

Mine Operators Forced To Yield Wage Increases

The militant soft coal miners have forced the reluctant mine owners to sign a new union contract granting wage increases estimated to average \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day for a six-day week.

This victory was won on April 11, eleven days after the lapse of the old contract. The operators hastened to sign after government threats, culminating in a government mine "seizure," failed to halt widespread mine strikes which at their peak involved over 300 mines in eight states employing some 100,000 workers.

These spontaneous walkouts occurred despite a 30-day extension of the old contract. The miners were determined to show they meant business by their eight-to-one strike vote in an NLRB poll and that they would tolerate no further stalling from the mine bosses who have rolled up the biggest profits in their history.

On the same day the agreement was signed, the late President Roosevelt, in one of his last official acts, ordered the "seizure" of 235 struck mines. This action was taken at the request of the War Labor Board, which had intervened unsuccessfully to order the miners back to work.

Like the mine "seizure" orders of two years ago, when the miners went out on four general strikes, the latest order provided that the mine operators themselves were to "continue with their managerial functions to the maximum degree possible."

The principal wage concession was the granting of two hours daily overtime at time and a half pay. The basic work week will be restored to the original 35 hours, instead of the 40 hours under the last contract, thus providing greater overtime benefits.

In addition, the contract calls for full pay for travel time to the mines (portal to portal) instead of the present two-thirds. Vacation pay was raised to \$75

Government Censorship Conceals Widespread Production Cutbacks

Trotskyist Leader Reported Released From Ceylon Jail

All of the 14 political prisoners in Ceylon, India, are to be released by the authorities on condition that they sign bonds agreeing to certain restrictions, according to the Mid-March English *Socialist Appeal*. Among the 14 prisoners is Philip Gunawardene, Ceylonese Trotskyist leader, who will be released immediately as a result of his critical illness brought on by harsh prison conditions and starvation. The imprisonment and mistreatment which brought Comrade Gunawardene close to death were vigorously protested by *The Militant* of April 17.

JAILED WITHOUT TRIAL

Comrade Gunawardene is one of the courageous leaders of the Trotskyist Lanka Sama Samaja Party who was elected to the Ceylon State Council in 1938. He was thrown into a British concentration camp, without trial, at the beginning of the war for his opposition to the war and his revolutionary political convictions.

Escaping from the concentration camp in April 1942 during a resurgence of the Indian masses, Comrade Gunawardene went to India where he regained his place in their struggle for freedom. There he helped organize the unified Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India, Ceylon and Burma.

Betrayed to the police by a Stalinist stool-pigeon who had wormed his way into the party, he was again arrested on July 15, 1943 and transported back to Ceylon for trial and imprisonment. His uncompromising defense of his revolutionary ideas and defiant challenge to British imperialism during his trial was published in *The Militant* of Oct. 14. When news was received that he was dying of illness and starvation in prison, our English comrades asked that resolutions of protest be sent to the British Colonial Office, demanding his release.

GUNAWARDENE'S SPEECH

Comrade Gunawardene is once more free to fight for the views he so ably defended before the magistrate's court of Kandy, Ceylon, in 1944. He said:

"Revolutions are on the order of the day... In the wake of the fall of Fascism working class revolutions will break out in Europe. The fall of Japanese imperialism will give rise to colonial revolutions..."

"The working class of Ceylon under the leadership of the Sama Samaja Party will play its part in the coming years."

'MILITANT' EXPANDS TO 8 PAGES BEGINNING WITH MAY DAY ISSUE

The enthusiastic reception accorded *The Militant*, climaxed by an increase of over 10,000 new subscribers within the past seven weeks alone, makes it possible to announce that starting with the May Day issue, April 28, *The Militant* will be expanded from six to eight pages.

Less than a year ago, *The Militant* took the big step forward of increasing from four to six pages. This enlarged format, acclaimed by our readers, enabled us to give a much wider national and international news coverage, better analysis of political events, more educational articles and introduce a number of new popular features, including regular columnists, cartoons, etc.

