstruction. They clarify the issues. They make it possible for all honest, revolutionary elements to unite and to give leadership and inspiration to the masses who are everywhere today organizing and fighting, and who can be rallied to crush reaction and Fascism, to build here in the U. S. a genuine workers' democracy.

The A. F. of L. and Federal Unions

By A. J. MUSTE

A COUPLE of weeks ago an important conference of the heads of the national unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor was held in Washington. Two issues in particular came up for discussion which are of the utmost significance for the future development of the A. F. of L. and the entire workers' movement in the U. S. One was the issue of industrial unionism, the other of the attitude of the A. F. of L. to the NRA.

Whether the A. F. of L. can serve as the trade union center which effectively unites all or most of the trade unions in the U. S. depends largely upon whether it will make room within its ranks for industrial unions, especially in the basic industries such as steel, automobile, electrical equipment, public utilities.

The prevailing structure of A. F. of L. unions has been craft rather than industrial. The result is that when organizing work is undertaken in automobiles, for example, the various craft unions step in and insist that the automobile workers be enrolled in the respective craft organizations. The machinists demand the machinists, the painters the painters, the carpenters the carpenters, and so on. But when the workers confronting a great corporation like Ford or General Motors are thus divided into small craft groups, they are obviously helpless in the presence of such a corporation. They must be organized in a union which takes in all of them or they really have no union at all.

FOR years every attempt of the A. F. of L. to organize in the basic industries has gone to pieces because craft unions virtually insisted that they must have the workers over which they had "jurisdiction" (that is, be permitted to collect dues from them) or otherwise these workers should not be organized at all. When the wave of organization began last summer the A. F. of L. Executive Council resorted to the device of

giving workers in these mass industries federal union charters.

A federal union gets its charter directly from the American Federation of Labor instead of belonging to a national union of its trade or industry which is affiliated with the A. F. of L. Members of Federal unions pay dues directly to the A. F. of L. and not to any national union. Into a federal local all the members in a given trade or industry in a given locality may enroll. In one sense, therefore, it is an industrial rather than a craft set-up.

The federal union is, however, confined to one city, for if it became a national organization of all the workers in the given industry, that would be an industrial union and the existing craft organizations have hitherto refused to permit such national industrial organizations to come into existence. Thus the federal union represents a straddle between craft unionism and industrial unionism. The A. F. of L., on the one hand, avoids the danger of breaking the workers up into small craft groups. On the other hand, it does not give them a national industrial union.

It has been estimated that a million workers have come into the A. F. of L. during the past year through federal unions, and that in the vast majority of instances they could not have been persuaded to join the A. F. of L. if divided into crafts had been insisted upon and if, furthermore, they had not been led to believe that the federal local was a step to the building of a genuinely industrial national organization.

AT the annual A. F. of L. convention last October the die-hard craft unionists in the federation successfully opposed any action to commit the Federation to industrial unionism. On the other hand, they were not able to stop the chartering of federal locals or to have the membership in the existing federal locals broken up into crafts. The whole question was referred to a conference of the heads of national unions to be held at a subsequent date.

This conference was held in Washington the latter part of January. Preceding it delegates empowered to speak for almost 100 federal unions with an estimated membership of 250,000 met and formulated the following demands:

1. That the issuance of federal charters to workers in mass production industries "be renewed and aggressively continued." (It appears that between October and January the reactionaries in the Federation had been able to bring pressure to bear to stop the issuance of additional federal charters);
2. That federal unions be not segregated into craft unions;
3. That a bureau be established within the A. F. of L. to "aid and stimulate the formation of such industrial unions";
4. That where "a reasonable and sufficient number of such federal unions form a national organization and apply for a national or international charter, same shall be immediately granted."

The heads of the national unions adopted a report which again straddled the issue. They did not dare to forbid the issuance of federal charters in the future. On the other hand, they did not provide for the formation of national industrial unions. Instead they proposed that in localities where conflicts over this issue arose, decisions should be held and a conference arrived at which would "secure the best interests of all concerned." This might conceivably lead to further steps in the direction of industrial unionism. On the other hand, it may also mean, as a good many of the leaders of the federal unions believe, that the craft union heads may break up the federal unions if and wherever "they can get away with it."

