

Workers Party Pickets Demand Indonesian Independence

NEW YORK, Nov. 17—As additional means to call attention to England's violation of the national rights of the Indonesian people's struggle for independence from Dutch imperialist rule, the Workers Party of New York picketed the British Consular Office at 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, on Saturday, November 17. The demonstration, organized quickly, rallied members and sympathizers of the Workers Party as well as a number of veterans of this war.

The picket line reached the British Consular Office at 11:00 a.m. and marched continuously for one hour. Picketers carried banners with slogans calling for the independence of the Dutch East Indies and protesting the intervention of British imperialism against a people organized and determined to have their freedom.

The banner-signs carried the following slogans, which thousands of passers-by were able to read: "Let Indonesia Be Free"; "Freedom Is More Precious Than Oil"; "American Workers Want Freedom for Indonesia" and "An American Vet Protests the Action of Britain in Indonesia."

The resolution of the Workers Party calling for the withdrawal of British troops from Indonesia and demanding independence for the islands was presented to the Consular Office by the leaders of the picket line, David Coolidge, national organizational secretary of the Workers Party, and Emmanuel Garrett, former editor of LABOR ACTION and recently discharged from the United States Army.

This resolution (which appears in the box below) was also sent to other British offices here with the request that it be forwarded to Prime Minister Attlee and his government.

WORKERS PARTY RESOLUTION AGAINST IMPERIALIST RULE IN INDONESIA

"As socialist working men and women who believe in the independence of all colonial peoples, we of the Workers Party protest Britain's imperialist intervention against Indonesian nationalist forces and demand that all troops and supplies being used against the Indonesians in their just and necessary struggle, be immediately withdrawn.

"Government spokesmen of the British Empire, as well as of other nations, have spoken glibly of the right of each people to self-determination. That, however, was months ago when the imperialisms of the world were still engaged in, selling some enthusiasm to the millions on the fighting fronts. During the war there was ample evidence that, declarations of the Four Freedoms and Atlantic Charter notwithstanding, the colonial peoples could expect nothing but the continuation of rabid imperialist rule save for what they could accomplish by their own independent action. With the war over even the pretenses have been dropped.

"In Indonesia, Netherlands imperialism has come to grips with the people of the Dutch East Indies, who refuse to be subjected any longer to imperialist exploitation. The British government has intervened with violence against the Indonesians to preserve its own particular interests in Java and, more than that, to preserve its own empire, in India and elsewhere, by propping the cracked structure of Netherlands imperialism. For it is true that a victory for the Indonesian nationalists would ignite victorious independence movements in India and other parts of the colonial world. It is toward achieving this end that we extend, in making this protest, our solidarity and encouragement to the Indonesian people.

"Self-determination may be a pretense, never seriously meant and easily discarded by the propagandists for the various imperialist nations. To us, however, as revolutionary socialists and as workers, it is an indispensable condition of the struggle to liberate the peoples of all nations from exploitation and enslavement. Thus we add our voice to the voice of the Australian workers who refused to handle materials destined for use against the Indonesians. End imperialist rule in Indonesia! Withdraw British troops from Indonesia! Self-determination for Indonesia!"

Truman, Attlee Meet In Diplomatic Secrecy

By E. GARRETT

We think it would be unkind to say that it took all of five days to produce the atomic bomb statement that issued from the conference of Messrs. Truman, Attlee and King. We are sure that the delegated heads of the governments of the United States, England and Canada were occupied with genuinely weighty matters that are only inferentially included in the public statement. We are further so highly convinced of their seriousness that we should like to spike the complaints of those who perhaps thought it mere capriciousness on the part of the conferees to meet in the closest secrecy.

Secret diplomacy did not end with the war. Newspapers may protest all they will at being excluded from the conference, at being compelled to draft daily dispatches on the basis of rumor, back-door handouts or public ceremonies. The diplomats of imperialism do not propose to let the people in on their agreements or their real discussions—be they at Potsdam, at Washington, or any place.

Suppose the working class of this country, of England, of Canada and of other countries had before it a stenographic record of the conference. It would find, we think, the following items: (1) Given the continued rule of world capitalism (and of Stalinist Russia) a Third World War is inevitable; (2) the United Nations Organization is a dead duck in every vital sense, and that as an instrument of world peace as much can be expected from it as from the League of Nations (remember?); (3) the atomic bomb is the mightiest military weapon yet conceived, and there "can be no adequate defense against it"; (4) other nations, notably Russia, are a cinch to discover the industrial know-how of the atomic bomb, but the United States means to keep

a jump ahead of them pending the day, five, ten or fifteen years from now, when the Third World War gets started; (5) the only type of world organization conceivable under imperialism is that achieved through the conquest of nations by a world power.

WORKING IN THE DARK

Possibly much more was discussed. It is possible that the conferees went into detail with respect to each imperialist rival. In that sense the secrecy of the conference was designed not only to keep the great mass of people in the dark, but the other imperialisms as well. However, the five points we have listed above are all of them implicit in the public gibberish solemnly handed a waiting world by the conference. To be sure it presumably says the contrary. It talks of preventing the "use of atomic energy for destructive purposes." But it doesn't say how. It promises to "promote the use of recent and future advances in scientific knowledge, particularly in the utilization of atomic energy, for peaceful and humanitarian ends." Again, how? It seeks "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction." We've heard that before. And it proposes "effective safeguards by way of inspection and other means to protect complying states against the hazards of violations and evasions." Violations, already?

How much all this means is evident in the walls of the commentators who lull each other to sleep with the delusion that peaceful world organization is possible under capitalism. In the Stalinist and pro-Russian periphery there is real anguish. PM's Max Lerner virtually froths at the mouth in criticism of the statement and the same newspaper's Blair Bolles sheds bitter tears because the

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LABOR ACTION

NOVEMBER 26, 1945

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

ONE CENT

ALL-OUT SUPPORT TO UAW AGAINST THE AUTO BARONS

By SUSAN GREEN

"For my part, I simply cannot conceive of any tolerable enduring order in which there exists widespread organization of workers along occupational, industrial functional lines," writes the union-busting Henry C. Simons, professor of political economy of the University of Chicago.

What has the reactionary Professor Simons to do with the class war raging between the Big Three automobile companies and the United Auto Workers-CIO? Everything—and this is no exaggeration. For at the negotiations between the officials of General Motors and of the union, GM Economist Stephen de Brul quoted the above fascistic approach of the professor as representing the company's point of view. In a word, the Big Three billion-dollar automobile companies have thus announced their purpose to break the 1,000,000-member auto union, the largest in the world and the most progressive and most militant in this country.

Their union-busting purpose explains all the moves of the corporations. That is why Ford refused to negotiate for wage increases but instead issued to the union a thirty-one point ultimatum, each one of which points is designed to cripple the union or to deprive it of some hard-won achievement. That is why GM most hypocritically offered the union a token ten per cent increase with a forty-five to forty-eight hour work week, thus making no pretense of its intention to abolish the 40-hour week. That is why Chrysler sits by, with bull-headed arrogance proclaiming that the thirty per cent increase demanded by the union to restore its members' take-home pay is "out of the question."

These war-enriched corporations absolutely refuse to join in bona fide collective bargaining. They want to force the issue to the picket line. The union on its part fully understands what is at stake. President R. J. Thomas has alerted the membership to be ready for "a costly and terrible strike" which the corporations are forcing upon the workers. He has declared that should there be a strike, it will be "with full confidence that the du Pont family cannot successfully flout the just demands of the automobile workers."

As we go to press the two-day meeting of the 200 delegates from the 100 locals in the GM system is not over. The men are conferring with the six-man strategy committee of the union on calling a strike in the GM plants. At the close of the first day of the meeting, November 19, Walter P. Reuther proposed that the thirty per cent demand of the union be submitted to arbitration, asking General Motors for a written reply by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 20. Arbitration has inevitably proved disadvantageous to the workers. This move was probably made by the union leaders in order to put the responsibility for an auto strike squarely on the shoulders of the corporations.

BEHIND THE REVOLT

In October, 1944, the tire builders at the U. S. Rubber plant walked out in protest against a cut in their piecework rates. More than 1,000 men were suspended from the union by ex-President Dalrymple and fined \$12.50 each. When they refused to pay they were expelled from the union. The company was asked by Dalrymple to discharge these men but that was impossible. The international appealed to the NLRB, which ordered the company to deduct the fines and a union reinstatement fee from the

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A FRONT VIEW OF THE WORKERS PARTY DEMONSTRATION BEFORE THE BRITISH CONSULAR OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY, CALLING FOR INDOONESIAN INDEPENDENCE. HEADING THE DEMONSTRATION (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) ARE REVA CRABINE, ORGANIZER OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF NEW YORK, EMANUEL GARRETT, FORMER EDITOR OF LABOR ACTION AND MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS PARTY, AND DAVID COOLIDGE, NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL SECRETARY OF THE WORKERS PARTY.

