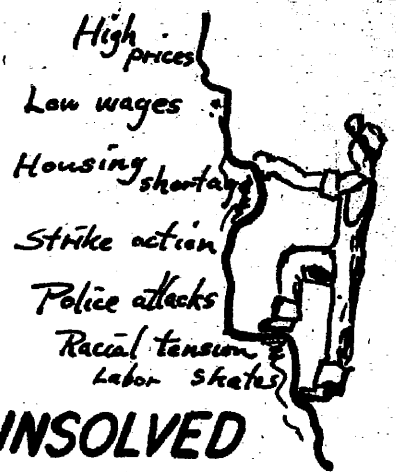


# AND NOW THAT THE ELECTION IS OVER...

## WORKERS' PROBLEMS STILL UNSOLVED



On November 5 a majority of 35,000,000 voters in the nation and 1,685,000 in Chicago expressed their opposition to the Democrats by voting Republican. In this two party system it is usually the abuses of the party in power rather than a constructive program of the opposition that decides elections. November 5 happens to be no exception. To quote an editorial in the Republican Chicago Daily News on November 6: "The Republicans went into the campaign with no clear national program, with no outstanding national leadership. The vote for a change was prompted by all the irritations, frustrations, shortages and inconveniences to which the people have been subject as a consequence of the war."

### Workers' real problems ignored by both parties.

The Republicans in Illinois strengthened their control of the State Legislature and for the first time in 15 years made inroads in the Cook County stronghold of the Kelly gang. But this shift can have little real meaning for the working class. The Democrats promised "Security and Prosperity", the Republicans "An End to the Confusion", but the important issues concerning the workers' standard of living, the right to strike effectively, democratic rights for minorities both parties ignored.

Yet these are the very issues which LABOR VIEWS has been banging away at for over a half a year. These are the issues now that the ballots have been counted that the working class must face, for rest assured the capitalist politicians have put whatever slogans they used in moth-balls until the next election.

### Living costs zoom. Workers' answer: Strike!

Since 1939 the cost of living in Chicago has risen over 50%. Food which constitutes at least 40% of a workers' budget has gone up over 90%. The differences in prices between '39 and now average: butter 31¢ a lb - 96¢, milk 11¢ a quart - 22¢, bread 7¢ a lb - 13¢, potatoes 32¢ a peck - 70¢, eggs 29¢ a doz - 73¢, coffee 23¢ a lb - 46¢, round steak 36¢ a lb - 90¢ and up.

Home furnishings have gone up 44.2%, clothing 54.6%. Will the Republicans who have devoted themselves to tying a rocket to prices help here any more than the Democrats? Keep track of your pocket-book.

Out on a high cost of living limb the working class has attempted to crawl back through strikes. Already the first series of post-war strikes have passed and the second one is in preparation. All capitalist politicians have had so similar an attitude to strikes that it seems one voice was doing

all the talking. "Stay on the job. Work hard and still harder! Get production out! Let supply and demand do the trick and prices will go down some day." Garbage! And the workers know this is garbage. That's why we have strikes and will have more of them.

### Brutal police attack on strikers. Anti-labor militia prepared.

Unable to prevent the workers from hitting the strike road, these same politicians have attempted to detour militant action into the dead-end of mediation and arbitration and, having failed here in some cases, they were ready with the police and army. Kelly's hoodlums in blue, 6000 strong, tattooed the ruling class' real program over the heads of the American Automatic Devices workers the first week in October.

In fact, so infamous are the anti-labor policies of the Chicago administration that this city has become quite an attraction to out of state capitalist interested in expansion.

As for Mr. Green, governor of Illinois, he has been busy as a bee building up the National Guard for emergency use against the workers. Infantry, mechanized cavalry, artillery, combat plane units are being worked into shape throughout the state but particularly in Chicago. Emily Post is for the workers, capitalist politics relies on clubs and guns.

