

## The Fight Against The Poll-Tax System

— See Page 4 —

# THE MILITANT

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## WLB Says Little Steel Formula Will Continue

### Roosevelt's Agents Lay Down Anti-Labor Barrage to Scare Off AFL-CIO Officials from Conducting Fight for Wage Increases.

Roosevelt is now organizing his counter-offensive against the labor movement in a desperate attempt to preserve the wage-freeze. He fears that the WLB approval of the contract signed by Ickes with the United Mine Workers has opened wide the sluice gates to new demands for wage increases. He is striving to overcome his administration's definite loss of "face" on the labor front. The big windbag, William H. Davis, WLB chairman, became quite melodramatic about the "fall" of the WLB. The coal wage agreement, according to Davis had injured the board's strike policy. Then quoting Marc Anthony, Davis exclaimed: "Great Caesar fell. O, what a fall was there, my countrymen. Then I and you and all of us fell down." The quotation does not make it clear whether Davis or Roosevelt is the Caesar who fell. But one thing is sure: Davis is smarting under the blow of the miners' victory.

In an attempt to scare off the Murrys and Greens from following in the miners' footsteps, the WLB proceeded to lay down an anti-labor barrage immediately after they were forced to approve the mine agreement.

### WAGE FREEZE CONTINUES

On Nov. 10, Davis announced that the coal wage agreement "has not impaired the wage stabilization policy." Davis insisted that his Nov. 5 letter to Vice-President Wallace, where he implied that labor's wages had been frozen while prices had been rising was "widely misunderstood and misapplied."

"So far as I am concerned," he declared, "I have not begun to surrender and do not intend to surrender any part of the wage stabilization program."

The next day the WLB returned to the attack by accusing the UMW of "cynical and repeated violations of the no-strike policy." Three of the WLB public members then threatened the labor movement with a new union-busting campaign if they insisted on fighting for higher wage increases. "Legislative sanctions," they declared, "more thoroughgoing than now exist may be required unless organized labor itself demonstrates from now on its determination to accept the bitter with the sweet and to comply with the orderly processes of government."

Big Business proceeded to emit its own savage growl at the labor movement. Momentarily cornered, they were forced to go along with the Ickes-Lewis agreement. Their industry representatives on the WLB voted along with the "public" members to approve the agreement. But now they are trying to organize their minions more strongly than ever before to prevent the rest of organized labor from winning wage increases.

### WANT NEW LAWS

In a separate statement, the four industry representatives urged "the necessity for immediate consideration by congress of legislation to amend existing laws, in order to require responsibility

(Continued on page 3)

## Alton Levy Released After Three Month Imprisonment

Private Alton Levy, former union organizer, was court-martialed by the anti-labor, Jim-Crow Army Brass Hats for protesting the Army's Jim-Crow system. He was finally freed from the army stockade at the Lincoln, Nebraska Air Base, after serving three months of a four-month sentence.

In spite of numerous demands from labor unions, the War Department has refused to make public the testimony at the trial.

Samuel Wolchak, Chairman of the AFL-CIO committee to free Levy stated: "The release of Alton Levy is a real victory but must be followed by his complete vindication. . . On that fight depends the safety of many thousands of American boys like Levy who have been trained by their unions to work for equal rights for all."



ALTON LEVY

(Continued on page 3)

## Sweeping Soviet Advances Worry 'Democratic' Allies

### Post Office Still Interferes With 'Militant' Mailing

### Subscribers Advised To Protest to Walker

Another issue of The Militant has been held up for more than a week by the arbitrary, unwarranted and unexplained interference of the Post Office Department in Washington. The Nov. 6, 1943, issue was finally released for mailing by Washington in response to a telegram of protest from The Militant. However, the postal authorities gave no explanation for the long delay in releasing the issue for dispatch. This high-handed procedure is typical of Washington's interference with the mailing of the paper during the past year.

This systematic persecution of The Militant first began when the Nov. 7, 1942, issue was held up by Roosevelt's Post Office Department. However, The Militant did not learn of the action until complaints from subscribers began to pour in and then upon telephoning the post office the business manager was informed for the first time that Washington had ordered the issue withheld from the mails.