Progressives Win in Akron URW Goodrich, Firestone Elections

The election of George Bass and the re-election of I. W. Watson as presidents of the Goodrich and Firestone locals, respectively, of the United Rubber Workers, is a victory for the progressive elements in the Akron rubber locals.

Both are vigorous opponents of the reactionary international bureaucracy and it is possible that troublesome days are ahead for the rubber barons.

The average rubber worker feels that more militant leadership is needed to fulfill the seven-point program advanced by the rubber locals. Something more than Milquetoast leadership is needed to bring a 30 cent an hour pay increase from the large rubber companies.

The rubber workers have taken a terrific cut in take-home pay as the result of a shift from a forty-eight hour week to a thirty-six hour week. At the same time this changeover has made a neat little cut in labor costs for the bosses. Of course there has been no reduction in prices for the products the rubber manufacturer sells.

Now the workers are serving notice that they aren't fooling when they want a pay increase.

Another local election coming up is that at Goodyear, where C. V. Wheeler stands for re-election.

Wheeler is also an outspoken opponent of the international. He has been singled out for attacks by the international almost constantly since the Goodyear strike of this summer. After the Navy broke the strike last

summer, an umpire was agreed upon to handle disputes between the company and the union on questions not covered by contract. Recently the umpire ordered the maintenance and engineering divisions back on an eight-hour day. The union refused to recognize the umpire's jurisdiction in this question for it was covered in the contract with the company and is a matter purely for collective bargaining. The decision neverthe-

less caused a spontaneous strike for a short time. This was the signal for the Beacon Journal to digress temporarily from its general labor-baiting and become specific in its castigation of Wheeler and the Goodyear local. The Beacon Journal never fails to come to the support of its class brothers on all important issues. It strikes out at labor at every attempt of the unions

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The Ministerial Crisis in France

No real political crisis has developed in France in the dispute between de Gaulle and the Communist Party, although the political situation in the country has become severely aggravated by the Stalinist demand for one of the main cabinet posts—War, Foreign Affairs or Interior—and de Gaulle's rejection of that demand.

President de Gaulle suddenly resigned his post and went on the air to denounce the Stalinist demand, arguing that he could not grant such a post to them, for that would create a crisis for France. Stalinist control of one of the three main posts in the cabinet, he argued, would mean allying France to Russia and thus make more difficult the country's relations with the Western European powers and the United States.



De Gaulle's resignation was not as forthright as was first reported. He indicated his readiness to continue as President provided he was given full authority to select his own cabinet. It was this situation which precipitated the strong protests of the Communist Party and produced a great deal of parliamentary bargaining behind the scenes.

The Stalinists denounced de Gaulle's radio speech as a slur on their party's patriotic war record. In Jacques Duclos' speech, the secretary of the Communist Party presented evidence that his organization was just as jingoistic in defense of French imperialism as any other. He omitted, of course, reference to the period of the Hitler-Stalin pact, when the French Communist Party acted as the agent of Russia's interests as outlined by the pact.

PARLIAMENTARY HORSETRADES

The apparent understanding of the Communist and Socialist Parties that neither would support de Gaulle for

re-election as President led the CP to nominate the Socialist, Gouin, as President. But the Socialist Party, tied to the French ruling class, failed to support the CP when it refused to vote to recall de Gaulle to give him again the responsibility of forming a cabinet. Instead, a bloc between the Socialist Party and the Popular Republicans voted to give de Gaulle the task of constituting the new cabinet with the proviso that the body shall be composed "essentially of the three leading parties—the Socialists, the Communists and the Popular Republicans—which should equitably share the ministerial positions for the application of the program of the National Council of Resistance."

Previous to the Assembly vote Duclos stated that the impasse over the selection of the cabinet was not caused by the fact that the CP insisted on one of the above mentioned cabinet posts, but by the fact that his party was insulted by de Gaulle's speech.

The fact is that while the French

Communist Party is today the largest political organization in the country, it is still not strong enough to rule by itself. But it does have the power to prevent a governmental set-up against it.

The real root of the present situation in France, however, lies not so much in the veritable stalemate that exists in the nearly even strength of the three leading parties in the country as in the fact that the economic situation in the country prevents any rehabilitation of the nation. The French capitalist economy is in decay. France is no longer a real power among the nations of the world. Its hope for a measure of economic normalcy lies in any handout given it by the powerful United States.

None of the leading parties of France represent a real force for social reorganization and progress. Yet that is the crying need of the country, namely, a workers' state, planned production under workers' control, directed toward the establishment of a socialist state.

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LABOR FRONT

UAW Fights the Auto Barons - -

(Continued from page 1) The offer, rejected by the union, was to raise by ten per cent the hourly wages of all workers whose hourly rate has not been increased to match the thirty per cent rise in prices since 1941. Need any worker be told that the cost of living has gone up nearly forty-five per cent since 1941? The insulting ten per cent offer goes hand in hand with a forty-five hour week. The union stands firm for three full shifts of forty hours. The largest, richest and biggest money-making concern in the world is planning to lead the country back to a long workweek. Naturally the union must fight tooth and nail both to protect the bitterly won forty-hour week and to prevent more ravaging unemployment due to longer hours. And GM knows this. The unrestrained gall of the industrial overlords is again manifested in the Ford thirty-one-point demand on the union. Ford attacks the right of workers to have their union representatives handle their grievances. This union-busting outfit also wants practically to abolish seniority rights. It would extend temporary layoffs from thirty to ninety days. It would stop call-in pay. It would make vacations depend on time worked. It would make the union pay damages for work stoppages and strikes. Most of the thirty-one points are along these lines—and the Ford company knows the union will fight this vicious attack. The UAW hurled back the accusation that Ford had issued "a union-busting, irresponsible and strife-provoking document." Answering the company's blather about more production, the union asks: "Does the company think that workers whose morale has been wrecked by low wages and high cost of living will have any chance to achieve peak production?" The union reminded the

company that the workers' production in wartime was no fairy-tale and that when the company got the Army-Navy "E" award it wasn't "pixies that did the work." On the question of work stoppages the union replied: "There is a very simple way to avoid work stoppages. That is to stop provoking them." FORD'S ULTIMATUM To the cry of the poor billion-dollar Ford company for "company security," the union very aptly answered: "Since the company keeps its financial affairs largely a secret it's hard to tell how much 'security' the company has. We do know that the company's assets are now well over a billion dollars, having increased during wartime by more than \$300,000,000." Furthermore, the union pointed out that the "tough policy" of the companies is connected with the provisions of the tax law which are so favorable to capital. Since the government guarantees these companies—so pathetically crying for security—tax refunds in case their profits fall below the 1936-39 levels, any strike losses will be repaid them out of the federal treasury. There are other conditions favorable to the companies. They have the very comfortable reserves of piled-up war profits. Again, the market for cars is such that it has to wait for production as and when it comes. Another thing that must be understood is that there is a virtual strike on the part of business to defer full reconversion and production till next year. Why? Because there will be no excess profits tax next year and profits will be juicier as a result. Business also hopes that by then the expiring OPA will yield to the blows of business and pass out entirely, thus allowing higher prices and higher profits to prevail. If these corporations are profit-greedy lions, the United Auto Work-

ers-CIO, on the other hand, is no lamb. It has won its position in the labor movement by hard slugging—and by winning. The sitdown strikes of a decade ago form a most brilliant and militant chapter in labor's history in any country. The auto workers know how to fight—and so do their wives and children. For example, the wife of a die-maker employed in General Motors told a New York Times reporter: "I've got my man and four kids to feed. We can't do it if we have a cut in pay. . . It's just as simple as that, I'm behind my man." The progressiveness of the UAW-CIO and the other CIO unions in the present wage fight must be understood and supported by all workers. Not only do the thirty per cent demands involve the very basic issue of maintaining take-home pay so that

the standard of living does not collapse. The unions are also attacking the sacred profits of the companies, as well as their practice of passing wage increases on to the consumer. Furthermore, the unions' insistence on real collective bargaining involves opening the corporations' books to public observation. Such jobs as this are typical: "The union again expresses its regret that the corporation persists in keeping locked up in its vaults the arithmetic on which the dispute can be settled peacefully and fairly." In a word, the UAW-CIO is out in the front trenches on behalf of all of organized labor, and also on behalf of the unorganized workers, whose only chance of advancement lies in organization. The UAW-CIO now fights for the preservation of progressive unionism itself.