MEANTIME the federal unions within the A. F. of L. are taking a more and more militant attitude. They threaten to send back their charters if they are compelled to give up their members to craft unions. Aluminum workers and radio workers have already taken steps to establish national coun-



COAL DUST
By GERRY ALLARD

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—Since the beginning of the Progressive Miners of America strike, members of the Communist Party have been scabbing in Springfield. Although this embarrassed the local comrades for some time, they now feel somewhat relieved due to the disintegration of the rebel Illinois miners union. The local Communist Party organization has come out officially condoning the strikebreaking role of its members and is encouraging others to return to work. This doesn't place the communists in a very favorable light in these parts.

The Communist Party is not the only branch of the so-called labor movement which has committed this dastardly act. The moribund Socialist Labor Party members of Springfield practically all went back to work during the first days of the strike. Although the "historical mission" comrades do not believe in reforms, they are the local leaders of John L. Lewis' strikebreaking crew in Springfield. The Communist Party comrades, especially the imported leaders, shout loud and clear about exposing the Illinois Musteltes "in deeds." The facts are that not one CPLA member or close sympathizer has broken the ranks.

We do not attempt here to glorify ourselves. Due credit must be given to the local members of the I. W. W., the Socialist Party and the Anarchist for their loyalty to the cause of the struggling Illinois coal miners. The miners of these organizations are still sticking despite the terrific campaign of lies and slander aimed at them by the small coal operator's agents within the P. M. A. The CPLA has weathered the forces of reaction in the Illinois controversy. Although other groups vilify and slander us we remain true and loyal to the rank and file of the Illinois coal diggers.

We shall not forsake the 12,000 striking Progressive miners. Rise or fall, we support the revolt of the rebel miners and glory in their courage. One day the cause of these workers will triumph.

The 33rd Consecutive Constitutional Convention of the United Mine Workers has adjourned with John L. Lewis again taking the bacon. The militant fighters of Illinois and the Anthracite region were lacking because of obvious developments. Contrary to the reports of the "Daily Worker," the Lewis machine, as far as the convention was concerned, is entrenched deeper than ever. Not one single victory was scored by the opposition in the convention. The opposition failed to make one dent in the mechanism of the Lewis domain. To say anything to the contrary is like telling a mine mule that he has only one ear to pull when he has ten. A mule knows better.

Although I agree with the theory of trying to reform the UMWA where no acute split is in force, I do not believe militants should be parties to strengthening the political machinery of Lewis or any other American Federation of Labor faker. The miners of Illinois were laughed at before in their "dual union adventures"; but the rank and file will again arise and make labor history. The general strike, led mainly by coal miners at Centralia, Illinois, January 29, is an indication of what is in store for those who believe that the Illinois miners are whipped.

Regarding this Centralia strike we condemn most sharply the surrender of the leaders of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union. The compromise enacted by union officials which resulted in the removal of local union leaders, in exchange for the dismissal of two bosses, is like a conquering general granting his sword to a defeated army. This is the first step towards discrimination and the firing of militant workers. Such an agreement is an admission of a tremendous weakness which did not exist.

Tony Minerich, of the National Miners Union, is also using the heading of "Coal Dust" for his regular article. Minerich claims at one time (about six years ago) he used such a heading and he is now reclaiming it. (Is a column title private property?—Ed.)

FLASHES

Cleveland housemaids, organized into the Household Workers Welfare Association, fighting against a \$5 per week average pay, call themselves the "Forgotten Women of the NRA." They are seeking a \$1-a-day minimum, an 8-hour day and improved working conditions.

"We have done great work and have helped you," says the Sacramento (Cal.) Restaurant Association in a letter to its membership asking for funds. "If the Association was not in existence you probably would be compelled to work on a forty-hour basis as you originally signed up with the NRA. If you remember the Association within fifteen days changed that to forty-eight hours and now to 54 hours for men. . . ."

The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers won a free speech fight in Fairfield, Alabama against strong opposition from politicians and the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co. Meetings of Negroes and Whites were forbidden in 1932 and this ordinance used to clamp down on organization. When all efforts to repeal the ordinance failed because of the influence of the U. S. Steel subsidiary, the union defied the city council, called a mass meeting and has since signed up 2,000 members.

