

THE MILITANT

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Housing Crisis And The Veterans

— See Page 8 —

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Issues Before UAW Delegates At Convention

By The Editors

During the week of March 23 the eyes of American labor will be focused on the Atlantic City convention of the CIO United Automobile workers, America's biggest and most dynamic union. Past UAW conventions have established milestones in the progress of the American labor movement. The forthcoming convention will prove no less momentous.

This convention meets against the background of America's greatest strike wave and of the significant wage victory which the auto workers have won in common with other large sectors of the CIO. The leading and decisive role in that victory has been played by the General Motors workers.

A Host Of Problems

It would be good if the UAW convention delegates could confine themselves to a celebration of the gains just won. But the auto workers, like the rest of labor, are already beset by a host of unresolved and new problems.

The strike wave revealed great strength in the CIO ranks generally and the UAW in particular. American labor has never before displayed on such a national scale its capacity for militant struggle.

But the strike wave also brought into sharp relief significant weaknesses and defects of union policies and leadership. Now new Big Business threats are menacing labor. These weaknesses will have to be remedied, the new threats will have to be countered, if the auto workers are to retain their gains and achieve greater advances.

This UAW convention will have the duty to analyze and judge, soberly and conscientiously, the weaknesses revealed by the strike wave. It will have to elaborate a program of action which will effectively promote the interests of the auto workers in the crucial period ahead.

Although the auto workers and the CIO have made significant gains, they have not achieved the gains which could and should have been won, given the real strength of organized industrial labor.

The Strike Strategy

It will suffice to demonstrate this by pointing out the most glaring weaknesses during the strike wave, and particularly those shown in the UAW's wage fight.

To begin with, there was the "one-at-a-time" strategy projected by the UAW and CIO leaders and their lack of any unified strategy. Each followed its own course without consideration for the needs of the other, while the corporations pursued a calculated and concerted offensive against the unions. Although the CIO leaders were forced eventually and reluctantly to spread the strikes, this was not done in a timely or concerted manner. That is the chief reason why General Motors was able to drag out the strike settlement.

The "one-at-a-time" strategy enabled the corporations to pit one union, or section of a union, against another. Wage settlements were made by some unions which under-

(Continued on Page 2)

American Seamen Defy Order To Scab On Filipino Strike

By Art Sharon

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, March 10—Delayed letters and clippings from Manila, P. I., have arrived here telling the hitherto censored story of the unsuccessful attempt last month of Army brass hats in the Philippines to force American merchant seamen on 40 ships in Manila harbor to scab on striking Filipino longshoremen.

Two thousand merchant seamen belonging to the CIO National Maritime Union, AFL Seafarers International Union, Independent Marine Firemen's Union, CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards, and other smaller unions, refused to be used as scabs by the army in its attempt to break the strike.

A clipping from the Manila Evening Standard, February 7, reports that, "The strike situation is expected to see a sensational development today due to a circular issued yesterday by Col. Cecil H. Davidson, AFWES-PAC (Army Forces Western Pacific) director of port operations, to all masters of ships in port directing them to have winch operators available from among their crew to assist the army in discharging and loading cargo."

ON THE INSIDE

- World War III Analysis3
- Marx's Anniversary7
- Stassen And Labor7
- Mine Workers' Charges8

COLUMNS AND FEATURES

- Trade Union Notes2
- Veterans Problems4
- Workers Forum4
- The Negro Struggle7
- Mary of Steelworker8
- Notes of A Seaman8

STORMY REACTION

The direct order from the labor-hating brass hats was to no avail. The seamen stood solid in

(Continued on Page 8)

Fund Drive Gets Good Start

By Evelyn Atwood

The three-month campaign for a \$15,000 Militant Sustaining Fund got off to a flying start on March 15 with more than \$800 already contributed, reported Justine Lang, Campaign Director, Rochester, New York, was the first branch of the Socialist Workers Party to complete its quota.

DEPENDS ON WORKERS

America's best and fastest-growing labor paper, The Militant, is appealing to its many thousands of enthusiastic readers to help maintain the paper by sending in their personal contributions to the \$15,000 Sustaining Fund.

"The Militant is wholly dependent upon its worker readers for support," it was pointed

HEROIC GM STRIKERS WIN AFTER 113-DAY STRUGGLE

A Tribute To A Real Fighter



Wall Street Continues Drive For New War; Hurls Reactionary Barrage At Soviet Union

By Charles Carsten

The drive of Anglo-American imperialism to prepare public opinion for the Third World War continues unabated. Last week spokesmen for the Anglo-American imperialists made several additional significant moves. Tom Connally, chairman of the important Senate Foreign Relations Committee, converted his report on the recent General Assembly of the United Nations Organization into an attack on the Soviet Union.

Winston Churchill repeated his denunciation of the Kremlin and again offered "the powerful and faithful friendship" of the British Empire to Wall Street in its offensive against the Soviet Union.

General Marshall, one of the leading spokesmen for the American military caste, returning from China, stated in his first public utterance that the situation in Manchuria is "extremely critical."

Under cover of this furious war-mongering campaign, Wall Street agents are attempting to ram a series of reactionary measures through Congress. They are pressing for military control of atomic energy, assuring continuous mass production of the atom bomb for prospective use against the Soviet Union. In order to maintain its colossal

What happened to the coal-

tion of "peace-loving" nations that he said would emerge after the crushing of the Axis? It is being replaced by a bloc against the Soviet Union.

Stalin made no reference to the United Nations Organization. The Stalinists spread the illusion that the UNO would be the "bulwark of peace." But it is clear that the United Nations Organization is nothing but an instrument of Anglo-American imperialism and a cover for its anti-Soviet campaign.

Stalin warned Churchill about the consequences of a Third World War and menaced the imperialist powers with the "growing power" of the Com-

(Continued on Page 3)

Paris Trotskyist Meeting Raided By Gouin Police

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PARIS, March 10—On Tuesday, March 6 at 11 a.m., in the Tenth District here, 60 police agents and several inspectors, armed with machine guns and pistols, mobilized to arrest 28 participants in a conference called by the Parti Communiste Internationaliste (Trotskyist) to discuss the international situation.

Among those present were PCI militants, friends, sympathizers and journalists from various countries, including the United States, France, Belgium, England, Holland, Ireland, Switzerland, Greece and refugees from Spain.

Like a band of dangerous gangsters, this group was forced to march between a double file of police with drawn pistols to the Commissariat of the Fourth District.

Upon arrival at the Commissariat, however, nobody knew what to do next with a group of people who were "guilty" only of being present at a meeting called by a political party. The regime of arbitrary arrests was presumably abolished with the

(Continued on Page 3)

GM Delegates Conference Votes To Accept Agreement

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

DETROIT, Mar. 16—After battling without let-up for 113 days on the picket lines, the heroic 175,000 General Motors strikers on March 13 finally forced the multi-billion dollar corporation to

terms.

Ford Council Opposes Several Contract Clauses

By Roy Weston

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Mar. 15 — The National Ford Council of the CIO United Auto Workers at its three-day meeting here this week to discuss ratification of the proposed Ford Motor-UAW contract, referred certain objectionable clauses back to the union's national negotiating committee. But the leaders were successful in showing through approval of the dangerous "company security" clause which has evoked widespread disapproval among UAW members.

The council, on the opening day of the conference, March 11, rejected by a vote of 507 to 296 the production-standards ("speed-up") clause of the contract and then unanimously instructed the national negotiation committee to renegotiate this and other non-approved clauses.

Joseph Eccles, president of the Council, had sought a second roll-call vote on the production clause, stating that it meant a "showdown" for acceptance or rejection of the entire contract.

Herbert Hindmarsh, of Highland Park Local 400, then moved the resolution providing referral of any rejected clauses to the national committee for possible renegotiation. The contract will then be submitted to the Ford workers nationally for a final vote on ratification.

Richard T. Leonard, UAW (Continued on Page 2)

The GM auto workers, who have spearheaded the whole wage fight of American labor and for 16 weeks have borne the brunt of Big Business's savage resistance, early Thursday morning wrenched from the arrogant GM corporation an agreement which includes an 18 1/2-cent an hour wage increase, plus correction of wage inequalities in local plants and other concessions. At the same time, the corporation was forced to retreat from its demand for "company security."

Admittedly the wage gains which the GM workers have secured fall short of what they justly demanded and which their great battle should have won. That is in no way due to the manner in which the GM workers fought, but rather to the weaknesses in strategy of the top UAW and CIO leaders.

SIGNIFICANT GAINS

The agreement both with respect to wages and the other concessions must be viewed as a significant even though partial victory.

Especially heartening is the fact that the GM workers were able to hold out solidly for more than 16 weeks and have emerged from this grueling combat with their ranks intact, united and full of fight.

This was reflected here yesterday by the 200 local CIO United Auto Workers delegates at the GM Delegates Conference, meeting to consider the terms of the contract recommended by the UAW leaders.

The delegates voted by a great majority to recommend to the (Continued on Page 2)

Salute To GM Strikers!

Hats off to the valiant General Motors strikers!

In the longest and bitterest labor struggle in American history, after 113 days of hardship and battle, the GM workers have once again brought to its knees the most powerful industrial corporation in the world.

For courageous endurance, for unshakable unity, for inspiring loyalty to the cause of those who toil, the record of the GM workers in this strike stands unsurpassed in the annals of American labor.

The men and women who fought out this historic battle to its triumphant conclusion were actuated not alone by their own interests. They knew they were the advance guard, the shock troops, of all American labor.

They knew they were spearheading the wage fight of the whole labor movement and that they would have to take the brunt of the savage resistance of American Big Business.

