

F.D.R. 'CONSCRIPTED'—FOR THIRD TERM; GEARS U. S. WAR MACHINE FOR ACTION

Democrats Soft-Pedal On War Stand

Conceal Real Aims
In Face of Mass
Opposition to War

Air Mail Special to Labor Action

CHICAGO—The listless Democratic convention came to life suddenly when it was buzzed around the Chicago Stadium that Alben W. Barkley, the senior senator from Kentucky, would address the delegates and present a personal message from the President on the matter of the third term at the close of the address.

At this announcement, the party bosses proceeded to organize the delegations for stormy demonstrations to indicate that, after all, this is what the convention had been waiting for.

The gist of the presidential message was that he did not have "any desire or purpose to continue in the office of the President, to be a candidate for that office, or to be nominated by the convention for that office." The message concluded with the advice that the delegates were free to vote for any candidate.

That is all the convention needed. Shouting "we want you", "We want Roosevelt", the delegates whooped it up.

At the time of this writing there is no doubt but that the President will be drafted as the candidate of the Democratic Party. He has skillfully maneuvered the third term issue to his advantage despite the disapproval among large sections of leading Democrats. But he appears to have carried the support of the party organization men and the heads of the most powerful machines in the organization.

By ERNEST ERIKSON
CHICAGO, July 15—The Democratic Convention got off to an uninspiring start here tonight with (Continued on page 3)

Packard "Patriots" Kick, Government Hastens to Guarantee War Profits

By SUSAN GREEN

On July 9 the directors of Packard Motor Car Co., in spite of their avowed anxiety to be "of public service", struck against the government's armament program by refusing to sign a contract for the manufacture of 9,000 Rolls Royce airplane engines.

On July 10 the Administration conceded all their demands. And there were no loud whispers about Packard directors being fifth columnists as has been the case when 7,000 shipyard workers recently struck for a better living.

When it refused to sign the contract, the company issued a vague public statement that there were "many matters that require further study." But it was quite clearly understood where the understanding was necessary. Packard wanted assurances from the Administration that the Company's "take" will not be interfered with. Specifically they wanted higher profits under government contracts and larger reimbursement for capital outlays in expanding their plants for war orders.

FDR Clears Road

President Roosevelt, who only recently declared that the American people will not tolerate the making of huge fortunes out of war, held a conference with representatives of the Treasury, the Federal Loan Administration, the National Advisory Defense Commission and Congressional leaders, and flashed on the green light to indicate to the bosses that the road is clear. Now it will be full speed ahead to unprecedented profits out of the 14-billion-dollar military program.

The White House conferees promised to lift all profit curbs on war contracts. Up to now a so-called cost-plus-8% profit limit had been placed on contracts for ships and aircraft. In a previous article, LABOR ACTION showed how cost of produc-

tion has been made to cover a multitude of profits, so that the 8% limit became a farce. Now, however, even this pretense at controlling profits will not be made.

The Treasury Department has been checking on contracts given out by the War and Navy Departments. This check will now be removed, so that the war profiteers will not be inconvenienced by too much supervision.

Huge Allowances

On the question of capital invested in expanding plants, the administration agreed to legislation allowing corporations to write-off such capital (Continued on page 2)

Scrap Iron Strike Dents Business

Special to Labor Action

NEWARK, N.J., July 16—Bill Turner, a scab charged with the stabbing of a striker at the Reichman-Hoffman scrap iron plant was arrested today.

As expected, the charges against Claude Turnage and two other strike leaders were thrown out of court.

Herman Smith, a shop-foreman, has been accused of the carrying of a gun. Under cross-examination, scab Rodney Grant admitted that he had seen the gun on Smith.

The local labor board will meet on Tuesday, July 16, to hear the company's answer to a complaint that it broke the Wages and Hours Act by not paying time and a half for overtime work as provided by law. (Continued on page 2)

Hemisphere Control Is U.S. Plan

Hull Will Present
Scheme to Pan-
American Conference

By ALBERT GATES

On July 20 at Havana, Cuba, the twenty-one Pan-American nations will gather under the immediate direction of the United States to consider ways and means of organizing the western hemisphere politically, economically and militarily against the threat of Hitler.

The powerful American delegation will be headed by Secretary of State Adolph A. Berle, the man who developed the idea of the inter-American cartel, the main problem to be considered in Havana. This delegation is fortified by a number of experts in Latin American affairs.

Although, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay expressed a marked coolness to what they regarded as a Yankee imperialist maneuver when the proposal for this conference was made, the overwhelming majority of the countries will participate actively with leading representatives. Brazil and Argentina, the most important South American nations will probably attend, but they have as yet to make any proposals to the agenda of the conference, or to the problems already posed to it by the United States. Pressure from the United States, however, will be exerted and there is no doubt that Washington will compel a full representation. And one way or another it will force some kind of agreement on the points up for consideration.

The conference meets under the shadow of the European war. The quick and astounding military victories of Germany raise the question of the relations between the Axis (Continued on page 3)

Says "No War", But Calls National Guard Just in Case

The national war machine, off on a fourteen billion dollar rampage, last week hit a new high speed when President Roosevelt announced that he is planning to call out for active service with the regular army four divisions of the National Guard. This he will do as soon as the necessary special legislation is rushed through Congress.

This was one response to the fizzling of the Army's much-ballyhooed spring recruiting drive. The campaign finally scraped together its quota but every one from Roosevelt down is very much worried over the lack of popular response.

The 14,000 volunteers raised after a high-pressure two-months campaign are just a drop in the bucket compared to the Army's needs. Chief of Staff Marshall has announced the Army must increase its strength to 500,000 at once. He proposes that 400,000 conscripts be sent into training not later than September 1.

THE WORLD AT WAR Military Front Stretches Out Beyond Borders of Europe

THE CHANNEL FRONT:

After a series of constant and daily air raids throughout England, Scotland and Wales, the Nazis have suddenly reduced their attacks, in preparation for what is no doubt the grand push in the invasion of the Island. The air attacks against each other have resulted in great damage and loss of life in both Great Britain and Germany. The RAF met the Nazi raids by sending bombers to the Netherlands, Belgium, France and deep into German territory.

Considerable speculation is still rife as to the exact day of the attack on English soil. Rumors are current about a new peace offer to be made following a conference between the German, Italian and Russian foreign ministers. In reference to this rumored gathering, the United Press dispatch from Rome of July 15 declared: "One report said that Foreign Minister Count Ciano Galeazza would meet Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov in Berlin or Moscow." Russia denied any designs upon the (Continued on page 3)

Dardanelles, while it continued heavy military preparations.

In Rome, Virginio Gayda, Mussolini's spokesman, hinted that the Axis powers would offer Britain a chance for peace by issuing an ultimatum to it to accept the "new Europe" under Fascist domination, cooperate with it, and perhaps act as an intermediary between the Axis powers and the gold standard countries (the United States). Otherwise, England will be crushed.

MEDITERRANEAN FRONT

In the meantime, the war moved beyond the borders of Europe into the Mediterranean, Eastern Africa and Palestine. It is in this area where Italy has been assigned its share of the war. The first skirmish on the sea was indecisive, though the Italian fleet quickly sought refuge at her home bases.

Italian planes raided the Haifa area in the first attack on Palestine, reaching out for the British oil fields. At the Kenya frontier, the Italians claimed the capture of the British Fort Moyale after a persistent five-day attack with a superior force.

British counter-attacks have struck at vital Italian bases in her African possessions.

IN THE FAR EAST:

The conflict of the powers reached a new climax on the Sino-Japanese front. With Hongkong completely blockaded, and Japanese forces prepared to over-run French Indo-China, Great Britain was presented with an ultimatum by Tokio to close the Burma highway, one of the two remaining open roads to China, over which trade, especially munitions, goes to that country.

Latest reports from London declared that the British would agree to close the Burma road for three months upon the condition that Japan negotiate a general settlement of the Far Eastern situation, including peace with China. Apparently this action by Great Britain was initiated with the tacit understanding of the United States, which had hitherto shown no attitude.

However, since the British offer was made, there has occurred a change in the Japanese government. The cabinet of Premier Yonai has resigned. The powerful army officers forced the resignation on the grounds of weaknesses displayed by the Yonai government in its dealings with Great Britain and the United States. It is expected that former premier Prince Konoye would head the new cabinet, which would establish a closer relationship with the Axis in Europe, and drive for a one-party totalitarian regime at home.

In the light of these new developments at the Japanese capital, Secretary of State Hull immediately took issue with Great Britain over the closing of the Burma road as "an unwarranted obstacle to world trade." The Chinese government, through Chiang Kai Shek bitterly denounced the British action as a blow to China and "the democratic cause," at the same time appealing to the United States and Russia for more effective military aid.

If England should stiffen its attitude toward Japan as a result of the American note, Japan may resort to military action to enforce its demands. In any case, the developments of the past week have made the situation in that part of the world extremely more dangerous.

For Labor Action —
Join Workers Party

Even as the Roosevelt war machine ground ahead last week, its pilot was forced, for political reasons, to backwater on his pro-war program. In a message to Congress he wrote:

"That we are opposed to war is known not only to every American but to every government in the world. We will not use our arms in a war of aggression; we will not send our men to take part in European wars."