Under the laundry code, approved by Johnson and Roosevelt, 14 cents an hour is set as the minimum wage for workers in the South.

Boycott pressure has forced German exports below imports for the first time in four years. The drop amounts to 17 per cent by volume and 18 per cent by price from last year's figures.

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HARRY A. HOWE Editor
CARA COOK Circulation Manager

Organ of the Provisional Organizing Committee
of the American Workers Party

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SOCIALIST CONFUSION

ELSEWHERE in this issue the Provisional Organizing Committee of the American Workers Party has expressed in the most vigorous terms its condemnation of the action of the Communist Party in breaking up a meeting of 20,000 workers in Madison Square Garden, New York, called by the Socialist Party and a number of trade unions to protest against the killing of Austrian workers by the fascists of that country. The P.O.C. makes clear in its statement, however, that the AWP is not in accord with Socialist policies of reformism, compromise and collaboration with capitalist interests. The P.O.C. was insisting upon the right of trade unionists and Socialists to meet and the injury to the cause of the workers which results when a radical group not only apes Fascist tactics of hooliganism but above all directs these tactics against other workers. It was not presenting a defense of Socialist policies and principles.

In fact, in arranging this very Madison Square Garden meeting the Socialists committed a typically Social-Democratic and very grave error in inviting Mayor LaGuardia to speak. It is true that LaGuardia is not a Fascist. He is a liberal and progressive, probably fully as radical as the Socialists themselves. Certainly it is difficult to see any great difference between his administration in New York and that of the Socialist Hoan in Milwaukee or McLevy in Bridgeport.

LaGuardia is not, however, a member of the labor movement. He is certainly not a revolutionist. He is administering a city under a capitalist regime and therefore in capitalist interests. These interests will eventually resort to any measure of repression that may be necessary against the workers as they find that lowering the standards of the workers is the only way in which they can save their own profits. LaGuardia's own economy program for New York involves cutting the wages of teachers and other city employees.

The day before the Madison Square Garden meeting New York police under the LaGuardia administration clubbed the workers demonstrating before the Austrian consulate against the Fascist terror in that country!

Workers are confused and misled when they see a politician beating up workers one day and invited the next day by a supposedly radical and working class party to speak at a meeting against Fascists beating up and killing workers in some other country!

This action is a good illustration of how the Socialists continually, by lack of clear revolutionary policies, confuse the workers. Such an attitude is just as fatal for the cause of the workers as Communist adventurism and disruptionism. More clearly than ever the American Workers Party stands out as the only effective political expression of the American working class.

MILITANT UNIONISM AND FASCISM

THE leaders of the American Federation of Labor were honestly shocked by the Hitler terror against the workers and trade unionists of Germany. They have participated actively in the boycott against German goods. They are shocked now at the wanton attack by Austrian Fascists on the workers and trade unionists of that country.

Such tragic events must surely lead to the conclusion that every measure must be taken, and taken in time, to prevent the same attack on the workers and their institutions in the United States.

That will involve, however, some very fundamental changes in the policies of the A. F. of L. itself. What the recent events in Europe show is, first, that the capitalist system must be abolished or else Fascism will inevitably debase the workers' standards and crush their unions when they protest against such debasement. Capitalism in the present stage of technical development interferes with the production of goods. Since it does not and cannot provide adequate purchasing power to the masses, the whole economic process gets into more and more of a mess. Under the circumstances, capitalists can maintain their profits only by taking it out on the workers. They do just that, no matter how extreme and brutal the measures that may be necessary, rather than give up their profits and privileges.

As a consequence of this first fact, no capitalist government can be trusted by the workers. So long as a government tries to maintain the capitalist system, no matter how liberal and apparently "friendly to labor" it may be, or appear to be, it must eventually resort to lowering the workers' standards and therefore to repression of the unions and other agencies which try to resist this lowering.