Not for a moment did they falter. They held their ground in defiance of all the pressure and calumny that Big Business and its agents hurled at them. They drew their belts tighter week after week — and grimly held on.

By their example, they inspired millions of other industrial workers to hit the picket lines and to wrest for themselves the greatest single wage gains ever attained by the American workers.

It became the special objective of the anti-labor corporate interests to break the GM strike, or to force the strikers back to work on onerous terms. The American plutocracy wanted to "make an example" of the GM strikers, humble them, take revenge upon them because their battle had cleared the way for wage concessions throughout industry.

But Big Business failed. It had to beat a retreat. General Motors, which had flung one arrogant demand after another at the strikers, which had poured millions into its drive to undermine the strike, had to come to terms.

Let every worker who will receive the benefits of substantial wage boosts ranging up to 18 1/2 cents an hour give tribute to those most responsible — the heroic GM workers.

They saw their duty and they did not fail. Thanks to them American labor today stands a whole head taller.

IN THE NEWS

Heroes' "Reward"

On March 13 the Veterans Administration in Washington reported that unemployment among returned veterans is nearing 1,500,000. In the week ending March 2, GI unemployment compensation, \$20 a week each, was paid to 1,433,173 veterans.

Labor Got Stuck

William H. Davis, former head of the War Labor Board and author of the Little Steel formula, stated in an interview on March 7 that the WLB had been like a cactus and "anyone who tried to lean on us got stuck."

Splitting the Atomists

"Army brass hats are blocking the return here of Dr. Nils Bohr, Danish Nobel Prize winner and father of modern atomic science. The Army also turned thumbs down on a visit by Joliot-Curie, Madame Curie's son, another atomic scientist, holding it bad policy for American scientists to talk to foreign ones." (Drew Pearson in N. Y. Daily Mirror, March 7.)

Beastly Manners

"This part of Mr. Churchill's speech is a mixture of the elements of libel with the elements of rudeness and lack of tact." (Stalin's reply to Churchill's Missouri speech.)

'Good Neighbor' Policy

Gen. George Marshall, who is being spoken of as next Secretary of State to replace Byrnes, during the early days of World War II proposed a directive for the immediate seizure by U. S. armed forces of bases in Brazil and Ecuador. He drafted a subsequent order to the State Department, later issued under Roosevelt's name, for the retention of permanent peacetime military bases in the two South American countries — whether they agreed or not.

Issues At UAW Convention

(Continued from Page 1)

cut the wage demands of another. Concessions were made to the employers in certain cases which strengthened the hand of employers in other negotiations. Thus, the "one-at-a-time" strategy divided the workers, not the corporations.

Another grave weakness was shown when the CIO leaders—including the UAW top officials—capitulated to Truman's "fact-finding" procedure. When Truman first threatened to impose this latest method for whittling down wage demands and paving the way for compulsory arbitration, his proposal was roundly denounced by all the UAW and CIO leaders. Yet these same leaders quickly bowed before Truman's dictates. They sanctioned the "fact-finding" boards by appearing before them and surrendered in advance nearly 50 per cent of their wage demands on the basis of the arbitrarily-fixed recommendations of these so-called "fact-finding" boards.

"Company Security" A Danger

Another extremely dangerous weakness was disclosed, notably in the Ford negotiations, with the concession to the corporation demands for so-called "company security." This is a device of the corporations designed to weaken the unions in preparation for a renewed union-busting offensive. "Company security" clauses aim to victimize union militants and intimidate and demoralize the union ranks.

Finally, the CIO and UAW leaders failed to make a clean-cut break with the Big Business-dominated Truman administration. When Truman first announced his demand for anti-strike and semi-compulsory arbitration legislation, CIO President Philip Murray and others blasted Truman and threatened to break their ties with the administration. But though Truman has proved himself over and over again to be the eager servant of Big Business, Murray and the other CIO leaders are still trying to maintain their ties with the Truman administration. This makes impossible any effective fight against the government's anti-labor policies.

The UAW delegates will remember that at the last convention, in September, 1944, they were also confronted by grave issues, the no-strike pledge, the War Labor Board's pro-corporation policies, the wage freeze in the midst of soaring prices.

That convention saw the emergence of a grouping of militants, known as the Rank and File Caucus, which mobilized a good third of the convention against the whole UAW top leadership, Thomas, Reuther, Addes and Frankenstein, in a fight for a return to a program of union militancy and independence.

That caucus warned that the no-strike policy was permitting the employers to strengthen themselves at the expense of the workers. They warned that the unions would find themselves at the end of the war confronting a heightened employers' offensive at the moment when cutbacks and reduced wages would put the unions in a far less favorable position to resist.

Events have completely confirmed the correctness of the views and policies advanced in 1944 by the militants who formed the Rank and File Caucus, and have refuted the arguments of the UAW leaders who tried to rivet tighter the shackles of the no-strike pledge.

This year's convention is confronted with problems no less crucial than those of 1944. This time, however, it is clear that most of the advanced militants, who in 1944 opposed Reuther along with the rest of the top UAW leaders, are preparing to back him for the UAW presidency and are associating themselves with his caucus.

As a result of his role in the General Motors strike, Reuther has reestablished his reputation as a progressive

As GM Strikers Win



General Motors auto workers celebrate in Detroit, as their 13-day strike ends, with an 18 1/2-cent an hour increase and other concessions including vacation bonuses and equalization of some wage rates.

union leader in the eyes of most UAW militants. He has advocated advanced and progressive demands, such as "Open the books of the corporation!" and "wage increases without price increases." He demonstrated firmness and aggressiveness in the GM negotiations. He respected the democratic sentiments of the union ranks by placing every proposal before the representative GM delegates conference. In general, he has revealed himself as the most resolute and capable of the top leaders of the UAW and CIO.

Reuther's Role

To this extent, the UAW militants are correct in supporting Reuther as a more progressive candidate for the top UAW office than R. J. Thomas.

But this support for Reuther can have a really progressive character only if the UAW delegates at the same time have their eyes completely open to Reuther's considerable shortcomings. They must be clearly aware of Reuther's weaknesses and false ideas.

For instance, the entire UAW Executive Board—and that includes Reuther, voted endorsement of the original and worst "company security" proposal made by the UAW representatives in the Ford negotiations. He was the author of the "one-at-a-time" strategy which helped to isolate the GM strikers instead of the General Motors Corporation. He weakened under government pressure and participated in Truman's "fact-finding" procedure. Nor should Reuther's wartime policy be forgotten. He gave full support to the imperialist slaughter, helped put over and enforce the no-strike policy, and took the lead in selling the fraudulent "equality of sacrifice" program to the union.

To ensure the progress of the union, therefore, it is not sufficient merely to select the most able individuals available for office. The first and indispensable requisite in guaranteeing that the union will serve the interests of the workers is a sound program.

In the past the UAW has suffered from incompetency to outright betrayal on the part of more than one leader. These have ranged from Homer Martin to the latest discredited faker, Richard T. Frankenstein. In spite of such leaders, the UAW advanced because it was built on a program of militancy, union democracy and solidarity.

A Program Essential

To make the victory of the Reuther caucus a victory for the whole rank and file and not merely for an individual or small clique, the UAW militants must establish a program which will correct the deep-going flaws disclosed in the recent strike struggles.

Such a program, for instance, would outlaw any concession to corporation demands for "company security," such as in the Ford contract, which gives the employers a dangerous weapon against the unions. The Chrysler contract follows the Ford model. Other corporations are certain to take advantage of the Ford and Chrysler precedents.

The fact that the GM workers were able to wrest the best wage concession in the auto industry without yielding to the corporation's arrogant demands for "company security" is sufficient evidence that the unions do not have to accept such union-weakening terms as the price for wage increases. This convention is in a position to put an end to the menace of "company security" by prohibiting "company security" clauses in any form.

During the war the UAW leaders whined and complained about the WLB, and even proposed that the CIO withdraw its representatives from the WLB. But the UAW leaders continued to hang onto the Board until the last dog was dead. We are beginning to see a repetition of that policy in connection with the "fact-finding" boards, which are designed, like all such capitalist government bodies, to cheat the workers out of their full and just demands and to lay the basis for compulsory arbitration.

So long as the unions place dependence either directly or indirectly, on government agencies like the "fact-finding" boards, the workers will be victimized, their demands will be whittled down and their grievances buried in red tape. Any sound union program must call for complete independence from any and all government agencies and a stern mandate to the union leaders to dissociate themselves in every way from such agencies. The workers can make gains, as the present strike wave has shown, only insofar as they rely upon their own strength and independent action.

The corporations, forced to yield wage concessions, are trying to nullify these wage increases by a deliberately contrived price inflation. The Truman administration has not only conceded outrageous price increases to the profiteers, but has tied virtually all wage increases to price rises.

It is therefore obvious that fixed wage increases provide only temporary gains because of inflation. This inflation can be combated effectively by fighting for clauses in union contracts providing for a rising scale of wages automatically adjusted to price rises.

For Labor Party Action

Where the whole labor movement has shown itself least able to fight effectively is on the political field. In the course of the strike wave, the unions have found themselves impotent against the political machinations of Big Business, which controls the government. Thus, the corporate interests snatch back by political means what the unions have won on the picket lines.

The labor leaders have been able, at best, only to complain from the sidelines while Congress wrecks price controls, knifes unemployment compensation legislation, threatens to impose anti-labor laws, tramples underfoot any even faintly progressive measures. Not a genuine voice from the ranks of labor has been raised inside Washington's legislative halls against tax laws which provide billions in tax rebates to the corporations and other generous financial aids to corporation strikebreaking.

