

# The Negro And The U. S. Army

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# STRIKE BRINGS VICTORY AT BETHLEHEM

## Kremlin Worried By Hitler's Move

But Its Timid Protest is Addressed to  
Bulgaria and Not to the Nazi Invader

Adolf Hitler moved his forces into Bulgaria last week and established them at a dozen points along the Greek frontier. The move brought him to within striking distance of the Dardanelles. While the world waited to see whether Britain could muster sufficient forces to make a landing in Greece and thereby create its vitally needed Balkan front, a sudden stirring came out of Moscow.

During the many weeks of plot and counterplot in Bulgaria while Germany's occupation of that country was being prepared, the Kremlin sat tight in its now familiar attitude of frightened silence.

Nazi troops in Bulgaria meant Nazi troops close to the Dardanelles — the Soviet Union's outlet to the Mediterranean. It also meant new Nazi bases along still another Soviet frontier — this time bases capable of sustaining an attack on the oil fields of the Caucasus.

When Hitler's hordes finally did move into Bulgaria on March 2, the Kremlin sent a note — not to Hitler — but to the Bulgarian government. In this note for the first time since the Hitler-Stalin pact, the Kremlin permitted itself to take openly a hostile tone toward the Nazis. The note deplored Bulgaria's acquiescence in German occupation, which it said meant "extension of the war." The note added that the Soviet Government "cannot render any support" to the Bulgarian pro-Axis policy.

This Kremlin move was apparently designed by Stalin as a timid warning to Hitler. Stalin, who mortally fears involvement in the war, did not dare to serve even this timid warning to Hitler. He sent it instead to Bulgaria — which is in no position to do anything on its account.

Those wishful thinkers in the Anglo-American camp who will

immediately interpret this as heralding a Nazi-Soviet break are doomed again to disappointment. At most, Stalin will try to hold Hitler away from the Dardanelles by lending sub rosa support to the Turks. Until Hitler directly attacks the Soviet Union itself, Stalin will go to any lengths to avoid military involvement.

By means of this whining little note to the government of a Nazi-occupied country, Stalin is also trying to support the Stalinist contention that the USSR is occupying an "independent" position in the present conflict. He is trying to show that he has not hitched himself to the Nazi attack. Every move he has made has turned on this fear. He knows that involvement in the war will bring to the supreme test the bureaucratic regime he leads. And he knows it cannot stand that test, that it will be swept away. The Soviet Union will be saved by a regenerated rule of real Soviets, not by the Stalinist bureaucracy.

The Kremlin note to Bulgaria may possibly be intended as the starting point for a Kremlin orientation away from the Nazis — but that will be for the future. Right now it is far more likely a fresh attempt to strengthen the Kremlin's bargaining position and to ward off the much-feared Nazi blow at the Dardanelles.

## ON THE WAR FRONTS

by GEORGE STERN

The question of "war aims" is raised but little these days. Somebody writes a letter about it to the New York Times. Or an isolationist senator grasps at it for a moment in his search for telling arguments.

What are "war aims" anyway?

The Nazi war aims are made plain enough. German imperialism has embarked upon a drive to master the continent of Europe and, eventually, the colonies of Asia and Africa, and all the world's seaways and market places.

Britain's war aims are likewise quite clear. There is a half-truth in Churchill's answer that Britain's aim is to save itself. For the British Empire, the world's most powerful military-economic-political unit up to the present generation, is passing from the scene. The British rulers of the world are trying desperately to hold on to their slipping power. They know they must cede and they prefer to cede to the United States rather than to Germany.

The war aims of American imperialism are necessarily the counterpart of Germany's—for American finance and industry intends for itself the crown of world dominion. The German challenge to that intention has to

be taken up and removed and the U.S. has to embark more "planning" upon its career as No. 1 power in the world.