The addition of a third more space will mean another tremendous all-round improvement in the paper. It will be possible to present even more extensive news coverage of important political events, publish more new features

Camouflaging the Big Gun



Bosses Push Open-Shop Drive Despite CIO-AFL 'Peace Pact'

By Art Preis

"It's Industrial Peace for the Postwar Period!" shrieked the front-page headline of the April 2 CIO News to the startled ranks of the CIO. Thus did Philip Murray jubilantly proclaim the fact that he and AFL head William Green had signed a "peace charter" with Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

The surprised membership of the CIO and AFL learned that their top leaders, after months of secret meetings with Johnston and without any prior consultation of the union rank and file, had agreed to call off all struggle against the profiteering, labor-busting bosses.

Even more startling to the ranks were the conditions of this "truce." Labor is pledged to recognize the "sacred right" of the handful of ruling capitalists to control American economy and resources forever and to exploit the workers for profit under the system of monopoly capitalist "free enterprise."

The employers generously agree—in words—to recognize the right of collective bargaining—a right they are already supposed to respect by law.

THE REAL SITUATION

Up and down the labor movement, and in their official press, Murray, Green and their lieutenants have announced that labor must surrender permanently its traditional methods of militant struggle. It must clasp the hand of fellowship now supposedly thrust forth by the corporations.

The workers have looked around to see some practical evidences of this miraculous transformation of

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IN THE NEWS

For Honest Black Market

A meat packer told a Senate committee last week that black market meat operators were beginning to complain about the "illegitimate" black market. He said that Florida black marketeers who get meat from New York, are beefing that some "illegitimate" dealers in New York were charging 10 cents above the black market scale.

Incentive Pay?

Four of the War Labor Board's public members, who have helped enforce the wage freeze, on April 6 were granted an 11 per cent salary boost by Presidential order. Their annual salaries were increased \$1,000—from \$9,000 to \$10,000.

Better Hurry, Fellows!

Advertisement in the March 31, New York Times:

The Ultimate in Men's Topcoatings
Vicuna
A Masterpiece by De Pinna
\$425

A princely garment designed expressly for the special decoration and usage of those favored folk who may indulge their every wish. Rich, soft beyond belief, aristocratic—these Vicuna topcoats are decidedly rare. In fact, candor dictates the admission that eight is all we can secure of these Vicunas this season.

The United Nations

Under the headline, "Glitter Of Captured Gold Starts Allies Squabbling," the New York Post, April 11, reports: "The Nazi gold and currency hoard captured at Merkers, Germany, over the weekend already is starting a squabble in Washington and among the Allies. Dividing up the booty raises the whole problem of reparations and treatment of post-war Germany."

Rules Too Strict

At the Peoples House in the coal-mining town of Gilly, Belgium, all the workers parties and organizations are permitted to hold meetings free of charge. The sole condition: that the meetings permit public questions and discussions. Only the Communist (Stalinist) Party has refused to meet there, reports Lenin's Road, organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party (Trotskyist).

NEWS BLACKOUT HIDES RISE IN UNEMPLOYMENT

Industrial 'Demobilization' Plans Ignore Thousands of Discharged War Workers

By C. Thomas

Cutbacks in war production are mounting behind a veil of military censorship intended to conceal the full extent of layoffs due to war contract cancellations and plant shutdowns. The boss press, which a few weeks ago was screeching for a labor draft to meet an alleged manpower shortage, has fallen in with the hush-hush policy of the administration and its brass hats. "No news stories, no headlines," observes one labor commentator. "But every day hundreds more are told 'No more work after Monday, all men with less than two years seniority are permanently laid off.'"

Propose Higher Prices to 'Fight' Black Market

Congressmen at various hearings on the meat shortage have been loudly blaming the extensive black market—estimated at about 90 per cent in large cities—on OPA price ceilings. A parade of meat packers, last year boosted profits seven times over pre-war levels and in the past 18 months pocketed over \$800,000,000 of government subsidies, are demanding the lifting of price ceilings as the "solution" to meat shortages and black marketeering.