Company unionism in politics is a deadly snare for labor. An end must be made to the alliance of labor with the political parties and politicians controlled by the very corporate interests whom the workers are fighting on the picket lines.

The need for labor political action is thoroughly recognized by the UAW ranks. But that recognition must be translated into effective action.

The UAW convention could perform no greater service for all the working people of America as well as the auto workers than to start the ball rolling for a labor party and for the running of labor candidates in the 1946 Congressional elections.

A call by this UAW convention for the CIO to immediately convoke a national conference for the launching of a labor party, would evoke enthusiastic approval from millions of workers, returned veterans, the Negro people and all other sections of the population who seek to fight against the predatory rule of Big Business.

A program along these lines is the crying necessity for the UAW and the entire labor movement.

The danger exists, however, that the decisive question of program may be sidetracked or buried if the UAW convention is permitted to degenerate into nothing but a drag-out factional fight for posts.

In this connection, the 1944 convention provides a splendid precedent for the UAW delegates in Atlantic City to follow. The 1944 delegates refused to discuss the question of leadership until the main questions of policy, especially the no-strike pledge were thrashed out in a four-day debate.

If that precedent is followed at the present convention, we can confidently expect that the delegates will perfect a program that will mark a major advance for the whole labor movement as well as the auto workers.

General Motors Strikers Force Arrogant Corporation To Terms

(Continued from Page 1)

local membership acceptance of the contract as the best terms procurable under the circumstances. But they voted unanimously to call for the full support of the UAW International to those GM locals which may decide to remain on strike until their local grievances, a major issue, are satisfactorily settled.

Membership meetings of the 30 GM locals will be held today and tomorrow to vote on ratification of the national contract. No locals are authorized to return to work until a majority of the locals have voted acceptance of the settlement terms.

There was not full accord among the delegates on approval of the contract. Some delegates, chiefly from the Flint area—one of the most militant

strongholds of unionism—wanted to hold out for better terms, but were overruled by the majority.

They did succeed in getting complete approval for the continuance of local strikes, with International backing, where the plant managements refuse to settle the important local grievances. Most locals, however, are expected to approve the new contract and return to work shortly.

HIGH PLANE

The settlement of the GM strike will mark the conclusion of the most significant labor struggle in American history.

Not only was it the most bitter and prolonged of any major strike a key American union has ever waged, but it was conducted

on a plane higher than any previous struggle of its type.

The GM workers, as UAW Vice President and GM strike leader Walter Reuther pointed out to the delegates, advanced the conception of wage increases without price increases and called for the exposure of company profits by demanding union access to the company books.

Reuther also pointed out that the fight of the GM workers blunted the Big Business postwar offensive against labor. He gave credit to the GM strikers for playing a principal part in thwarting the corporation plans to incite the veterans against the unions.

HIGHEST INCREASE

Admitting that the GM workers had not won the full wage increase of 30 per cent for which they had fought and to which

they were more than entitled, Reuther asserted that the 18 1/2 cents across-the-board increase, with the equalization provisions, improved vacation pay and other concessions gave the GM workers the highest increase in the auto industry.

Reuther correctly pointed out that the GM workers got less than they sought due to the settlements of 18 1/2 cents or less which the steel, electrical and radio and other CIO union leaders had accepted. This put the GM workers in a disadvantageous bargaining position. Reuther passed over in silence, however, his own false one-at-a-time strategy, as well as his cooperation with Truman's "Fact-Finding" board, which not only whittled the UAW demands from 30 per cent down to 17 1/2 per cent, but fixed a precedent for the setting up of their "fact-finding" boards.

"Without our struggle," Reuther correctly stated, "the wage pattern might have been 13 1/2-cent an hour increases." Reuther particularly lashed out at the treachery of the Stalinist leaders of the CIO United Electrical Workers who refused for many weeks to call out the 30,000 UE members in GM's Electrical Division and then made a sneaky separate settlement below what the GM auto strikers were asking.

The lessons of this strike have been imbedded deeply in the consciousness of the GM and other auto workers. The workers have emerged from the struggle more tempered, more aware of the great issues confronting labor. We may be sure that they will not rest on their gains, but, building on the experience of their latest, magnificent battle, will continue to stand in the forefront of the new struggles that loom ahead.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

Capitalist Press And Sour Grapes

One interesting sidelight of the GM strike victory is the attempt of the anti-labor press to "explain" away the gains of the GM workers and to minimize the significance of their well-earned triumph.

Typically, the N. Y. Times, March 14, carefully pointed out that "It was apparent that the wage increase of 18 1/2 cents an hour and other concessions fell short of the original demand for almost twice as much." It gloated because the "net take-home pay on a 40-hour week will be less than it was at the old rate during the war."

True enough, the GM workers didn't get their full and justified demands. But they came a long way from the demands of the corporation which originally proposed a wage cut in the form of a 45-hour week at straight time, elimination of union security and seniority provisions, and demanded union-busting "company security."

By their magnificent and unyielding fight the GM workers paved the way for the biggest single wage increase for American labor in its history, frustrated Wall Street's union-busting offensive, placed an obstacle before the all-out price inflation slated by the auto barons, and forced the mighty General Motors, spearhead of the open-shop offensive, to beat a retreat.

Well, one can hardly blame the capitalist press for exhibiting an aggravated case of "sour grapes."

Judases In Search Of A Market

George Morris, hatchetman of the Stalinist Daily Worker, wrote an article called "A Market for Judases," in which he bemoaned some "disquieting signs" and "a serious danger within the CIO."

Said danger, explains Morris, is the "type of degeneration one meets these days" among "certain" union leaders who recently have gone over to the bosses' camp as highly paid "personnel managers," "labor relations advisors," etc.

It is illuminating, however, to examine more closely the three examples cited by Morris. Each—as Morris carefully refrains from stating—went to the Stalinist "finishing school."

Morris is "nauseated to vomit-

ing" at Edward Cheyfitz, former head of the CIO Die Casten Union. Cheyfitz has lined up a \$15,000-a-year job as "advisor" to Eric Johnson, U. S. Chamber of Commerce president. Cheyfitz will be recalled as the lad who started out as a Young Communist (Stalinist) League member in Toledo, was sent expense-free to the Soviet Union for a couple of years, returned to a cushy job with the Doehler Die Company. He took over the lead of the union, worked his way up to local CIO recording secretary and finally became a key Stalinist trade union functionary. His specialty for many years was baiting "Trotskyites" and sending goon squads against union militants.

When in Ohio, Morris "was told" of "a regional head of another union who suddenly quit" to become "personnel director for the company." Morris "forgets" to mention this individual's name, but we will jog his memory.

It was Victor DeCavitch, international vice-president of the CIO United Electrical Workers, and long a leading and notorious Stalinist in the CIO.

The case which most turns Morris' delicate stomach is that of UAW Vice-President Richard T. Frankenstein. After a career in New York and Miami night clubs, Frankenstein recently announced he was contemplating accepting one of the "fine opportunities" being offered him by Big Business firms.

Although Frankenstein was never a Stalinist, he and the Stalinists maintained a reactionary bloc for years in the UAW. Together they sought to put over "incentive pay," expel militants, and conducted a super-jingo wartime policy. He is a Stalinist "correspondence school" graduate.

These graduates of the Stalinist school of betrayal have merely followed the examples of their teachers, like Earl Browder, 16 years the head of the Communist (Stalinist) Party, and Louis Budenz, former editor of the Daily Worker.

Morris himself acts like an accomplice who tries to cover himself up by appearing as the most "zealous" hunter of his fellow criminals.

Yes, indeed! The labor movement is well-advised to look out for Judases—especially Stalinist Judases—in search of a market.

Ford Delegates Request Contract Revisions

(Continued from Page 1)

National Ford Director and the individual chiefly responsible for the notorious "company security" clause, on the final day of the meeting stated that regardless of the recommendation of the Council and the outcome of efforts to renegotiate the disputed clauses, the contract will be submitted for ratification to the membership on April 1. Current plans are to have the voting take place at the separate Ford union unit meetings.

MAY RE-OPEN FIGHT

In the negotiations concluded February 26, both union and company representatives agreed that the contract was contingent upon its being accepted in its entirety by the Ford workers. Thus renegotiation of the disputed clauses could lead to re-opening of the entire contract.

Although the National Ford Council lacks formal power to reject or accept the contract, its decisions are expected to affect the vote of the membership.

In addition to disapproving the production clause, which would give the company full authority to establish, maintain and enforce production standards, the Council also referred back for renegotiation the promotion clause, which cites merit, ability and past performance as primary factors for advancement, regardless of seniority.

The Stalinists played an especially demagogic role in paying the way for the leaders to put over the "company security" clause. On the first day they put on a show of support for the opposition to the rejected clauses. But their "militancy" vanished on the second day when the key issue, "company security" was discussed. This clause provides for "disciplinary" lay-offs and other penalties, including discharge, against workers charged by the company with participating in "slowdowns" or "unauthorized" strikes.

The Stalinists, who have a considerable influence in the Council, offered only the feeblest opposition to the "company se-

curity" clause and then went down the line on the third day of the meeting by supporting a vote of confidence in Leonard, who spearheaded the drive for "company security."

From the early stages of the months-long negotiations the Stalinists have played a devious and treacherous role of registering for-the-record a mild opposition to the worst sections of the proposed contract while actually running interference for Leonard and the other top UAW officials who have been trying to put over "company security."

There is a considerable opinion among Ford Rouge Plant workers that the membership of Local 600, largest in the UAW, will vote against ratifying the "company security" contract.

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BRONX

Ferguson Case Protest Meeting SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 8 p.m.