Many Jokers
Thus the President put himself on record more clearly against American intervention abroad than he has in many months. There were still plenty of jokers up the presidential sleeve, of course: what is a "war of aggression"? what about Asiatic or South American wars, etc? But the big question is: why this backwatering?

The answer is plain: in the last week the Administration, and its big business friends, have practically given up the idea of helping England with arms or men. It is too late, they figure. England can at best put up a defense strong enough to win better peace terms. So they are dropping the cause of their "sister democracy" like a hot potato and putting full steam ahead on "defending" this country—whose boundaries, for this purpose, now take in everything between Hudson Bay and Cape Horn.

"Angels of Peace"
Another strong reason for Roosevelt now appearing in the costume of an angel of peace is that Wendell Willkie, who runs a competing business a little way down the street, has been trying to pin on the Demo- (Continued on page 2)

Gentlemen, Look to Your Columns!

Events in France have shown that the "Fifth Columnists" belong to the "best people"—the same sort as have been trying to pin the label on workers and radicals over here.

At the height of the "Fifth Column" campaign, before the French surrender, LABOR ACTION printed a front-page editorial headed "WALL STREET IS 'FIFTH COLUMN' AGAINST U. S. LABOR AND FREEDOM." That was June 3. A week later, we again editorialized: "Go down the list of nations swallowed up by Hitler. Who were the Fifth Columnists? In every case, they were HIGHER-UPS in the government, in the army, in the 'best families' . . . The biggest French capitalists (the Comite des Forges) provided Hitler with coal from Lorraine . . . Are these the leaders, are these the governments that can be trusted to stop Hitler?"

On June 14, Paris was abandoned without a fight. On June 17, France, surrendered. The same generals—Petain and Weygand—and the same fascist-minded politicians—Laval, Badini, Flandin—who gave up Paris and who handed over France to Hitler, these have already abolished parliament and turned France into a fascist state. And behind them, as the news memorandum we published last week shows, stood many of the most powerful capitalist interests in France—including, by the way, the Comite des Forges.

We say to Roosevelt and Willkie and the boss press: Gentlemen, look to your columns! (And to ours, we might add.)

STOP CONSCRIPTION! No Draft of American Lives for Wall Street's War

In the last month Congress has passed bills, at the suggestion of President Roosevelt and his military advisers, appropriating TEN BILLION DOLLARS for war preparations. It takes weeks and months of haggling to get a relief or a housing appropriation through Congress. But the army and navy got their TEN BILLION DOLLARS in a few days with practically no debate. Why?

Because, declare Congress and the President, WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST HITLERISM.

Several weeks ago Roosevelt revealed he was working on plans to regiment every youth in the country into compulsory labor camps. Shortly afterwards, Senator Burke introduced into Congress a bill to conscript into the army and navy all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 65, at a wage of FIVE DOLLARS A MONTH. (Quite a comedown from ten billions!) Although Roosevelt has long denounced peacetime compulsory military service as a feature of European totalitarianism from which "democratic" America is happily free, he has now come out publicly for it. So have 87% of the nation's editors and publishers, according to a recent survey. Why?

Because, they say, WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES AGAINST HITLERISM.

We of the Workers Party agree that Hitlerism is a terrible thing and must be kept out of this country. We have been saying just this for a long time. We were saying it when many of these Hitler-stoppers were quite friendly to Adolf and his boys, who, after all, saved Germany from Bolshevism and did a swell job of busting up the unions and lowering wages. But now he threatens to muscle into their racket over here, and so Wall Street has suddenly wakened to the fact that Hitlerism is a menace to American democracy.

We have nothing against spending ten billions, or twenty billions, to fight Hitlerism. We are not opposed to universal conscription to fight Hitlerism. But we say —

LET'S MAKE IT A REAL FIGHT AGAINST HITLERISM!

We are 100% for a national defense program which will really protect the American people against

Hitlerism. Such a program would have to fulfill only two simple conditions:

(1) It would have to be directed against the things Hitlerism stands for—against low wages, long hours, union-busting, persecution of aliens, Red-baiting, super-profits for the few and poverty for the many.

(2) It would have to be conducted by those who have a real interest in fighting Hitlerism, by the workers and farmers and unemployed of America. By the 80% of the population of the country who live on 20% of the national income, and not by the 20% who now monopolize 80% of the wealth.

ROOSEVELT FIGHTS HITLER WITH HITLER'S METHOD

But we look around and we see that the "national defense" for which we are soon to be conscripted is a fraud, that Roosevelt (or Willkie, if he is elected—there is no real difference between them) is Hitlerizing this country in order to fight the Hitler across the ocean.

We see the anti-labor campaign now being conducted by Roosevelt's own Department of Justice, perverting the Sherman Anti-Trust Law into a weapon to break up trade unions.

We see Congress and the White House getting together to raise the billions for defense from taxes on consumption of the masses, from wage cuts and longer hours for the workers.

We see the restrictions on war profits being relaxed so as to allow big business to make a killing in this war as it did in the last one.

WHY NOT CONSCRIPT WEALTH?

We see plenty of interest in conscripting the lives of the masses but none at all in conscripting the wealth of the great corporations, the Wall Street banks, the Mellons and DuPonts and Morgans and Fords and Rockefeller and the rest of the "sixty families" which own and run the country.

We see Congress, at Roosevelt's suggestion, turning over to the control of the Department of Justice, for fingerprinting and "investigation" the 3,500,000 aliens now enjoying our "democracy."

We see Roosevelt whipping up a "fifth column" hysteria against all who dare to stick up for the rights

of labor. (When the Federal Shipyard workers at Kearny, N.J., recently struck for better wages, they were damned as "fifth columnists".) But when Henry Ford, long notorious for his Nazi sympathies, refused to make airplane motors for the Government, and when the Packard company held out for a week until it forced better terms from the Government, somehow nothing was said about the "fifth column.")

SET A THIEF TO CATCH A THIEF?

Finally, we see Roosevelt turning his defense program over to Chairman Stettinius of U.S. Steel Corp., President Knudsen of General Motors, Owen D. Young of General Electric, James Forrestal of Dillon, Reed & Co., and several dozen other big industrialists and bankers.

Perhaps this is on the theory of setting a thief to catch a thief.

But we remember that it was the bankers and industrialists of Germany who financed Hitler's rise to power, men like Krupp and Thyssen and Schacht. And that it was such men in France, and their mouthpieces like Laval and Flandin, who, having opened the front to Hitler's armies, are now setting up a fascist regime in France.

NO CONSCRIPTION FOR WALL STREET'S WAR!

The only guarantee the American people can have that a real fight will be conducted against Hitlerism, without treachery and without the introduction of Hitlerism over here, is a Workers' Government.

Every American worker would support enthusiastically such a government and would gladly accept military training and any other measures proposed by it to win the war against Hitler.

For such a government could be TRUSTED. Can we trust the kind of defense now being organized by Roosevelt? Can we trust it after what has happened to the people of Norway, of Holland, of Belgium and Poland and France—all of whom tried to fight Hitler under the kind of leadership Roosevelt and Congress is now giving us?

No! The experience of these nations—the treachery and incompetence and demoralization—shows us that we cannot.

Only a Workers' Government can Stop Hitler!
Fight with Us for It!

With the Labor Unions

On the Picket Line

By David Coolidge

A CHALLENGE TO THE CIO

The National Labor Relations Board has rendered a decision against the Weirton Steel Co. Ernest Weir, his managers, superintendents, foremen and assorted thugs and gangsters. The Board charges that the company is guilty of anti-union practices in violation and defiance of the Wagner Act. Weir is the hard-boiled steel man whose lawyers got a federal court to dismiss a government suit against him in 1935, for failure to comply with the NIRA. Weir is also chief money grabber for the campaign war chest of the Republican Party.

Weir organized a company union back in 1933 known as the Weirton Steel Employees Plan. Like all company unions it was formed by the management for the purpose of defeating the plans of the works to form a real union. After the CIO arrived on the scene, Weir formed a "Security League." Workers in the company's plants at Weirton, W. Va., Steubenville, O., and Clarksburgh, W. Va. were "invited" to join the League. Mere invitation didn't work however as the majority of the steel workers seemed to prefer the Steel Workers Organizing Committee. This, despite the fact that the Company paid the company union officers, spent \$70,000 in three years to publish a paper for the workers, gave large sums to the Plan, hired the Central Industrial Service Company, a spy agency, to protect the "loyal" workers against subversive elements, and special watchmen from among sympathizers of the company union to keep the plants from being dynamited.

The "special watchmen" did not however confine their operations to inside the plants. They roamed the streets in cahoots with sympathetic mayors and sheriffs. CIO organizers were clubbed, mobbed and kidnapped. During the 1933 strike the Weirton Steel Company's police, gunmen and blackjacks gave the workers a blitzkrieg long before Hitler got started.

The Board's decision orders the Company to cease interfering with the union activities of its employees, quit supporting workers organizations, stop clubbing employees who disagree with Weir, cut loose from its spies, snoopers and provocateurs, abandon the company union and reinstate 17 employees with back pay.

The Board did not recognize the SWOC as the bargaining unit for Weirton employees and refused to order the reinstatement of 83 employees who had been fired.

