

Work for a Workers World;
Join the Workers Party!

LABOR ACTION

SEPTEMBER 15, 1947

A PAPER IN THE INTERESTS OF LABOR

FIVE CENTS

Nationalize Food Industry Under Workers Control!

FOOD PRICES AT NEW HIGH!

Low Income Savings Fade Under Rise in Living Costs

By SUSAN GREEN

A recent poll of income and savings for 1946, taken for the Federal Reserve Board, gives the facts and figures as to what the mass of people are actually getting out of the so-called prosperity we are supposed to be enjoying. The apologists for capitalism, who play up present high employment, have not seen fit to give equal publicity to these facts and figures. Why? Because this information underlines how thin is the ice of capitalist security, how fleeting is the prosperity capitalism dispenses, how mythical is the progress it brings to the working people.

First, the shameful fact should be proclaimed from the housetops that sixty-five per cent of the family units in this country that fling billions to the far corners of the earth to entrench its imperialism, that sixty-five per cent of the families had a yearly income in 1946 of less than three thousand dollars. Many of these incomes were less than two thousand dollars and others were less than one thousand. This low-income group, constituting the great majority of the people, carries the burden of high prices and high rents at the sacrifice of health and well-being.

What constitutes the middle-income group, ranging in annual income from three thousand to five thousand dollars, in 1946 embraced twenty-five per cent of the people. Only the remaining ten per cent of the population, including the upper and nether layers of capitalists, had a yearly income of five thousand dollars and over—the very few way over.

SAME OLD STORY

The poll, taken for the Federal Reserve Board, was to find out the extent of savings and spendings in these various income groups. This is done periodically not to publicize the failure of the capitalist system to supply the elementary needs of the majority of the people, but simply for banking and business reasons. So it was found out "that the majority of U. S. families are spending all, or nearly all, of current income to pay current bills" and that "relatively few are putting aside any substantial amount of saving."

Thus, that sixty-five per cent of the population earning less than three thousand dollars per FAMILY unit, that sixty-five per cent accounted for only FOUR per cent of the total savings in 1946. The middle section, earning between three and five thousand dollars, covering twenty-five per cent of the people, saved thirty-five per cent of the total for the whole country in 1946. But the small group of ten per cent with incomes over five thousand, own SIXTY-ONE per cent of all the savings in 1946. The same old story of wealth accumulating more wealth.

At first glance it is surprising

that the middle-income group accounted for as high as thirty-five per cent of the savings, with prices what they are. However, the survey listed as savings not only cash in bank and bonds bought, but also payments on a house and life insurance premiums. So that families with moderate incomes, who try by might and main, by skimping and stretching, to own their own home or to provide some security against death in the family, are also listed as savers. It would also be instructive to find out how much of that four per cent of the total savings that the low-income group is sup-

posed to have saved, is made up of the dribbles collected at doors by life insurance agents from these families who haven't enough to eat and to clothe themselves.

WAGES INSUFFICIENT

But the indictment that this poll unwittingly makes against the capitalist system is not merely that, even in a period of vaunted prosperity, it does not allow the great majority of the people to put anything away for emergencies. The indictment is further that "although the average U. S. family is earning

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1,000 Shop Stewards Defy Stalin Terror In Budapest Parade

The most remarkable and encouraging piece of news to come from the Stalin-dominated section of Europe in a long time, was reported last week from Hungary. Directly after the fraudulent election in which the Stalinist party could get only 21 per cent of the vote despite the most open ballot box stuffing, a severe crisis developed inside the Social Democratic Party.

Though the leadership of the Social Democrats played ball with the Stalinists, there was a great deal of rank and file dissatisfaction. This dissatisfaction was climaxed last week when 1,000 members of the Social Democratic Party—all of them shop stewards from the industrial section of Budapest—marched to that party's headquarters and staged a demonstration demanding a break with the Stalinist terror government.

The tremendous significance of this demonstration is underscored by several facts: (1) All of the participants are shop leaders who represent the Budapest workers at the most active, militant and immediate level; (2) The demonstration was held in a Russian-occupied zone where Stalinist army bayonets and GPU revolvers dominate all of life and was therefore a remarkably heroic and no doubt desperate action; and (3) The demonstration was working class and socialist in content: these workers did not allow their justified hatred of Stalinism to drive them to the arms of the bourgeois parties.