Speakers: Louise Simpson, 1945 Trotskyist candidate for City Council

Rev. Eder G. Hawkins, St. Augustine Presbyterian Church

Max Gaff, Sec. Treas., Local 261, AFL Brotherhood of Painters

John N. Griggs, Jr. 1945 Candidate for State Assembly

David L. Weiss, Army Veteran

ELKS HALL 1351 Boston Road, near 169 St.

Auspices, Bronx Branch of Socialist Workers Party

Greek Trotskyists Slain By Stalinists

Despite serious losses among the leadership of the Greek section of the Fourth International, the Trotskyists are valiantly fighting to lead the Greek proletariat on the road to the socialist revolution.

Three of the most important leaders of the Greek Trotskyists were murdered during the Nazi occupation by Hitler's Gestapo and Mussolini's Ovla. Among them was Pantelis Poullopoulos, 45 year old revolutionist, one of the founders of the Greek Communist Party and founder of the Trotskyist movement in Greece.

On top of the staggering blows delivered to the party by the fascists and Nazis, the Stalinist-controlled EAM and ELAS murdered more than a hundred leaders and members of the Greek Trotskyist party when British troops moved against the Greek people in December 1945 and January 1946.

The Stalinist leaders of EAM and ELAS consider the Greek Trotskyists as their main enemies and slaughtered them with cold-blooded savagery.

From one of the papers published by the Greek Trotskyists we learned the names of more of the leading members of the Greek Trotskyists who were murdered by the Stalinists. The partial list of martyrs follows:

LIST OF MARTYRS

Demosthenes Voursoukes—A working class leader with an excellent 18 year record of activity in the revolutionary movement. He was exiled and imprisoned many times. In 1942 he escaped from dictator Metaxas' dreaded "Acronaphia" concentration camp, where he had been held for four years. He was a member of the Central Committee of the Greek Trotskyist party and



DEMOSTHENES VOURSOUKES

helped edit the papers *Bolsheviks* and *Labor Front*. He was murdered by the Stalinists in the ELAS for his anti-war activity.

Stavros Venouchis—Lost his eye-sight in the first World War. In the years before the Metaxas dictatorship he was General Secretary of the General Confederation of the Disabled War Veterans. As a member of the revolutionary movement since 1922 he led many demonstrations against imperialist war and for benefits to the disabled war veterans. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Nikos Aravantinos—A working class revolutionist with an incomparable record. He began his revolutionary activity when he was in high school in 1930. After four years of imprisonment by the Metaxas regime, he escaped. He was a member of the Central Committee of the Greek Trotskyist party. He was mur-



NIKOS ARAVANTINOS

dered by the Stalinists in the ELAS.

Stergios Stergiou—A tobacco worker and proletarian artist. As a participant in the revolutionary movement, he was most popular of all militants among the proletariat of Salonika. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Georgios Dexas—A house painter and one of the most active leaders of the proletarian movement. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Fanagiotis Tsigell—A bakery worker, chairman of his local trade union in Athens for a year. He was arrested by the Metaxas dictatorship and held in jail for five years. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Spyros Piliotis—A young peasant who came to the ranks of the Greek Trotskyists from EAM and ELAS. His former Stalinist comrades in ELAS murdered him.

Mitsos Meliades—A railroad worker. He began his activity in the revolutionary movement in 1928 and had an excellent record of militancy which won him distinction in the workers struggle. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Kosmas Charifonides—A member of the Central Committee of the Greek Trotskyist party. He was active in the revolutionary movement for 20 years. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Thimios Adramidides—A hospital worker. He was exiled to an island by the Metaxas dictatorship. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Dimitros Tatsis—A metal worker. He was active in the revolutionary movement in Salonika from 1929 on. Arrested many times by the capitalist police, he was finally tortured to death by the Stalinists.

John Gramenos—A hospital worker who joined the Greek Trotskyist party a short time before he was murdered by the Stalinists.

Spyros Stefanou—A bakery worker with 17 years of revolutionary activity. He was one of the leaders of his local trade union. Murdered by the Stalinists.

Theophilos Dimitriadis—A tug-boat worker. He was active in the revolutionary movement of Pireaus. He became a working class revolutionist in 1927. Murdered by the Stalinists. In spite of these staggering losses the Greek Trotskyists are moving forward. They publish two newspapers: the *Workers Struggle*, a regular weekly; and *Labor Front*, issued less frequently. In addition they publish a monthly magazine, *Fourth International*.

Another War Will Doom Civilization, Analysis Of World War II Reveals

Paris Trotskyist Meeting Raided By Gouin Police

(Continued from Page 1)

signing of the decree which ended martial law.

After much hesitation, the decision was made to transfer the 28 to the police prefecture where officials of the Second Criminal Bureau were placed in charge of the case. But these functionaries, likewise, did not know what to do with this "case." Very quickly all the departments became embarrassed by the stupidity of these arbitrary arrests.

But they had to do something. So they put everybody through another "interrogation." Each in his own language, the group vigorously protested against these police measures.

Finally at one o'clock in the morning, seven French militants and sympathizers of the PCI were released.

"NEVER ARRESTED"

"I do not say to you that you are free, gentlemen," declared an inspector, "because you were never placed under arrest."

They know how to be very subtle, these French police!

Most of those who had "never been placed under arrest" were released the next day. Two Spaniards were held. These comrades are threatened with deportation to Franco's Spain.

The Parti Communiste Internationaliste has called a public meeting on March 12 to protest against these undemocratic actions by the Bouin government which are leading France back to the road of Vichy.

Wall St. Drives For War Upon Soviet Union

(Continued from Page 1)

minist Parties. Some papers have interpreted this as a return to the revolutionary policy carried out by the Communist International during the time of Lenin and Trotsky.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Stalin is simply repeating the impotent maneuver that he employed before the outbreak of the last war. In 1939 when England moved toward the formation of a Four Power bloc (Britain, France, Germany and Italy) directed against the USSR and faced with the collapse of his policy of "collective security," Stalin likewise threatened the world bourgeoisie with "world revolution" (the notorious "Yvanov letter"). Today, threatened with the consolidation of a Two-Power bloc (Britain-U. S.), he is repeating the same threat.

Stalin's policy of plunder, violence and military occupation of the states bordering the USSR, his demands for military bases and strategic concessions in Iran, China and Turkey, his utter disregard for the welfare and wishes of the people in these countries, serves to alienate, not only the people of the countries bordering the Soviet Union, but also the masses in the rest of the world.

Thus by his entire policy Stalin aids the Wall Street and British imperialists in their efforts to prepare public opinion for World War III.

events of the December strike in the following manner: "As we strikers were marching in orderly fashion to the Padang, some 300 policemen made a baton charge. I received a few knocks on the head but when the melee was over about ten of my fellow workers were lying unconscious on the ground, blood oozing from their heads. I helped to carry them to the General Labour Union. Later I came to learn that the police had tried to force the strikers to the water's edge. No news has since been heard of at least five of the strikers. It was because we wanted to let the government know of our intolerable living conditions that we were on strike and so is it right for the government to use force to quell us?"

But the question of "right" never enters into the British imperialist mind. This strike was quelled in the same savage fashion as the subsequent one in

January 1946. At this writing there is no indication that any of the working class leaders have been released from prison.

But more strikes will come, as the British well know. This fact is underscored by the widespread response to the general strike call in January. Among the 200,000 strikers were not only dockworkers, but also public employees, domestic servants and even small shopkeepers.

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Italian Police Shoot Down Jobless Workers



Twelve workers were killed, 50 injured and almost 2,000 arrested by Italian police and militia when starving, unemployed workers demonstrated in Andria, Italy. Heavy tanks patrolled the streets after the revolt.

Dutch Troops Pour Into Java; New Battles Flare

By Mike Cort

The Indonesian people's long and bitter struggle for independence flared into renewed violence this past week with the sudden landing of 2,400 fresh Dutch troops in Batavia on March 9. These landings, and the counter-

attacks by the natives, occurred just as the Dutch and Indonesian Nationalists were to open negotiations over the future status of the Netherlands Indies.

The Dutch Governor-General van Mook had previously countered the Indonesian Nationalist demand for complete and immediate independence with an offer of dominion status under continued Dutch rule. It is now clear that the Dutch are employing these negotiations as a smoke-screen behind which they hope to land overwhelming military strength and thus ultimately decide the issue with bayonets.

The unheralded arrival of Dutch forces spurred Indonesian Nationalists into new and determined attacks upon the British occupiers in western Java. It served also to intensify the conflict between the native population and imperialist troops in other islands of the Netherlands Indies.

EMPTY PROMISES

Governor General van Mook and his British allies hoped that their gaudy and empty promises would lure the Indonesians into inactivity while the Dutch garrisoned their islands with overwhelming military strength. But it seems that Dutch military reinforcements have only served to further inflame the struggle and steel the Indonesians in their determination for complete independence.

Three days after the Dutch landings in Batavia, a strong force of Indonesian Nationalists attacked a British convoy near Buitenzorg, killing seven British soldiers and wounding 25. About 300 natives planted land mines in the road, threw up road blocks and surrounded a column of British supply trucks accompanied by tank escort. Later in the day a second convoy en route to Bandung, Java's summer capital, were ambushed by the Nationalist troops. British imperialists, reacting with their usual bloodthirsty violence, dispatched strong tank detachments and Thunderbolt planes to the scene of the action. Despite the formidable British armour employed, the natives continue to hold their siege of the convoys as of this writing.