### Racial tension fired by anti-labor forces.

But although Kelly has shown a matchless zeal for protecting the industrialists when it came to defending Negroes who were pushed into white neighborhoods by the irresistible pressure of their overcrowded quarters, he became as helpless as a toy-soldier. Since January of '45, 61 Negro families who left their black ghetto have been bombed, some even while the police stood guard. In an attempt to stop this barbarism the Committee to Combat Terrorism Against Minorities has met with Kelly, Touhy and Frendergast but - oh hum - to no avail. Kelly is really quite a democrat. Far be it from him to discriminate against the bulging, fat real estate spiders after having served the industrialists so faithfully. After all one just can't go about kicking up a fuss about a

to page 2



## ELECTION OVER... (from page one)

few bombings. It would only make the situation worse. The police are being given the proper instructions. But in the meantime, Mr. Mayor, these atrocities are going on and... That's all. Time for Mr. Mayor to pick out his horse for the next race at Narragansett.

### The housing mess

As for the housing problem, well there are miles of figures all over the blackboard but still too few houses. Just the other day about 20 families of veterans seized the keys to some government project houses and just moved in. They were reading the papers about the squatter movement in London.

The Mayor has appointed a committee to investigate the facts on the housing shortage. The governor appointed another committee to investigate the mayor's committee. 161,000 houses are needed by '48. By this September only 250 were completed. These committees dug up facts it is true but no foundations; they finally came across with figures but no faucets. They could have eased the situation somewhat by turning over the rooms they used to gabfest for workers to live in, but they never even thought of that.

### Capitalist elections a fraud

None of these important issues were raised in the election here. No wonder LABOR VIEWS tells the working class that nothing good can come of capitalist politics. For placing representatives of the ruling class in office the precinct captain might hand workers a cigar; after the election it is just smoke in the face. Capitalist politics is so polluted with corruption, patronage, bribery and deceit, it is so openly and completely in the interest of the modern royalty of industry, commerce and finance that a working class candidate, if elected, could do no more than expose the helplessness of his position.

### Strikes, not votes!

But now that the ballot boxes have been put away the need to live like human beings is still with us. Today only the strong strike-arm of the working class can close somewhat the gap between prices and wages. Yet even here, the penny won today is lost tomorrow since the economy is in the hands of the

The workers of Local 288 URWA-CIO announced last week that an opening date, Nov. 12, has been set with management (American Industrial Rubber Co.) for negotiations. These negotiations are especially significant because this marks the first time in its two years of organization that Local 288 workers are going to represent themselves in talks with the boss. The workers in the plant are enthusiastically backing up their own representatives in this new forward step.

Up until the last few months (as LABOR VIEWS has reported at length in previous issues) this local's affairs have been run by the International representative, James.

These negotiations are merely a part of a continuous struggle inside

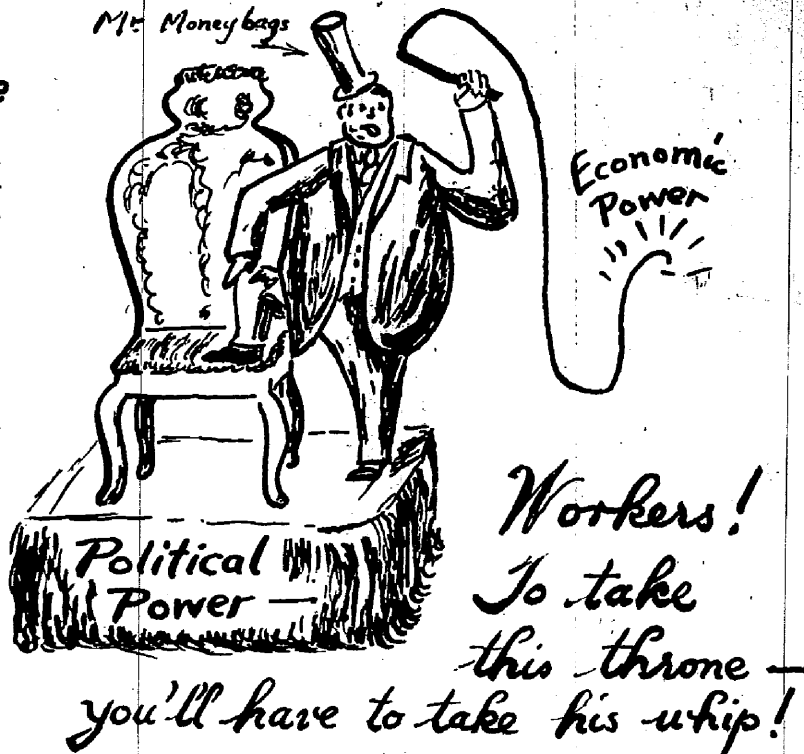
## Local 288 Workers Back Up Negotiations Beginning Tuesday