Labor-Capital Farce

By P. PRENTISS The labor-management conference is fizzling out. All the fanfare that accompanied its opening has died down and the news reports on it are now relegated to obscure columns of the press. Nothing has been accomplished by labor or management, and the labor bureaucrats have been putting on a bad show for their class. When Ira Mosher was asked by reporters which of his brother delegates represented the Chamber of Commerce and which the National Association of Manufacturers, he boasted: "We all represent the same thing." The labor delegates, on the other hand, were widely split. John L. Lewis and the AFL delegates acted as agents of management in backing their vote against the CIO proposal to bring the issue of wages to the floor. Throughout the sessions Lewis has been working hand in glove with the AFL in an attempt to run the labor side of the conference and to relegate the CIO to a powerless minority. Neither Philip Murray, head of the CIO, nor his bitter opponent, John L. Lewis, hit the core of the problem when they addressed the conference. Lewis struck a direct blow at the workers he represented when he stated that the only limitation on collective bargaining that he desired to see was free enterprise and free competition. He could have been speaking for the Chamber of Commerce instead of the United Mine Workers when he said: "We are for free enterprise." Who knows better than the mine workers, the misery and poverty caused by a "free enterprise" coal mine? Lewis, too, should remember about coal mines, but he suffers from amnesia as he plays the role of the reactionary trade union bureaucrat.

The CIO leaders, on the other hand, seemed to be in a dark room, groping for the light, but, unfortunately, groping in the wrong direction. R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW, spoke clearly when he commented on the procedural matters cluttering up the conference agenda. "I don't see how it will put one more slice of bread in a worker's mouth, create better homes, furnish better clothing or do away with unemployment. Millions of workers in this country are looking to this conference to see not how we are going to work out procedures but what we are going to do to raise their standard of living." As a test, he suggested that the procedural matters be considered by the conference be read to the striking street car and bus workers in Washington "and see if that's what they want." But despite all this talk by the CIO delegation, Philip Murray, under strong rank and file pressure in the CIO, even now does not see his way clear to calling for a militant program. He fills a little niche of his own in the world of trade union bureaucrats. He hopes, under the present set-up, to be able to talk management into giving higher wages. But management won't play. They have seen to it with the aid of AFL's Green and the UMW's Lewis, that the issue of wages is never brought up at the conference. In order for the conference to be guaranteed a "success," nothing serious can be discussed. But whether or not this "peace parley" is passed off as a success or failure will have little effect on the organized workers of the country who have an agenda of their own which deals with the vital problems, and a program of their own for setting them.

Truman - Attlee - -

(Continued from page 1) statement rang down the curtain on "the era of hope that sovereign states could settle their differences in international organization." It is true that United States imperialism hasn't yet devised a clear-cut general policy. There are within the general framework of United States imperialism different views, some conflict of interest—as in the uncertainty over occupation policy in Germany. On the whole, however, it is based on the recognition that the end of the Second World War left the world with two great imperialist powers, the United States and Russia. It recognizes also that the issue of world mastery will sometime have to be settled between these two giant powers. And, in a cold sweat, it further recognizes that outside the interests of either of these two, or of any imperialism or combination of imperialisms, lies the interest of the peoples of the world who are in ferment and may not again wait for the issue to be decided between the imperialisms but may decide their own issue with all the imperialisms through insurrectionary decision. GUARDING THE "SECRET" England's role is necessarily more modest. It is a beaten, weak, hard-pressed imperialism that would like to hold on to what it has and perhaps build itself up again to its former magnificence. It is, for the present, it has to be, content with its continued role of junior partner in the Anglo-American firm, snatching a concession here and there. Thus a columnist in the New York Post, discussing the statement on the bomb, writes that "Truman wanted a stipulation in the secret"—meaning Russia of course—[would] put forth a frank statement of their territorial and other aspirations." Attlee thought it wasn't wise, so Truman conceded. In net effect, no one is going to "participate in the secret." The state-

ment provides for "effective safeguards" before any exchange of secrets. Since any "safeguard" against war in an imperialist world is an absurdity, the United States will continue to produce the bomb, and the Russians, if they do not already know how to produce it, will continue their research and learn how to produce it a year or two from now. Other powers will share the secret according to how alignments shape up. And, while research and production continue, the United Nations Organization may outlaw the bomb. This will make a big splash in the press, but not produce so much as a ripple of delay in actual work on the atomic bomb. URW Election - - (Continued from page 1) to better the workers' lot. It has supported some of the labor bureaucrats in their attempts to tie labor to the bosses via the late no-strike pledge, etc. The only "support" labor can expect from the Beacon Journal and the capitalist press generally is a feeble statement that "there is something to say for both sides." The important development that has taken place in the Akron labor movement is the apparent determination of the workers to rely upon their own strength and action and to completely sever all connections with umpires and WLB actions that have hamstringed them in the past. This is absolutely necessary at this time when the corporations, stuffed with huge war profits and guaranteed huge peacetime profits by their government, have set out upon a union-busting campaign.

LEFT JABS By SHAW

"The Good Soldier: Schweik," a bitterly satirical anti-war novel by the Czech, Jaroslav Hasek, has just been banned by the Czech government. The book was written in 1923 to deflate the pomposity of militarism and nationalism that had swept Europe during the First World War. We recommend it heartily. Your public library has it. That the atom bomb has struck fear into the hearts of the mighty is evidenced by the number of different proposals about what to do with or about the bomb. What the big boys are trying to hide from us are these inevitable conclusions: 1. Big armies and navies, yes, and even air forces are obsolete. In an age where a bomb can be sped through the air in a pilotless, radio-controlled vehicle at speeds faster than sound, armies and navies are useless. 2. Two corollaries flow from the above. One is that it will be just as easy for a small nation like Switzerland or Tann-Tuva to conquer (that is, destroy) the whole world as it would be for some mighty colossus like the U.S.A. 3. The other corollary is that there is no need, even from the capitalist point of view, for universal military training... except, of course, to regiment the working class even more. 4. There is a pressing need to

organize the world under a system where nationalist and imperialist rivalries will be eliminated. And that system, friends, is... socialism, no matter what fancy-sounding substitutes the capitalists try to pawn off on us. The President of Bethlehem Steel has voluntarily reduced his own salary to \$221,000 a year. What are you going to do, Eugene, cut out cigarettes? Meanwhile the U. S. Steel Corp. refuses to grant pay increases to its workers until the OPA lets them raise the price of steel sufficiently to cover the cost of the increase. In other words, the bosses have no objections to our getting higher wages as long as we pay for them ourselves. Because that's what it means; if, every time a raise is given, the cost to the consumer increases, we are bearing the burden and the pay rise is a fraud. Workers must fight not only for increased wages but also for lower prices. White Man's Burden Dept. In Indo-China, which has a population of 25,000,000, there were in 1939 over 1,700 opium shops, which sold enough opium in a year's time to provide each man, woman and child with about 4 1/2 pounds. At the same time, there was only one primary school for every 3 1/2 thousand people, and there were only four libraries in the whole

country. All this under the administration of the French. The Good Lord save us from these civilization spreaders! Is it any wonder that the natives prefer that the French do not come back? In Java, Indonesian native revolts for independence are being crushed by British and Dutch troops using American lend-lease supplies. Liberals can draw out what grains of comfort they wish from the statement of Secretary of State Byrnes asking the British and the Dutch to remove the U. S. insignia from the lend-lease tanks and guns that they were using against the natives. Reminds us of the fellow sitting comfortably in a bus who suddenly buried his head in his arms. "What's the matter?" inquired a sympathetic passenger, "feel sick?" "No," sobbed the first guy, "it's just that I can't stand the sight of women standing in a bus." Truman's insistent demands that Attlee allow 100,000 Jews to go to Palestine are only a screen to cover up the hard fact that this great land of ours has not opened its doors to even ONE Jew. Beg your pardon... slight correction: there are a handful of Europeans of all nationalities and religions in a sort of nice concentration camp in New York State who were admitted temporarily during the war but who are to be shipped back. Harry, the Humanitarian, they call him back home.

Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor . . .

The Case of the Willow Run Union

Dear Editor: Willow Run workers have become the victims of the wrath of the International Union against their toomilitant Local 50 and of the opportunism of such office holders as Percy Llewellyn, regional director of IA, and Leo Grogan, president of Local 142. (Graham Paige). Frazer, president of the Graham-Paige Corp., has decided to consolidate Graham-Paige with the new Kaiser-Frazer Corp. The international and the above-mentioned individuals have successfully blocked every attempt made for a joint meeting of the executive boards of Locals 50 and 142 in the past months and the leadership of 142 has deliberately tried to turn its membership against Local 50 members and their claim to seniority in the plant. As a result of Graham-Paige workers' picket lines (supported by Local 50) at both their old Warren Avenue plant and the Willow Run bomber plant, an agreement has been signed between the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation and the international, recognizing the UAW as bargaining agent and recognizing the seniority of the Graham-Paige workers (142) and Graham-Paige plant protection, members of 114, UAW. The "expedient" Willow Run workers have been given no consideration whatsoever. R. J. Thomas promised Local 50 that he would negotiate for their seniority with Kaiser while in Washington for the international executive board meeting and that the question of which local would have jurisdiction would also come up before the board. Local 50 agreed to await further negotiations until Monday morning, at which time, failing to receive a favorable decision, they would picket the plant in earnest, calling upon Locals 142 and 114 to support their fight for seniority, and for a real contract with the corporation, providing for grievance machinery and a living wage. A Reader, Detroit, Mich.