FIGHTING CONTINUES

Meanwhile the struggle by native troops at Menado, North Celebes, is reported by the Dutch to have been finally suppressed

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What will be the fate of mankind under the continued rule of capitalism with its recurrent imperialist wars? This begins a series of articles on the arsenal of death-dealing weapons concentrated in the hands of the imperialist warmakers who in their lust for world domination now threaten the total destruction of modern civilization.

By Eugene Varlin

American imperialism has demonstrated that it will stop at nothing in its drive to dominate the world. Less than eight months after the end of the war, open preparations for the Third World War are in full swing. The diplomatic and propaganda offensive of Anglo-American imperialism against the Soviet Union has begun.

World War II was the most destructive war in history. It was a total war that spared neither soldier nor civilian. It was a scientific war whose nature was determined by the weapons of destruction created by modern technology. And like World War I, it was an imperialist war fought for colonies, markets, and world domination.

What will World War III be like? To answer this question, it is first necessary to examine the enormous increase in the destructive power of the military weapons created during the Second World War.

The Second World War began by employing all the destructive weapons developed toward the close of the First World War, plus improvements and inventions made between the two wars. In 1918, the tank was first coming into use. The tank blitzkrieg of Poland opened the Second World War in 1939. In 1918, the primary function of military aircraft was the observation of enemy movements or reconnaissance. Large scale bombing even of military objectives was unknown in World War I. It was symbolic that the bombing of Warsaw opened the Second World War in 1939.

NEW WEAPONS
The war speeded up the development of new military weapons and these new weapons in turn affected the conduct of military operations. In 1939 the British Major General F. N. Mason MacFarlane declared, "There is one great worry shared by both the British and German command. The nightmare that haunts us is the fear that one of our planes may drop the first bomb that kills a civilian." What a far cry from those days of six years ago to these!

When the German Luftwaffe bombed England in 1940, Roosevelt denounced the bombing of civilians as an inhuman crime. Two years later, American bombers were wreaking even greater and more indiscriminate havoc on German cities. Roosevelt claimed that these bombings were limited to industrial targets. In the imperialist code that meant slaughter of civilian workers had become morally acceptable.

What limited the imperialist powers was not moral scruples but the nature and quantity of weapons at their disposal. In the last year of the war, air weapons came into use which made it impossible to speak of "pinpoint" bombings of war industries. The "moral" distinction between strategic industrial and non-industrial targets disappeared. Total annihilation of the enemy population became a "legitimate" objective. Why? Because, claimed the propagandists, it "would help end the war."

The German buzz-bomb, radio-piloted and rocket-propelled, was greeted with indignation by the outraged defenders of morality in the camp of American and British imperialism. The pitiless buzz-bomb did not distinguish between military and non-military objectives, they said. What really offended them, of course, was that the German militarists had gotten the jump on them in rocket warfare. Research in rocket bombs was soon under way in the United States.

However, in 1943, long before the German buzz-bomb, radio-piloted and rocket-propelled, was greeted with indignation by the outraged defenders of morality in the camp of American and British imperialism. The pitiless buzz-bomb did not distinguish between military and non-military objectives, they said. What really offended them, of course, was that the German militarists had gotten the jump on them in rocket warfare. Research in rocket bombs was soon under way in the United States.

During the war, the rate of destruction was enormously accelerated. Germany began the war with the most advanced military techniques known up to that time. Nevertheless, all her bombings of England throughout the six years of war killed "no more than" 60,585 civilians. On March 10, 1945, 300 Superfortresses dropped 2,300 tons of incendiaries on Tokyo, murdering almost 100,000 Japanese people. The two atom bombs dropped by two planes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are officially admitted to have killed more than 600,000 people.

General Arnold of the Army Air Forces has stated: "The weapons of today are the museum pieces of tomorrow." The atom bombs which wiped out Hiroshima and Nagasaki have already become museum pieces. The Third World War, if it comes, will be an atomic war—and atomic war can mean the complete destruction of civilization.

(To Be Continued)

NEW YORK FORUM
"VETERAN'S EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF INDONESIA REVOLT"
Sunday, March 24
Speaker: **H. BERMAN**
Veteran Just Returned from Indonesia
116 University Place 8 p. m.

Trotskyists In Norway Survive Nazi Invasion

We have just received the first news since the outbreak of World War II from the Norwegian Trotskyists.

During the war, our Norwegian comrades inform us, the organization, which had been small until 1940, grew rapidly. After the German invasion, the Trotskyists took an active part in the anti-Nazi struggle. They issued five illegal weekly papers.

Our comrades in Norway are active members of both labor parties in which they are endeavoring to popularize the program of the Fourth International. These labor parties are so constituted that various tendencies are allowed free expression of their views. The Trotskyists, therefore, plan to publish a monthly magazine. The first number is scheduled to appear May 1st.

The Norwegian Trotskyists write that they are anxious to get all the copies of *The Militant* and *Fourth International* which appeared during the war.

THE MILITANT

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Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.



Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

CIO Political Action

At its meeting in Washington on March 15 the CIO executive board voted to raise a \$6,000,000 fund to finance its 1946 political action program through contributions of at least \$1 from each of its members.

The CIO members who are being asked to subsidize this program have every right to raise some searching questions about it.

First, is their money again to be used to elect another anti-labor administration? The CIO-PAC spent a few million dollars in 1944 to help elect the present administration. In return Truman has encouraged the Congressional labor-haters by proposing legislation to restrict strikes through "fact-finding" boards. He has resorted to direct strikebreaking through government plant seizures. He whittled down to a minimum the unions' wage-demands. He granted huge price increases to the profiteering monopolists.

Then, what about Congress? Didn't the CIO-PAC in 1944 halt the election of this pack of labor-baiters as a "victory" for labor? What has this "progressive" Congress done for labor? It would be impossible to cite a single measure it has passed for labor's benefit. Congress has knifed proposals for higher unemployment compensation, for the FEPC, for large-scale housing, and is now blocking minimum wage legislation. But this same Democratic-Republican gang has favored the most vicious anti-strike legislation, passed union-crippling tax rebates, abolished excess profits taxes, and conceded to Big Business on every other important issue before it.

Even in the face of these undeniable facts, Murray and Hillman evidently intend to continue along the same disastrous course of subservience to the Truman administration and dependence upon the henchmen of the two capitalist parties. The board resolution on political action goes so far as to boast that the recent wage victories "were made possible by CIO's political strength, combined with its economic strength and strike action!"

The truth is that these wage gains were won exclusively because of the economic strength and powerful strike action of the CIO workers. And these gains would have been much greater if labor hadn't been shackled to the Democratic and Republican parties of Wall Street and if it had a political instrument of its own.

Asked to explain how his political policies helped win wage-increases, Murray replied: "A lot of members of the Democratic and Republican parties and people in public office threw a lot of weight behind the CIO."

This will certainly be news to most CIO workers. For months they have watched "the Democratic and Republican parties and people in public office throw a lot of weight" AGAINST the CIO while they were out on the picket lines battling the corporations.

That is why the militants want a decisive change in CIO political policy. They are calling for a complete break with the Democratic-Republican political machinery of the capitalist class, a genuine labor program, and a party of their own to fight for that program.

The only effective political action program for the CIO in the 1946 elections can be summarized in a single slogan: BUILD A LABOR PARTY!

Stalin's Policy

The Kremlin bureaucracy has reacted in a typically devious way to the anti-Soviet war drive of Anglo-American imperialism. This drive, rooted in the profound contradiction between planned economy in the USSR and the rotting capitalist system encircling it, has obviously been inspired, planned and organized by Wall Street.

Truman, White House representative of Big Business, was present at Fulton, Missouri, when Churchill delivered his speech in the calculated series of diplomatic and propagandistic maneuvers against the Soviet Union. In fact Truman introduced Churchill, and the entire press made plain that Truman had read Churchill's speech in advance and approved its bristling threat of war.

But Stalin in his March 13 answer to the Truman-sponsored campaign did not even mention Truman's role! Stalin confined himself

to polemics against Churchill and Britain.

Eugene Tarle, Moscow historian assigned to answer the propagandistic barrage of Anglo-American imperialism, likewise did not mention Truman. Instead, he talked in a misleading manner about the "traditional friendly character" of "Russian-American relations." Certainly this has not been the attitude of the plutocrats of Wall Street and their government which has from the first shown bitter hostility to the USSR—even sending an imperialist army to Russia after the First World War in an attempt to crush the young workers' state.

Pravda, which publishes nothing unapproved by the Kremlin, tried to make out in a March 11 editorial that Churchill acted on his own and that he failed to gain support anywhere in America. The nearest Pravda came to Washington was a reference to Vandenberg as Churchill's friend. But Senator Vandenberg has played a minor role in the war campaign unleashed by Wall Street against the Soviet Union. As authoritative spokesman of the Republican Party on foreign policy, Vandenberg merely indicated that the Republicans endorsed the war threats whipped up by the Democratic Administration.

Stalin is pursuing this policy of silence in regard to Truman and Wall Street solely to indicate his readiness to make a new treacherous deal. By throwing all the blame for the anti-Soviet attack on Churchill, he makes clear to Wall Street and Truman that he is still available. In return for concessions, Stalin can again offer Wall Street the political services of his agents abroad.

The American Stalinists are carrying out this perfidious political line with an adaptation for American conditions. This adaptation is to accuse Truman of "departing" from Roosevelt's war policies. The American Stalinists call for a return to "Big Three Unity." They thereby indicate their willingness to again peddle Wall Street's wares to the American workers in the event Stalin gains the concessions he wants and announces that "Big Three Unity" has again been resumed.

Help "The Militant"!

The Militant is asking every reader to pitch into the campaign for a \$15,000 fund to help maintain the paper and keep it on the firing line against Big Business.