No Social Democratic leadership of Eastern Europe has a more miserable record than that of the Hungarians, who helped immensely to prop the Stalinists into power. They whitewashed the Stalinists' behavior

and began to squeal against GPU terror tactics only when they themselves were subjected to them during the elections.

LEADERS CRAWL BACK

What set them back on their ears was the fact that the Stalinist-controlled government disfranchised 186,000 Social Democratic voters. Now it is obvious that these 186,000 voters were anti-Stalinist and disapproved of their party's aid to Stalinism. Thus the Social Democratic leaders prepared their own demise: they helped the Stalinists establish their regime and then were among its first victims.

But the ranks of the Social Democratic Party, obviously made up of workers with more spine and militancy than its leadership, would not acquiesce in the scandalous elections. The shop stewards' demonstration was the result—an action that must prove inspiring to all socialist and anti-Stalinist workers.

After the election when they were subjected to pressure from their own ranks, the Social Democratic leaders who were being held as virtual hostages in the Stalinist cabinet "resigned." But these jelly fish politicians were called to an audience by the Russian General who is the head of the Stalinist occupying troops, to be brusquely ordered back into the government. With tails between their legs, they crept back.

PRESAGE, SOCIALIST VICTORY

But we may be sure that the 1,000 shop stewards who demonstrated for a militantly anti-Stalinist policy are made of sterner stuff. Just as in the early days of the Hitler regime there were small anti-Nazi demonstrations which presaged the mass resistance movement against Hitlerite terror, so we may feel certain that this demonstration of the Budapest shop stewards presages the great anti-Stalinist mass movement which will certainly sweep Europe. For the masses of European workers will not and cannot submit indefinitely to tyranny, be it Hitlerite or Stalinist. The democratic and Socialist tradition is too strongly implanted in their consciousness for them to submit willingly to the tyrants of the Kremlin.

Small cracks often presage large fissures in a social structure. The tyranny of Hitlerism which its masters boasted would last 1,000 years, actually lasted a mere dozen years. The tyranny of Stalinism, which though it is quite different in origin and in many social aspects from Hitlerism yet has many totalitarian features in common with it, will also not last more than an infinitesimal fraction of the time its prophets claim.

For the will to freedom, the desire of the educated vanguard of the European working class freely to express its needs and desires will not be stifled indefinitely by Stalin's bayonets and revolvers. Of that we are certain; and we point to the demonstration of the Budapest shop stewards as a sign of things that, sooner or later, will come to all Europe. The task of revolutionary socialists is to speed that day!

Exodus, 1947!

Steel-helmeted soldiers armed with guns, clubs, rubber truncheons and water hoses, threatening, beating and spraying 4,500 defenseless Jews.

Steel-helmeted soldiers cursing violently as they drive these 4,500 people from the holds of ships that carried them for 55 days from a near haven in Palestine.

Steel-helmeted soldiers, acting under orders of the British imperial government, carrying out brutal, brutish orders that awaken in these youngsters latent feelings of anti-Semitism for having to do a dirty, evil job against a defenseless, weak and tortured people!

Back to the land of their dead and living dead. Back to the land of their concentration camps, dungeons and gas chambers; back to the cemeteries which contain the rotting bodies of their relatives and friends.

For the 4,500 Jews who were forcibly seized by the British armed forces in Palestine have not been returned to their country and their homes. They have no land. They have no homes.

The world, the capitalist world, the imperialist world, which only yesterday hurled all the peoples into the greatest slaughter ever seen by mankind, has no room for several hundred thousand displaced and starving people.

No place for them in the United States!

No place for them in Great Britain!

No place for them in unpopulated Australia, whose government officials announced yesterday that theirs is a land for whites only! No place for them in Canada, or South America.

No place for them in Stalinist Russia, the modern slave state which falsely calls itself a land of socialism.

CUSTODIANS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

And so these people, to save themselves, sought a haven in Palestine where almost three-quarters of a million of their fellow-Jews now reside. They went there because they had no other place to go. But they were intercepted by the British, the Royal British, who rule Palestine under a League of Nations mandate, and rule it like a colony with all the cleverness of their long experience as imperialist despots.