Chicago Reader On Racial Strikes

Dear Editor: The South Side of Chicago has had continued racial strikes in some of the high schools. Bowen Higs School of the Calumet district formed a leadership, then spread to the Fenger High School. Calumet held several strikes against Negroes for a period of three weeks; Fenger, one week—with police involved, boys and girls injured and the faculties at a loss to end the disturbances! These strikes have spread to Chicago Heights and Harvey High Schools. There whites have prevented the colored from entering a bus which carries them to school. These racial strikes began in Gary, Ind., the press carrying the stories and adults influencing the boys and girls. Also, the politics of Mayor Kelly enters in with his year-old boundaries which began the issue all over again. I thought this may be of some interest to you. G. F.

Free Enterprise System at Work

NEW YORK—With millions of dollars in its jeans, the Brewster Aeronautical Corporation, a typical example of capitalist "free enterprise," shows its inability to continue to operate. A board of directors' statement to a forthcoming stockholders' meeting has recommended liquidation as a result of the company's inability to operate at a substantial profit! The average hourly rate in the Brewster plant is \$1.00 per hour and after deductions the weekly take-home pay is less than \$40 a week. Workers with families depending on them for support know how far this sum can go toward maintaining a family, with the cost of living way up in the heavens and threatening to keep rising. Yet Brewster, which earned millions during the war on the basis of government cost-plus contracts, can't even afford to pay a decent living wage, because if it does, then profits won't be substantial enough! The Brewster Corporation at one time employed some twenty-thousand workers, of whom more than six thousand entered the armed forces. At present the entire working force numbers about one hundred and forty workers—and these will soon be joining the men and women with whom they had worked previously, at unemployment offices. The closing of Brewster is also an attempt on the part of the bosses to smash the union with which it has a contract, UAW Local 365, one of the fightingest, most militant locals in the UAW. But these anti-union free-enterprisers will not succeed, because the militant policies of 365 will continue in other shops with which it has contracts under its present amalgamated union set-up.

Workers Party Activities

BUFFALO Announcing a series of Friday night forums: Friday, November 23—The Indonesian Rebellion—Speaker, W. Garfield. Friday, November 30—The 30 Per Cent Wage Increase—Speaker, T. Jones. Look for subsequent topics and speakers in the coming numbers of L.A. The New International can now be bought in Buffalo at the following stands: Pearl at Chippewa. Franklin at Chippewa. Delaware at Chippewa. The Buffalo Branch of the Workers Party will hold its Thanksgiving Party, Sunday, November 25. Place: Workers Party Hall, 639 Main St. (2nd floor). Fun begins: 8:30. Admission: 35 cents. DANCING—REFRESHMENTS GAMES. LOS ANGELES A class in the fundamentals of Marxism—a course in scientific socialism—to be held every Friday evening at 8:00, beginning December 7 at 127 South Broadway, Room 310, L. A. 12. Workers Party and Labor Action Headquarters LABOR ACTION, 3773 Gratiot St., Detroit, Mich. LABOR ACTION, 1703 West Madison St., Room 6, Chicago, Ill. LABOR ACTION, 639 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y. LABOR ACTION, 1105 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa. LABOR ACTION, 127 South Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif. For information of other Workers Party branches and LABOR ACTION offices write to the National Office, 114 West 14th St., New York 11, N. Y.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S PRESS ACTION BY PAUL BERN

Under the heading of "Law and Order," all the reactionaries are attempting to work up a lynch spirit against labor. LABOR ACTION supports labor on the picket line and presents an effective fighting program. Why don't YOU support LABOR ACTION? Here is a good way: It's only twenty-eight days to Christmas... Get it? Yes! You did. Buy your friends subscriptions to LABOR ACTION AS A GIFT. And while you are at it get them a sub to The New International also. If you are not a subscriber to our paper and magazine, buy yourself this excellent Christmas gift. Another idea. Millions of servicemen are already discharged. Many of them were fed all sorts of anti-labor propaganda. The best way to acquaint them once more with the labor movement and a fighting labor program is through LABOR ACTION. How about all our readers buying at least one veteran a subscription to LABOR ACTION. It's the best homecoming gift. Everyone has a brother, friend or son who is a vet. Give him a real labor paper to read. EVERY READER SHOULD SEND IN AT LEAST ONE SUCH SUBSCRIPTION. ITS ONLY THIRTY-CENTS FOR SIX MONTHS. Last week we hit the one hundred mark in our subscription score box. This week we are down again to our average weekly score of only about fifty new subs. If all our readers get behind the suggestions we outlined above we certainly can hit the hundred mark each week and more. How about the best agents of LABOR ACTION, the Workers Party members, (Tear this blank here and mail)

Table with 2 columns: City, Subscriptions received last week. Total 53.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER Dear Friend: During the coming critical year I wish to receive every issue of The New International and LABOR ACTION—and to take advantage of your introductory offer. Please enter my subscription at once for— [] one year of LABOR ACTION at only 60 cents [] one year of The New International at only \$1.50 [] one year of The New International and a copy of the book, The Fight for Socialism, at only \$2.50 This offer is for a limited time only. [] Enclosed is my payment. [] Bill me later. Name Address City Zone State and for my friend, Name Address City Zone State

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

Published Weekly by the
Labor Action Publishing Ass'n
114 West 14th Street, New York 11, N. Y.
CH. 2-9681 (Third Floor)

Vol. 9, No. 48

November 26, 1945

ALBERT GATES, Editor
MARY BELL, Ass't Editor

Subscription Rate: 60c a Year; 35c for 6 Mos. (75c-40c for Canada, Foreign, New York City, Bronx)
Re-entered as Second Class Matter, May 24, 1940, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y.
Under the Act of March 3, 1879

Editorials

UAW Fights for All Labor

With the determination so typical of union-busters, the auto barons have challenged the auto workers of this country to go out on strike and see if they can win their just wage demands that way. Thus the great showdown fight between the United Automobile Workers-CIO and the auto industry has begun.

This is no ordinary labor dispute. The auto industry is the testing ground for the big post-war anti-labor offensive organized by the monopolistic corporations which fattened themselves on war profits during the past four years. In so far as the dispute itself is concerned, the facts are simple enough.

The union has asked General Motors to increase wages by thirty per cent. In its brief, it presented incontrovertible evidence that the company had "earned" enormous war profits and was fully able to pay this wage increase on the basis of a forty-hour week with no increase in prices. The union stated that it could prove this by an examination of the company's books. The reply of the company was that it was none of the union's damned business what the profits of the company were.

COMPANY LINE-UP

The company countered with a proposal to hitch wages to the cost of living index—at this day and age! It then offered a ten per cent flat increase which the union justifiably rejected. Aside from these two gestures, General Motors has refused to engage in genuine collective bargaining with the union, insisting that any substantial wage increase must depend upon an increase in automobile prices.

But even the OPA, which received a price increase demand from General Motors, had to reject it on examination of the company's books.

The real give-away in this situation was the action of the Ford Motor Company. Previous to its announcement that it stood shoulder to shoulder with General Motors and Chrysler, Ford had announced its willingness to deal with the union and it was the gossip in the Motor City that the union had actually reached an agreement with

the company that would give the workers a substantial increase in wages.

But suddenly the press announced that the Ford company suddenly changed its mind and turned on the union with thirty-one demands calculated to give the company "the same security as the union had."

The line-up is now complete. The automobile giants have closed their ranks against the auto workers of this country, determined not to grant these workers a living wage.

UAW FIGHTS FOR ALL

If this were only a fight between the UAW and the auto industry, the struggle would be more simple than it actually is. The truth is that the fight in the automobile industry between the union and the companies is the first shot in the war of the big corporations against unionism. The test is the powerful UAW. If the bosses of this country can smash the UAW, they will be in a position to smash unionism in the United States. One has only to observe the unity of big business on this issue to understand that it is not the fabulously rich auto industry alone which is in the fight. No, the whole big business world is back of the auto industry!

Against these giants, with their tremendous funds, assisted by the forces of "law and order," the government, the press, radio and every other means of propaganda, the UAW has only the strength of its numbers. The whole labor movement must get behind the auto workers. This does not mean that they must give only moral support. No, the UAW must get the material support of the CIO and the AFL and all independent unions. The UAW fight is the fight for unionism and for every worker in this country.

Labor! Join forces to smash the conspiracy against the union movement!

Labor! Give all material, moral and financial support to the United Automobile Workers in their historic fight in defense of unionism and the American working class!