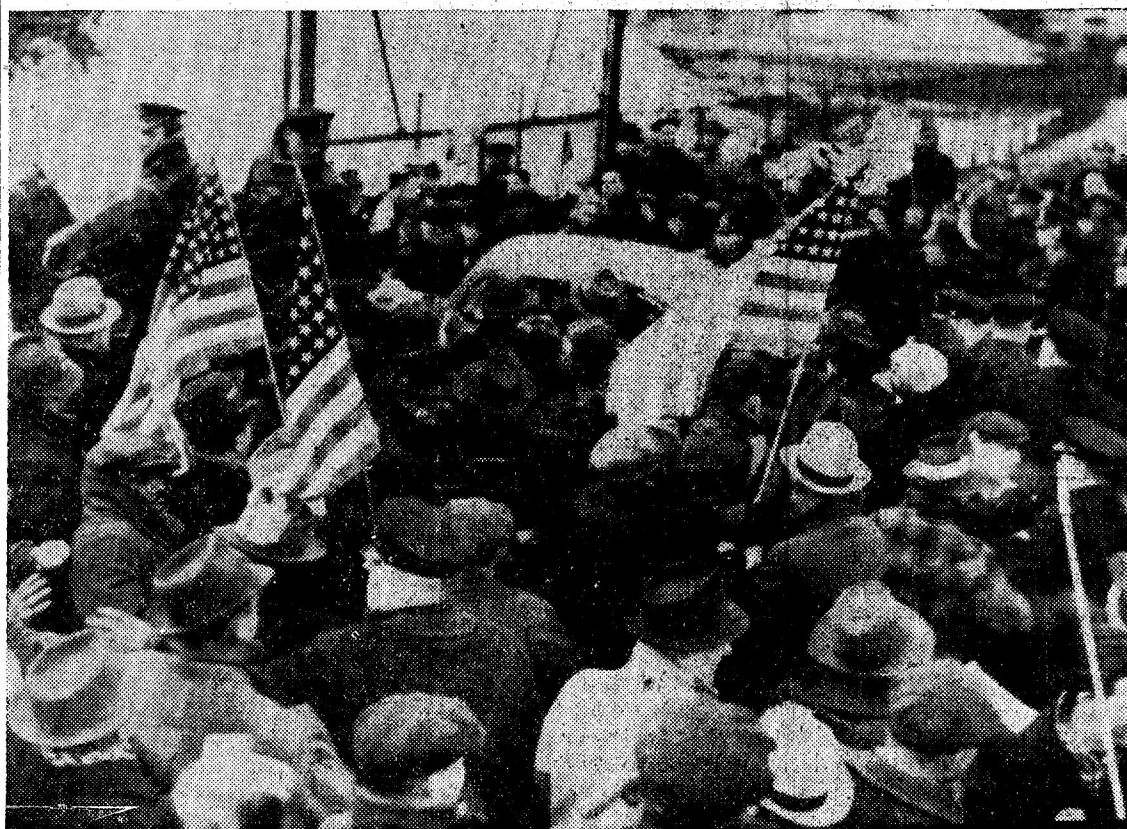
This, in brief, is the "case" of American imperialism. Henry Luce, editor of Life magazine, wrote last week that America must "exert upon the world the full impact of our influence, for such purposes as we see fit and by such means as we see fit."

The "we", of course, means the rulers of American capitalism, who, in Luce's version, are to make America "the principal guarantor of the freedom of the seas" and the "dynamic leader of world trade." This is the entrancing vision for which we are to go forward and die, with brave smiles through the gore, in the coming battles.

All the "war aims" of the capitalist powers add up to the same thing—they take us into war to secure new scope for THEIR exploitative activities or to defend the zone of exploitation which they already have.

OUR war aim, on the other hand, is to erase all exploitation. That pits us against all of them. That also is what gives us the certainty of victory for our war aim is identical with the deepest strivings of the vast majority of all men.

## Cops Couldn't Break This Picket Line



Cops and scabs are caught in a whirl-pool of militant steel strikers when they try to crash a gate of the struck Lackawanna plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company. 38 hours of trying to pass an impregnable wall of pickets, and cops, scabs and company bosses yelled "Quits!"

## Ford Men All Set For Biggest Strike Ever

Physical Struggles Break Out Between Unionists and Ford's Thugs  
Danger Spot in Strike is Failure to Concentrate on Negro Workers

DETROIT, Mich.—The UAW-CIO has finally thrown down the gauntlet to Henry Ford. It has filed notice with the Michigan Labor Board of its intention to strike the plants of the Ford Motor Company!

It is high time that the union took this action! The tension is becoming unbearable inside the River Rouge plant. For the past two weeks, union men wearing their union buttons are being physically attacked and slugged by the service men and quite a few have been sent to the hospital. It is not, however, a one-sided battle. In the past week more and more of the service men are getting a dose of their own medicine. Today service men do not dare enter certain departments that are 100% organized!

