

STATE ST. COUNCIL 40 HR WEEK A FRAUD

Sales people at Carson's have voted against a company-offered 5 day 40 hour week in favor of a 6 day 42 hour week. Workers at Mandels and Goldblatts are expressing similar sentiments.

Of course the employers are trying to stave-off an AFL organizing drive. But why this eagerness to keep working long hours? Up to 80% (in "quality" stores) of these workers are paid by commissions on sales. For them the 5 day week means a pay-cut of as much as 16%.

For sales people on the quota system the 5 day week means a speed-up as well as a likely pay-cut.

If these workers were organized they could ask for:

1. Five day, 35 hour business week.
2. An increase in weekly take-home pay.

But these workers have another fear to worry over. They remember the days of the depression when their sales commissions were hardly enough to keep them in carfare.

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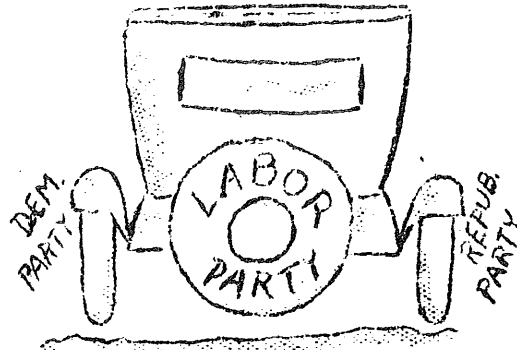
HOW MUCH "LABOR" IN LABOR PARTY?

REVERE WORKERS VOTE FOR LABOR PARTY

Last week at a quiet union meeting Revere Copper and Brass Local 477 (UAW-CIO) adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a "permanent Congress of Labor" and urging that this congress form "an Independent Labor Party". Local 477, whose struggles mark it as one of the most militant locals in Chicago, takes its union activities seriously. Yet now during a lull in the battle, when there are no picket lines, no defense squads to man, have the Revere workers thoroughly examined this particular question - the Labor Party?

Union men who take up Labor Party activity move from the simpler struggle for better wages and conditions to the struggle for over-all political gains. A wrong move

LABOR PARTY - SPARE TIRE OF CAPITALISM



in this direction can completely wipe out all former gains of the working class and make its hard-won struggles futile.

Beginning on a practical level who will dominate the Labor Party and what will be its "politics"?

To answer these questions first look at how the Labor Party would be formed. The Revere resolution was in line with a program being "talked-up" by a few groups and individuals in the labor movement today. Such groups include the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Socialist Workers Party and the Workers Party. But there is still no major sentiment or drive toward an American Labor Party.

Only the top union bureaucrats have the machinery and funds necessary to even attempt a Labor Party drive. For example, the top leadership of the UAW have proposed a National United Labor Conference of all unions.

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LABOR PARTY

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If, as the Revere resolution urges, from this conference a Labor Party were formed who would be in its leadership? They would be the very same "leaders" who deliberately staggered the recent strikes in oil, steel, auto, coal, rubber and railroad industries instead of uniting them into one powerful working class drive. They will include Lewis who kept the hard coal miners working during the soft coal strike and Reuther who engineered the same arrangement in the auto strike (Ford and other auto plants worked during the GM strike). They will include Phil Murray who allowed the steel companies a price increase of \$420,000,000 per year in steel to cover a \$130,000,000 wage increase for steel workers. They will include these union "pork-choppers" who supported the recent war for plunder and profit and who helped to further enrich the rich by tying the working class to the no-strike pledge.

These union leaders have proven that they will defend the American "free enterprise system" to the last drop of workers' sweat and blood. There is no doubt then as to the "politics" of a Labor Party formed from unions which they control. It will merely be another party defending capitalism while using the "labor" label.

Then what kind of a party can lead workers in their political action?

The lessons of the recent strike wave answer this question. Time and time again the workers stood ready to use their mass strength in picket lines and in the street against any compromise of their demands.

The maritime strike - the union leaders had to plead with the man to go back to work. The railroad strike - 250 thousand men ignored President Truman's "back to work" order until "weak-kneed-Whitney" gave in. The coal strike - 200 thousand miners ignored Lewis' truce and stayed away from the pits.

In each case workers won concessions only to the extent of the militancy of their mass action. Without the collaboration of their union "leaders" with the barons of money and their government, workers could have won their original 330 per cent rather than the 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent demand.