The big corporations subsidize the capitalist press through expensive advertisements and outright donations of huge sums.

But The Militant is wholly devoted to the interests of the working people. In the battle of labor against the big corporations and their political agents, The Militant tells the truth no matter what the consequences.

Therefore, for its support, The Militant depends entirely on contributions from self-sacrificing workers who understand labor's need for a crusading newspaper of its own.

Clip the coupon on page six. Fill it out and mail it in immediately. Do your part to help The Militant go over the top in the campaign for its \$15,000 Sustaining Fund!

Boosting Prices

The all-out offensive of the big industrialists, in collusion with the Truman administration, to fleece the consumers and rob the workers of wage gains won through bitter struggle on the picket lines, was extended last week to include price boosts on new automobiles.

The Office of Price Administration has revealed that after March 11 buyers of new cars will be forced to agree to make extra retroactive payments on cars manufactured by Chrysler, Ford and Hudson, in line with the price hike to be authorized by the OPA. These companies manufacture cars in the lower-priced-brackets—Ford, Plymouth, Dodge, De Soto, etc.—most patronized by the workers.

The OPA admits that this price boost, estimated at up to 3 per cent higher than present ceiling prices, will add at least \$45 on a \$1,500 model. The pretext for granting this bonus to the auto barons is the wage increases won by the auto and other industrial workers in their recent bitter struggles.

Donald Montgomery, Consumer Counsel of the CIO United Auto Workers, blasted at OPA's projected concessions to the auto magnates. "Of all industries, the auto industry is least entitled to price increases." The auto industry is not only well-heeled with enormous post-war tax rebates, but has accumulated more than enough war profits to cover the wage increases.

Montgomery further pointed out that the new price concession means "not a bulge in the price line but an explosion." This assault upon the whole price structure and the workers' standard of living was further emphasized by Chester Bowles, Chief of the Office of Economic Stabilization, who admitted that upward adjustments will follow for many metal consumer products, because of the \$5 per ton price increase for steel.

The OPA has also announced that "undoubtedly there will have to be price increases" all along the line. The big dairy corporations and petroleum monopolists are applying terrific pressure on OPA to hike prices on these staple products.

Price ceilings on the three main items in a worker's budget—food, clothing and housing—have already been cracked to appease the extortionate demands of the greedy meat-packers, clothing and textile manufacturers, construction and real estate interests.

It thus becomes increasingly clearer that Truman's promises to hold the price line are a fraud. The conspiracy of Big Business and its government agents to cheat the workers of their hard-won gains through price boosts is already well under way. Now more than ever, the workers must combat this inflationary attack upon their standard of living by demanding a rising scale of wages pegged to the cost of living.



"I really don't see why people eat bread anyway—it's terribly fattening!"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

THE LIVING THOUGHTS OF KARL MARX, with Introduction by Leon Trotsky, 1939. Published by Longmans, Green & Co., 184 pp., \$1.50.

In his introduction, Trotsky explains that this book, which is an abridgement of the first volume of Capital: A Critique of Political Economy, by Karl Marx, was undertaken in order to more compactly set forth the fundamentals of Marx's economic teaching in Marx's own words. . . . no one has yet been able to expound the labor theory of value better than Marx himself."

This law of labor value, one of Marx's most important discoveries and which is fully expounded in his Capital, "is indeed the basic regulator of capitalist economy," writes Trotsky. In presenting present day examples of the operation of this and the other laws of capitalism developed by Marx almost 100 years ago, Trotsky draws most heavily upon the history and statistics of the United States which today is the dominant capitalist power in the world.

"The economic teaching of Marx has acquired peculiar vitality and pointedness for the United States. Although Capital rests on international material . . . the capitalism grown on the virgin, unhistorical soil of America comes closest to that type of capitalism," Trotsky explains.

Tracing the development of U. S. monopoly capitalism, Trotsky shows in facts and figures how, since "the beginning of the present century, when 2 per cent of the population already owned more than half the entire wealth of the country,"

the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few took giant leaps in succeeding decades. During the First World War, "when the nations were bleeding to death . . . the most powerful companies of the U. S. increased their assets two, three, four and more times and swelled their dividends to 200, 400, 900 and more per cent."

By 1929, writes Trotsky, "the same two per cent owned three-fifths of the national wealth." Even during the great economic crisis of 1929-1933 "monopolistic establishments had no need to appeal to public charity; on the contrary, they rose higher than ever above the general decline of national economy." Again, "during the rickety industrial revival on the yeast-cakes of the New Deal, . . . when the number of the unemployed decreased at best from 20 millions to 10 millions . . . the monopolists again skimmed a lot of heavy cream."

Thus, says Trotsky, "the abstract concept 'monopolistic capitalism' is filled in for us with flesh and blood. What it means is that a handful of families bound by ties of kinship and common interest into an exclusive capitalist oligarchy, dispose of the economic and political fortunes of a great nation. One must perforce admit that the Marxist law of concentration has worked out famously!"

Writing this introduction shortly before the Second World War broke out, Trotsky pointed out that the lust of the giant monopolists for more plunder and profits and greater exploitation of the masses, would inevitably lead to more wars for new redvisions of the globe. All this

he said, is "part and parcel of the policy of imperialistic capitalism . . . Such is the actual reason today for rearmaments, diplomatic convulsions and 'war alignments.'" Trotsky's prophetic words are no less applicable to the diplomatic convulsions which today point the road to a third and more horrible world war.

In his conclusion, Trotsky underscored the essence of the revolutionary message which Marx was the first to bring to the world working class. "Partial reforms and patchwork will do no good. Historical development has come to one of those decisive stages when only the direct intervention of the masses is able to sweep away the reactionary obstructions and lay the foundations of a new regime."

"Abolition of private ownership in the means of production is the first prerequisite to planned economy, i.e., the introduction of reason into the sphere of human relations, first on a national and eventually on a world scale."

Trotsky foresaw the greatest future for genuine Marxism in the United States. With the dawn of a new epoch of an independent class movement of the proletariat, he predicted that in the sphere of theory, America would speedily catch up with Europe and even outdistance it. "Marx will become the mentor of the advanced American workers," he wrote. "To them this abridged exposition of the first volume will become only an initial step towards the complete Marx."

Reviewed by Larissa Reed

Congressmen At Work

To keep from getting a warped outlook, you've got to take into account some of the good things Wall Street's Congress does. Like the proposal to provide \$100,000,000 (only millions) for hot school lunches.

To make sure it would pass, those Congressmen with the interests of America's children at heart first cut the proposal to \$65,000,000. They then phrased it so that in a few years the States will have to put up \$4 for every \$1 of Federal money. That means the poor areas won't be able to provide hot lunches. But naturally that's only a slight fiasco compared with the help it gives the rich areas.

On top of this, the children have to pay for the lunches unless an investigation determines they are unable to. Then they get it for cost, or in some instances even free of charge—if the school authorities OK the hardship case and the children do a little kitchen work in return.

Such a radical measure took a terrific beating of course before it got through the House of Representatives. Dirksen of Illinois pointed out that school lunches began about 10 years ago as part of the New Deal drive to get rid of farm surpluses either by plowing them under or diverting "them to welfare uses and to relief purposes . . . and so we have an echo 10 years from the time this program was entered into . . . The Song Is Ended, But the Melody Lingers On."

Taber of New York likewise arose in all his majesty: "Mr. Chairman, this is one of the most dangerous bills that has ever been brought to the floor of this



House. It is designed to wreck the public-school system of America."

Curtis of Nebraska snarled sarcastically: "It is well known that no food alone will build a strong body unless it is properly chewed. May we not also include a program here of State medicine and have the Federal Government fix everybody's teeth?"

Wadsworth of New York, one of the leading advocates of universal compulsory military training under the vicious Army caste system, pointed to the danger of "statism" in the hot lunch bill: "Step by step central government, no matter what country we are talking about, becomes more and more powerful, it becomes finally the master of the individual and the citizen becomes the subject."

Smith of Ohio thought of the crippling psychological effect: "I cannot conceive of any greater harm the Congress of the United States could do to the mind of the youth of our America than to pass this bill which provides school lunches . . . To teach children during the most formative

period of their lives to rely upon their Government to feed them is to destroy their instinct of self-preservation . . . Heaven protect the minds of our little ones against the awful corruption which measures such as the one Congress is now considering would visit upon them."

But the defenders of America's children, who by coincidence are also interested in disposing of agricultural surpluses, came back with powerful arguments. Harless of Arizona pointed to World War III: "It is no secret since our Selective Service System was established in 1940 that certain districts in this country contributed in a large measure undernourished draftees who could not be used in our war program. It is essential for the national defense of our country that all of the youth of this nation be properly fed."

Doyle of California uncoiled a haymaker that landed below the belt. He noted that the opponents of the measure had voted for "millions and millions of dollars for the purpose of protecting live stock, or finding out the best feeds for their cattle or their pork in their various States. Why, then, can they oppose placing the physical welfare of our Nation's children ahead of their own cattle or their own farms and cattle ranges? . . . Gentlemen, the real wealth of our Nation is not our cattle—it is our children."

These blows got the \$65,000,000 hot lunches bill through the House. As the old saying goes, look hard enough and you can always find a streak of good even in the worst of men.

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

Brass Hats Press for Conscription

Under cover of the war-mongering campaign launched against the Soviet Union by American and British imperialists, Wall Street's agents in Washington are pushing with redoubled vigor every kind of reactionary measure. High on the list is legislation designed to perpetuate the conscript military system in this country.

Top Brass of the Army and Air Force and Secretary of War Patterson testified before a closed session of the House Military Affairs Committee. Only a brief official statement of the proceedings of this session was made public on March 13. They pressed for continuation of the Selective Service draft law which is due to expire May 15.