this plant. Last week the company began a new offensive against the workers by employing a "time study" expert who is moving about the plant making suggestions for "efficiency". Every worker in the plant knows the purpose of this new company big-wig is to get more production, more work out of the workers.

One of the new "efficiency" man's first definite proposals to the union has been that grievances be taken up with the company only twice a month. The majority of the workers have immediately rejected this idea. When a worker has a grievance it is something that is pressing with him. He has to live

with this grievance every day at his work. Since when is a union worker supposed to abide with this grievance for two weeks before the company and the union are even ready to meet about it?

These latest company moves merely prove to the workers at Local 288 that unless they remain constantly watchful, constantly on their toes, that this company stands ready not to "give" them anything, but rather, to take away. Being "on their toes" for Local 288 now means regular attendance at meetings, immediate attention to grievances, and full support and co-operation with the local union officers.



ruling class and they shake it about through price rises, speedup, newer machinery, to come out ahead in the end. Is it not becoming ever more apparent that this broken down wreck called "private enterprise" demands more than a repair and simonize job?

### Dump money kings and their gov't. for a workers' democracy!

The Marshall Fields, Armours, and Ruckerfellers and their agents the Kellys, Greens and Trumans must all be dumped if the most elementary needs of the working class are to be satisfied. For that we need a real democracy, a workers democracy, not just the right to determine at each election which gang of crooks it will be that will lie, cheat and pillage for the next period. And such a democracy requires more than political rights, for political democracy without economic democracy is a fake and a fraud.

The princes, dukes and earls of capitalism must be dethroned. Their vast possessions which include the industry, mines and farmland of this vast country must belong to the people. When that time comes finally we will really have "Security and Prosperity" and "An End to Confusion". Here then is LABOR VIEWS' answer to capitalist politics: REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS.

# W. Side Mothers Protest: SWING-SHIFT FOR NEGRO CHILDREN

"For every group that hollers for a new school there are an equal number of groups, like the Chamber of Commerce, crying against the expense," said Sydney Brown, member of the Board of Education to a committee of mothers in an interview last Tuesday (Nov. 5). The mothers, members of the Robert Brooks Guild, were seeking help in their fight for decent, non-segregated schools in their neighborhood.

These mothers have been spurred to begin this action by a recent change in the school boundaries on the West Side which forced 200 Negro children to transfer from the uncrowded Riis School to the overcrowded Smith and Medill Schools. These latter two schools are all-Negro schools, one of which, the Medill, operates on the "swing-shift" with each group of children participating in education but for half a day.

Although the Riis School is more crowded than those in more prosperous white neighborhoods, its principal admits that he has place for 208 more students. 90% of its children are white. The 10% colored were allowed in two years ago to relieve the scandalous overcrowding of the Negro schools, and these are the same youngsters who are now being squeezed back into the Jim-Crow set-up.

The transfer of the children is bitterly opposed by their mothers, most of whom live in the Robert Brooks Housing Project (extending from 12th to 14th from Loomis to Racine). Their organization, the Guild, first protested about the situation to their alderman - transfers were temporarily halted just to start again. Next they gathered some outside organized community support and went to see School district superintendent Lang. Mr. Lang only promised to halt further transfers until an investigation occurred. He was unwilling to transfer back the students already sent to the overcrowded schools. In return for his favor, however, he asked the mothers to support him in his request to have Garfield School reopened for their and other Negro children. Garfield School, to which the same 70 year old Mr. Lang himself went

when he was young, is an abandoned building, located square in the red-light district, which has been used recently as a men's shelter (flop house) by the Chicago Welfare Administration.