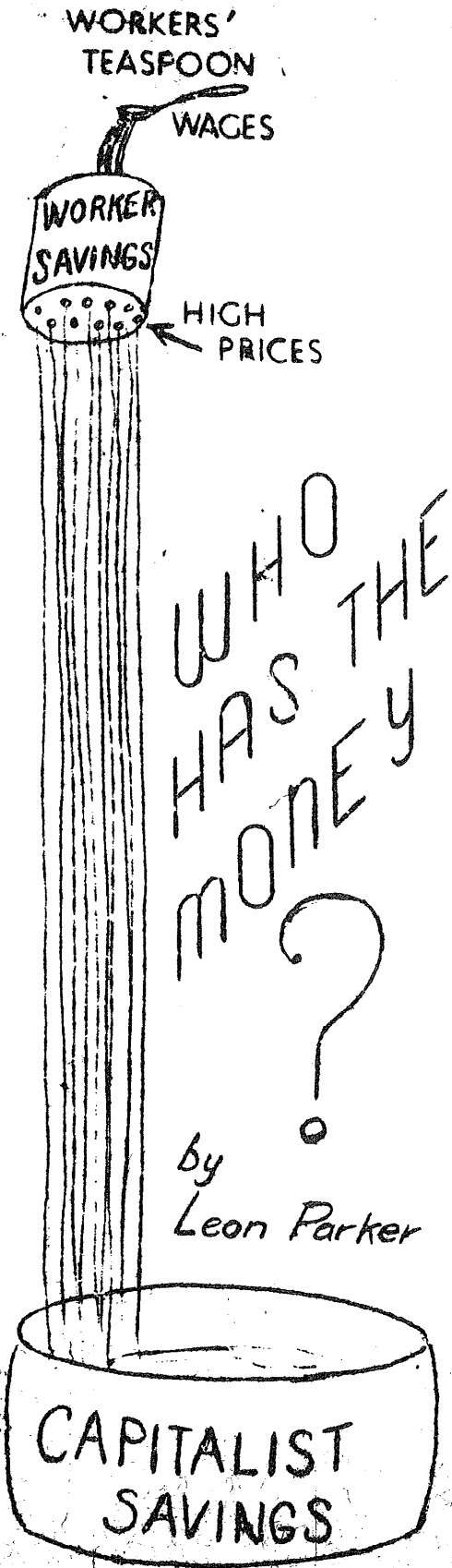
Thus, militant workers have learned that the capitalist class must be kicked in the teeth before it will part with a nickel. Workers need a party which can lead them in doing just this. The lords of money stop at nothing from anti-labor laws and fixed courts to open police violence against workers in their economic struggles. How much more violent then will be the struggle for workers' political and social demands? Can a Labor Party designed (according to the Revere resolution) merely... "to place representatives of Labor in the Government ..." fill the workers need?

Obviously not.

The Labor Party can function only within capitalist politics, within the capitalist government. It is a spare tire on a very weary old auto - capitalism, to be used until the money barons can build a shiny new armored car - fascism.

WEDNESDAY
IS THE
NEW DAY
for R.W.L.
Open Meetings at
NEWBERRY SQUARE
8 P.M. DURING SUMMER

Militant workers strike action points the way to a revolutionary party in the interest of the working class: independent mass strength; unified, determined action beginning in the factories and going into the streets; military preparedness against the capitalist police, army and hoodlums. Only such action can create a revolutionary workers' party. This party will not devote itself primarily to begging legislative crumbs of the capitalist table in Washington. Instead it will drive for a complete basic socialist reorganization of society.



As a machinist working in jobbing shops in Chicago during the war, I well remember the spiels given by bond salesmen on the virtues of buying bonds. We were urged to buy bonds so that we might win the war for democracy, prevent inflation, and provide savings for future emergencies, education, etc.

Now the war is over and we find ourselves further away from freedom for the working people. It is also a fact that the security which we were supposed to buy with bonds is also a myth. Just a short time ago many business men, rubbing their hands together in anticipation of profits, predicted a buying spree for the next two years. This rosy anticipation was based on the assumption that the average family in Chicago and throughout the country had money salted away for such purposes. But what are the sad facts?

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics for the Federal Reserve Board published figures showing that 10% of the families in the nation hold 60% of the \$130,000,000,000 of the personal liquid savings. Their survey also showed that 40% of the families (at bottom of savings scale) own only 1% of the savings. This simply means that any post-war spending by this group will be done thru credit and current earnings. Two out of every five in this group have on an average of only \$40 in cashable assets, bonds and bank deposits. Fifty percent of US families have only 3% of the 130 billions total. The top 10% own 60% of the ready cash.