This case is not ended of course. Weir has 20 days to file exceptions and 30 to file a brief with the Board. He will use both and then appeal the case to the courts. He will try to drag the case out until after the election and try in the meantime to raise enough money to buy the presidency for Willkie. With Willkie in the White House, or before, Weir will hope for revision of the Wagner Act and the dissolution of the Labor Board.

SOMETHING FOR JOHN L. LEWIS TO DO

This is a challenge to the CIO to get busy and quit horsing around. Get a majority in the Weirton plants. Force collective bargaining on Weir and all the other Weirs, Tom Girdley included. Organize all the steel plants. Form an international union. Encourage the workers to run their own union and elect the officers they want. Let the union vote to accept or reject contracts. This is the only way to beat the Weirs.

If John L. Lewis would put in more time at organizing the mass production workers and less at president making, every worker in the country would be better off than he is today.

HOLDING THE POKER BY THE HOT END

Iron City Lodge No. 1843 in the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company in Pittsburgh is playing with fire. This local union has written "Steel Labor" saying that the lodge "has taken the initiative in eliminating communists, nazis and other un-American subversive elements from its folds." The letter also states that No. 1272 in Pittsburgh and No. 1211 in Alliquippa, Pa. are also cleaning house. "A committee against all foreign 'isms' has been formed of SWOC ex-service men to combat these 5th columnists under the leadership of John Duffy, charter member of local 1943."

These workers will discover that they have the poker by the hot end and that they have been taken in. Who are these "communists, nazis and other un-American subversive elements" in their local? Have the rank and file of the local bothered themselves to find out? Are these "un-American subversive elements" anti-union people, spies, scabs, strike-breakers? Are they boss stool-pigeons who slipped into the union and who are opposed to high wages, short hours and strikes?

Who are these "ex-service men" and who is brother Duffy aside from being a charter member of the local? The rank and file better get busy and look into some of these questions.

There is nothing that would suit the steel barons better than to have the union itself start a witch hunt and a fifth column crusade. The steel manufacturers know damn well that whereas a stray nazi might get caught the overwhelming majority of the workers who would be hounded out of the union and out of the plant would be the most loyal and militant members of the union. Furthermore, if the union will kick out its best fighters the bosses can spend less for spies, rifles and tear gas.

The workers must remember that the terms "fifth column" and "un-American" were invented by the bosses and their literary stooges. The chief test of a good union member must be: is he loyal to the union and the working class. Is he willing to fight against the boss and the bosses' government for higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions today, right now, not after the war is over. This is the only kind of worker that is worth a hoot to his class and his union. Any other type of worker is a Scissor-Bill Sam, the Boss's Man, no matter how loudly he yells about his Americanism and even though he chant the Star Spangled Banner on rising in the morning, and at night before going to bed.

A STATE AT ORGANIZED LABOR

The fools in Washington who voted to deport Harry Bridges seem to 'hold to the belief that ideas and opinions can be transported around the world and hid away like traveling bags, whiskey and prostitutes. A congressional act to get just one man out of the country! And why? Because Bridges has carried out the Stalinist line of union wrecking and discrimination against non-Stalinist militants and dissenters? Because Bridges defended and carried the Stalinist class collaboration Peoples Front line into the maritime union? No, it is for none of these crimes against the working class that the House voted to deport Bridges. Nor is it because Bridges is an alien.

The House voted to deport Bridges because he is the leader of a workers organization with a militant rank and file. He led a big strike once. He is an experienced labor leader. The effort to deport Bridges is a blow at the unions and at trade unionism. They want to get rid of Bridges because the ship owners look upon him and the union as a threat to their peace of mind and their profits. The rank and file might get strike in their heads, refuse to listen to any compromise talk from Bridges and push him into organizing another strike.

This attack against Bridges is a stab at organized labor. It is a blow at civil liberties and an assault on fundamental workers' rights. The defense of Bridges therefore, in this case, is the duty and responsibility of the whole working class. The bosses are not after Bridges but the union. These simple things were understood for decades in this country before the Stalinists spread their poison and treachery throughout the labor movement. It was a well established labor policy to come to the aid of any worker who was hounded by the police or who had fallen into the clutches of the capitalist courts. No questions were asked about his politics, race, nationality or citizenship. The only questions asked: is he a worker, is it a class struggle case? If so, then the workers closed ranks and organized the defense.

This is still good sound working class doctrine despite the many and criminal violations of this procedure by the Stalinists and their GPU. The crimes of the Stalinists, including Bridges against the working class must be taken care of by the congress of the working class and not by the congress of the ruling class at Washington.

HERE AND THERE

The AFL Aluminum Workers Union at Massena, N.Y. threatens to strike. They want an increase of 5 cents an hour. They get a 56 cent minimum now. The CIO aluminum workers have just been granted a 65 cent hourly minimum at the plants in New Kensington, Pa., Edgewater, N.J., Badin, N.C., Alcoa, Tenn., and Detroit. Should the Massena workers get the 5 cent increase they will still be 4 cents an hour below the rate in the CIO plants.

QUIT SOFT-SOAPING THE BOSSES!
The CIO has announced the beginning of a national organizing campaign in the airplane industry. They better hurry or all the tremendous increase in income will be socked away in the jeans of the big stockholders. President Thomas of the UAW announced a drive to "unionize and to insure stable labor relations in the aircraft plants of the country." A lot of labor leaders are talking these days about "stable labor relations." What do they mean? Profits are not stable. They are continually expanding. This means that wages should continue to go up. Hours should be shortened to assure employment to all the unemployed and leisure time for the workers.

Labor leaders should quit trying to soft soap the bosses with talk about "stable labor relations." They can't fool the bosses. The big boys know there is a class struggle going on even though Lewis and Green don't. The employers will only accept stable labor relations on their terms. Their terms are low wages, long hours, company unions and no strikes.

Die Casters End Strike Pending Vote

Cleveland Newsboys Still on Strike After Many Weeks

Special to Labor Action

CLEVELAND, Ohio, July 15—The three weeks old strike at the Precision Castings company of suburban Lakewood ended today when the strikers went back to work pending the outcome of a hearing before the national labor relations board on the strikers' request for a plant election.
The strike, called by the National Association of Die Casting Workers, affiliated with the CIO, has been the focus of a lynch campaign on the part of the Cleveland kept press.
The reason is simple. The strike has been conducted in the militant style of 1936-1938, with mass picketing, chaining of the company gates, blocking of the company gates with automobiles, mobilization of other sections of the labor movement, radio campaigns, etc.

The plant itself is small. But the Cleveland employers, linked through the notorious Associated Industries, realize the dangers to its profits, in the winning of a hard-boiled strike action, especially in these war-preparedness days, when labor must "understand" that it cannot behave as did the French working class.

Strikers Arrested

It was this recognition which enabled the employers to secure an injunction, which, while it permitted strikers to breathe and to blow their noses, forbade about everything else. Among the provisions were those allowing only one picket per gate, and forbidding the strikers to speak to plant employees.

The strikers promptly broke the injunction and with a speed never seen when proceeding against industry were convicted of contempt of court and sentenced up to twenty days in jail, with fines up to \$1,000.

Lakewood police were helpless before the mass support given the strike, despite the egging on generously given by the Cleveland press, now having its troubles from a working class that doesn't understand—thousands of newsboys being on strike against the Cleveland papers.

Given the continuance of such militant tactics, the next few weeks should see the successful conclusion of the newsboy strike.

And the Rich Suffer Too

Workers who sometimes feel that they alone are asked to make all the sacrifices during war time, should remember that the rich suffer also, as the following incidents of the last few days prove:

AMERICAN MOVIE producers are being put to quite an expense changing pro-war film titles to more harmless ones because of the increasing dislike of war films.

WENDELL L. WILLKIE, not only was forced to throw over a \$75,000 a year job with Commonwealth and Southern, but had to endure shaking over 5,000 hands in one day at Denver last week.

MAURICE MAETERLINCK, one of the unbribed literary figures of bourgeois Europe, arrived in New York last week as a result of the German occupation of Belgium, his gray wig held down by a hairnet, a French edition of "Gone with the Wind" under his arm, and accompanied by his wife who carried two bluebirds in a cage.

ARCHDUKE OTTO of Austria-Hungary arrived on the Atlantic Clipper all a-twitter, what with the housing shortage and all, over having to locate a country estate for his mother, former Empress Zita, now in Portugal.

NON-CRIMINAL American patriots are biting their nails over the fact that confidence men "and even ex-convicts" are muscling in on a nice racket—soliciting funds allegedly to be used for combatting "un-American" activities. One of the methods employed is the selling of pamphlets to employers for distribution among their employees.

Three Day Strike Brings Concessions

Special to Labor Action

BARBERTON, Ohio—A three day strike at the Babcock & Wilcox Co. plant was concluded here on Thursday, July 11, with the strikers winning concessions on all their demands. The strike was called Sunday evening when negotiations between the company and the Federal Labor Union No. 20186, AFL, had broken down.

Despite the attempt of the Company to promote a Fifth Column scare, the workers held fast on the picket lines and stopped the few attempts made to enter the plant.

The final settlement gave the strikers a raise of three cents an hour as well as a better vacation schedule and seniority rights. A four man committee was formed (equal representation from the company and the Union) to study the living costs, wage rates, and conditions in the industrial area. They are also to consider the wage differentials in the B & W plants.