At a Post Office Department hearing in Washington on Jan. 21, 1943, government attorneys demanded revocation of The Militant's second-class mailing rights because of the paper's criticism of administration foreign and domestic policy, the war-profiteering of Big Business, and its advocacy of an independent labor party and a Workers' and Farmers' Government. On March 3, 1943, Postmaster General Walker, a member of Roosevelt's cabinet, cancelled the second-class mailing rights of The Militant.

Many trade unions and liberal organizations have joined in the protest against this arbitrary cancelling of mailing rights to a working class paper. In fact, so raw was the government's case against The Militant in the Post Office hearing in Washington, that even the capitalist press, particularly the N. Y. Times was forced to protest—not, it is true, against the cancellation of mailing rights, but the method used to do it.

### DELAY IN WASHINGTON

Five issues of the paper have been destroyed by the post office as "non-mailable." The last issue to be destroyed was the 1943 May Day number.

Since November 1942 all issues of the paper have been withheld from dispatch until released by Washington. This bureaucratic interference has meant a delay of from three days to more than a week, even when the issues are eventually released by Washington.

Last July 8 The Militant reapplied for its second-class mailing rights. Subsequent inquiry as to the status of the application brought the reply that the matter was "receiving consideration."

Four months have passed and the postal authorities still have not acted.

Attorneys for The Militant state that the Post Office Department appears to be using the method of delay as a substitute for an outright refusal to grant the second-class mailing privileges. It may therefore be necessary to go to court and thus force the postal authorities to act.

Meanwhile, we advise the readers who have complained about the delay in the delivery of The Militant to direct their protests to Postmaster General Walker, Washington, D. C.



Reprinted from United Automobile Worker, CIO.

## Wall Street Profiteers Fill Coffers With War Billions

The windfall of profits the war has brought American Big Business is shown by two recent reports. The first is a table published in the current CIO economic news letter giving the comparative profits of 29 leading corporations before and during the war.

Of the 29 companies, 14 made ten times as much in 1942, before taxes, as they averaged in 1936-39. Almost all multiplied their pre-war income, before taxes, by four. In several cases the percentage increase was numbered in the thousands. The American Car & Foundry Co., for example, increased its profits 9,700% in 1942 over 1936-39; Mack Trucks showed a 624% increase; Remington Arms went up 521%; Budd Mfg. Co., 2,113%.

Inasmuch as a corporation may not be required to pay a tax in excess of 80% of its total profits, a 1,000% increase in profit, before taxes, leaves the company with double its normal income. All but six of the twenty-nine companies doubled their average peacetime incomes, after taxes, in 1942. Several gained five times as much. And most of the corporations are doing even better in 1943 than in 1942.

### CORPORATION RESERVES

In addition to raking in enormous profits and paying out lush dividends, the big corporations are piling up colossal reserves. It was disclosed in a survey made public on Armistice Day by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC reported that, starting almost from scratch in 1929, American Big Business by the end of 1942 had increased its reserves by 2,800%!

Taking the five largest concerns in 50 basic industrial groups, the SEC survey revealed that 146 of the 250 companies had accumulated reserve funds by the end of the 1942 aggregating \$514,593,000. These reserves amounted

### THE CANDID Mr. CHURCHILL

"Last year, in 1942, I thought it right to say that I did not consider it any part of my duty to liquidate the British Empire. I do not conceal from you that I hold the same opinion today." (Churchill's speech at the London Lord Mayor's Luncheon, Nov. 9.)

Churchill has war aims no different from those of the other big capitalists. He is only more brutally outspoken.

## London And Washington Seek New Agreement With Stalin

### Red Army Breaks Through on Central Front; Nazi Lines Begin to Crumble in the South

By John G. Wright

NOV. 16.—The Red Army's greatest offensive of the war is gaining crushing momentum. The Soviet forces have swiftly and relentlessly utilized their major breakthrough in the Kiev area in order to widen the breach and to forge ahead at lightning speed toward the Pripet marshlands along the old Polish frontiers. Nov. 15 Moscow dispatches placed the advancing Red columns almost 100 miles west of Kiev.

This latest advance virtually cuts the German lines in two. The southern front is almost isolated. Still more, rout now threatens the Germans not only along the crumbling southern front but in the central and northern areas as well.

A note of panic is creeping into the dispatches of the German High Command. What they fear at this time is the slashing of their lines into three segments, with the northern front severed from all contact with their tenuous positions in the center.