This survey clearly proves that the great mass of people have no large savings from which to draw for washing machines, automobiles, radios, new clothes, and gadgets. The bulk of the nation's savings are in the hands of a select group of people who have piled up lots of money and who aren't as likely to spend it as the lower half of the population.

Even those in the select group aren't likely to go on a spending orgy if economic conditions aren't to bright. Judging by the dark predictions of 33 capitalist economists (depression in latter part of 1948) the capitalist class is skeptical about any post-war boom and prosperity.

Here is the clearest proof of the Marxist concept that working people as a whole receive only enough to keep them alive - they work simply for the right to barely live.

HOG FEEDS HOG

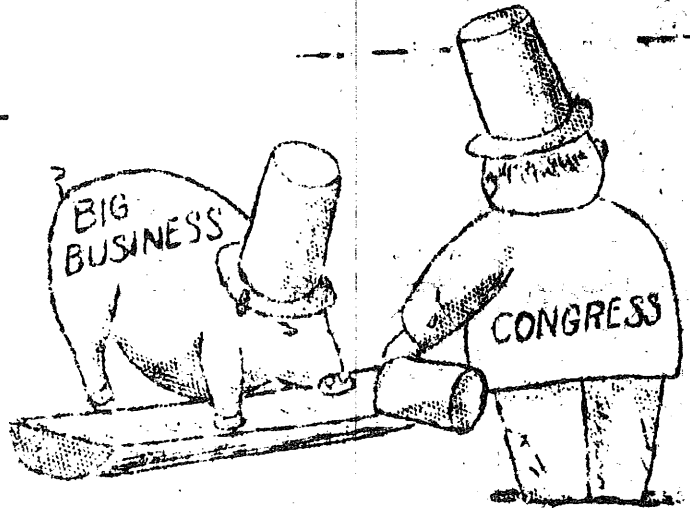
Today the press is exposing the machinations of a group of Chicago capitalists, who with very good Washington connections, made a pile of dough thru government contracts. These members of the dollar profession created a large industrial empire which was for the most part on paper. The Batavia Metal Product Corporation and the Erie Basin Company were its largest units.

Functioning closely with Chairman May of the House Military Affairs Committee, they secured contracts totaling \$78,094, 101 out of which profits, bonuses, executive salaries and other things amounted to over \$2,000,000. For his conscientious work in putting the deal across May was given at least \$48,000 thru checks for lumber from his Kentucky firm -the lumber never being delivered.

At present Sen. Mead is investigating this case and the press is gobbling up the vomit. But every sane person knows that some form of robbery is the prerequisite for wealth and power in this country, that an honest man is almost immediately disqualified from politics, and that an expose' only means that just one of the crooks has been shoved into the limelight for one reason or another. Yet Mead poses as a knight in shining armour defending the American people. That hypocrite, who can stand investigation himself, is just interested in re-elections and the harlot press only gives a damn for its circulation.

May just happens to be an unfortunate conniver who got caught. Congress consists of 96 senators and 435 representatives, practically every one of which would never be there if it was not for his complete reliance on the large manufacturers, bankers, ranchers, miners. Each is bribed in some manner whether it be crudely like May or in a more subtle form thru discounts on stocks or valuable tips. The national legislature has the function of unifying all the separate activity trans-

piring on Wall St., the Chicago Board of Trade, the Grain Market, the Cotton Market, etc. This noble institution is but one grand auction bloc in which the highest bidder gets the bargain. It is difficult to detect the difference between May who represents the Batavia and Erie Basin



people and Sen. Wherry who is fighting for the cattle and poultry interests by preventing the restoration of price ceiling, Sen. Moore at the bat for oil, Sen. Thomas in there pitching for wool and hides, Rep. Hoffman paging auto, Sen. Reed for grain and grain products and the other gentlemen with their special interests. Surely those "statesmen" don't think that the working class is stupid enough to think that its interests are being served by dishing out the country to the corporations. Yet that is the sum of Congress activity except now that it has a good part of the world up for purchase.

This relatively unimportant expose' is just the beginning. \$296,000,000,000 have been spent on the war. During the last war only \$18,501,177,999 was contracted and paid for, and at least one third never even was used for its original purpose. My himself squealed that the billionaire corporations had made a cleaning and that everyone knows about it, so why are they just picking on him.

All this just goes to show that in this beautiful country of opportunity, the little fellow is banged over the noggin and called an "anarchist" for demanding a few cents more to live on while the ruling class walks off with everything - including the kitchen sink.