Who is responsible for this new crime against the Jews who have suffered for so many years for the old crime of being . . . Jews. It is not the conservative Tory government of Churchill; it is not a fascist Britain. No, it is Britain under the rule of the Labor Party, of men who call themselves socialists!

There's the rub! They do not conduct themselves as socialists or like men who believe in the socialist future. It is not a question of their ill-will toward the Jews. No, it is that the leaders of the Labor Party who now stand at the helm of the government, act as the custodians of a dying British Empire—just as Churchill before them! Their conduct in Palestine, where the policy they pursue is not one whit different from that of the reactionary gang which preceded them in office, is the product of the "imperial mind."

As with other questions of British Empire policy, the "socialist" leaders of the British government are concerned with maintaining the empire as long as possible, even though this once great power is slowly decaying and disintegrating on the rotten capitalist foundation which supports it.

Thus it is that two years after the great war to save the peoples of Europe from the scourge of German fascism, and in the first place the Jews, these same people are faced with a new uncertainty, a new hopelessness as a result of the imperialist profit interests of all the great powers.

UNITED STATES SHARES RESPONSIBILITY

No, it is not Great Britain alone which is responsible for this situation. The United States, whose doors are shut tightly to the most helpless of all people, is as much guilty. And so is the highly touted United Nations which is currently engrossed in the problem of how big and how many buildings it should construct to house its thousands of parasitic pretenders to world peace and security.

The 4,500 Jews of the Exodus are not the first, and if British policy prevails, will not be the last, who sought a haven in Palestine only to find themselves once more in crowded ships and trains, in concentration camps, under the brutal supervision and surveillance of special soldiers and police.

The crime against Exodus, 1947 is a crime against all humanity. Labor of the United States: protest this brutal reactionary persecution of Europe's hungry, homeless Jews. Demand that the United States government open its doors to these displaced people.

Demand the right of free immigration to the Jews as well as to all other displaced peoples!

Demand the right of the Jews to emigrate to Palestine!

UNSCOP Plans Will Not Aid Jews

Majority and Minority Plans Are Based on Interests of Big Imperialist Powers.

By ED FINDLEY

The majority report of the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) seems to have evoked messianic moods and intoxicating visions of Jewish sovereignty in Palestine among masses of Jews throughout the world.

To them, the majority report of the UNSCOP is the herald of an independent Jewish state in Palestine in the offing.

That such shabby compromise "solutions," as advanced by both the majority and minority reports of the UNSCOP, could arouse as much hope as they do, bespeaks the tragedy and

weakness of the Jewish position in the world and the deep yearning of the Jewish masses for self-determination and independence.

The majority report carves up tiny Palestine into three states: an Arab state, a Jewish state and an international, demilitarized, free state of Jerusalem. In addition, there would be a fourth governmental structure, an over-all economic union of the states.

During the transition period Britain is to rule the country "under such conditions as the United Kingdom and the United Nations may agree upon."

Soaring food prices in every corner of the nation, coupled with a phenomenal rise in profits, called attention this week to the desperate need for aggressive and far-reaching measures to halt this systematic attack on the people's standard of living.

As new highs were being registered in the prices of such essential living items as meat and butter, with rises expected in bread, the need for consumer-union action, complementing a comprehensive labor program on wages, prices and profits, and leading to an organized movement for the nationalization of the food industry under workers' control was again demonstrated.

Reflecting the sky-rocketing trend of food prices throughout the nation, this was the price picture in New York City:

CP Wreckers In NMU Hurl Foul Charges

By ARTHUR STEIN

A national convention of the National Maritime Union is to be held in New York at the end of this month. The following is the first of two articles discussing the background of the conflicts which will certainly command attention on the convention floor.

The internal struggle in the National Maritime Union (N.M.U.) between the Stalinists and the forces led by President Joseph Curran has recently led to revealing exposures of the methods used by the Communist Party to control unions against the desires and interests of the memberships involved.

The present stage of the internal struggle in the N.M.U. revolves around the issue of the conduct of union officials in the port of New Orleans. The officials involved—Port Agent R. J. Sullivan and Patrolmen Harry Alexander and Richard Brown—have been brought up on charges by the Stalinist national officers of the union. The charges include a multitude of allegations, ranging from discrimination against Negroes to not having opened the hall on June 15, the day the previous contract expired.