### GOMEL CIRCLED

In the Gomel sector, the main German bastion of the central front, 140 miles north of Kiev, other Red Armies are lunging toward Gomel's two railways, whose capture would cut off the avenues of retreat in this pivotal area, and at the same time would isolate the German northern flank. The German High Command admits Soviet advances in this sector but claims that the initial attacks on the strategic railway center of Rechitsa had been beaten off. Hitler's generals can find comfort nowadays only in boasting that they have been temporarily able to avert a near disaster. But the Red Army communique of Nov. 16 refutes even this hollow boast by announcing the capture of Demekhi, west of Rechitsa, thus cir-

cling Gomel and severing its main railway line.

On the southern front the Red Army is on the verge of reaping the full fruits of its decisive victory in the battle for the Dnieper. Berlin itself broadcast the news on Nov. 15 that a Soviet army of 500,000 had smashed through the lines north and northwest of Krivoi Rog. A full-scale breakthrough in the big Dnieper bend would mean a debacle for the German armies on the southern front.

### "COMPLICATIONS" AHEAD

The Red Army, pedestaled in triumph, strikes terror into Nazi hearts. But statesmen in London and Washington are also uneasy before the Soviet titan. They may still wear forced smiles in public but their hearts are filled with gloom and foreboding. Tell-tale of "democratic" reaction to the news of Soviet triumphs are the comments of the N. Y. Times editors, who in analyzing the consequences of the German reverses at Zhitomir, were compelled to admit sadly that the situation was one "likely to complicate the problems for the western Allies." (N. Y. Times, Nov. 15.)

Just what is it that these authoritative spokesmen of the American capitalist class fear so much? They immediately fear, among other things, new "complications" with the Kremlin. As the Times editors put it, the Soviet advances are "likely to revive the issue of the Polish frontiers shelved temporarily by the Moscow conference."

This is not exactly prescience

(Continued on page 3)

## Lebanese People Revolt Against 'Free French'

Armed popular resistance, which has punctuated the entire history of French colonial misrule in the Middle East, has flared again—this time in tiny Lebanon, situated between Palestine and Syria. A republic in name only, Lebanon was mandated in 1926 by the League of Nations to France. It has long been an integral part of the French colonial empire.

The present clash occurs between the Lebanese and the de Gaulle's National Committee of National Liberation which now exercises the "mandate" over Lebanon and Syria.

### BROKEN PROMISES

The French imperialists have broken all their many promises to grant independence to Lebanon. As late as June 1941, during the Vichy control of Lebanon and Syria, General Georges Catroux, former Governor of Syria, again solemnly promised that Lebanon would be granted her independence.

"Free France," he declared, "identifying herself with the real traditional France and in the name of General de Gaulle, will come to put an end to the

mandatory regime and proclaim you free and independent."

Early in November the recently elected Lebanon Republican Chamber of Deputies, tired of the constantly broken promises and continued exploitation, voted unanimously for full sovereignty and independence of Lebanon.

In reply to the demand that the French get out of Lebanon, de Gaulle, Delegate-General of Lebanon, Jean Helleu, promptly imposed strict censorship, suppressed the press and all civil liberties and instituted "modified martial law." The Lebanese instead of being cowed defied the French "democrats." Thereupon Helleu, after consultation with the French Committee of National Liberation, acted like all colonial despots.

### TOTALITARIAN PRACTICES

The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the duly elected Government were declared dissolved. President Bechara El-Khoury and "such other members of the Lebanese Government as could be found" were clapped in jail. (N. Y. Times, Nov. 12.) Helleu then appointed Emile Ede, whom

the Arabian press had correctly designated as a French Quisling, "to take charge of state affairs." Again, this was in accord with traditional colonial practices. The French had followed the same despicable course in Syria in 1934 and again in 1939.

The Lebanese demanded that their arrested leaders be released and their civil liberties restored. They were answered with a still greater display of force. Senegalese troops, armored cars, tanks were ordered out. The demonstrators were machinegunned in the streets. The number of casualties is still unknown. The French authorities have pretended from the outset that reports of "disturbances have been grossly exaggerated." According to the colonial administrators, this is all "enemy propaganda." Actually, hundreds must have fallen in the fighting that broke out in Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Tripoli, Latakia, and later spread to Saida and Beirut.

In the countryside, Druse tribesmen and guerrilla formations took up the struggle. The Lebanese

(Continued on page 3)