The Ford union men are clamoring for a strike and it is doubtful whether they can be held back very much longer. They all know that Ford wants a test of strength. They know that he has been preparing for months for the battle of his life. They all know that Ford will never sign a union contract until the union displays its full strength and forces old Hank to his knees.

The union organization drive has taken a tremendous spurt upward since the last two favorable NLRB decisions have come through. The union states that it is now signing up Ford workers at the rate of 1,000 a day.

The Ford challenge has aroused the other UAW-CIO locals around Michigan as no other challenge has aroused them for the past three years. And the UAW-CIO has over 200,000 members in Michigan.

## Odell Waller Meeting

CHICAGO—A mass meeting to protest the conviction of Odell Waller, Negro sharecropper sentenced to die on March 14 for the self-defense killing of his landlord, will be held in Chicago on Tuesday, March 11, at Good Shepard Church, 5700 Prairie Avenue, at 8 P.M.

The meeting is sponsored by the Chicago branches of the

Workers Defense League and the NAACP, with the support of the Brotherhoods of Sleeping Car Porters and Red Caps, the ILGWU, the Federation of Jewish Trade Unions and other organizations.

The WDL, in cooperation with the NAACP, is fighting to obtain a new trial for Waller and to win his freedom.

bor who have put themselves up for sale to Henry Ford to act as the strike breakers to destroy the only union at the Ford Motor Company, the UAW-CIO.

It is feared that Ford will attempt to use the confused Negro workers for a "back-to-work-movement" in order to smash the strike and the UAW-CIO at the Ford plants, and that the leadership of this strike-breaking "back-to-work-movement" will be taken over by the traitor, William Green, in the name of the AFL.

**BLACK AND WHITE UNITE AND FIGHT!**

It is imperative that the UAW-CIO begin a large scale campaign to explain to the Negro workers how Ford and the manufacturers are attempting to use them against the white workers and in this way enslave further the whole working class, both Negro and white — The old policy of "divide and rule."

The UAW-CIO must also launch the battle for a fighting program to abolish all discrimination and Jim Crow policies in industry and on "national defense" work. Merely repeating that the union stands for a policy of "no discrimination, because of race, color or creed" is not enough in these days. The union must abandon this passive policy and adopt a more active policy to gain equal rights for Negroes in industry and on national defense work and include these guarantees in all of its future union contracts.

## Bethlehem Men Show The Way!

And Everywhere Workers Are  
Showing They Understand This  
Is the Right Time to Strike

AN EDITORIAL

Militant strike action has brought victory to the workers at the huge Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel. This victory is more than a local success. It is more than a new impetus for the complete organization of the steel industry. It is a beacon-light, showing the way for the workers of the entire country. It shows that the workers, through militant action, can defend their rights against the whole caboodle of bosses.

This victory, as well as the Allis-Chalmers strike, the International Harvester strike, and the many other battles now going on in the war industries, show that the workers have not been overly impressed by the patriotic ballyhoo of the bosses. These strikes show that millions of workers have already grasped the fundamental idea that the government's war preparations are no reason why the workers should forego their right to strike to improve their conditions.

In fact, these strikes show that the workers understand that just now, in the war boom, is the moment to increase their union strength. When the factories are going full blast, that's the time. If the workers were to wait until war production is over and the factories are closed for lack of orders, it would be too late then. When production slows down, that's the time the bosses get in their dirtiest blows at the workers. Just remember how they slashed wages to ribbons during 1929-1933! Now, when the wheels are turning, is the time to organize and make demands on the bosses, to build the unions so strong that they will be able to stand up when war production ends.

All this the workers understand, as their splendidly-fought strikes demonstrate. They understand it far better than their "leaders", the trade union bureaucrats. The bureaucrats will, on occasion, especially when the question is one of founding the union and getting the first contract (this was the case at Bethlehem), permit the workers to use the strike weapon; for the union officialdom desires to increase its revenue and prestige. But in general the connection of the top union officials with the government (and through it with the bosses), and their desire to appear super-patriotic, makes them infinitely more cautious and less militant than the rank and file.