As in other strikes, "national defense" was used to weaken the strike. James F. Dewey, Department of Labor Conciliator, for example, urged the men to return to work "in the interests of national defense" because the Babcock & Wilcox Co. manufactures boilers for the United States Navy. Although the men fell for this brand of hokum in voting to return, they did not fall hard enough to yield all their demands.

will lend the company around \$30,000,000 to expand its plant. It should be recalled that the RFC was organized to help out concerns hit by the depression and on the verge of bankruptcy. It was not meant to finance wealthy corporations facing a coming war boom. Nevertheless the favorable terms and the nominal interest rates of the RFC will be enjoyed by the war profiteers.

Being thus satisfied on all scores Packard will now go ahead and tool its plants for the production of 9000 airplane engines. Of these 6000 are to go to England and 3000 to the U.S. government. It is estimated that the total amount involved is \$130,500,000.

Packard now has absolute certainty that there is plenty in it for Packard. At this point its patriotism begins.

I am interested -

in learning more about the Workers Party
in joining the Workers Party
Name _____
Address _____
City _____

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TUESDAY NIGHT FORUM GROUP ADMISSION FREE

From the Diary of a Migratory Laborer With the Apricot Pickers in Southern California:

Saturday, July 6—Arrived at the shed at 5:45 A.M. along with twenty-five Mexicans, five Portugese and eleven other "okies." It was about 7:15 before the boss of the shed gave us our buckets and ladders and set the scale for us to work! 10¢ per 12 quart bucket, with very few apricots on each tree. By eleven we finished the best trees in the orchard and were shifted to another orchard with an average of one to five apricots per tree. We were all getting madder by the hour as we realized how little we were making. When we transferred to the poorer trees we had from four to eight buckets a-piece picked. The prospect for the remainder of the day was two to four buckets a-piece. Discontented we sat down under the trees and figured out a fairer scale and how to get it. We decided on 35¢ an hour or the equivalent

lent in piece rates, and to refuse to work until we got it.

We told this to the orchard boss and he said, "To hell with you. I can get hundreds of other pickers." So we told him he couldn't because we were parked there and nobody was going to move into that orchard. The fight was on.

Sunday, July 7—The Portugese and Mexican pickers struck solid but say they have had enough of this orchard. They say that regardless of what this shed offers they will refuse to work here. They are all drifting to other sections with better prospects. After that was settled, the rest of us went into conference with the boss for a settlement. We agreed to work only without an orchard boss and only in the best orchards. During the day, after two more strikes votes, five more quit.

Monday, July 8—This morning, with several from the State Employment Service and others who just drifted in, we started work with eighteen pickers. After about an hour's work we held up the work but a number of the men, refusing to strike, just quit. So the rest of us quit for the day too.

Tuesday, July 9—The boss used his last resort today. He appealed to the local relief headquarters for workers. He got six under protest. They quit after four hours and the boss finally realized he would have to pay a better scale or leave the fruit on the trees. Rather than raise the scale since his apricot crop is poor (and his pears which will be ready to pick in about a month are good), he closed the shed to let the rest of the apricots rot.

Apricot Worker

Scrap Iron Strike Dents Company Business Violence Fails to Intimidate Ranks Who Get Longshoremen's Backing

Special to Labor Action

NEWARK, N.J., July 15—The scrap-iron strike of thirty-five colored workers at the Reichman and Hoffman Co. continued into its eighth week today. The strikers are members of the Waste Materials Union, Local 1120, AFL.

Company inspired violence sent one man to the hospital during the week. Ben Hagen, a striker, was stabbed three times with an icepick by a scab alleged to be Bill

Turner. This same Turner had filed charges against Alonzo Pierson several weeks ago. When the case came to court, Turner admitted that the charges were false, and that they had been dictated by the company. The case was thrown out of court. Turner disappeared after the Hagen stabbing and has not yet been found.

Strike-leaders Sam Aschew, Claude Turnage and Bob Mosley will appear at the 4th police precinct on Monday, July 15, to answer charges

of intimidation filed against them by Herman Smith, a scab and a good friend of Turner's. These charges like the Turner charges are almost certain to be thrown out of court.

Meanwhile the scabs in the plant are armed with pipes and pistols. They are guarded by a large police escort at all times.

Longshoremen Help

Last Monday the International Longshoremen's Association ordered its men not to load scows on the Reichman and Hoffman dock on the Passaic River. With water transportation cut off, the company is shipping by rail. This, the strikers say, is much more expensive. Yet the company would rather spend this extra money to break the strike than pay a decent wage.

Business volume has decreased by 75% since the strike was called. The strikers who had been working a 60 hour week at a 30-35¢ hourly wage, are demanding 12¢ to 32¢ hourly wage increases, a union shop, time and a half for overtime, double-time for Sundays, adequate safety and sanitary equipment and no speed-up.

Attempts to persuade the strikers to negotiate with the company over the heads of the union representatives have been met with sharp rebuffs.

Thus with the strike solid in its eighth week, there are many signs that the company will be compelled to open negotiations for a settlement before long. The surest sign of that is decline in business volume by 75% since the strike was called.

So You Won't Enlist?

To overcome the natural preference of young men for peace and life, the army is engaging in a costly giant recruiting drive. Every avenue of advertising is being used to "sell" the army.

It is reported that in Florida the army is building eighteen streamlined silvered trailers which will tour throughout the state. These are to stop at small towns that have no enlistment offices. They are to be equipped with sound-movie apparatus, with a stock of phonograph records, and everything necessary to examine an applicant on the spot. If he passes, he is to be sworn in immediately—lest he should want to change his mind.

A week or two ago, when recruiting in the Syracuse section was falling off badly, two planes were sent there from Mitchell Field with recruits to stir up the reluctant men. Of orders of transcribed radio programs course radio will be exploited to the utmost. The National Broadcasting Co. is said to have contracted to make transcriptions for 15-minute programs to be broadcast over 450 stations.

Special records will be made for local use. Mayor LaGuardia, Governor Lehman, Dorothy Thompson, Raymond Gram Swing and other noted patriots are supposed to have made records for use in New York State. Arrangements are also under way for radio shows on a nationwide hook-up to advertise the "ad-

vantages" of joining the army.

Both Warner Brothers and Pathe are getting out movies designed to lure the youth into the arms of Madam Macabre.

The fattest worm on the hook is the offer of special training courses to qualified recruits to make them feel they will be "somebodies" in the army. This offer also carries with it at least \$24 a month pay instead of the regular \$21.

With this high-pressure salesmanship the army expects to get the better of the strong "sales resistance" of the young men, and to reach the 375,000 mark by January 1, 1941.

Colonel Magruder, in charge of enlistments in New York, New Jersey and Delaware—where recruiting—predicts that in order to increase has been below the required quota the army to 375,000 it will be necessary to concentrate on one-year enlistments. The regular enlistment is for three years.

Farewell, Frank Halstead

LOS ANGELES, June 11—Comrades of the Workers Party, relatives and friends gathered in a simple funeral ceremony here today to bid a revolutionary farewell to the veteran champion of the workers' cause, Comrade Frank Halstead.

At the very moment that the soft notes of the revolutionary song, "The Red Flag," filled the small room, Frank would have been selling LABOR ACTION at a factory gate, had not death intervened. The night before his death Frank attended the weekly meeting of his branch and in his usual disciplined manner accepted the assignments given him.

At 51, Frank, knowing that he had only a short time to live, was principally concerned with imprinting indelibly on the minds of those who would have to carry on the lessons learned from his own difficult and extensive experiences in the labor movement.

Following the meeting of the Workers Party he went home to bed, never to awaken. He died in his sleep. His last acts, his last words, his last thoughts carried on the tradition of his entire life. To the end, he planned, he counseled, he worked to further the revolution.

Frank first became associated with the revolutionary movement when he was only eleven or twelve. At that time he joined the Young People's Socialist League, and set out upon the inspiring career he was to follow until the night of his death.

His talents were many and he found numerous opportunities for to become a lawyer, but never had

their employment. He had wanted time or money to further this ambition, and became instead a machinist and a trade unionist.

Active in the IWW, he was soon a powerful labor figure on the west coast. He participated in strike after strike, addressed street meeting after street meeting in his booming, compelling voice. Wherever there were masses of workers, there Frank could be found. But he was a student at the same time, particularly a student of philosophy and of Marxism. He studied theory not for itself alone, but as a guide to action.

In 1925, before there was an official Trotskyist movement in the United States, comrade Halstead was already a Trotskyist. A few years later he and a handful of other comrades formed the first Trotskyist group on the west coast. During the years of the Hoover depression, he was extremely active in the unemployed movement.

Several years ago comrade Halstead caught cold but he was too involved in mass work to bother with such a small detail. The cold lingered, gnawed away at his powerful physique, finally affected his heart. It was this ailment that caused his premature death last Tuesday morning.

It is typical of Frank's courage that despite poor health he once again enlisted in the ranks of the revolutionary movement, became an active participant in the Workers Party at precisely the moment when war is starting us in the face.

Farewell, comrade Halstead!

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Where You Do as You Please

FOR NEWS OF THE THIRD CAMP — READ LABOR ACTION

To See or Not To See

by Susan Green

We Wish to Cooperate

"GOD BLESS AMERICA"

A new national anthem has been born. In any movie theatre it can be heard issuing from Kate Smith's booming bellows. Accompanying this Irving Berlin song, the screen has shown snow-capped mountains and billowy waves, New York City from an airplane, the white house, battleships with guns blasting away, marching cadets, and the like.