If now the workers have been deceived by the liberal appearance and pretensions of the government, if the unions and their leaders are all tied in with the capitalist machinery and habitually hobnob with the capitalist politicians, then they naturally fail to prepare for the inevitable battle. They are lulled into security by the idea that the government is watching over the interests of the

workers. Consequently their hands are tied at a critical moment, the capitalists have the whip-hand, they choose the time and place of the conflict, and the workers are defeated.

Trade unionists of the United States also must look forward to indescribable suffering and to the extermination of their unions and of their rights unless they see clearly that the profit system must be abolished, that no capitalist government can for a moment be trusted, that the capitalist state must be overthrown and a genuine workers' republic put in its place.

Under the Old Deal the A. F. of L. leaders tried to get employers to organize the unions. They now admit that no unions were organized in this way and that the employers stopped at nothing by way of slashing wages and lowering conditions. They admit, in other words, that this policy resulted in the betrayal of the workers. Under the New Deal the A. F. of L. leaders are looking to the government to organize the unions and to protect the workers. Already they are beginning to realize, however, that the NRA is not the messiah they thought it was. Trust in the Roosevelt government will prove just as sure a betrayal of the workers as did trust in employers under the Hoover regime.

No union is worth anything which is not built on the militancy and courage of the workers themselves. Leaders who will not seek to build unions on that foundation must be driven out.

BACK TO THE BREAD LINES

BETWEEN February 23 and May 1, according to the latest news from Washington, the Civil Works Administration will "demobilize" the 4,000,000 workers now on CWA jobs at the rate of half a million a week.

In addition a drastic cut in wages will take place for all CWA workers immediately. The former scale of 40-50 cents an hour will be cut to a flat 30 cents in all sections. Contrary to previous announcement the work week will not be increased to 30 hours, but will remain at 24 in cities and 15 in rural sections.

The reasons given by the Roosevelt Administration for thus cruelly throwing millions of jobless workers back on relief rolls—or on unrelieved destitution—are without foundation in fact and contrary to the avowed intentions of the National Recovery Act.

There has been no appreciable revival of business and the Administration knows this. Unemployment has not been relieved. There is absolutely no grounds for the assertion that even a small fraction of the 4,000,000 CWA workers will be absorbed by industry or will find employment on farms.

Millions of jobless workers never found employment with CWA. It is absurd and dishonest therefore to tell the CWA workers that they can now find jobs.

The real reasons for ending CWA are, to be found in the opposition from the financial and industrial interests.

LABOR ACTION never had any illusions that the New Deal was anything more than a device to pull capitalism out of a bad mess. The CWA was part of this device—a bone thrown to the millions of destitute and starving jobless to keep them quiet.

But the CWA went further in some ways than its creators intended. For one thing, its wage rates were higher than many of the rates established under NRA codes. This caused a great howl to be raised by the sweatshop manufacturers. When workers could get 40 and 50 cents an hour working for CWA, they obviously would not work for 20 and 30 cents.

Opposition was especially strong in the South. Here where the average wage rate for farm-labor and road workers is 10 cents an hour, it is easily understandable why southern bosses would object to the "high wage" rate of the CWA. Practically all NRA codes make concessions to the coolie wage standards of southern employers.

In the North the most vociferous opposition came from such industries as laundry in which the NRA has just approved a code calling for a wage rate of 14 cents an hour.

Workers, employed and unemployed, CWA must be continued. It must not only be continued, it must be extended to include all the jobless. The Roosevelt administration must be told in plain words backed up by the force of organized millions, that starvation and wage cutting must stop.

Organize! This is what the unemployed of Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, under the leadership of the militant Unemployed League, are doing. The story of their fight, told elsewhere in this issue of LABOR ACTION, should serve as an inspiration and example to the jobless millions of this richest nation in the world.

It is only by your organized mass pressure that you can effectively oppose the brutal attack on your living standards being waged by the dying capitalist system.