Fumbling the Atomic Bomb

The meeting between President Truman and Prime Minister Attlee on the subject of what to do with the atomic bomb not only revealed the great concern of the powers with this terrifying instrument of destruction, but clearly showed the utter incompetence of the capitalist world with its complement of statesmen, politicians and diplomats to reach a progressive resolution of the problem.

It would seem to be a simple problem. Scientists of the world finally found the secret of atomic energy control and produced a bomb capable of destroying civilization. These same scientists have warned all the nations that unless effective means are achieved to outlaw the use of the bomb and to place it in the custody of a world organization, the world faces an atomic armament race with the grim prospect that the next war will witness the annihilation of civilization. These well-founded warnings, however, fall on deaf ears.

Capitalist governmental leaders who, in large measure, hold the fate of the world in their hands, are utterly incapable of doing what is necessary to prevent another catastrophic war which may turn out to be the last fought by man. They think in the terms of a permanent capitalism divided into rival national states and competing imperialisms fighting for economic domination of the world and regard the Frankenstein bomb as another "war measure."

Thus, Prime Minister Attlee came to Washington to propose that the secret of the bomb, which is really no secret, be turned over to the Big Five powers with

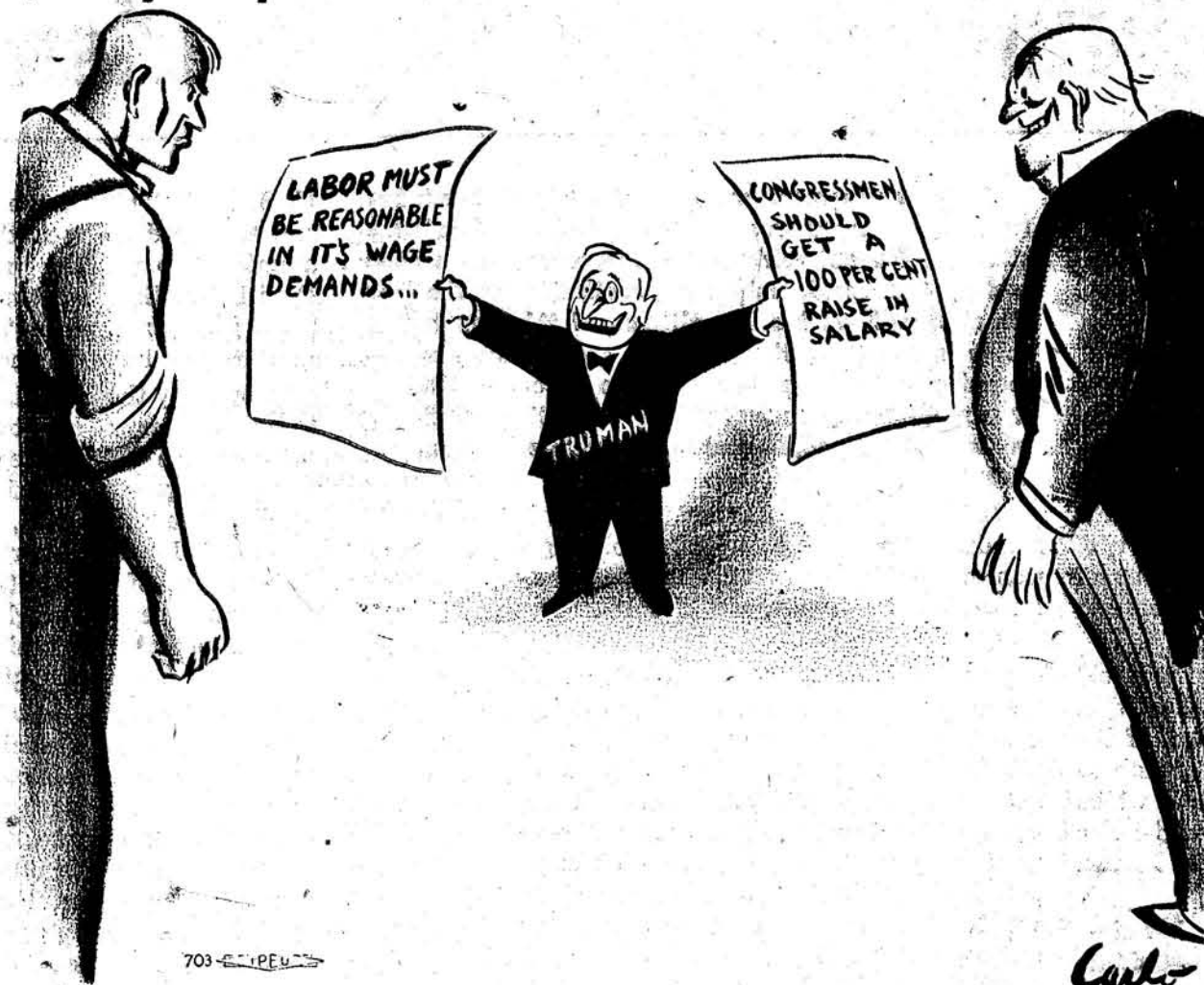
a proviso that its use be forever barred. President Truman, however, complained that to do this would be to give the secret to other nations and this would be a mistake so long as there is really no prospect of lasting peace. He proposed instead that the bomb remain in the possession of the United States, Great Britain and Canada and that they shall hold on to the "secret" until the rest of the nations of the world give further evidence of their desire for peace and their determination not to go to war again. Prime Minister Attlee hesitatingly accepted this proposal.

What hypocrisy! Three nations which have been joined in two wars and which have engaged in periodic wars throughout their history call upon other nations to give evidence that they will renounce war. Three imperialist powers call upon other imperialist nations to respect the rights, freedom and independence of other nations before they will be allowed to know the secret of the bomb.

None of these statesmen speak in the terms of peace because they know that so long as the social order which they represent in their official capacities continues to exist, war cannot be abolished. And so they accordingly use the atom bomb as a diplomatic weapon in order to prepare to use it as a war weapon when the time is ripe.

If nothing else indicates why capitalism should be abolished and replaced by socialism, certainly the manner in which the ruling classes are handling the atom bomb does. A social change is necessary if the world is to avert the prospect of annihilation through the most terrifying instrument of death and destruction known to man.

Strictly Impartial!



CAPITALIST BARBARISM IN EUROPE

By STEPHEN PARKER

Six months ago the war ended in Europe, three months ago in Japan, and the peoples of the entire world both times celebrated the end of the bloodbaths. It was a war in which soldiers and civilians alike suffered. Super-bombers drew no distinctions between those in uniform and those out of uniform, between men and women, between aged and children. The bombs and the advancing and retreating armies destroyed both the houses in which people lived and the factories from which entire nations drew their economic sustenance.

Today, with the war hardly ended and the misery wrought by the plague of war still beyond the comprehension of civilized minds, the warmakers prepare for the next war. Europe remains an armed camp. The armies of German imperialism are vanquished. But in their stead, occupying the ruins that once were Europe, are the armies of the victorious Allies.

And while preparations are made for the next war, agonized Europe still suffers from the last one. In country after country the story is the same. Over 20,000,000 people are wandering on the continent of Europe, without a home to protect them from the ravages of winter. The more fortunate may be able to improvise a shack from the ruins and debris. The less fortunate will spend the winter in dugouts in the ground.

THE CHAOS OF EUROPE

Industry is also in chaos. What wasn't destroyed by the war is taken care of by the occupying armies of Allied imperialism. Especially is this condition marked in the countries occupied by the Russian armies. There entire factories are dismantled and machinery sent to Russia. Farm machinery and livestock are also removed. People are left without the means of providing for themselves, without food and without factories.

Transportation is in a chaotic state. There is not enough coal to heat ei-

ther homes or furnaces in the industrial centers. Hunger stalks an entire continent. And now a new pestilence arises, that of disease which may soon take its horrible toll in lives.

This is the story of Europe today, this is what capitalism and war have produced.

The entire picture of barbarism to which Europe has been led was presented in an omnibus survey of European conditions that appeared in the New York Times on November 13. The Times asked its reporters in the different European countries to give a picture of conditions in each country. With amazing similarity they all reported the following: homelessness, economic paralysis, hunger and disease.

THE TIMES' SUMMARY

C. L. Sulzberger, the Times' correspondent in London, summarized the findings of the reporters in moving and vivid sentences. The New York Times, the great defender of capitalism, stands condemned by the words of its own reporters. Here is what Sulzberger said:

"Europe faces one of its bleakest, saddest winters since the chaos of the Thirty Years War, reports from key cities show. Cold, famine and misery vie with each other in the ruins of great cities threatens to sweep out across a frightened world.