We suggest that the next round of film show a tenement house in the slums of New York or Chicago in the summer—the hovels of southern sharecroppers—a negro being lynched by a mob—the wards of a hospital for the maimed and crippled of the last war. We will be glad to cooperate in changing the words of the song to harmonize with the suggested pictures.

A Mother in War

"FOUR SONS"

"I want that baby!" shouts the agonized Czechoslovakian mother in the story. She is referring to her infant grandson. She has lost three of her sons in the Nazi invasion. She holds in her hand an iron medal for the life of her youngest. Her husband also dies in war. Outside, on the road, the Nazis are training mere boys in the use of guns and gas masks. She must save her grandson from military regimentation and death in war. So, she leaves, with her daughter-in-law and grandson, for America where her fourth son lives.

This excellent film of the ravages of war on the heart of a mother is, in its ending, a bit behind the times since America can no longer be considered a haven from military regimentation. This Czechoslovakian mother would find herself in a new America feverishly hurrying into a rigid military regime. She and the small remnants of her family would be fingerprinted as aliens, and before her horrified eyes she would see the beginnings of the very thing she came here to escape.

Since the story is about the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia, the Nazis, and not war itself, stand out as the villains of the piece. So that this mother's tragedy does not make the powerful anti-war appeal it should.

All of which does not detract from the dramatic story or the gripping quality of the film. The acting is competent, the honors going to Eugenie Leonovich as the mother; Don Ameche as one of the sons actually loses his usual look of round-faced well-being.

Did You Know About

RACE DISCRIMINATION IN HOLLYWOOD?

Thanks to an article by John Woolfenden, in a recent issue of the New York Times, on how and where Hollywood makes its race track pictures, certain enlightening facts come out. Most of the jockeys who ride for pictures are actually ex-jockeys. For some time now Negro ex-jockeys have not been employed in Hollywood. It seems there are rules barring Negroes from racing on tracks in democratic America. Without so much as a peep of protest, Hollywood complies with this race-discriminating ruling in making its race track pictures. The result is that many noted Negro ex-jockeys can find employment only as exercise boys.

Where Angels Fear to Tread

"SUSAN AND GOD"

Joan Crawford goes to town, and how! She creates an uproariously funny role of the smart-set female who suddenly finds "god," pins on a pair of wings, and flaps around in everybody's affairs—maliciously messing them up. There are two actualities that tend to clip her artificial wings: (1) a husband who drinks and from whom the godly Susan withholds his marital rights; (2) an unhappy daughter, Blossom, with spectacles on her nose and a brace on her teeth.

While Susan gives loud-mouthed devotion to her god-movement—even insisting that the snickering help call her by her first name—she takes the heart out of her husband and begrudges her daughter even a little attention. However when husband Frederic March is almost gobbled up by another woman, Susan becomes sadder and wiser.

This rapid revolution in the soul of a venomous vixen is hard to accept. Trickery to keep another woman from getting her husband would be more in character. Furthermore some of the best parts are where March lets her have it—she deserves plenty. So, for her to end up in the arms of her husband, who we know sees right through her, is very unsatisfying.

Nevertheless as entertainment it is tops. Anyway, nobody takes seriously the lives of people who do nothing but ride, play tennis and drink cocktails. Besides the excellent performances of Joan Crawford and Frederic March, Rita Quigley, new in films, is swell as Blossom.

Pan-American Conference Will Establish U. S. Control of Western Hemisphere

(Continued from page 1)

and South America. Germany and Italy threaten American imperialism's vital economic and political interests in this hemisphere. Thus, the conference has as its main purpose to insulate the western world against any type of invasion by the Axis powers.

The aim of the United States is to compel economic cooperation of the American nations. While the plan is as yet vague, it is outlined generally as (1) to take up the surplus food and raw materials produced by the South American countries; (2) to establish an export cartel, and (3) to organize and develop the resources and industries of Latin America with a simultaneous hemispheric control of production.

The economic penetration of South America by Germany was carried out by the fascist regime through the barter system, whereby industrial products required by the South American nations were exchanged for agricultural commodities and raw materials. Germany became an increasingly important economic factor in the southern hemisphere up to the beginning of the war.

Confident of a quick victory over Great Britain, Hitler is therefore preparing for a continuation of economic relations with South American offering commitments for as early as September of this year.

Shachtman to End Tour In New York

Following a number of successful meetings in Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio, Max Shachtman, National Secretary of the Workers Party, is now headed east for meetings in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia.

The coast-to-coast tour which took Shachtman on extended speaking engagements in the principal cities of the country, will close with a mass meeting in New York City, where the national headquarters of the Workers Party is located.

The meeting in New York will center around the struggle against conscription and the war. As a result of his experiences while on tour, Shachtman will be able to present a cross section of the views of the people in the various parts of the country on the war and America's preparations for it.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 8:30 p.m. at the Manhattan Plaza, 66 East 4th Street, New York City. Admission to the meeting is fifteen cents.

Should the Negro Fight?

This country will soon be at war again. Negroes will be called on to help; and the question arises: What will we, as Negroes, be fighting for? Will we be fighting, as in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, for our own emancipation? Or will we be fighting, as in the World War, for our continued oppression?

At present we are not wanted in the Army or the Navy, and this is quite in accordance with America's traditional policy. White Americans have never wanted us in the armed forces of this country, and for an understandable reason. They know that if they were treated as we are treated they could not be depended on to fight for their oppressors. Therefore, whenever they have needed us, they have offered us special inducements.

In the Revolution, Negroes were offered their freedom if they fought for the Colonies. But the Americans made this offer reluctantly, only after the British had offered the same thing. Five thousand Negroes gained their freedom by fighting for the Colonies.

In the Civil War, 187,000 Negroes fought on the Union side. But again, Negroes were enlisted only when the North was losing, and the war had been made an abolitionist war, giving the blacks something to fight for. President Lincoln said that the war could not have been won without the Colored troops.

But in the World War, Negroes were promised nothing and got nothing. President Wilson did not feel that Colored troops were needed, and he desired to leave them out. However, we clamored for permission to die for our country, and were granted that dubious privilege.

Now we are faced with the same silent hostility and stubborn barriers on the part of the American Navy and Army. For in spite of our Constitution and Bill of Rights, the vast majority of white Americans seem to consider this exclusively a white man's country. In spite of all our efforts to be 100% Americans, they regard and treat us as aliens.

I see no reason why Negroes should clamor to get into the armed forces of the United States. We should learn a lesson from our history. If white Americans want our enthusiastic cooperation, let them offer us something.

As things stand at present, we are offered nothing. With all the need for national solidarity, I have not heard one peep about stamping out lynching, or enfranchising the Southern blacks.

Reprinted from the *Amsterdam News*, July 29, 1940, where it appeared as a *guest editorial*. We agree with the sentiment expressed by the writer, except to suggest that it would be best to substitute "boss class" for "white Americans"—for it is the bosses who are our oppressors be we white or black.

Camacho Forces Claim Election Victory

While the official announcement on the results of the Mexican presidential elections is not due until the September session of the Congress, the Foreign Ministry announced that it had advised diplomats of the victory of General Manuel Avilo Camacho. The government claims a twenty-to-one victory for its candidate for the highest post in the country, and similar sweeping victories for other offices.

The Party of the Mexican Revolution under whose banner General Camacho campaigned for the presidency, announced that the vote was 2,265,100 for their party as against 128,574 for Almazan.

A great deal of talk persists about an eventual armed struggle by the defeated Almazan to take control of the government. Almazanists threaten to set up a dual congress which will proclaim General Almazan as president. Efforts are also being made to compromise the elections by handing a share of the congressional seats to the supporters of the Industrialists' candidate.

In the meantime, the South American nations suffer sharp economic disturbances because of their inability to dispose of the great surpluses accumulated since the opening of the war. The conflict in the production of commodities between the United States and Latin America precludes the kind of exchange that would automatically relieve the stresses upon those countries. Up to now the European markets have been decisive to the economic existence of Latin America, and unless the United States can bring relief to that area by arranging to dispose of the surpluses, the conference is doomed to failure. To effect such relief, this country would have to compete on the Axis level.

The proposed inter-American cartel has exactly this in mind. It is intended to pool the resources of the western hemisphere, to organize the production of agricultural goods and industrial manufactures and to dispose of them through the cartel organization, thus preventing trade by Hitler with individual nations. America is prepared to carry the cost of the cartel, said to require an initial sum of \$200,000,000. Through the cartel, trade will be carried on with Europe on a continental basis.

The success of the cartel would signify the elimination of Germany, or for that matter any other country, from the new world's markets on a nation to nation trade relation. Recognizing this, Germany is waging a war of cajolery, coercion and economic inducements to prevent the success of the cartel.

The cartel, however, will have to overcome many difficulties of and by itself. The Latin American nations fear that the cartel will mean a greater domination of their countries by Yankee imperialism. Then there is the conflict in commodities to be considered. Inter-American cartel trade will require a uniform inter-American currency and complete financial reorganization to simplify economic activity. And most difficult of all, it will require a very rigid control of production.