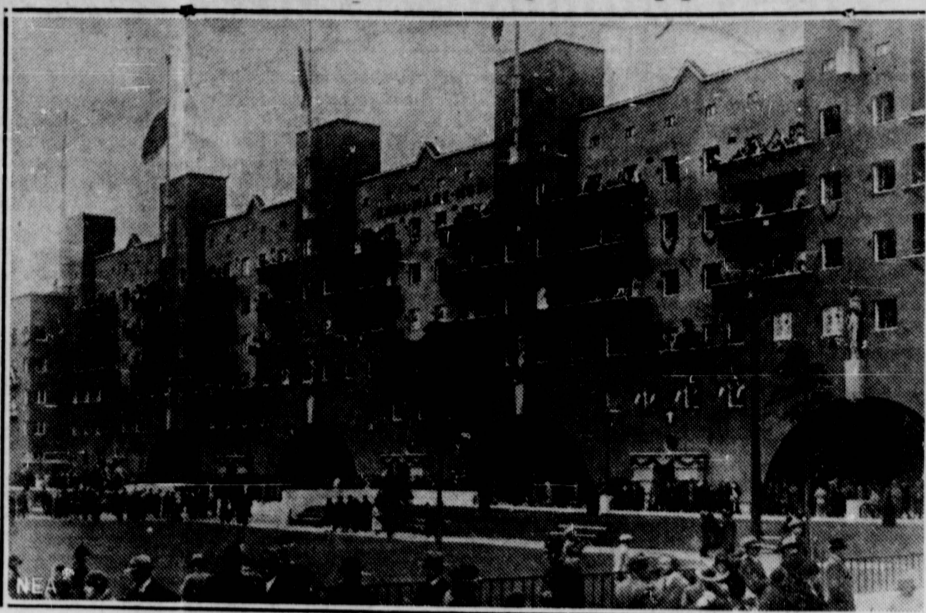
JOIN THE AMERICAN WORKERS PARTY!

American Workers Party,
National Headquarters,
112 E. 19th St., New York City.
Comrades!

Please send me information about how to become a member of the American Workers Party.

Name
Address
Occupation
City State
Union

Fascist Bombard Workers' Apartments



These are the Karl Marx apartments, the elaborate workers' apartments in western Europe, which have been destroyed by artillery fire under the orders of the Fascist government of Austria. The workers defended their homes bravely but surrendered when 5,000, many of them women and children, seemed in danger of death. The apartments cost \$4,000,000 and house 2,000 worker families. They were the pride of Socialist Vienna.

What American Workers Will Fight For

By JAMES BURNHAM

The Daily Worker, the scandal sheet published by the Communist Party, has already started turning out lies about the American Workers Party. The Daily Worker has for many years been more anxious to call every socialist a fascist in disguise, every A. F. of L. union official a company payroller, and any honest worker who does not accept every line of the C. P.'s sectarian nonsense a vicious counter-revolutionary, than to lead effectively the labor movement in this country.

In its write-up of the AWP New York dinner (Daily Worker, Monday, Feb. 5), The Daily Worker fills several columns with accusations that the AWP is "nationalistic," "jingoistic," "chauvinistic." The Daily Worker doesn't bother to prove the accusations by any reference to what was said at the dinner, or to the program of the AWP, or to the history of its members. It has a list of words to throw at organizations it dislikes, and it happened to pick these words for the AWP.

The AWP has no intention to waste time, space, and energy in word battles with The Daily Worker. There are more important things to do. But let us be clear about this question of nationalism. —Editor.

WHEN we speak about "the United States" as a "nation," there are really two nations we might be referring to. One "nation" is simply the masses of workers, farmers, producers, and technicians who make up the great majority of our population. It is these masses who have made our country what it is (or might be), who have built the factories and towns and mines and schools and laboratories, who won political freedom from the kings and nobles and landlords of England, who wiped out chattel slavery in the Civil War, and who are now oppressed, exploited, and driven to starvation and misery by the small group of financiers and industrialists who claim the ownership and control of everything of importance in the country.

If by "nationalist" is meant supporting the interests of this great majority, then the AWP is nationalist. If by nationalist is meant appealing to their militancy, talking in their language, dealing with their problems, fighting their struggles, then the AWP is certainly nationalist. It is the avowed aim of the AWP to turn over to this great majority the full ownership of the productive plant and resources of the country, and the complete direction of their own political and social affairs on the freest democratic basis.