They based their demand for maintenance of an Army of more than a million men until July 1947 on the usual propaganda about the "tasks of occupation," "troops for the United Nations Organization," and "national defense."

The most revealing part of the statement, however, was the emphasis on "the overriding requirement to present a strong military posture in a world which is still unsettled."

High Brass and other agents of Big Business want to maintain the most powerful Army in the world. If they have their way, they will force the country into a fantastic military preparedness race.

Patterned After the Prussian Model

Extension of the draft law is only the first step in lacing more millions of American youth into the strait-jacket of militarism, patterned after the Prussian model. If the draft law is extended for another year, they will demand that it be extended again when it expires. Or they will hypocritically point with "horror" to the expanding armies of other countries, shout that the "national defense" of the country is threatened and demand a more sweeping, more stringent draft law.

Continuation of the draft law and compulsory military bills before Congress are part of a larger pattern, a pattern of imperialist war and destruction—not a pattern of peace.

Before the dead of World War II have been counted, the High Brass and Washington officials are preparing for World War III. In the name of "peace" and "national defense" they are pressing with all their might for a tremendous Army and Navy.

These are the terms war-makers always use, whether they be Wall Street imperialists or Nazi imperialists. They always try to sell the people on the fallacious idea that war preparation is done in the interest of "peace" and "national defense."

But the vast preparations for war, now being carried out by Wall Street's government, are not for defense. They are for aggression, for merciless attack on any power that thwarts the march of American Big Business toward world domination.

GI's made known their hatred for the Army and compulsory military training in the world-wide demonstrations against the slow-down in demobilization. The majority of veterans who have voiced their opinions, have likewise expressed their desires for peace and have flatly rejected compulsory military training.

Workers Want No More War

Veterans of World War II have seen enough of war. They want no more of it. And they don't want their sons, brothers and friends dragged again into the armed forces under the pretext of "national defense."

What should the attitude of the workers be toward military training? Workers can in no case entrust the training of themselves or their sons to the Brass Hats who indoctrinate them against the labor movement and are only too glad to use the armed might of the country in furthering the reactionary aims of Big Business.

Veterans who know from bitter experience the gigantic cost in human suffering, life and destruction caused by imperialist war, should support the demand that military training of workers, financed by the government, should be placed under union control. This is the only working class answer to capitalist militarism!

Wall Street Bankers Milk Railroad Systems

The representatives of the railroad workers, one of the poorest paid sections of American labor, are now engaged in negotiating long-overdue wage increases with the railroad corporations. These railroad managements are actually servants of the big Wall Street financiers who control the rail corporations and milk them for their own exclusive benefit.

This fact, long-known to those familiar with the inner workings of Big Business, has just been confirmed by no less an authority than Robert R. Young, chairman of the board of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad and its vast holding company, Allegheny Corporation. Young and his banking crowd are currently involved in a bitter battle for control of key Eastern railroads against the financial firms which have long dominated them.

In testimony before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee on February 26, Young blurted out that J. P. Morgan & Co. and Kuhn, Loeb & Co. have been milking the main American railroads and the public through "collusive" fixing of rates, watered securities, forced bankruptcies and rigged reorganizations.

"For three generations," Young complained, "Morgan and Kuhn, Loeb have dictated the policies of the American railroads without a dollar of permanent ownership therein."

Young especially attacked the Morgan-Kuhn Loeb "racket" arising from their monopoly over the sale of railroad securities, a racket he is anxious to muscle in on. These banking houses "control the issuers of securities (railroads, industrials and utilities) and the large buyers of securities . . . and advise one to sell at 95 and the other to buy at 100. The bond issue might be \$100,000,000, and the bankers' spread \$5,000,000. The only equipment needed was a telephone."

"Through a spider web of interlocking relationships," said Young, the individual railroads establish "patterns of uniform action." All railroads except the Young-controlled C. & O. lines, for example, have fought against competitive bidding or security issues in obedience to the Morgan monopolists. They also ganged together to delay action in the Pullman case "so that the Pullman monopoly might enjoy two more years of high traffic earnings on its obsolete equipment."

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant". Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Activities of the Philadelphia Police

This is a picture of Philadelphia police in action. Having had dinner and ready to pay my bill at a restaurant at Broad and Girard, I noticed a police red car, a scramble, and lots of excitement on the part of the people standing on the corner. When I left the restaurant I asked a bystander what it was all about and I was told by a sailor that a young Negro boy was shining his shoes when the cops drove up and grabbed the boy. They threw his shoe-shine box in the police car and drove away.

It's a shame that Philadelphia is such a peaceful city that in order to have some activity, the cops can only find strikers to beat up and to chase and arrest kids. Workers pounding the streets looking for jobs, take notice: This is the Republican regime. Elections are coming up. The Republicans have held this city in their grasp for 56 years. The Democrats can only offer you more of the same treatment. We know this by the Bilbos and the Rankins who have killed the FEPC bill.

Now is the time to get a labor candidate and put through the Independent Labor Party which will fight for labor and labor's rights.

F. B. Philadelphia.

A Subscriber Lauds "The Militant"

I am a subscriber to The Militant. I feel that it is my duty to subscribe and pay for the paper. I have been with the Socialist Party over 35 years. I spent 7 years with the Communist Party. It looks to me like there are practical men down there running The Militant and Fourth International.

It was surprising how they could build up as strong a machine as the Communist Party. It was built up in 1929 and 1939 during the crisis. But since the 30's they have been losing all the time and they are looked down upon by almost everybody in the country now.

Wayne LaGrange
Raymond, Montana

Wants Pamphlet On Socialism

How about an inexpensive tract (not a booklet), setting forth

TACOMA Public Meeting "Prosperity or Depression?"

TUESDAY, MAR. 28
Odd Fellows Temple
528 Sixth Ave. 8 p.m.

YOUNGSTOWN "Will The U.S. Fight The Soviet Union?"

Speaker:
Grace Carlson
SUNDAY, MARCH 31
MILITANT LABOR FORUM
225 N. Phelps St. 8 p.m.

PITTSBURGH Dr. Grace Carlson

Feature writer for The Militant will address three Pittsburgh meetings:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 12 Noon
'UNO-New Name, Old Game'
Center Ave. YMCA
Auspices: Centre Ave. YMCA Luncheon Forum Comm.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 8 p.m.
'Workers Need Labor Party'
United Steelworkers Local 1843 Hall
4829 Second Avenue, Hazelwood
Auspices: Socialist Workers Party, Pittsburgh Branch

SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 8 p.m.
'Rising Tide Of Colonial Revolt'
Militant Readers' Club
5905 Penn Ave. East Liberty
Auspices: Socialist Workers Party, Pittsburgh Branch

Slow Starvation For Workers Under Wage-Slave System

Editor: Wage slavery today is not a mere expression, but is an actual reality—a slavery more fiendish than was chattel slavery in 1850. More misery, more suffering, more agony, yes, more humiliation and degradation result from our present wage slavery than ever resulted from the chattel slavery of eighty years ago.

Chattel slaves never went hungry, their masters never denied them the privilege of working—today millions of wage slaves are hungry or objects of humiliating charity. Millions of wage slaves are denied the right to work and many, many thousands of them up and to chase and arrest kids.

Due only to the wage slave system, tens of thousands of them, or their dependents, owing to improper food or insufficient nourishment, are made susceptible to attack by all kinds of diseases.

Malnutrition from which many millions of children and adults suffer today, is a nice polite name for slow starvation. And when death comes the notice says: Died of this, that or the other disease, when it could more truthfully have been said: They died from slow starvation in a world of plenty as a result of a fiendish wage slave system that denies to millions the right to work except they get permission from their exploiters who wax fat and wealthy from their misery and labor.

Every American man and woman should at all times have the right to work, and when they work, they, not someone else, should receive the values which they have created.

J. H. Bard,
Bell, Calif.

Woman's Contribution To Society

Editor:

The assumption made by Anna Hurstwood that a woman won't demand or need any special consideration just because she is a woman is an attitude that appears to be unjust, if analyzed. Socialism is a big thing, and it is improbable that it can progress to its ultimate goal until it recognizes that woman does need special consideration, because the discharging of her duty to the race is of a trying nature.

In prehistoric days it is likely that femininity with a mind, began revolt against the travail of gestation, parturition and lactation. Especially when the glaciers that crept down from the north brought icy winds and a scarcity of food to dawn woman and her child. They revolted against the tyranny of nature, and until the fact of paternity was established, it may be that society was matriarchal.

In order to escape nature, woman had to escape man, but she didn't, and society became patriarchal because of the sex drive. But men have established a wonderful economic system. The tyranny of men over women led to tyranny over women and her sons. Hence there can be no peace until women as well as her sons are liberated, so to speak, by recognizing that duties are to be apportioned according to age, sex and abilities. In the socialistic ideal of brotherhood, the contribution of each is equally important to the happiness and well being of the race.

Lillian M. Hostetter,
Seattle, Washington

Chicago Workers Picket Banquet For G.L.K. Smith

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT
CHICAGO, March 8—A \$3.00-per-plate banquet for the notorious fascist, Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, at the Hotel Morrison in the heart of Chicago's Loop, was protested against Monday evening, March 4, by a picket line of approximately 150 people.

The picket line was composed of representatives of the Socialist Workers Party, the American Youth for Democracy, The American Veterans Committee, the Committee of Racial Equality, a left-Zionist organization, the American Veterans of World War II, a group of West Side high school youth and the Workers Party.