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Washington is inevitable.

Commenting on the conference in the Nation of July 13, Freda Kirchwey, the editor, proposes the establishment of an American League of Nations to fortify the program of the Roosevelt Administration. In recognizing its real significance, she suggests the erection of a "democratic totalitarianism" to combat the fascist totalitarianism of Germany and

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Hitler. What she meant to say was that the inter-American cartel and hemispheric unity can not be realized without dictatorial and totalitarian control by the United States.

The South American governments are well aware of this too. But they want to be certain that whatever course is adopted by the United States, it will be continued even through changing administrations, because above all, they want to be sure, as one journalist put it, "who butters their bread," and keeps it buttered.

May Agree on Colonies

The conference will no doubt arrive at an agreement on the policy to be pursued in relation to possessions of the erstwhile allies in this hemisphere. A majority of the countries are now disposed to an inter-American control of these colonies, with the actual defense placed in the hands of one country (they are all agreed that the one country is the United States). There is general agreement on the Administration's invocation of the Monroe Doctrine to forbid the seizure of these colonies by any new European power. This

Cuban Stalinists Lend a Hand In Electing Batista President

Tyrant Plays the "Democratic" Game

Cuba voted for a president on July 14. Held under the shadow of the more important Mexican election it attracted small attention.

Colonel Fulgencio Batista ran against Dr. Ramon Grau San Martin. While the tally has not yet been

completed, Batista claims the election. These claims are acknowledged by Grau Martin who charges that the election was carried out under a reign of terror organized by the army which actively supported Batista.

Batista was the candidate of a coalition which ranged from reactionary army leaders—who had formally backed the murderous Machado—to the Communist Party.

The Stalinists last year discovered that Batista—the butcher was, after all a . . . democrat (!), a real man of the people!! Batista repayed them by allowing them to appear in the streets . . . where, of course, they did nothing more damaging to his regime than to campaign actively in his behalf. Batista did not act quite as generously with the militant revolutionists and trade unionists whom he had hounded into prison dungeons.

"Batista became prominent some years back" when the Machado regime was overthrown. His political prominence increased as he exterminated the opponents of former president Laredo Bru and took over the reins of government. He operated, then not as a "democratic" president, but as a military dictator ruling with the gun and sword. Trade unions and worker's organizations had to withstand a bloodthirsty terror directed at them.

The Democratic campaign line against Willkie was partially revealed in the speaker's defense of the Tennessee Valley Authority against private utility monopoly. Willkie, the Republican nominee, as the head of one of the biggest utility combines in the country, has fought the TVA tooth and nail.

Bankhead went down the line of Democratic legislation and "pointed with pride" to New Deal achievements like the bank deposit insurance system, the CCC, the relief programs, the TVA, the Home Owners Loan Corporation, slum clearance, the National Labor Relations Board, reciprocal trade treaties, and farm relief. He then took a stab at the Achilles heel of the Republican Party in this campaign by pointing out that the GOP platform did not call for the repeal of a single one of these New Deal measures.

The keynoter, however, prudently avoided any detailed discussion of the effect of the New Deal legislation. He did not say how many unemployed there were, how many had WPA-jobs, what the wages were, or how the administration broke the WPA strike. He made no mention of how many houses were built in the slum clearance program. The only details given were with reference to re-building the Navy.

It was significant that mention of no New Deal law received as much applause as that given to the NLRB and the wages and hours act. This too revealed that the Democratic politicians were aware of the value of these crumbs thrown to labor. In view of the increasing anti-labor attitude of Roosevelt, the Democratic orators have little to tell labor beyond things done three and four years ago.

problem, however, is of minor consideration when related to the main purpose of the conference.

Under present-day world conditions, in the event of a decisive defeat of England it appears likely that there will be a temporary imperialist concentration, if only as a stop-gap, in three decisive areas of the world: Europe under Hitler, controlling the colonial empires of France and Great Britain; the United States, dominant power in Latin America, and Japan in the Far East.

The conference in Cuba will act swiftly since time is a decisive factor in the solution of these problems. Thus, the Havana meeting is a decisive event in the development of the new American policy toward international problems as they are reflected in the western world. This is made abundantly clear by Roosevelt's declaration that no American troops will fight on European soil. In other words, America's attentions are directed mainly toward the problems in this hemisphere, and is consequently preparing to wage a war to insure her complete domination of the western continents.

Sparks in the News

EDMUND H. CADDY (dean of N.Y. Law School, in training at Plattsburg): "Most of us, I think, lead a very narrow existence in our particular professions and businesses. A camp like this is an education very definitely. I think it will serve a great purpose whether we go to war or not. We take so many things for granted in our civil life with all its luxuries. It takes an experience like this to teach you how much must be done to provide those luxuries."

—N.Y. Post, July 15.

"In our civil life with all its luxuries." The millions of slum dwellers? The Negroes? The coal-miners and share croppers? Or is Mr. Caddy referring to the ruling class? . . . If Mr. Caddy really wants to know 'how much must be done to provide those luxuries' he ought to work in a factory—that, too, would be 'an education very definitely.'

MAJOR QUISLING AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE
LONDON, June 12—Richard Austen Butler, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, announced in the House of Commons today that Major Vidkun Quisling, Norwegian fascist, had been removed from the Order of the British Empire. Mr. Butler explained to the Commons that Major Quisling had been named an honorary commander of the order on Nov. 22, 1929, in recognition of services rendered to the British Government while he was serving in Moscow on the Norwegian Legation staff.

—N.Y. Times.

—Thus the most famous pro-Nazi traitor of all—In England a traitor is called a "Quisling"—turns out to be on the British honor list—and loses his standing only in the tenth month of the war. What a commentary on the genuineness of the fight England is putting up for democracy! And, by the way, we wonder just what those "services" were that Major Quisling rendered the British crown in Moscow.

Nothing is more unstable than human nature—especially in mass psychology, which closes within itself an eternal ocean, a multitude of latent possibilities: a deathly quiet stillness and a roaring storm, the depths of baseness and the most sublime heroism. The masses always represent whatever historical conditions make out of them, and they are always capable of becoming something different from what they appear to be.

It is a poor captain who sets his course only from the momentary appearance of the surface of the sea and who does not know how to foretell the approach of a storm from his observation of the heavens. To complain of the "treachery of the masses" is always a most compromising admission for political leaders to make. A real leader, a leader of stature does not base his

tactics on the transitory mood of the masses, but on the laws of historical development, inflexible as steel. He holds firm to these laws in spite of all deceptions and he puts his trust in history to ripen, little by little, the fruits of his activity.

—from a letter by Rosa Luxemburg, written in prison, February 16, 1917. Quoted in the June issue of the *Bulletin du Front Ouvrier International Contre La Guerre*.

Dear Sir:

In its wake of death and destruction, War is leaving vast multitudes of suffering men, women and children in tragic need. . . . The American Red Cross is doing its share to mitigate the suffering. . . . I appeal directly to you in the earnest hope that you will recognize the crucial necessity, and will respond promptly, generously.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Irvin
Vice-President, U.S. Steel Corp.
Chairman, Iron, Steel, Bronze and Allied Metals Group, War Relief Fund of American Red Cross.

We see by the papers that Mr. Irvin's U.S. Steel Corp. is making new tonnage records on war orders—light steels for bombing planes, heavy steels for battleships and guns.

Great thing, this capitalism! First you blow people to bits, then you raise money to patch up the pieces. Set 'em up in the other alley!

Our navy is supposed to be cooperating with the British navy, but how and what are a secret. (And Congress has the litters over it.) The object is believed to be to put some starch into the British cause, not merely for the phase of actual defense of England in the next few weeks, but also for the strengthening of British stock on peace terms.

—Kiplinger Washington Letter, "Circulated to Business Men", June 29.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHAT COLOR THEIR UNIFORMS ARE?

A German correspondent with troops that occupied the French munitions-manufacturing town of Le Creusot reports that the munitions factories were working at full speed when the German troops arrived. German soldiers went all through them and while there received the news that Marshall Petain had asked for armistice terms.

"Everybody was working hard," the report says, "but apparently nobody knew for whom they were working."

—N.Y. Times, June 24.

A Tennessee Lynching Bee

By R. CRAINE

For trying to exercise their constitutional right to vote in the coming presidential elections, the Negroes of Brownsville, Tennessee, have been threatened and persecuted so much that nine of their families had to leave town and one Negro, Elbert Williams, was lynched by a mob headed by the city marshal, Tip Hunter.

Negroes in Brownsville, although they outnumber the white population three to one, have not been able to exercise their voting rights since 1884 because of poll taxes and threats of lynching. They had organized a local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and on May 6, a number of them presented themselves at the proper place to register as voters, but were told by the white officials to stop such nonsense. They persisted nonetheless.

On June 20, the Dixie mob decided to teach the Negroes a lesson in constitutionalism. Headed by the Night City Marshall Tip Hunter, they called at the house of Elbert Williams and his wife, both laundry workers, and insisted upon seeing Williams, in spite of the fact that they were told that the Williams' were ready to go to bed. Williams was taken from his home and placed

in a car. That was the last time his wife, Annie, saw him alive. Together with some of her neighbors, she followed the Hunter car, but found it empty in front of the City Hall. Elbert Williams was nowhere to be found.