"More than 20 million desperate and homeless people are now milling east and west, north and south across the Continent. Germans pour westward into the devastated Reich from Slavdom, Poles and Czechs moving hard upon their heels into vacated towns. Hungarians trudge into the Pannonian plain. Spanish peasants, fearful of the hungry, cold mountains, work their way into overcrowded cities.

"Hundreds and hundreds of thousands of former Nazi slaves crowd into freight cars and trucks and rusty ships on uncertain voyages to their uneasy homes.

"The apocalyptic horsemen are once again trampling a Europe whose vital energies alone have saved it

time and again from their deadly hoofprints. New serums, penicillin and the sulfa drugs may well rescue the Continent from another deadly influenza epidemic such as slaughtered the survivors of the last great holocaust; science can deal with the isolated islets of bubonic plague that have sprung up in the festering corners of the Continent.

"But the resistance of Europe is low. Tuberculosis is rife. The very young and the very old especially are beginning to die in droves as the autumn leaves fall."

Capitalist barbarism offers no hope for the future. The despair and gloom are unrelieved. Europe has been condemned to a low standard of living for years to come. For the peoples of victors and vanquished alike, capitalism offers no hope. When one reads of what conditions are like in Poland today, one of the "Allied victors," then one gathers the full imminence of the picture.

It is the poor, as usual, who suffer. In the midst of the almost universal agony are small cesspools of luxury and abandoned living. The rich, the owners of the factories and the land suffer from no shortage of the needs of life. They have money to patronize the black market. Their needs are seen to by the sympathetic Allied military administrations.

They still patronize the night clubs. And Allied officers mingle socially with the remnants of the European aristocracy. Like a mad dream, one reads of fashion shows held in the shambles of Berlin.

In Eastern Europe there are the lackeys of Stalinist imperialism. They approve, while the Russians despoil their countries, remove their machinery and in many cases entire factories, extract reparations, and appropriate for themselves the agricultural crops.

Not only is there no food or clothing or the means to make a livelihood, but there is also no freedom. The war for freedom has ended without any freedom.

(Part II Next Week)

Workers Party Leads Second Smith Picket Line in Oakland

By SCOTT BYER

OAKLAND, Cal., Nov. 10—Fascist Gerald L. K. Smith made his second appearance in the San Francisco Bay Area at Oakland's Technical High School Saturday night. As usual, Smith spoke under the auspices of the Payroll Guarantee Association (Ham and Eggs).

Readers of LABOR ACTION will recall that at Smith's previous meeting in Oakland, three thousand pickets marched in front of Technical High's auditorium, actively demonstrating their opposition to native American fascism! At the last meeting, however, a mere handful of pickets, about sixty in all, representing the Workers Party, who organized and led the line; the Zionist Youth organization, Hashomer-Hatzair; and the Young People's Socialist League; gathered in an interval between downpours of rain to demonstrate against the capitalist hater, Smith.

PICKETS' HOLD MEETING

Anti-fascist slogans were shouted, labor and socialist songs were sung and every one of the two hundred and fifty fascists and Ham and Eggsers that crossed the line were soundly booted, until another downpour of rain forced the line to seek shelter on the steps of the auditorium. There

the anti-fascists held their own meeting and all speakers, including a representative of the striking CIO Machinists Union and the IWW asked those present to take the story of that night's picketing back to their unions and organizations and to urge mass participation.

While the picket line would undoubtedly have been larger had it not rained all that day, rain is hardly the reason for the difference in size of the two picket lines. The mass picketing at Smith's first meeting was the result of a call to picket by the Oakland Council for Civic Unity which heads the united front to combat fascism in the East Bay Area, and from which several CIO unions, the NAACP, Jewish Community Center and the Communist Party take their lead. However, like all liberal reform organizations, the Council weakened after seeing the tide of working class militancy rising, and asked the people of Oakland to "kill Smith's second meeting with silence."

The Communist Party leadership, unwilling to endanger its favorable position on the Council, documented its servility to the Council in the November 10 issue of the Daily World (West Coast Daily Worker) in an article headed, "Give Smith the Silent Treatment Tonight."

Nothing more could be expected from these organizations, but the con-

servative role played by the Socialist Workers Party, a revolutionary party, bears repeating.

ROLE OF SWP

When the Council for Civic Unity announced its role of "inaction," the Workers Party contacted the SWP and asked if they were still planning to picket. The answer was that unless four or five large organizations decided to picket, they would not participate. Later the Workers Party again contacted the SWP, informing them that four Berkeley groups composed of university students had agreed to picket, and asked if they would reconsider. Still they refused, saying that "student groups do not constitute a formidable anti-fascist force; it is our duty to get the mass worker organizations there."

Thus the group that claims to be the vanguard of the vanguard also fell to the "silent treatment" of Smith. The Workers Party, the Hashomer-Hatzair and the Young People's Socialist League went ahead with their plans to picket and even though the picket line was smaller than had been expected, the pickets did give active opposition to the crime of the "silent treatment." But, more important, Smith-American imperialism's general on the home front—has yet to hold a meeting in this region unchallenged and unhampered.

DEMOBILIZATION

Why Brass Hats Want a Big Army

By JOE LEONARD

Anyone who studies the government's policies in the years immediately preceding Pearl Harbor can hardly escape the conclusion that Roosevelt was planning foreign military intervention even while he was making speeches to the people denying it. It is worth recalling, too, that three months before the German surrender, when everyone knew the end was near and some war contracts were already being cut back, Roosevelt tried to force through a labor draft to put everyone (except business men and politicians) under military discipline.

We can see today the continuation of the same pattern in the reluctance of the government to let trained cannon fodder go home. For all the hullabaloo that is already starting over the expenses of guaranteeing sixty million jobs or unemployment relief, all but the chronic budget balancers are taking a very different attitude toward the expenses of keeping men in uniform longer than necessary. It's all in what you consider "necessary."

HOW MANY ARE NEEDED

They say it is "necessary" to keep a large number of men in uniform as an army of occupation. First "estimates" were that at least two and a half million men would be needed as foreign policemen. Under close questioning and strong protests, the "estimates" were revised downward. The people must beware, however, that the brass hats do not later, after the fuss has died down, "re-estimate" the figures back up again.

The brass greatly exaggerated the size of the army of occupation that would be required, in order to justify the slow discharges.

A huge army and navy of occupation of conquered countries and world-wide military bases are being used as an argument for keeping men in service and drafting replacements into service. The argument is that they cannot raise enough men by volunteer methods. (And it isn't because they haven't tried!) But if nobody wants to serve in the army of occupation, where is the evidence that the American people WANT an army of occupation? The Administration is trying to imply that the American people want something done that no one is willing to do! So, they say, we must conscript men for the job. What has that to do with democracy?

THE GAME OF POWER POLITICS

The Administration wants a big military machine to "back up" its power politics. The big boys, in brass and out, understand that power politics simply means getting as much as you can before the hostilities begin again. They don't know when the next war will start, but they don't want to be caught as short as they were this time. Besides, as Hitler demonstrated, having a big army behind your ambassadors and business men with investments helps "persuade" hesitant politicians in other countries.

The idea of an army of occupation, officially, is to establish peace and order and prepare Germany and Japan (and France and Italy and Belgium and China and everywhere else American soldiers are stationed) for democratic self-government. That's what the Allied Military Governments SAY. Of course, that is what Stalin says in Poland and Rumania, too; what Churchill says in India and Greece; what Hitler said in Norway and Czechoslovakia; what Attlee says in Hong Kong and Indo-China; what Truman says in Porto Rico and Korea. Every day the newspapers recount how the foreign ministers of the Big Three powers are quarrelling over which of their countries shall "democratize" some other section of the globe. The conclusion is clear to all who are willing to face it: the peace that is being muddled through is an imperialist peace; the Have nations are gobbling up the Have-not nations. No one talks, not seriously, of letting nations rule themselves. The next world war to eliminate a few more "powers" and concentrate the control of the earth still further is already openly discussed.

The grabbings of the Big Three resemble the grabbings of monopoly corporations within a country, and they have the same cause: the big shots, the wealthiest men, the men who really run the country, must expand or collapse, as they nearly did in the last depression and as they surely will in the coming one. American big business has the largest appetite of all. Nothing less than world empire is the goal.

LOS ANGELES READERS:

LABOR ACTION FORUM

The British Labor Government—Will It Bring Socialism?

WHY DID LABOR WIN IN THE BRITISH ELECTIONS?

WHY DID FRANKENSTEIN LOSE IN THE DETROIT ELECTIONS?

THE FIGHT TO BUILD AN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY IN AMERICA...

Speaker: **GORDON HASKELL**

EMBASSY AUDITORIUM FRIDAY EVE.
843 Grand Street NOVEMBER 30

ATOMIC ENERGY: for Barbarism or Socialism?

A SERIES BY THE EDITORS OF LABOR ACTION

"The impact of the bomb was so terrific that practically all living things, human and animal, were literally seared to death by the tremendous heat and pressure engendered by the blast."—From a Tokyo broadcast describing the result of the atomic bomb dropped by a Superfortress on Hiroshima.