THE A. W. P. knows that the interests of the workers, farmers, producers, and technicians of this country are identical with the interests of the workers, farmers, producers, and technicians of all countries. The AWP, therefore, is not afraid that this kind of honest "nationalism" will interfere with genuine "internationalism." The AWP is international in its outlook because of, not in spite of, its "nationalism" — because the aims of the workers of America are necessarily the aims of the workers of all countries. The workers of the world face a

common enemy: the capitalist system, and the financiers, industrialists, and their governmental agents, who fight to uphold the capitalist system. The fight against this system is an international fight. But the big and immediate job of American workers, and the best and surest way to help in the international fight, is to wipe out the common enemy in our own country—to do away with the system here, with the financiers and industrialists who uphold it, and to overthrow the present type of government, whose function is to preserve the system.

THIS first "nation"—the workers' nation—is not what 100 per cent Americans mean when they talk about "the American nation." There is a second "nation"—the capitalist nation—the tool of bankers and corporation directors. This is the "nation" for whose sake workers are asked to lay down their lives in imperialist war, for which we pay taxes to build up enormous armaments, which orders police and troops to gas and machine gun workers' meetings, which is ready at all times to defend the markets and profits and exploitations of capitalists. "Patriotism" to this "nation," the enemy of American workers and of all workers, is what the D.A.R., the Ku Klux Klan, the

CWA Organization Fights Against Cuts

NEW YORK.—The CWA must continue!

This is the answer with which the Federation of Architects, Chemists, Engineers and Technicians met the proposal of Director Hopkins to terminate the CWA program on February 15.

In a telegram sent to President Roosevelt and Speaker Rainey the Federation protested against such action, pointing out that the CWA provides the only employment for 70 to 85 of the technicians unemployed throughout the country. The immediate allotment of a sum substantially larger than \$950,000,000 for continuance of the program beyond May 1 is demanded by the telegram.

A real mass movement has been formed out of the existing economic organizations of the skilled and unskilled workers on CWA jobs to protest against wage cuts and lay offs. Included in this united front are the Federation, the Association of Office and Professional Emergency Employees, Relief Workers League, Emergency Home Relief Bureau Employees, and associations of CWA artists and writers.

"The CWA has become a wage cutting instrument," declared the first issue of the Federation's magazine, The Bulletin.

"Thus far we have been refused even consideration of a minimum wage rate of \$1.20—the rate paid to skilled laborers. The existing low rate of \$4.80 per day paid 'relief' engineers was cut to \$4.00 when these men were transferred to CWA projects. This situation calls for stronger efforts on our part — protest meetings, — wider publicity,—vigorously organizing—to make the CWA administration pay fair and decent rates."

Big Navy Societies, the Silver Shirts demand.

The AWP is the constant, uncompromising, bitter enemy of this second "nation." Against its "patriotism" the AWP opposes the loyalty of all workers to their own class, in this country and everywhere in the world. Against its wars the AWP calls on all workers to defend themselves with every device at their disposal; and if this second "nation" does drag our country into war, the AWP will summon workers to change that war into a war for the liberation of all workers from the bonds of the capitalist system.

Against its jingoistic propaganda in schools, churches, radios, plays, the AWP sets its revolutionary propaganda for a free workers' democracy. Against the police and troops it summons, in the name of "order," to shoot down fellow workers, the AWP calls for mass resistance and mass struggle.

THIS, then, is the "Americanism" of the AWP. And this alone can be the policy of a revolutionary party in this country. An unreal utopian "internationalism" disregarding the actualities of American history and American present-day conditions, will drive the country into the jingoistic horrors of Fascism, by way of reaction, just as surely or even more surely, as the positive efforts of the professional patriots.

There is much to be proud of in the history of our country—in the struggles of the masses of the American people to build a land of freedom and plenty which would provide a refuge and a home for the exploited workers of all countries, in the historic militancy with which our workers have met oppression, in the mastering of the natural resources of our country which our workers and technicians have accomplished. These things the AWP accepts, and wishes to direct to their historic fulfillment in a true workers' democracy, which will join with the workers of the world to build a world-society of workers' Republics.