Williams Found—Dead!

After three days of tortured waiting, Mrs. Annie Williams went to the City Hall where she was told that her husband hadn't been seen. She wanted to take some clothes to her husband, but the Sheriff informed her that he didn't think that Williams would be in need of clothes. In two or three days, Williams finally turned up—turned up when he was fished from the Hatchie River. Mrs. Williams, interviewed by the *Amsterdam News*, New York Negro weekly, stated: "They tried to keep me from seeing him. They reached there before I had, and the coroner had already issued the order to have the body buried as soon as possible. It was only because I insisted that they let me look at it. It was a terrible sight, but I recognized him. His head was swollen twice its normal size. There were two holes in his chest that looked like bullet holes, the skin on his arms, legs, buttocks was bruised and blistered. His arms and feet, I learned, had been tied

with rope and his body weighted down by a heavy log tied around his neck."

Mrs. Williams, who is now living near New York, went on to say: "They had tried to scare us out of carrying out our plan to register and vote this year by threatening a few they considered the leaders in the NAACP branch which was organized about 18 months ago. When they found they couldn't do that, they made an example of my husband. That is the only way they felt they could whip us into line."

Although it is a known fact that it was the city marshal who led the lynch mob, and although Mrs. Williams has named several men whose voices she recognized as participants in this cold-blooded murder, the officials of Brownsville have done nothing to apprehend and punish the criminals. Instead, they have forced nine Negro families who had lived and worked all their lives in Brownsville to leave their town.

While both Republicans and Democrats rave and rant about the barbarisms of Hitler, they glibly pass over the violence and terror which rule in old Dixie. The anti-lynching bill which has been before Congress since 1922 and the anti-poll tax bill to abolish the poll tax in eight southern states have still to be passed.

Editorials

OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to the unemployed.
2. For a rising scale of wages to meet increasing cost of living. Thirty Thirty—\$30 weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers.
3. Expropriate the Sixty Families. For Government ownership and workers control of all war industries—aviation, steel, chemicals, railroads, public utilities, etc.
4. Against both imperialist war camps. For the Third Camp of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples.
5. Let the people vote on war. For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18.
6. Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
7. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
8. Against compulsory military training and conscription.
9. For the defense of civil liberties and workers' rights. Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day Plans and war-time dictatorship.
10. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and trade unions.
11. For an independent Labor Party.
12. For Workers' Defense Guards against Fascist and vigilante attacks.
13. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government and a people's army.
14. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, and for the World Socialist Federation.

Green Calls Cops

President William Green of the AFL made a speech recently at the graduating exercises of the National Police Academy. The Academy is a school conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In his speech, aside from denouncing the CIO for attacking the FBI, Green called on the police of the nation to assist the AFL in stamping out labor racketeers.

Said Mr. Green: "the AFL is not a police organization. It is a fraternal body of trade unions. We do not have the facilities, the equipment, the staff or the legal authority necessary to investigate, try and punish wrongdoers who may have crept into our movement. I call upon you as representative police officials . . . to perform this function . . . just as fearlessly as you would stamp out racketeering in business or any other walk of life." Green then said that relations between organized labor and the police had been bitter but "we can be friends and we want to be friends."

We knew all along that Green wanted to be friends with the bosses but we did not know that this included the cops. Not only is he willing to make deals with the employers against the workers in his unions but he is ready to make a united front with the bosses' cops who club, shoot and murder the workers in his unions.

Perhaps Green and the big shots in the labor movement can be friends with the police and FBI Hoover, but the rank and file workers can't. The workers know this because they are the ones who man the picket lines and run the gauntlet of police clubs and bullets.

One can just see every flat foot who listened to Green's speech rub his hands together and lick his chops at the prospect of helping clean the racketeers from the unions. For to the cops a racketeer in the union is every militant worker, every fighting picket captain and every last union man who is determined that the scabs shall not enter the plant during a strike. The real racketeers very often are slickers who divide up the swag with the cops and get protection from them.

Furthermore, does Green know who Edgar Hoover is? Lest he has forgotten we will tell him. Hoover is the scoundrel who in the days of the infamous Palmer raids, went about breaking into union headquarters in his attempts to smash the unions. Hoover is set and poised to spring at the unions again and do the same dirty job. And Bill Green says "we can be friends."

Yes, the racketeers should be cleaned out of the union. They can be cleaned out. But that is the job of the leaders of the AFL and the CIO. If these leaders were as hard on racketeers and gangsters in the unions as they are on "reds," progressives and class conscious militants they could knock the racketeers out in less than one year.

In any case this is a job for the unionists. This is no job to be entrusted to the police.

Keeping It Secret

Recent reports from Washington have noted a great increase in official secrecy. More and more things are being done behind the scenes, without letting the public—whose lives are at stake—in on it. The Kiplinger weekly news-letter, for example, recently told its business-men subscribers:

"There's a rising trend towards secrecy within the government.

"We mustn't let the enemy know' . . . is now a common expression.

"'Emergency' is talked on all sides. 'Emergency' is supposed to justify all sorts of departures from normal procedure.

"Seeds of war are being strewn about. Much is secret . . . too much."

Why is the government going about its war preparations in secret? Why is it afraid to let the people know what is being done? Isn't it because the "enemy" that must not "know" is the common people of America? To these realistic politicians, the main enemy is indeed at home.

A war that is really for the interests of the people does not have to be prepared in stealth and darkness backstairs.

Tweedledum Mr. Wilkie vs. Tweedledee Roosevelt

Big Business Closes Ranks to Face Its German Rivals

By DWIGHT MACDONALD

As the Democratic convention settles down to the arduous task of "drafting" Roosevelt, it may be worth while to review briefly what has been happening in national politics in the last two months. The blitzkrieg has already cracked our democratic system as wide open as the Maginot Line. Since the Reichswehr crossed the Dutch border on May 10, this country has travelled farther and faster towards black reaction than in any similar period in its history.

To understand what has happened, we must go back to three events in 1937 which marked the turning point of the "New Deal" era. Now the New Deal era was no time of milk-and-honey for the American people. It is true that unquestionable social gains were made then, but compared to the needs of a nation with ten to fifteen million permanently unemployed, these were pitifully inadequate. Nor could it ever be said that Franklin Roosevelt was at any time a very bold or consistent fighter against the big boys in Wall Street. He lined up quietly enough on major issues, practically handing the country over to business in the NRA period.

Nonetheless one can speak of a

"turning point" in his policies in the sense that at one time they were, however timid and inadequate, better than they are now. The first of the events in 1937 which marked the end of the New Deal was the serious political defeat suffered by the Administration forces in the Supreme Court fight. The issue itself was not important—Roosevelt later got the "liberalized" Court he wanted in another way—but the defeat itself was: it meant the beginning of the political retreat of the New Deal. That summer the wave of workingclass upsurge which had created the CIO was smashed against the granite resistance of big business in the disastrous Little Steel strike. Finally, the economic dead-end which the New Deal spending policies had reached was dramatically shown in the sudden and severe business collapse which took place in the fall of 1937.

BIRTH OF THE 'WAR DEAL'

Roosevelt realized the game was up. Within a few weeks of the stock-market collapse, he announced a sharp turn away from domestic reform towards a full imperialistic war policy. That was in the famous "Quarantine the Aggressor" speech he delivered in Chicago. Since then, every advance by Hitler abroad has

caused a corresponding retreat from the "New Deal" by Roosevelt.

Step by step, the American business community has drawn closer to That Man in the White House, realizing that this once hated and feared demagogue has long had a profound understanding of their own imperialist interests than they themselves. As men of business, also, they could see that democracy is like any other commodity: the more there is for export, the less remains for domestic consumption. And so the line of demarcation between Wall Street and Washington has grown steadily fainter.

ENTER THE ONE PARTY SYSTEM

The blitzkrieg erased it completely. A year or two ago people were talking hopefully about a third party. Today there are no longer even two parties. The Republican and the Democratic parties have merged into a monolithic front of American capitalism.

To run his war machine, Roosevelt has called into his cabinet the conservative Republicans, Kínox and Stimson, to whom he has handed over the Navy and the War departments. And the direction of the ten billion dollar rearming program has been taken out of the hands of the New Dealers and given over to several dozen bankers and corporation executives headed by Stettinius of U.S. Steel and Knudsen of General Motors.

The Republicans, on the other hand, have had to abandon the "isolationist" line with which they tried to make political capital out of the anti-war sentiment of the masses. Now that the Nazi threat to American imperialist interests has become serious, the Republicans have been forced, as the climax to the most confused and "wide open" national convention in party history, to give the nomination to a candidate whose views on foreign policy are indistinguishable from Roosevelt's.

The Republicans have Democratized their foreign policy, the Democrats have Republicanized their domestic policy, and both parties have joined forces to prepare national defense under the banner of reaction. No party lines have been drawn in Congress on such measures as the anti-alien laws, the relaxing of war profit curbs, the grandiose plans of the State Department to "coordinate" North and South America into an economic *grossraumwirtschaft* ("large-scale super-national economy") ruled from Washington, the "Fifth Column" attack on Reds and unions, the powerful drive against the Wagner Act and the wages and hours laws, and the various plans for peacetime conscription of adults and for putting the youth into government labor camps.