The strike activities of the workers do not mean that they are opposed to the war efforts of the Roosevelt administration. That, unfortunately, is not the case. Fortunately, however, the workers who favor Roosevelt's war policies are at the same time sensible enough not to be taken in by the anti-strike ballyhoo which accompanies those war policies. Despite their support of Roosevelt's war policies, these workers realize that they must take advantage of the present situation to strengthen themselves in every way.

And the workers have a powerful example always in front of them: the bosses whose patriotism doesn't in the least interfere with their determination to make huge profits.

Philip Murray last week pointed out these astounding figures: last year General Motors netted a profit of \$977 per employee; American Telegraph and Telephone, \$528 per employee; U. S. Steel, \$420 per employee; DuPont, \$2,220 per employee; General Electric, \$826 per employee; Standard Oil of New Jersey, \$2,000 per employee. When workers thus see their bosses garnering hundreds and thousands of millions of dollars in profits, they feel perfectly justified in demanding an increase in wages and in striking for it.

In this situation the patriotic buncombe handed out by the bosses just doesn't register. It's just absurd to have the boss tell the worker he should be satisfied with patriotism, when the boss reserves to himself the right to make huge profits out of the war orders.

Nor have the workers been scared by the mounting threats of anti-strike legislation. Through Knudsen and Hillman, the White House offered the workers just two alternatives: either "voluntarily" halt strikes, or face anti-strike legislation. Now Knudsen, immediately after the Bethlehem strike, has called for legislation to curb strikes. The fact that the workers refused to "voluntarily" halt strikes is assurance that they will not back down under Knudsen's new threat. They see it as their plain duty to guard their interests first and last, against the bosses and against the bosses' political agents.

There will be a great struggle necessary against anti-strike legislation. But the militancy displayed every day on the picket line by the workers shows that in all probability they will rise to the necessary heights of struggle. As they are boldly fighting the bosses in the factories, so they will firmly beat off the legislative attacks of the bosses. American labor is on the road of struggle for its rights, and will stay on that road. That is the meaning of the victory at Bethlehem.

## TWO DAYS' STRUGGLE DOES IT

Bethlehem's Myth  
Of Invincibility  
Is Gone Forever

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 28—All the city cops, county deputies, company thugs, scabs and strike-breakers that Bethlehem Steel was able to muster—and there were plenty of them—could not pull the trick. For 38 hours they cracked their heads against a wall of steel-men bodies and fists, steel-men courage and fighting solidarity. And in the end, Bethlehem Steel, for the first time in its fifty-odd years, had to give in to the workers.

Tonight the 13,000 workers of the Lackawanna plant here are speaking with a new tone of pride in their voices—a pride that is justified.

By their magnificent two-day battle along the three mile strike front of the huge rambling Lackawanna plant, they have succeeded for the first time in halting the half-century tide of Bethlehem Steel oppression, terrorism and domination, and have started pushing that tide backward.

In two days these workers have smashed the myth of the company's invincibility. They have proved that Bethlehem Steel can be brought to heel. They have learned what is most important of all, that in their own organized strength exists the power to defeat any force which the Bethlehem bosses can throw against them.

## A NATIONAL INSPIRATION

Reports from Bethlehem, Johnstown, Sparrows Point, Pottstown and every other town where the 80,000 Bethlehem Steel workers are being organized, testify that the strike has roused the Bethlehem workers everywhere to a fighting pitch, hope and confidence.

And in all the towns of Little Steel, this splendid strike has served to reheat the faith of the workers in the power of unionism. In Youngstown, Weirton, Gary, the workers are preparing to take up from where they left off in 1937, and this time carry on to victory.

## WORKERS WON ALONE

Let there be no mistake about it. This victory was gained by the striking workers, and the workers alone. Up to the last minute before the strike began, the government officials, Hillman and Knudsen of the OPM, the boss press and the company management made desperate efforts to stop the strike.

But it could not be halted. By eight o'clock of last Wednesday evening, — one hour before the strike deadline — thousands of workers had assembled at the SWOC hall to organize picket squads and flying squadrons. By nine o'clock, when the strike officially began, 6,000 workers were already at the seven plant gates and patrolling the miles of iron fence around the plant. They carried defiant banners and signs: "Bonuses for the Bosses—Bones for the Workers." "Grace Gets \$25,000; How Much Do You Get?" "SWOC Organizes White Bethlehem Deputies," and a score of other slogans.

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