Senator Elmer Thomas, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, last week chimed in with this theory that if prices were only high enough there would be no black market. "OPA policies," he stated, "are restricting meat and building up the black market."

The black market, by admission of the meat packers themselves, includes the "legitimate" meat firms. "Who is not in the black market?" declared one packer before the House Food Investigating Committee.

The same Congressmen and Senators who blame the black market on the OPA are those who voted last year for a price control act which virtually destroyed the OPA's limited price enforcement powers.

Production of aircraft, ships, tanks, munitions, etc., is being sharply curtailed. It is reported that in the one aircraft center of Buffalo, New York, "the Bell Aircraft Corp. is closing its two fighter plane plants now employing 15,000. The Curtiss-Wright company there will lay off 900 men by next Sunday. And its executives predict a steady cut in jobs until 1946."

The Army has announced that "it has decided not to complete twelve new tank plants," which were scheduled to reach the peak of operation in the latter part of the year. In addition, the Army Ordnance division has ordered a cutback in munitions affecting production schedules and facilities in sixty plants. The munitions cutback, estimated at nearly \$200,000,000 represents a reduction of about 10 per cent in the entire artillery munitions program."

SHIPYARD WORKERS' JOBS

Meanwhile, the Navy has cancelled contracts for 72 out of 84 combat vessels. The Maritime Commission is cancelling orders for tankers and cargo ships. The Commission's shipbuilding program will be virtually completed by the end of the year. "About 750,000 shipbuilding workers will lose their jobs by New Year's,"

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WHAT CAN LABOR EXPECT OF TRUMAN?

By Joseph Keller

The death of Franklin D. Roosevelt has suddenly lifted into the office of the presidency of the United States a man who is little known to the majority of the American people. This comparatively obscure figure, Harry S. Truman, now stands at the head of the greatest military, industrial and financial power in the world. As the chief executive officer of the ruling capitalist class in the United States, his words and deeds will directly affect the lives of all American workers and the future welfare of the hungry, tortured, war-weary masses throughout the world.

Universal interest is now focused upon this political personage. Every thinking worker wants to know who Truman really is. What are his connections and background? Who are his advisers? What interests will he serve? What policies will he pursue? American labor needs a

In subsequent issues

The Militant plans to publish a series of articles on the political role and record of the late President Roosevelt.

clear and truthful answer to these questions as a guiding line for the period ahead of economic convulsions and world-wide social crisis.

One thing is certain at first glance. Truman commands the confidence of every sector of the

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The NEGRO STRUGGLE

by CHARLES JACKSON

Answering A Powell Supporter

In a recent column we exposed the fact that Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Congressman from New York, is "no longer interested in liberating the Negro masses but only in advancing his own prestige among the ruling class."

You may put my letter in your paper if you like or answer me through a letter.

Edgar Banks, 235 W. 110 St., New York City.

OUR POSITION ON POWELL We say to Mr. Banks: Our paper, different from all others, has neither love nor hatred for any INDIVIDUAL. We are only interested in a man's ACTIONS and his PROGRAM.

POWELL IN CONGRESS In Congress what short time he has been there has introduced two new bills against Jim Crow...

As for yourself, stop condemning and look around study conditions... Line yourself up with the people who are doing things, who are fighting and demanding things...

"I buy The Militant every week."

Pioneer Paragraphs CAPITALIST MANIPULATIONS CAUSE RISE IN FOOD PRICES

Besides the open price increases, there are numerous ways in which the capitalists increase their prices and evade the ceilings in an underhanded fashion.

The main form of hidden price rises is quality deterioration. While there is no increase in the price, the article is of a poorer quality than before.

A variation on quality deterioration is "upgrading": the selling of an article of a certain quality at the price of a better quality product, and thereby evading the price law.

Recently a prominent canning company placed a new "improved" soup on the market. The improved variety cost three cents a can more than the unimproved type.

THE MILITANT may now be purchased at 242 Broadway, San Diego, Cal.

Why Fraternalization Is Prohibited

By Harry Martell

"You are entering Germany. Fraternalization is an offense." So read the signs posted on the frontier by the Allied High Command.