The mothers took Mr. Lang's request back to the Guild body, and the Guild unanimously rejected to support him in his demand. The Guild decided to continue the fight for the immediate objective of rezoning and the long term objective of getting the new school building - a school promised to them when the project for the 842 families was built and for which the grounds are already in possession of the Board of Education.

After seeing Sydney Brown, Negro member of the Board of Education and hearing from him why a new school was out of question (since it was being opposed by the big merchants and landlords on La Salle St.) the mothers decided to take their demand for rezoning to the next meeting of the Board - and to fight, with all the community mass pressure they can muster - for a new school.

Now let us look behind the scenes. The revenue of the Board of Education comes from taxes, in Chicago a tax on land. The more expensive the city administration - the higher these taxes. It so happens that Chicago has a growing population and its schools and other public facilities cannot be taken care of adequately by the capitalistic system which allocates only so much for

public welfare. To quote again Sydney Brown, "How can we build now when the cost of materials and labor is so expensive." So the Board looks at the great need for schools - and under the pressure from the big money interests downtown, decides to build them when the depression comes and when both material and labor will be cheap.

This is one aspect. The question still remains: do they, even with



their limited facilities, want to build schools? It is our contention that the money interests of Chicago only want to build as many schools as they need to provide for themselves a labor force - witness the recent emphasis on trade schools. It is also part of their set-up to have a large group of uneducated Negroes - less they learn that white racial superiority is a myth which serves the purpose of those who want to keep black and white labor from uniting. These are the powerful reasons behind the change of school boundaries which forces 200 kids back into the overcrowded, Jim-Crow school.

## WILL VOTING BEAT THE HARVESTER CO.?

With a lot of sound and fury the Farm Equipment Union (FEWA-CIO) and the United Automobile Workers (UAW-CIO) Local 6 are winding up their campaign drive for the coming election at Melrose International Harvester Plant on Nov. 12th.

LABOR VIEWS, noting the militant record of Local 6 during the war, has advised workers here to organize Local 6 as its representative union. Voting for Local 6 is just an incident in this organization drive. A local union is a weapon to be used against the company (not against a rival union). The International Harvester Company has a vicious anti-labor record and will not be impressed by the union vote. It will not raise wages simply because the workers vote for one or another CIO union.

By record the Harvester Company has shown itself to respect only one thing - the force, the mighty

force of militantly organized workers. A union election at Harvester's which is followed by a very lazy attendance by the workers at union meetings, by lack of enthusiastic prosecution of grievances in each and every department, and finally by the lack of the formation of a strong and growing progressive group will mean that the Harvester workers pro-union sentiments will be wasted.

Harvester workers are ready to take action against the miserable speed-up and low wages in the plant. Yet the two unions which have been "organizing" here for eight months have made not one single preparation toward over-all strike action.

THE ELECTION WILL NOT BEAT HARVESTER. ONLY A ~~UNITED~~ ORGANIZED, RANK-AND-FILE CONTROLLED UNION READY FOR STRIKE ACTION, CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS.

### Labor Views-

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# THE WORKER'S ANGLE

## G.O.P. Ready to Carry on Democrat Strike-break policy

The whole working class looked on the day after election to see one group of over-fed politicians chortle with elephantine glee... hurral! we have a new group of capitalist politicians to filch working class pockets!

It is no accident that both the campaign director of the Republican Party, Clarence Brown, and the national chairman of the Republican Party, Carroll Reese, in their first statements on Republican victory at the polls acclaimed victory as an excuse "to root out subversive elements (Br-r-r! Look at the boogeymen we have around us) in every walk of life". Of course, the

"subversive elements" referred to here by these arch-reactionaries is especially pointed at the Stalinist-Communists and liberals who have worked themselves into official positions in capitalist organizations. But, more important, any worker in a shop who leads a militant program against the capitalist is called "subversive" and the vicious drive will be stepped-up to smash worker militancy throughout the country by legal and brute armed force.

But, had the Democrats been re-elected this policy would have been no different. Truman, Kelly and their gangs had already begun the drive against militant workers attempts to raise or maintain their standard of living. The Democrats have already set the nationwide strike-break pattern which the Republicans shall continue to follow.