The explosions in Hiroshima and Nagasaki of the missiles that were produced by the United States for the "democratic" camp and dropped on what we were told was an "ape-like, bestial and inhuman" people are still reverberating throughout the entire capitalist world and shaking the very foundations of the system that produced them. The development of the atomic bomb has posed in a new and dramatic fashion the question: *Capitalist barbarism or socialism?*

The use of the first atomic bomb—and we are told that this one was a "baby" (!) and the weakest that could be devised—has given humanity a preview of the Third World War. It will be a war in which no one will be immune, in which everyone might perish and which could be concluded in minutes. Read the tragi-comic attempt at consolation by Lord Cherwell of the British Parliament:

"There is no fear of the world blowing up, but civilization as we know it may be destroyed."—United Press dispatch.

And that of William L. Laurence, writer of the New York Times' series on atomic power:

"Atomic energy is here to stay; the question is whether we are."

Or if you think that these lay spokesmen are alarmists, listen to Albert Einstein, whose mathematical theories were turned to practical use in the control of atomic energy. Einstein writes in an essay in the November, 1945, Atlantic Monthly, also with that air of absurd consolation:

"Atomic power is no more unnatural than when I sail my boat on Saranac Lake. . . I do not believe civilization would be wiped out in a war fought with the atomic bomb. Perhaps two-thirds of the people of the earth might be killed, but enough men capable of thinking and enough books would be left to start again and civilization could be restored."

The Chicago group of scientists who worked on the production of the bomb are not so complacent as Einstein. They say in a resolution of their body:

"The development and use of the atomic bomb has radically changed world politics, and has created a situation fraught with grave danger for our nation and for the world. Only a full realization of the new situation will enable the citizens of this country to solve intelligently the problems created by the unleashing of atomic power. If a wrong course is taken, it may mean the destruction of our cities, death for millions of our people, and the possible end of our nation."

It is not melodrama to say that today humanity truly stands at a crossroads: one sign pointing to the destruction of mankind and civilization and the other to everlasting peace, freedom and security.

The bombs dropped in Japan struck a blow against capitalism and a blow for socialism. This may seem paradoxical, since they helped to establish the victory of one capitalist nation over another. But the very magnitude of the death-dealing weapons that capitalism spawned brought a revulsion against war and against the system which breeds war to millions of people. The very weapon which wrought such tremendous destruction is of and in itself an argument against the system which produced it and an argument for a new social system which will put an end to war for all time—socialism.

In order to examine how the release of atomic energy is an argument for the new society of socialism and an argument against the old society of capitalism, let us first of all summarize the facts about atomic energy.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOMB

The development of the atom bomb was not the result of a single scientific discovery. It represented the totality of knowledge of nuclear physics derived from decades of study, experimentation and the fusion of ideas of scientists from all over the world. The trail of atomic energy leads from the French Becquerel's discovery of uranium radioactivity, through the German Roentgen's discovery of the relation between rays and chemical salts, through the Curies' isolation of radium, to the English Chadwick's theory of neutrons and the Jewish Einstein's mathematical calculations which gave science a theory later proved experimentally in the fission of uranium.

In addition to using the theories of many scientists from many nations and many periods of history, the

U. S. project picked the scientific brains of the world and employed them on this job. Thus the "American" atomic bomb was the product of the labor of Italian, Danish, English and American scientists, who had for many years engaged in "atom-smashing," i.e., at efforts to control and use the enormous energy in the atom.

Obviously the United States can lay no special claim to the discovery of how to use atomic energy in its present explosive and disintegrative form. The government, for the purpose of creating the greatest destructive instrument known to man, spent \$2,000,000,000 on what Dr. Lewis Balamuth, writing in "Ammunition," educational organ of the United Automobile Workers—CIO, calls "the greatest single planned scientific and engineering project in the history of the world."

But if the United States can lay no special claim to the discovery of how to use atomic energy, neither can she claim any special knowledge on how to produce the bomb, since it was only her immediate financial and technological superiority, plus peculiar circumstances created by the war, i.e., time and the reservoir of scientific knowledge of her allies, which gave her a head start over her competitors. The other powers were already at work on the same project. Great Britain and Canada, for example, worked jointly with this country on the plan. Germany was very close to developing the bomb before her defeat. The decisive scientific fact in the production of the bomb, the fission of uranium, was discovered first in that country late in 1938. (It is one of the ironies of history that the Jewish scientist who made this discovery fled Hitler's realm to Sweden and reported her findings to the Swedish scientist Nels Bohrs, who then communicated this information to the U. S. and Great Britain.)

"Private initiative" and "private enterprise" contributed little or nothing to the discovery and production of the atom bomb. The various projects which were created in the hope of making the bomb were government organized, planned and financed. This fact is important to remember in relation to our later discussions on the social, political and economic consequences of the epochal discovery.

WHAT ABOUT THE "SECRET"?

While the politicians in Washington and the professional military men prattle nonsensically about "keeping the atomic bomb secret," the scientists who worked

on the bomb are all agreed that the secret atom bomb ceased to be a secret once it had been used in Japan. The universality of scientific knowledge makes secrecy impossible. The Oak Ridge group, for example, declares:

"We can claim no enduring monopoly in the possession of the atomic bomb. Other scientists can apply the fundamental principles, perhaps even more successfully than we have done."

In testifying before the Kilgore sub-committee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee, Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer, referred to as the leading atomic scientist in the country, corroborated this opinion by saying:

"Discussion of the secret of the bomb is academic. It is only possible to keep our policy (foreign policy) secret. . . There never will be a counter-measure against the atomic bomb, although there may be a way to intercept the bomb carriers."

The Chicago group writes in Life, October 29, 1945: "Let us realize the fact, however disagreeable, that in the near future—perhaps two to five years—several nations will be able to produce atomic bombs."

Even the great productive strength of a country like the United States does not make her secure. The power of the bomb is so great—and recall that the present power may be magnified a thousand times—that it takes only a few, strategically planted, for a small country to wipe out a large country.

As a matter of fact, what it took the United States six years to produce, will take any other country much less. Whatever "kinks" the scientists of other countries have to overcome are relatively simple now, since it has been demonstrated that the experiments in nuclear fission can be translated from the laboratory to the factory.

The attainment of leadership in the development of the atomic bomb also means little or nothing. All nations have the secret. All nations are capable of producing the atom bomb. A nation does not have to produce atomic bombs in abundance to match, let us say, the great productive capacity of the United States. It needs only to produce enough atom bombs, even if the enemy has many more bombs and even if they are capable of superior destruction. And, atomic bomb destruction is on so vast a scale that it becomes a little ludicrous to match the degree of destructibility of various atom bombs.

Cartel Ties Between Nippon, U. S. Capital

By CHRIS WARREN

Information "revealed" last week proves conclusively that the war between the United States and Japan was no different from any other imperialist war. This is revealed in a very interesting economic fact. After four years of bitter warfare, during which millions of workers and their families were slaughtered, after four years of a hate campaign fostered by the capitalist press, the American and Japanese industrialists "suddenly" find that they have a good deal in common. The capitalists of both countries are bound together by CLASS ties first of all.

This class tie was demonstrated last week when Allied headquarters in Japan released a survey of foreign interests in Japan. According to the report, the task of de-industrialization of Japan will not be an easy one. The intricate pattern of international cartels, trusts and banks binds the two countries so closely that the United States is finding it difficult to sever.

The problem they are faced with is not simply that of smashing a competitor, for the survey reveals that United States industrialists have been and still are partners of the Japanese Zaibatsu! It was American capital that financed Japanese industry in the years preceding the war.

WHAT THE SURVEY SHOWS

The survey shows the close connection between the banking institutions of America and the Mitsubishi Bank, which had branches in New York and other cities of the United States. Large corporations in the United States invested their extra capital in Japanese industry.

The Westinghouse Corporation owned 53,700 shares of stock in the Mitsubishi Electric Co. \$378,000 roy-

alties were received from this stock in 1940. The Mitsubishi company was permitted to use Westinghouse patents and obtain technical advice and information.

The International Standard Electric Co. of the United States had the right to select one-fourth of the directors of the Japanese firm, the Sumitomo Electric Industries!

The American oil company, Tide-water Associated Oil, held 100,000 shares in the Mitsubishi Oil Company valued at \$21,000,000.

The Aluminum Company of America helped establish the Sumitomo Aluminum Co. Thirty per cent of the stock of that company was owned by Aluminum, Ltd. of Canada.

No word of these interlocking interests of Japanese and American big business leaked out during the war! The capitalist press was too busy shouting about the "treachery" and "bestiality" of the Japanese people to mention the relationship between Japanese and American industry. The American and Japanese working class has lived through four years of the fiercest and most inhuman war in the history of the capitalist world. This war recognized no dividing line between soldier and civilian. The number of women and children killed, the number of wounded and homeless as a result of block-busters, fire bombs and the atomic bomb can only be "estimated."