REASONS FOR POLICY The motives behind this official proscription of fraternization are unmistakable.

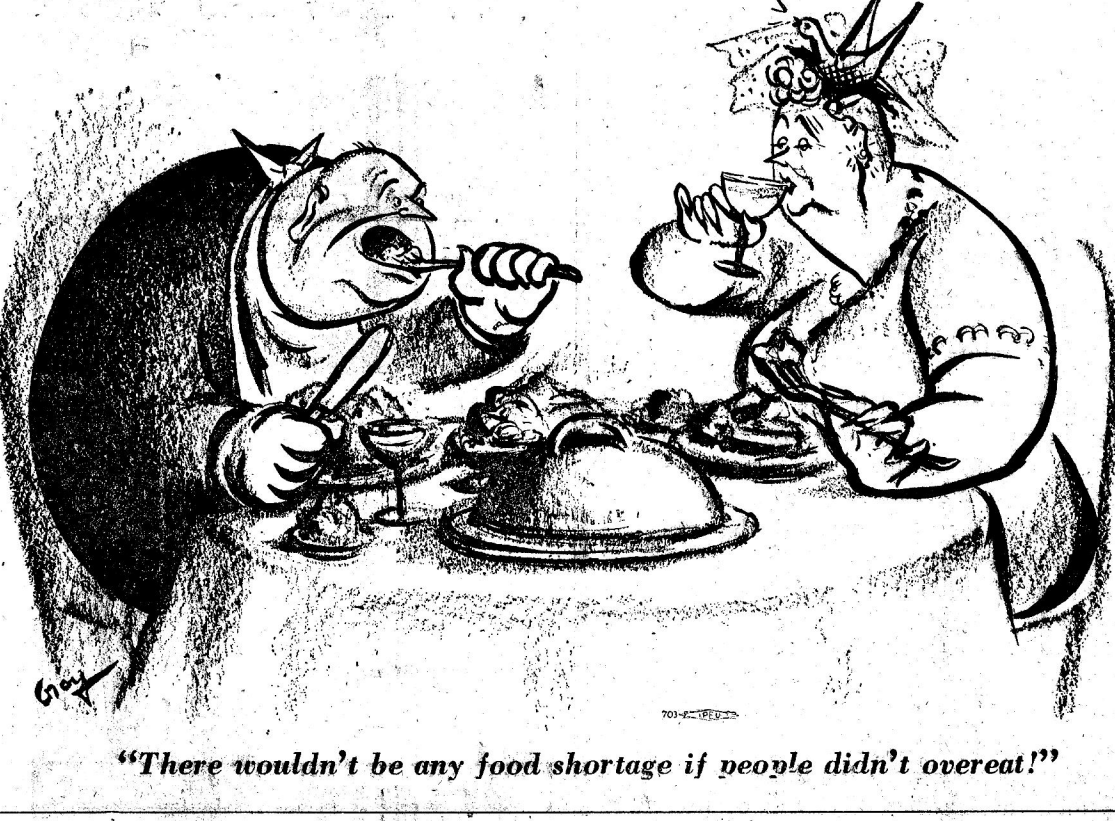
First, the Allied imperialists hope to identify the German masses with Hitler and the crimes of the Nazi regime.

Second, by thus persuading the Allied soldiers of the "war guilt" of the entire German population, they aim to justify their plans for the partition and plundering of Germany...

And finally, with the pretext that all Germans are tainted with the Nazi brush anyhow, the Allied Military Authorities are already using former Nazi party members and police for posts of civil administration...

BAN WON'T WORK But the ban on fraternization isn't working. Hanson Baldwin, N. Y. Times military authority, says it is "unenforceable."

CLASS AIM OF ORDER Little by little the class meaning of the non-fraternization order begins to penetrate the consciousness of the soldiers.



"There wouldn't be any food shortage if people didn't overeat!"

an old woman push a handcart across the road. When he spies the correspondent, he apologizes: "We can't have this junk blocking the road."