## Landlords Say: "Double up!"

Nov. 2nd

The National Association of Real Estate Boards has opened an all-out campaign to eliminate all controls on rent. With the natural cracking of all the so-called price ceilings, the landlords have abandoned the simple drive for the 10 to 15% raise on rents and are now calling for a "free market".

With a shortage of at least 4,000,000 homes in the United States rents will move up to gouge every last cent from the workers' income. The Real Estate Association has just issued 500,000 copies of a pamphlet giving the arguments they are going to use in congress next January. Here they are:

First - the pamphlet argues that higher rents would "compel or induce" some persons to use less housing... that is, more working class families will have to "double up". This, say the landlords, will relieve the housing shortage! This is the landlords' answer to the workers' need for homes!

Second - the landlords insist that without ceilings, rents inside of a year, will only rise about 30%. Let each one of us figure our new rents on this basis!

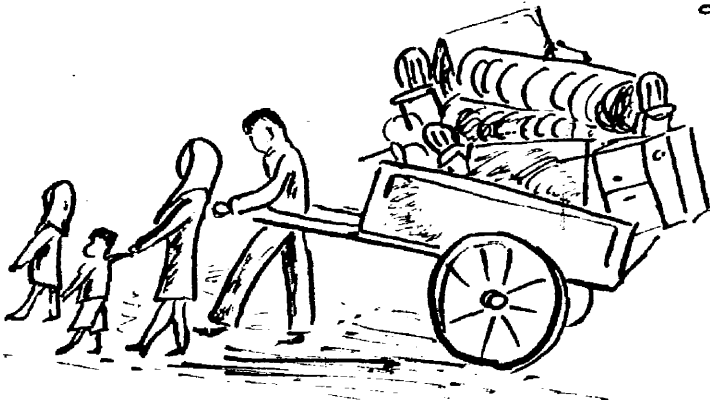
Third - the landlords' association points out that higher rents will fight inflation because the more money spent on rents, the less money we will have to spend on other goods and services. Indeed! This avaricious scum of the capitalist class can say that again! We will have less...for food and clothes for workers and their children.

*When Rents Were Higher Compared to Income*

1930 to 1940

Over 400,000 families in the U.S. moved into caves, dug-outs, box-cars

shacks, lean-to's, old warehouses, etc. U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



## HERE IS AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AT WORK IN OCCUPIED COUNTRIES:

The American military princes in occupied Europe have no trouble in fitting into the shoes of the Nazi overlords. In this case it's not shoes but trains.

The American army bagged most of the Nazi big-shots' private trains in Bavaria. Goering's train included a stateroom car with bed, bathtub wide enough to fit his paunchy figure, all fitted out in massive and luxurious Teuton style. Interior fittings were of rosewood mahogany and bird's-eye maple. One of the cars has a glass-roofed car so that sun baths can be taken while rolling through the countryside. This train plus the ~~other~~ cars of other Nazi private trains were immediately turned over to Gen. Eisenhower who used it throughout his stay on the continent. Oh, for the rough life of a GI! The present commander of Germany, McNarney

## U.S. Hob-Nailed Boots Tramp the World

has inherited this train. But he is not alone. Gen. Clay has a three car aluminum diesel train for his private use capable of 120 miles per hour, Gen. Keyes a six car train, Gen. Clark another six car train. Most of them have dining cars, toilets, telephones and radio equipment.

A dispatch from Europe indicates some of the present crew men formally worked for the Nazi leaders."

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Japan, Nov. 4th -- The last week of October found this country in the midst of 27 strikes and 12 cases of "production control". This latter is a new Japanese variation of the strike in which the workers run the

plant but withhold profits from the company until it gives in to the workers' demands. Also 47 factories were debating future strikes.

The American occupation authority has announced itself in favor of Japanese workers' enthusiastic union organization drive. The real hitch here is that at the same time the American government supports the Yoshido Japanese government which is vigorously anti-labor in its program. The Yoshido government police have already distinguished themselves by cracking scores of strikers' heads and by passing a law forbidding strikes in the utilities industries. On August 29th General of the Army, McArthur, ordered the Japanese government to man the struck ships in Sasebo Harbor. Again there is no doubt where American imperialism stands with respect to the down-trodden workers in the Orient.