

Workers! This Is Not Our War!  
It Is a War for Boss Profits!  
Join Hands in Independent  
Labor Action Against the War!

# LABOR ACTION

We Say—  
Conscript War Industries  
Under Workers' Control!

SEPTEMBER 8, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

## WE CALL UPON THE CIO TO RALLY ITS FORCES: DEFEAT THE ANTI-LABOR TAX BILL!

### Dan Tobin's Stooges in Minneapolis Come Up A Birthday Feast! With a Fat Handful of Jim-Crow Sewer Slime

For contact with the utmost in privy filth and sewer slime one has only to read one of the official AFL organs of Bill Green and Dan Tobin. We refer to the Minnesota Teamster, weekly paper of the AFL International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Minneapolis. This AFL teamsters' paper for Friday, August 29, contains the following choice bit of mud in the column called "The Editor's Spyglass."

"The New York Trotskyites are trying to get enough names on a petition to run a guy named Cannon for Mayor. They are offering Negroes free drinks for every 20 names brought in. Even at that they haven't got the 7,500 signers they need. Maybe their whiskey is as bad as their candidate.

For the present we are only interested in the open insult to Negroes that this quotation contains. It has been said again and again by Negro-haters that colored people will sell their votes for a drink of whiskey; if you want to get a Negro's vote all you need do is pass around some whiskey or gin. Negroes are venal and corrupt, say these advocates of Jim-Crow.

This AFL sheet put out by Bill Green's and Dan Tobin's organization in Minneapolis picks up this stinking slander to use as an attack against the CIO teamsters' union in Minneapolis, with whom they have been in conflict since Local 544 left the AFL for the CIO. The editor of the Minnesota Teamster, one Martin Quigley, evidently believes, along with other AFL advocates of Jim-Crow and all-white unions, that the best way to kill an opponent is to accuse him of association with Negroes. This proves, you see, that your opponent is depraved: he associates with Negroes who everyone knows are very low people and only interested in whiskey. Furthermore, by this method you can also prove that your enemy should have no standing among decent Americans; he has to go to Negroes, the scum of the country, for support. To Quigley and his fellow "patriots" this is breaking down the "color line," which no good AFL bureaucrat will tolerate for one second. If this keeps up, Negroes will want to be joining AFL unions and run for union office. Then where would the AFL be?

As we read this little piece of good Americanism from the pen of Mr. Quigley we were reminded that Bill Green is a member of a committee set up by President Roosevelt to "investigate" the cause and cure of discrimination against Negroes in the "defense" industries. We were also reminded that Dan Tobin is a close political friend and adviser of Roosevelt. That was as far as we got along that line. We got to thinking about the AFL itself.

We got to thinking about Frey who rode through an AFL picket line on a Navy truck protected by some marines. We thought about Dan Tobin who called in the FBI against militant workers in Minneapolis. We thought about Deacon Green himself who boasts constantly that he is at the service of the bosses and that the employers prefer to deal with the AFL rather than the CIO.

That wasn't all. We were reminded of the fact that a man named Browne, an AFL vice-president, is under indictment for gangsterism, graft and extortion. Also that a panderer, Willie Bioff, a buddy of Bill Green, is also waiting trial for gangsterism. There are more of them; in fact a great host of AFL gangsters, sluggers, panderers, rapists, bribe-takers, strike-breakers, traitors and betrayers of the labor movement. When one remembers all these things, it is easier to understand Editor Quigley and the Minnesota Teamster.



### Picket Line Is the Best Answer to These Plans

Many thousands of young men have been taken from the factories, mines and mills and forced into the army to be "trained" as soldiers in the imperialist war.

And the workers back home, those too old to die on the military front, are being made to foot the bill of this Second World Imperialist War.

Congress is going to give the employed workers in the factories the opportunity to "share and share alike" with the big bosses and financiers in paying the expenses of the conflict between the two gangs of international brigands.

This is the meaning of the new tax bill that the Senate Finance Committee has had the brazenness to adopt. This bill, which is more drastic than the House bill, will be presented to the Senate for adoption.

The Senate committee set exemptions at \$1,500 for married persons and \$750 for unmarried people. These senators, acting solely in the interests of the big bosses, function as hired bandits holding up the working class and taking part of their meager earnings to pay for a war from which only the big bosses will profit. These scoundrels on Capitol Hill conspire to take from labor every financial gain, every small wage increase that has been won on the picket line. These stooges of big business and Wall Street are out to plunder the working class in order to save a few million dollars for their imperialist masters.

Unmarried workers making about \$15 a week and married workers making \$28 a week will be forced to hand over even part of that miserable wage to a wolfish ruling class to pay for its imperialist war.