These incidents are repeated a thousand times over. An American sergeant summarized the attitude of the men in the ranks with great clarity: "We're supposed to hate people, to be very tough customers, but as soon as the fighting is over it begins to work the other way..."

Another American soldier helps through this war remain intact, untouched by Allied airmen. In Saarbruecken the owner of a network of 140 mines worth \$4,000,000, who sweated and exploited German miners to produce coal for the Nazi war machine, still wore his Nazi button...

Anarchist Leaders Face Persecution In Great Britain

Continuing its persecution of working-class opponents of its imperialist war, and in flagrant violation of the rights of free press, the British government has arrested four London anarchists, charging them with "sedition" under the Defense Regulations Law.

The four arrested anarchists are well-known fighters against fascism. Marie Louise Berneri, 26 years old, whose parents were hounded out of Italy by Mussolini and suffered imprisonments, and whose father was shot in 1937 for his anti-fascist activities...

VIOLATE FREE PRESS The arrests followed a series of police investigations and raids. The files of the British anarchist paper, War Commentary, were seized by the police last December and have never been released.

A defense committee to protest the violation of freedom of the press and to defend the 4 arrested anarchists was set up on March 3 to include all individuals and organizations concerned with civil liberties and labor's rights.

Notice to New Subscribers Due to the many thousands of new subscriptions we are receiving weekly, one or two weeks may elapse before you begin to receive your copy of The Militant regularly.

Poverty Robs Many Women Of Right To Health And Beauty

By Grace Carlson

"The way to a man's heart is through his stomach" say the cook book publishers, hoping to increase their sales to girls and women, who are trying to attract a husband or perhaps, hold on to one.

And so the struggle to be beautiful has absorbed the attention of women throughout the ages. The cosmetics industry was an old and flourishing business at the time of Cleopatra.

DEEP-SEATED DESIRE Although "vanity," as it is called, is supposed to be an exclusively feminine trait, the facts do not bear this out. Who buys the hair oils and tonics which are "absolutely guaranteed to cure baldness in 30 days or your money will be cheerfully refunded?"



cosmetics and "beauty aids" sold to men. The truth is that the desire to look well—"to put one's best foot forward"—is possessed by all members of the human race, whether male or female.

Suppose the working-class girl or housewife, facing the mirror and seeing a too-thin face, with dark circles of weariness under the eyes, hair and skin that need attention, and teeth that require dental care decides to do something about it.

Before and After pictures are shown in the magazine of so-called "ugly ducklings," who were transformed in a week's time into glamour girls. All it took to do the job was a series of trips—"to

theatrical make-up man for face and hair restyling; to a dentist for temporary porcelain caps to fetch front teeth into alignment; to an instructor for lowering the voice a good three notes; to the dress designer for the appearance of curves we hadn't the time to cultivate naturally; to Saks-Fifth-Avenue for a new outfit of clothes.

Well, since she is lacking the necessary cash to go through this transformation process, perhaps she can try some of the "home remedies" advised in the article. And so, she reads, "For a clear skin, for good teeth, for lustrous hair, for a shine in your eye, eat plenty of meat, fish, eggs, milk, fresh fruits and vegetables."

Poor women do not have the much-talked-about American rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," to say nothing of the "right to be beautiful." Only women of wealth can feel secure in this right.

Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalsky

The floor shuddered. There was a sort of muffled WHOOOOM that was indistinct and yet all around us, filling the air, tearing our attention away from the things we had been talking about as we sat waiting for the iron ladles to come in.

The stove man leaped to his feet and raced to the wheel. With a rush and a roar we heard the blast as he pulled it down, sending the pressure howling out into the atmosphere. The engine house signal rang out. Intently the stove man watched the pressure gauge before him. Then, satisfied that the furnace had finished "slipping," he swung his weight around the wheel once more. The roar died down and squeaked off.

"Damn furnace been slipping all day long," he grunted, coming back and sitting down on the bench. "Rolling and heaving to beat hell." "Bad furnace," Jimmy said. "Never know what'll happen when she gets like this."