REYNAUD IS THE NAME, NOT BLUM

A great deal of nonsense is now being written by the liberals about the necessity for a democratic defense program. The only possibility of a democratic defense, as LABOR ACTION has often pointed out, is through a workers' socialist government. But the liberals continue to hope. "If the United States is to resist a triumphant Germany," writes George Soule in *The New Republic*, "we can fortify ourselves only by fulfilling and invigorating our democracy." And Roosevelt keeps repeating that not a hair of the New Deal social program—which is pretty bald by now, anyway—must be touched.

An equal amount of nonsense is talked by Wilkie and the conservative press, who blame the whole failure of the Allies on the Popular Front government in France—as though first Daladier and then Reynaud did not have two years of right-wing government in which to prepare against Hitler! Wilkie hammers away at "the Blum government in Washington."

But it is all a sham battle. Everybody, except of course the liberals, knows quite well that a "democratic" defense of democracy is a luxury American capitalism cannot afford in its present bankrupt state. Which ever wins the election, Tweedledum Wilkie or Tweedledee Roosevelt, the defense program will continue to be organized along the same Wall Street lines it now has.

This will be a fight against Hitlerism in the Reynaud tradition. And after Reynaud comes Petain and Dictatorship.

Our Readers Take the Floor . . .

SEES A LESSON IN FRENCH FASCISM

Dear Editors:

I see by the papers that the great Laval, that outstanding proponent of "democracy" along with his brethren in arms, Reynaud and Petain, have voted to install a regime of terror and slavery in what was once part of France.

It is interesting to note the remarks made by all the journalists in the capitalist press both before and after the capitulation of these sterling defenders of freedom. Even now these boys are a little hesitant to admit that Laval and Co. were the fifth column about which so much has been made of late. The scribes want us poor uneducated 'saps to believe that Hitler was victorious because of the "reforms" of the popular front.

I guess it still holds true that there are none so blind as those who would not see. Don't those penpushers know that the only way Hitler could have been stopped 'was by throwing out the phonies like Laval and Petain, and installing a government of the people, a workers government? That's where the popular front committed a crime. It strengthened the boss government when the workers were ready to dump that government.

The only way you can get a people to fight for freedom is to give it to them. A very sorry fact as far as the British ruling class is concerned. They are forced to drive their subjects, with the lash to fight for what they call "the freedom of the people."

As for us here in America, we have a big job to do. We must, if we want to stop fascism, fight like hell against the forces that are going to bring it. Hitler can't export fascism to America, no more than he could have exported it to France, without the consent of the ruling class. The main enemy of the French people was in France itself. For us the main enemy is still at home.

Fraternally yours,

Larry Kent Calif., June 28 B.

A STARVATION STANDARD FOR MANY THOUSANDS

Dear Friends:

Since I myself have become a member of the army of "Okies," the problem of the migratory laborer has struck home with full force. LABOR ACTION and the fighting socialists who are members of the Workers Party really have a tremendous job to do in exposing the rottenness of the conditions of the workers.

To quote from Dr. W. W. Alexander, Farm Security Administrator in a study just released by the Department of Agriculture: "American agriculture is undergoing a 'machine-age revolution' which will necessitate major economic and social changes in farming. . . ." The longcherished independence of farmers is declared to be dwindling; nearly 2,000,000 of them have become day laborers during the past five years.

In the five corn-belt states of Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio, FSA records show that 24,702 families were unable to find places for themselves on the land this year. They comprise 2 percent of the farm population of the nation's richest farming area.

Many, if not most of these, have joined the hundreds of thousands of other farm migrants who wander about the country in search of a day's work. At best, their income is just above the starvation level, and in many cases, they have to be supported by public or private charity.

Alexander said that if the government is to do a "complete job" of anchoring these surplus farm families to the land with some hope of security, the FSA rehabilitation program must be extended to 1,700,000 farm families which have an annual income of less than \$500 including all the produce they grow for themselves. The chances of the government doing that are very slim so you can see how important the work is for us.

The Death of A Liberal

By BLAKE LEAR

Maury Maverick, liberal darling (ah, yesterday!) of the Communist Party, hit the sawdust trail at the pre-convention sessions of the Democratic Party in Chicago last week.

Like all backsliders who have felt hell-fire licking at their pants legs, Maverick did penance for his liberal derelictions, in roars calculated to stiffen the morale of the weaker brethren.

To democratic leaders, Maverick proposed for the platform: universal service in the army and industry, extension of the ROTC through the public schools, militarization of the CCC, and the immediate mobilization of the national guard.

"The time has come to quit talking about soldiers in the thousands," Maverick said: "We've got to talk about them in millions."

Explaining the role of prayer in his recent conversion, Maverick stated that what this country needs are men like his Texan forebears. "They came praying to God and shootin' Indians," he said. "That's the way this country was built and it's the way it's got to be kept alive."

It doesn't take much thought to imagine what kind of Reds Maverick means this time.

Using the international connections of the Lord, and apparently distrusting the technical level of the British, Maverick even threw in a sub-prayer for the Bank of England and the British Navy.

The conversion of Maverick should occasion no surprise. It is only a more hysterical form of what has been happening to the liberals of the country under the war pressure.

The Tradition of Jacobin France Will Not Die!

By JOSEPH CARTER

One hundred and fifty one years ago on July 14, the Great French Revolution broke out when the people of Paris stormed the Bastille, that gruesome prison symbol of the rotten system of feudal terror and oppression. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity—these were the watchwords of the history-making masses who shaped the entire future development of mankind.

Today France is under the iron heel of barbaric Fascism. In agreement with Hitlerism, French big business has established its own totalitarian dictatorship, while the German fascist hordes occupy two thirds of the country. All democratic rights have been abolished; labor organizations suppressed; the right to strike outlawed.

The new French Fascist state has "renounced" the principles of the French Revolution. What a fraud! When was big business ever loyal to the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity? While in France itself the masses had compelled the plutocrats to maintain a parliamentary system and democratic rights of the people, the French rulers, particularly following the last World War, established the second largest and most valuable empire in the world; exercising a dictatorial oppression over 65 million people in Africa and Asia.

Afraid of working class revolution which would put into practice for the first time the ideas of liberty, equality and fraternity, which would take away the banks and factories from the present rulers, and free the colonial peoples from imperialist oppression, big business came to terms with Hitler at the expense of the French people.

At every crucial period in French history when the masses sought to establish their own rule, the wealthy bankers, the big financiers and industrialists, the plutocratic military officers united with the reactionary rulers of a foreign power in order to prevent a society and government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

JACOBINS FOUGHT DEMOCRATIC WAR

So it was in the early days of the French Revolution when the feudal monarchy, the rich bankers and aristocratic officers conspired with England and Prussia and Austria against Revolutionary France. It was the plebeians—the peasants, artisans and shopkeepers—who put an end to feudal servitude, separated church and state, and defeated the reactionary coalition of the mighty European powers on the battle field.

They organized their own government against the wealthy classes, the glorious Jacobin regime of 1793-94, and showed how a genuine and successful democratic defense of the nation could be conducted. For the first time in history the armed people replaced the mercenary army; the officers were controlled by the revolutionary representatives of the people; the rich were forced to bear the financial burden of the war. They fought on two fronts: against the internal enemy and the foreign foe who threatened to destroy the Revolution.

They fought in their own common interests; for liberty, equality, and fraternity; for land, bread and security. They defeated the technically more qualified and experienced troops of the reactionary powers of Europe. But their revolution was destroyed from within by big business and middle class forces who feared the growing movement for real economic and political equality and freedom.

So also when following the Franco-Prussian War, the workers of Paris established their own rule in the famous Paris Commune of 1871, the French government of Thiers and the German Bismark government cooperated in the bloody suppression of the Communards. This action was hailed by the ruling class press of England and the United States as a crushing blow to "barbarism" and "anarchy"; for whatever the differences among the economic royalists in the various countries they are united in their opposition to working class revolution since it spells the doom of their common system of wage slavery and oppression.

WORKING CLASS INDEPENDENCE OR BLOODY DEFEATS

The great lesson of history that the working class must be organized independent of, and in uncompromising opposition to the capitalist class can be forgotten only at the cost of continued and greater defeats. The unpardonable crime of the French Socialist and Communist Parties was that they destroyed the independent workers' movement, particularly at a time when the masses took over the factories and were ready to establish their own rule. The real gains of the inspiring general strikes and street demonstrations of 1936, the great sit-down strikes of 1936, the tremendous growth of the trade union movement were all shattered by the "Peoples Front" coalition of the workers' organizations and the capitalist parties.

The French workers, whose revolutionary traditions are second to none, have shown great recuperative powers in the past. Despite the barbaric domination of Fascism, they will once again arise in the struggle for national freedom, liberty, equality and fraternity. In irreconcilable opposition to all those who defend or compromise with capitalist imperialism, they will in united action with the workers of other countries establish the Socialist United States of Europe, as the first step to the World Socialist Federation.

MASS MEETING : Against Conscription • Against War

Tuesday, July 23, 1940, 8:30 P.M. • Manhattan Plaza (air cooled) 66 E. 4th St., New York City

Speakers: MAX SHACHTMAN, National Secretary Workers Party (now completing a coast to coast tour.)

Chairman: NATHAN GOULD, Organizer of Workers Party, Local N.Y.

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