They have taken money from labor and labor organizations for their war bonds; they have gathered in the pots and pans of the workers; they have raised the price of food, clothing and shelter; they have demanded that wages be fixed. But this is not enough; they now plan to take even a part of what is left the lowest paid section of the population in the form of income taxes.

Isn't that the government needs this money so much; the sum it will get from the lower paid workers will be relatively small, only about \$49,000,000. The amount of money that will go to the government is not what these senators are concerned about.

They and their imperialist chieftains want to keep labor in poverty. They know that a higher standard of living gives labor greater confidence; every wage raise develops strength and determination and welds the workers together in union solidarity. This is what the bosses are against. They don't want labor to get "out of line."

The crooks, stooges and windjammers on Capitol Hill play the game of the big industrialists and financiers with utter abandon and obedience. The bosses are forced to give wage increases to labor. Along comes Congress to take away the puny boost in wages and hand it back to the bosses in the form of fat government war contracts. That's where this \$49,000,000 will go: BACK INTO THE POCKETS OF THE BIG BOSSES AND BANKERS.

Congress prepares to vote this in-  
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## Philadelphia Negroes Resist Rent Gouging Landlord

North Philadelphia Tenants Band Together in United Action Against Rent Raise—Demand Repairs in Houses—Bring Suit Against Constable

Special to Labor Action

PHILADELPHIA — At least one Philadelphia landlord has just made a big mistake. He forgot that the people who rent his houses are also human beings—human beings who will struggle hard against any kind of cut in their standard of living.

This particular landlord, a Mr. Henry Laver, of Chestnut Street, thought he could boost the rent in 27 houses he owns on the 1800 block of North Lambert Street without much trouble. His tenants disagreed. They felt that \$14 a month was plenty to pay for dilapidated old houses in the heart of the North Philadelphia Negro ghetto. And just as soon as they disagreed, Mr. Laver should have known better—for they showed him once before that no one, not even a Philadelphia landlord, can beat the people when they decide to fight together.

It was back in 1936 when the first Lambert Street rent strike occurred. The tenants, knowing that they were paying too much when they handed over \$18 every month, sent a delegation to City Hall to ferret out a few facts. They found out that not one of those houses was assessed at over \$700 and that the fair rent at that price should be \$7.00 a month. They finally settled on a rent of

\$14, provided certain repairs were made. For four months after that, Mr. Laver got no rent. Each month, instead, \$14 was deposited in a bank by each house. At the end of that period, not only was he glad to accept the decreased rent, but he repared and painted the houses as well.

Mr. Laver "Forgets"

Five years have elapsed since then, five years in which, it would seem, Mr. Laver's memory has become shorter and shorter. Or per-

haps it's merely that he reads his newspaper, not wisely, but too well, and reading about housing shortages, higher rents and higher prices, decided to do his bit, too, for "national defense."

Whatever the reason, some time back around May, Mr. Laver began going around to his tenants, each one at a different time, informing them that the rent was going up. For some it was \$15, for some \$18, for some \$20, and for others \$22!

He evidently thought that in this

way, and by not approaching the militant leaders until all the others had paid, he could force them to deal with him individually, and not as a group. The one thing he failed to take into account was that the members of the tenant league had not forgotten the strike of '36, and had not forgotten that as long as they stuck together, they could not lose.

Tenants Remember

They had not forgotten, either, that in all those five years, there

had been no repairs made in any of the houses. The paper and paint applied in '36 are still there, peeling and cracking off the walls; the cellars still lack cement floorings, and the dirt floors still flood in every rain. The wall boards are still loose; the roofs still leak; there is still no sort of heating system in any of the houses.

And so, when the Lee family turned out to be the first victims of the vicious system, they did not have to fight alone. Mrs. Lee had re-

fused to pay any more than the standard \$14. The landlord would not accept this and in due course, with all the proper trimmings of violence, cops and general nastiness, the family was evicted. The Tenants' League immediately brought charges against the constable in charge for having violated the premises five days before he had a legal right to do so.

The trial went as most such trials do. The magistrate's mind was made up when he entered the room. He

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## "Happy Anniversary--And Many of Them"

By SUSAN GREEN

During the first two years of the Second World War, in which America has—technically, at any rate—not taken a shooting part, the government has placed orders for deadly war weapons totaling the inconceivable sum of \$51,000,000,000.

LABOR HAS BEEN AND WILL BE PRODUCING ALL THAT STUFF FOR DESTRUCTIVE PURPOSES.

The cost of one super-battleship can provide model apartment structures for 87,500 people.