Labor Action Classes

Responding to the growing interest in the AWP among workers and students, the New York Labor Action School is about to open for the Spring Term. Two courses are being offered for the first time, a number of new instructors have been secured, and each course will consist of eight two-hour sessions, rather than eight one-hour sessions as has been the case previously. In consequence, the student body is expected to be much larger than during the Fall and Winter Term.

Instruction is offered in Elementary and Advanced Marxism by A. R. Solomon and Sidney Hook respectively; a course in American Economic History is being given by A. J. Muste; a series of discussions on Trade Unions in Action will be led by Louis F. Budenz; and instruction in Labor Journalism is being given by Harry A. Howe, Editor of Labor Action.

The charge for each course will be fifteen cents a night, or one dollar for eight sessions. Unemployed trade unionists, as well as groups of trade unionists, and student groups will receive a special reduced rate.

The Manager Speaks

By CARA COOK

"Although you didn't ask me why I subscribed, I'll volunteer the information: I AM A REVOLUTIONIST." So writes a new subscriber this week. Now that's putting the horse before the cart. I hope there will be more subscribers like him!

Some LABOR ACTION readers, fortunately a few, go round with the latest issue conspicuously sticking from their pocket, crying, "I'm a Revolutionist! I'm a Revolutionist!" as if, having subscribed for one reason or another, they have over-night become "revolutionary." Probably they will be some day, if they keep on reading LABOR ACTION, but the reverse process, as per our new subscriber above, is the sounder approach.

"I am a revolutionist; hence I subscribe to LABOR ACTION, a revolutionary paper." That combination generally means business.

What does "revolutionist" mean? In spite of general agreement in the main concept, radical workers of every shade have very different ideas of the term in detail. Such lack of unanimity and clarity is a most serious obstacle, both in program and action. It usually takes a sharp objectives situation or strong emotional pressure to make us see the thing as it is. But when we do, there comes clarity, inspiration and strength—the prerequisites of revolutionary unity.

Something like that happened to some of us in New York City the evening of Agnes Burns Wiolek, the "second Mother Jones" of the coal fields, spoke at a dinner organized by the AWP. She had been describing simply but vividly the fight of the militant women of the Illinois miners Auxiliary, of which she was the leader. Their great parades, their fearless picketing, their defiance of the coal bosses and the hired gunmen, and the tragic deaths and suffering which followed that heroic fight. And at the conclusion she said quietly:

"Those of us who have seen the blood and tears, who have seen our own men and women shot down needlessly and brutally before our very eyes, as we struggled for the simple right to live, those, I say, have no fear of the thing called 'revolution'."

And there wasn't one who heard her at that moment who feared it either, or who did not understand clearly what it meant.

I wish to call the attention of readers to this note from the Alliance, Ohio, LABOR ACTION agent, still the leader in getting subs:

"We in Smith Township have opened a Club Room at 254 South 15th Street, Sebring, Ohio. We have six rooms where we can get together any time for meetings and to take care of any trouble. One room for ladies to meet in, and one large room for reading. All Unemployed League members and AWP-ers are welcome if you get out this way."

I appeal to you all to send to the Sebring Club any labor literature, books and magazines which they could use. It's a grand idea, and should be started in other leagues and local branches throughout the country.

LABOR ACTION pledges to every such reading center one free sub!

New AWP Branches in Southern Towns

BALTIMORE, Md.—Meetings on the American Workers Party brought out 150 people in Washington on Feb. 14 and 400 in Baltimore on Feb. 15. Each led to the formation of a branch of the party in each city and to the launching of wider AWP activities.

The speakers at both meetings were A. J. Muste, on "Why We Need an American Revolutionary Party," Louis F. Budenz, on "Strike for a New America," and V. F. Calverton, on "The Challenge of the American Revolutionary Tradition." The meeting in Washington was held in the Hotel Arlington, and that at Baltimore at the Workmen's Circle Lyceum. The discussion of the party aroused considerable interest in the local press, particularly in the latter city, and among the workers of both places.

RADICAL CLUBBED BY POLICE IN MO.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—David Burbank, local AWP member, fled charges against the police here who beat him up at the station house after he had been arrested on the charge of "inciting to riot."

Burbank was arrested during a demonstration held in front of the Austrian consulate in sympathy with the Austrian workers' insurrection. An investigation is pending.