It is time for the working class to understand what this human slaughter was for! Was it for the "Four Freedoms"? No! The guns of the Allies silenced the workers of Greece, Indo-China and Java who believed that World War II was an imperialist war, a war between the big powers of the world to hold on to and increase their possessions, spheres of influence and profits!

Indochinese Continue Fight For National Independence

By ELEANOR MASON

Shouting "Independence or Death!" the Annamite nationalists of French Indo-China wage their struggle against French and Allied imperialism. Together with their Indonesian brothers, the people of Indo-China fight to wrest their freedom from the "democratic" victors in the war over Germany and Japan. The Allies welcomed their support in the resistance movement against the Japanese. The surrender of Japan and the ousting of the Vichy French left the nationalist movement the only possible successor to power in Indo-China. It was only on September 23 that the French, supported by British arms, arrived to reclaim their colony. Today as the Annamites continue the struggle for freedom and independence, they get a hail of bullets just as deadly as Japanese bullets, but labeled "made in democratic, imperialist France, England and the United States."

Aided by British and Indian troops, the French have already murdered forty-six and wounded over one hundred Annamites. These are Allied figures and in all probability far below the actual ones. The fighting has not yet reached the large-scale proportions of the war in Indonesia, but it threatens to break out in fiercer struggle. A few days ago, French ships fired machine gun volleys into sampans moving up and down the river. RAF planes are being used against the nationalists. It is certainly an ironic note that the Allies, who have fallen out over division of the spoils, have no difficulty in acting together in vicious reprisals against all colonial peoples.

The independence movement is led by the Viet Minh Annamite government at Hanoi. It represents most of the pre-war political parties and has the backing of the Annamite people. Viet Minh rejected the French offer of self-rule within the framework of the proposed "French union." They demand the French get out and stay out, with no strings attached. If the French stay, there will be no real freedom or independence for the people of Indo-China.

WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

Indo-China is composed of three groups of people: Annamites, numbering over fifteen million; Laotians, numbering a million and a quarter, and Cambodians, numbering three million. The Annamites predominate in

Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina and it is for this group that Viet Minh demands independence. The French, in traditional imperialist fashion, claim they preserve order among the three groups of peoples. Yes, they preserve "order" with the aid of sharpened bayonets, burnings and killings. The Annamites offer real freedom to the people of Cambodia and Laos. They can either come into an independent Annamite state or stay out, as they wish.

The other "reasons" the French offer for remaining where they don't belong are that the Annamites can't rule themselves, the French introduced good roads, western culture, etc., etc. The truth is that France's record in Indo-China is one of scandalous corruption, exploitation of resources for the enrichment of French capitalism and the blocking of industrial development.

Plantation laborers earn from thirty to forty cents a day while tremendous profits accrue to French capitalists from their ruthless exploitation of the country as a leading source of coal in the Far East and producer of one-third of the world's output of natural rubber. There's a clever cartoon illustrating the kind of "culture" the French have brought. It shows two natives, armed with crude weapons, dashing madly in front of a huge tank. One man is saying to the other: "Don't look now, but I think I see civilization coming."

SUPPORT ANNAMITE FREEDOM!

The labor movement in the United States must give full support to the people of Indo-China. We have a duty toward our brothers in the colonies. American labor must place itself in opposition to the policy of American imperialism which supplies arms and ammunition against the colonial peoples.

The struggle of the Indo-Chinese is part of our struggle for peace, jobs and security. Their fight to get the French ruling class off their backs is part of our struggle to get the American bosses off our backs. Defeat of French imperialism will deal a blow to imperialism in the United States and all over the world. The sparks in Indonesia and French Indo-China are setting fires that will light up the struggle for a better world.

FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDO-CHINA!

OUST THE FRENCH AND BRITISH!

ALL SUPPORT TO THE ANNAMITE PEOPLE!

Next Week:

Atomic Energy: for Barbarism or Socialism

(Part 2)

The Situation in China

"On the Line" by Bill

Movie Review: "The Southerner"

Communist Defeat in #101

(Continued from page 1)

men's pay checks. By this time the list of culprits had been boiled down to 572.

While the 1,000 were in a state of suspension, and hence barred from voting in the local, the CP rushed through a proposal to hold immediate local union elections and John Marmion and the CP slate were victorious in the lightest vote in the local's history.

As a result of these dictatorial acts, close to 2,000 of the local's membership decided to leave the URW to join the MESA, a small independent

union. This move collapsed, however, when twelve men were expelled without a trial by the International Executive Board and fired from the plant. A seventeen-day strike which shut down the whole plant in July was broken by Army seizure of the plant.

RANK AND FILE VICTORY SEEN

The current elections for delegates saw a rank and file revolt against the local leadership which solidified itself with the policies of the international.

One of the aftermaths of the whole

affair was the resignation of Dalrymple as international president. Another was the decision of John Marmion, leader of the CP group in the local and president of the local, to decline the nomination for president in the 1945 elections. The CP sees the tide running against it and has decided to pull in its horns temporarily. It is now seeking to find some non-CPers whom it can support with full guarantees from these candidates that they will string along with it.

But all indications are that the CP will be completely wiped out in the coming local elections.

Exposing a Stalinist Slur on Labor Action

Brother Unionists

Electro-Motive Local 917, UAW-CIO Chicago, Ill.

An unsigned article slanderously attacking LABOR ACTION has appeared in your local union newspaper, "719 News," under the bold heading, "Beware Company Poison!"

This is a wretched specimen of yellow journalism in its attempts to link up LABOR ACTION with the propaganda sheets of General Motors Corporation, such as "GM Folks" and the "Streamliner." It lilyingly states that "particular confusion was caused by the similarity of line taken by the known company publication, Streamliner, and LABOR ACTION. . ."

Thousands of EM workers who read LABOR ACTION know that the policy of our paper week in and week out is this: 100 per cent support to labor's demands against GM and every other capitalist corporation.

WHAT IS LABOR ACTION?

The writer of the stupid article in your union paper knows well enough the "line" of LABOR ACTION. He even says: "Some people had mistakenly thought of LABOR ACTION as a union publication of some sort, especially when it called for every body to support the Electro-Motive strike."

LABOR ACTION has never represented itself at any time to be the publication of your union, or any other union. Our paper is a national weekly expressing the fighting socialist interests of all labor against exploitation and oppression. The columns of LABOR ACTION are filled with timely information and correct analysis, exposing and condemning the reactionary union-busting drive of the corporations, the weak-kneed policies of many labor leaders and the treacherous influence of the Communist Party in the labor movement.

We do not find it possible for GENUINE union men or union papers to misrepresent consciously the burning issues that confront the labor movement. And that is exactly what the author of your ridiculous article has done, with the intent to deceive EM workers.

For our part we are confident that EM workers know enough about their recent strike, what was and was not good about it, that they can judge for themselves the merits of LABOR ACTION's articles about it. Unlike your editor, Al George, we don't believe in trying to fool workers that "GM Bosses Yield," when everybody in the shop knows that the only concession won in the strike was a "plate lunch."

All during the war the Al Georges and Harry Polls were whooping it

up FOR the no-strike pledge, that notorious straightjacket on labor's just demands, whereby General Motors profited enormously out of YOUR toil and sweat. But now that the victorious Russian bureaucracy has fallen out with its Wall Street ally, and they are quarreling over division of the spoils of war, Stalin's henchmen in the American trade union movement are pretending to be interested in the worker's welfare again.

LABOR ACTION, however, has consistently fought militantly against the sell-out policy of the no-strike pledge during wartime. We have revealed many times over just why Stalin's blind followers and agents in the union movement have again shifted their policies because of changes in Stalinist foreign policy. And we don't intend to stop exposing the creatures in the unions who slander honest workers and working class papers.

If the author of "Beware Company Poison" had cared to be open and above-board in his hatred of LABOR ACTION's militant program, he would have written something like this:

"I hate fighting labor papers which can't be controlled by the so-called Communist Party. I'm trying to discredit LABOR ACTION on orders from above. The best way to do that is to try to frame it up, by linking it in the workers' minds with General Motors. I don't mind lying to EM workers in order to help my Russian masters today any more than I minded lying to the workers yesterday about how wonderful the no-strike pledge was."

We don't expect such men to be so honest. That's why we take this opportunity to tell EM workers the FACTS of the matter.

Fraternally,
LABOR ACTION
Chicago Office
Room 6, 1703 W. Madison.

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL for November

contains

CHARACTER OF RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

By Leon Trotsky

JAPAN'S DAYS OF DEFEAT

By William Braden

SOCIALISM OR ATOMIZATION

By Willem De Voort