Think what glorious peacetime construction could be accomplished by the expenditure of \$51,000,000,000. Think to what extent the human race is being set back by imperialist wars. Let your mind also dwell on the wholesale destruction, during the past two years, of factories, railroads, dams, bridges and houses—all built by the workers of the world.

Such thoughts are fitting and proper on this second anniversary of the Second World War.

Of course, all of that \$51,000,000,000 does not go into the bombers and battleships. WAR PROFITS COME OUT OF THAT TOO. For instance, the leading aircraft companies pocketed more than seven times as much profit in the first half of 1941 as in the first half of 1939, before the war began. THAT'S A LITTLE BIT OF SOMETHING.

Then there are "contact" or "commission" men who get their rakeoff on every order placed. At five per cent, which is their rate, these vultures will get into their claws \$2,550,000,000 out of the orders placed so far. AND THE WAR IS ONLY TWO YEARS OLD!

Yes, two years of war have again made very apparent WHO GETS HIS and WHO PAYS HIS!

Those who pay have for two years been worrying about the cost of living. They have, for example, seen meats go up 30 to 64 per cent above the prices when the war broke out. This month meats cost 6 per cent to 10 per cent more than last month.

The people who pay for the imperialist war are those who have had to stop their milk deliveries during the last year. The milk companies report that deliveries have dropped by 12 per cent. They are the people who read with growing anxiety that the price of milk is going to rise much more rapidly than during the last war.

The 6,000,000 workers whose incomes heretofore have been considered too low to be taxed, will pay for the imperialist war. Next year, 6,000,000 more workers whose incomes are THIS YEAR considered too low to be taxed, will be compelled to sacrifice their life's needs for the boss war.

The low income groups who would never be able to acquire a stick of furniture, a radio or a rug EXCEPT ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN, are the people who will be paying for the bosses' war. They are no longer permitted to buy on the installment plan. All their meager savings must be available for taxes and forced loans to the war-making government.

The drafted soldiers are the people who pay. Today they are merely subjected to the pleasures of guardhouse "discipline" and—if their skin is black—to an occasional shooting by their own superiors. Today they READ that the average casualties per day on the main war front are 31,250 Germans and 41,657 Russians. But next year tens of thousands of American mothers will daily be notified that their sons are missing or have been killed in action.

Most definitely the second anniversary of the Second World War brings the certainty that the third year of the war will find on the farflung battlefields not only bombers, tanks and guns made in America, but AMERICAN FLESH AND BLOOD—and that American youth will be fertilizing the soil of foreign lands FOR MANY YEARS TO COME!

President Roosevelt, in good health and full of jokes, made this clear to the Washington correspondents after his return from the conference of the pointless points. Turner Catledge of the New York Times reported to his paper that a British view

"which he (Roosevelt) seemed to endorse" is that "a decisive German defeat would require an invasion of the continent by Great Britain AND HER ALLIES."

Chesly Manly, the New York Herald Tribune reporter, wrote to his paper that the grand strategy of the new Anglo-American-Russian alliance aimed at "the defeat and disarmament of Germany and Italy," that an invasion of the continent would be necessary to accomplish this, and that AN AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE WOULD BE REQUIRED."

The warmongers in Congress were ready to form a lynching party and go get these two correspondents for revealing "military secrets" or something. Their anger was due, of course, to their fear that the soldiers would not relish the plans the President made for their future.

Turner Catledge wrote further: "Apparently he (Roosevelt) could see nothing but A LONG WAR."

From the hot deserts of Africa, to the northern seas of Russia, to the remote islands of the Pacific, the second anniversary of the Second World War is celebrated by thundering guns, zooming bombers, burning buildings and dead bodies of workers.

In effect, the affable Roosevelt says to this war-weary world: "HAPPY ANNIVERSARY—AND MANY OF THEM!"

To the American workers whose burdens increase daily, he gives an anniversary present: PARTICIPATION IN THE SHOOTING!

To the American bosses who have been getting their war profits and war contract commissions for two years and will be getting THEIRS for the duration, the jocular ROOSEVELT gives a KNOWING WINK!

"HAPPY ANNIVERSARY—AND MANY OF THEM!"

But this second anniversary of the Second World War can be the last anniversary of the last war human beings will ever wage.

IT IS UP TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD!

### Demands Decent Housing for Buffalo Negroes

BUFFALO — Speaking before the Buffalo City Council, Timothy Smith, representing the Fifth Ward Housing Project Committee, challenged the Jim-Crow real estate interests of Buffalo. "As American citizens," said Smith, "the Negroes have the right to decide where they shall live and where they shall not live. . . . We union workers living in the Fifth Ward urge the continuation of the Federal Housing Project, no matter where located, for the benefit of ALL defense workers."

Protesting the Jim-Crow agitation  
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