The Old Man put down his coffee bottle and reached for his pipe. It was a terrible pipe, black, half burned away, half chewed up, and strong as a team of mules. It was said that the Old Man locked his pipe up when he wasn't using it so it wouldn't get up and walk away.

The Old Man packed some Five Brothers into the poisonous bowl of his pipe and said reflectively, "I seen one of them blow up once." We looked at him. "Where, Old Man?" "Down Alabama. They had a pig-bed there; didn't cast into ladles like up here. Fifty, sixty men working on the pig-bed. Killed em all."

Young Lonnie's eyes were wide. "How'd it happen, Old Man?" he asked. The Old Man was filling the room with pungent smoke. Jimmy made a face of disgust, held his nose, and moved away from him. The Old Man looked coldly and levelly at Jimmy for a moment and then turned back to us.

"Don't know, son," he said to Lonnie. "Can't say what goes on inside of one of them big furnaces. All I know, she was bad. Sloppy. Rolling and heaving all day. Trying to come back in the tuyeres. Bad furnace. BAD!"

What I Thought About the Old Man's Story He paused, but nobody interrupted the Old Man. We waited for him to speak again. He had the night.

"I was going home that night. I didn't work on THAT furnace," he added modestly to show that he was not the hero of a hair-breadth escape, "but I worked a little down the line. And all of a sudden I heard a big rumbling and roaring, and I looked around, and it looked like the whole world was lit up! I started running, and I guess everybody else did. But then I come back."

A pause. More bitter smoke from that terrible pipe. "Killed every single one of em," the Old Man murmured. "Looked like some of em ran HALF a MILE and fell over dead! I swore I'd never go up on another furnace as long as I lived."

There was another silence. "Never know what's going to happen when a furnace's running bad," the Old Man said, and he added, "...like this."

I looked at the Old Man. I saw him, a worker, poor, and a Negro as well, denied opportunities, driven by the whip of economic needs, hounded and driven back to that very place of terror that he had fled from. And I thought of the rest of us, chained to our jobs by the decrees of the government as well as the needs of our families and ourselves, and, worst of all, earning on these jobs a dollar an hour or less in the world of 1945. And I thought of the profits of the steel companies.

I started to speak, but then once again the floor shuddered. There was a muffled WHOOOOM, and the stove man leaped to his feet and raced to the wheel.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

APRIL 20, 1935

SACRAMENTO—Eight militant workers, found guilty of "criminal syndicalism" by the California courts on April 1, were sentenced to indeterminate terms of one to 14 years, as anti-labor Judge Lemmon denied motion for a new trial.

Two of the convicted leaders of the Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union, recommended for probation, scorned the clemency of the capitalist court. Said the Trotskyist Norman Mini: "Our conviction is the logic of the class struggle. But the same class struggle that results in our conviction will some day sweep everything this court and this state represent away forever... We know that the future belongs to us."

NEW YORK—The United States and Japan are openly girding for their coming conflict. The Militant reported. "In June 150 American battleships and 500 planes will maneuver over 500,000 square miles of Pacific Ocean in the most extensive naval 'games' in peacetime history. The government estimates the cost at \$1,250,000. In July the Japanese navy will play 'games' over the same area."

OHO—The National Unemployed League continued its task of organizing hundreds of thousands of workers to fight for union recognition and better conditions. In Alliance, Ohio, relief workers struck for grants of coal; in Waynesburg, for the right to organize; in New Lexington, mass picketing closed down all work projects in protest against a proposed wage-cut of 5 cents an hour.

NEW YORK THE MILITANT invites you to join the MILITANT READERS' DISCUSSION CLUB Held under the auspices of Socialist Workers Party First Meeting Wednesday, April 25, 8 p. m. French Colonial Society Hall 225 West 116th Street Meetings will be held every Wednesday night—Admission Free For further information call GR. 7-9317

NEW YORK CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF WORLD WAR II Speaker: MARK BRADEN, Labor Secretary Newark Branch, SWP Classes Begin at 8 p. m. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25th: Socialism—The Coming World System How Socialism Will Be Built in America NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE 116 University Place (Corner 13th St., bet. 5th and Broadway)