BROKE FROM CP

These union officials in New Orleans are among a group of former CP members who broke from the Stalinist organization when they came to realize that the CP clique is actually wrecking the N.M.U. Most of these men have long records of activity on the waterfront—they are veterans of numerous strikes and bloody picket-line encounters with the police and the goon squads of the shipowners. They have broken from the CP (or, in many cases, have been expelled) because their union militancy has come into greater and greater conflict with the Kremlin-directed policies of the CP Waterfront Section.

The Stalinist hacks, of course, are turning all guns against them now. Most of the charges are plain lies (such as those alleging discrimination against Negro union members), while others are twisted half-truths. The method of charging all their opponents with discrimination against Negroes is probably the most insidious part of the current slander campaign of the Stalinist hacks in the N.M.U.

One of the men against whom the Communist Party is now leveling

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• Butter averaged 87 cents a pound against 79 cents a year ago, with a 90 cent average due this week, and predictions in the trade going as high as \$1.00.

• Porterhouse steak, varying in price from 75 cents to \$1.10 a pound, according to the butcher shop, was 31 cents above the inflated price of a year ago.

• Large eggs were selling at 87 cents a dozen, compared to 79 cents a year ago, with some stores already selling at 93 cents or more a dozen.

• Bacon at 79 cents was up 9 cents.

• Chopped beef at 49 cents marked a rise of 10 cents a pound for the year.

• Veal outlets showed a rise of 20 cents, to 95 cents the pound.

• Leg of lamb went up 6 cents to 65 cents.

• The A&P and Grand Union stores announced a two-cent hike in the per pound price of coffee, effective immediately.

• Hog prices soared in the livestock markets of Chicago, St. Paul, Kansas City, Denver, etc.

• Despite the largest wheat crop in history, A. J. Bamford, editor of the Baker's Weekly, predicted another rise in the price of bread.

These are random selections of figures that have been appearing in the press. They are known to every housewife in the nation. Not so well known are the following figures:

• The big meat monopolists, Armour, Swift, Cudahy and Wilson, boosted 1946 profits over 1945 by 228 per cent, 33 per cent, 168 per cent and 105 per cent respectively. Figures for 1947, when they are released, will undoubtedly show another upward hike in profits.

• Borden Milk, typical of the dairy monopolists; netted \$18,500,000 in profits in 1946 as against \$12,000,000 in 1945. The 1947 figure will be even higher.

• Baking monopolists, who are crying that they haven't lifted the price of bread for nine whole months (!), upped profits in 1946 by 201 per cent for Continental Baking, by 205 per cent for United Biscuit, by 159 per cent for National Biscuit, by 224 per cent for Ward Baking.

To understand either set of figures it is necessary to consult the other. The comparison illustrates what is at the rotten core of the dizzy price spiral. Profits are the first and last consideration of the food monopolists, as they are of the monopolists in other industries. They do not care what happens to the wage earner's income. They do not

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WP, SWP Candidates Cited for Contempt; Fight Board Ruling

By I. JACK RADER, Candidate of the Workers Party, 5th Councilmanic District.

PHILADELPHIA—In a series of vicious rulings, the County Board of Elections, a body controlled by the Democratic and Republican parties, rejected the nomination papers of Jack Rader for the Workers Party and Irene P. Le Compte for the Socialist Workers Party. At the same time the two candidates and three of their pre-emptors were cited for contempt before the Court of Common Pleas.

There is no pretense of legality in the Board's rulings. It does not claim to show any errors in the nominating petitions or any grounds for invalidation. The Board has tacitly admitted that it has no charges to make against these petitions. This acknowledgment was made as late as last

Tuesday. Until then it was the Democratic Party which was attempting to piece together a flimsy case.

At Tuesday's hearings it became evident that the Democrats had no real legal case. They were attempting to develop accusations out of the questions they directed at the candidates. At the same time, the Democrats had filed suit in the Election Court. Since this was the case, the Defense attorney for the Workers Party and Socialist Workers Party, David H. W. Felix, refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the County Board and directed the witnesses to refuse to answer any questions, which could only serve to give information to the Democrats but could not decide the case since it had already been taken to the higher Election Court.

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