Youthful adherents of the Stalinist-dominated American Youth for Democracy were present for a very short period, but their leaders forced them to break ranks and disperse. The AYD members objected strenuously to leaving and stood around for some time, watching the pickets enviously, before being compelled to leave the scene.

STALINIST ROLE
No attempt was made by the Stalinists to publicize the event or to involve the labor movement, some sections of which they control.

The SWP distributed a leaflet entitled "How to Fight Fascist Smith," which pointed out that the huge and powerful anti-fascist campaigns in Los Angeles were possible only because of the mass character lent to the demonstrations by the active support of the CIO Council and the wide publicity, which resulted in the formation of a united conference that unified and coordinated all participating organizations.

The leaflet called for a Chicago Anti-Fascist Council to be initiated by the local CIO Council.

Wall Street's "Peace" Plan



French Trade-Unionists Express Solidarity With U. S. Strikers

Angers, Maine & Loire, France
February, 1946

Dear Comrades: I am enclosing two resolutions which were adopted by the trade union of which I am secretary. They were passed two months ago and I apologise for not having been able to send them to you sooner.

I believe, however, that it is good for our American brothers to know that in the struggle which they are carrying on against the capitalist oppressors, the French trade unionists are extending and showing their full sympathy and solidarity.

The second resolution is on the colonial peoples. I have seen several issues of The Militant and have observed that you have the same position as we have on colonial oppression.

My French comrades would be happy if you could comment on this second resolution and if The Militant does so, would appreciate your sending them copies of that issue.

In my name and in the name of all my comrades in the trade union, I hope that the contacts thus established between French and American workers will have fruitful results and that we will be able to keep in touch with each other on trade union activities.

With fraternal regards,
M. Cidone
P.S. I will be happy if you can transmit a copy of these papers to the CIO in Washington, D. C.

Resolution On Colonial Struggles

The Federated Union of Supervisors, Technicians and Construction Workers of Public Works of Maine-et-Loire, convened in General Assembly in the Hall of Labor at Angers on December 19, 1945, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The attack upon the peoples of colonial countries (and especially in Indo-China) follows purely imperialist and capitalist aims with methods starkly resembling those of the fascist and Hitlerite oppressors, and

WHEREAS: The war in Indo-China while being waged directly against the workers of Indo-China is at the same time a heavy burden on the economy of this country and sharpens the distressed conditions of the French workers, and

WHEREAS: The Indo-Chinese workers in France, far away from home, are kept in a condition of semi-slavery, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That we protest against the continuation of the attack upon the Indo-Chinese people, and be it further

RESOLVED: That we applaud the refusal of the dockworkers in Australia and the workers of South Africa and New Zealand to give support to the wars

against the colonial peoples in the Far East and in Indonesia and that we see in the action of these workers an example for French trade-unionists, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Local Union Council of Angers make contact immediately with the Indo-Chinese workers stationed in this city to assure them of the complete solidarity of the French workers, and be it finally

RESOLVED: That the Local Union Council supervise the conditions under which the Indo-Chinese workers are employed in the various industries and ascertain whether they enjoy the full protection of the law.

Resolution On Labor Unity

The Federated Union of Supervisors, Technicians and Construction Workers of Public Works of Maine-et-Loire, convened in General Assembly in the Hall of Labor at Angers on December 19, 1945, passed the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That we recognize the struggle of the trade unions in England, the United States and throughout the world, as well as the strikes with which these struggles are backed up, as constituting on the international arena an example of the struggle against renascent fascism and against capitalist oppression, and be it further

RESOLVED: That we unanimously send the English strikers (and particularly the dock workers and 90,000 construction workers who demonstrated in Hyde Park) and also the American strikers, an expression of sympathy and solidarity with them in their strike struggles for higher wages and better living conditions, and be it further

RESOLVED: That we declare ourselves in solidarity with the unemployed of the American CIO on a program of public works financed through confiscation of the war profits of the big capitalists and also demand that the principle of such confiscations be included among the demands of the workers of the whole world, and be it further

RESOLVED: That we denounce government legislation, especially in the United States which attempts to make strikes illegal, and be it finally

RESOLVED: That we remain more than ever convinced of the necessity of an effective coordination of the trade unions on a world scale, between all the workers of all countries for the triumph of their common goal and the defeat of their common enemies.

Ask Your Shopmate To Subscribe to The Militant

AKRON

Vincent R. Dunne
One of the 18 prisoners in the Famous Minneapolis Labor Case
Will speak on

The Minneapolis Truck Drivers' Strikes; REPORT OF A PARTICIPANT
FRIDAY, March 29, 8 p.m.

The Militant Club
405-6 Everett Bldg — 39 E. Market St.

Pioneer Notes

With each reminder recently mailed to Militant subscribers notifying them that their subscriptions were up for renewal we had a copy of the new Pioneer catalog. This has resulted in a considerable increase in the sales of Pioneer pamphlets and books to Militant readers.

In many instances readers have sent in money for our popular pamphlets at the same time that they have re-subscribed to the paper.

Today we got one such order from a Militant reader in Omaha, Nebraska. It is evident from the selections this reader makes that his appetite for revolutionary literature on the American scene has been whetted by his reading of the paper. He asked for American Workers Need a Labor Party, Trade Union Problems, War-time Crimes of Big Business, Socialism on Trial and Defense Policy in the Minneapolis Trial.

Another reader finds two categories of special interest. He asked for the three Negro pamphlets—A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, The Struggle for Negro Equality, and Negroes in the Post-War World. In addition his list includes The Russian Revolution, The Memorial Address "To the Memory of the Old Man," The Assassination of Leon Trotsky, and Why Did They "Confess?"

These are typical examples of the many orders which have come in thanks to the mailing. We have also received several orders from individuals of late which include advertisements clipped from the Militant.

Order all pamphlets listed from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York, 3, N. Y.

Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK — The Trotskyist Youth Group, 116 University Place, holds its weekly forum every Friday at 8 p. m. Dancing and refreshments after every meeting. Send name and address for weekly announcement.

Harlem: Every Monday, 8 p. m., class on "Fundamentals of Socialism," Dick Guerrero, instructor, 103 W. 110 St., R. 23.

BUFFALO — Militant Youth Club meets every Sunday, 7 p. m. Discussion, music, dramatics. Refreshments served. Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

PHILADELPHIA — Youth Forums held every Saturday, 8 p. m. 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES — Write to SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, for information on Youth Group activities.

Watch this column for further details on youth activities.

BROOKLYN
Mass Meeting
Protest The Murder Of The Ferguson Brothers!
SUNDAY, MAR. 31
PARAGON HALL
6 Brooklyn Ave. 8 p.m.



Our comrades and friends are always on the alert with new ideas, methods and plans with which to increase the circulation of The Militant.

One very effective method has been devised by the San Francisco branch of the Socialist Workers Party, which other branches may find useful.

Anne Alexander of San Francisco writes: "I am enclosing a number of subscriptions. Some of these were a result of the method we have been using in our distributions. We glue a 'dodger' on each paper scheduled for distribution at a union meeting which reads as follows:

"SUBSCRIBE TO THE MILITANT."

"The war is over. The bosses offer starvation wages for few and breadlines for many. The Militant, a fighting workers' paper, offers the only realistic program to fight unemployment and the bosses' union-busting campaign.

"HAVE THE MILITANT MAILED TO YOUR HOME EVERY WEEK. Do it now! Mail this coupon with 50 cents in coin or stamps to — Branch's name and address is then listed. Subscribers' name and address is then listed.

"We have been receiving at least one new subscription each week as a result of these 'dodgers.'"

Dorothy Lessing of Baltimore sent this interesting report: "At the Westinghouse picket line, one worker whose father had helped build one of the first unions in Baltimore, took extra copies of the paper to make sure that his friends who were on the afternoon picket shift would get The Militant.

"When we returned this week, the men at the union office were anxious to see the report of their strike in the paper. At the Rustless Iron and Steel plant one worker commented on the front page cartoon illustrating solidarity of soldiers and strikers. 'More solidarity, that's what we need.'"

"At Sparrows Point, where the large Bethlehem Steel Plant is, we distributed 200 copies of the paper to the men as they were coming to get their last pay check. The picketers at one of the

main gates took the paper to read when they were relieved. Two of the relief picketers engaged the distributor in a long discussion on the program of the Socialist Workers Party."

C. Dicken of St. Paul, one of our enthusiastic readers, sent us a subscription for a friend with this note: "Please hurry this subscription. I am sending this in for a friend and he is anxious to get The Militant."

George Weissman of Youngstown writes: "A few of us went up to Canton where the steelworkers of Timken Roller Bearing are still on strike. We had been there two weeks previously and had sold a number of subs. This time some of the pickets recognized us and greeted us very cordially.

"Some of those who had subscribed two weeks ago praised The Militant to their buddies and urged them to subscribe — which they did. The results were excellent — 15 subs sold in about two hours. And of that two hours, maybe 10 minutes was spent talking about subscribing. The other hour and fifty minutes we talked about the strike, the need for a Labor Party, Europe, India, etc.

"One of the pickets who had subscribed two weeks previously is an old-timer in the labor movement. He was one of the first to sign up Timken workers when the CIO organized the company. A reader of the old Appeal to Reason, he is a great admirer of Gene Debs whom he often heard speak — Canton, you'll recall, is where Debs made the socialist anti-war speech in 1917 for which he went to prison.

"Other pickets who have received two issues of The Militant through the mail commented on different stories and always favorably."

UAW Delegates and Visitors!
Subscribe to "The Militant" at Pioneer Book Stall
2227 Boardwalk
Atlantic City

OUR PROGRAM:

1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!
A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay!
A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living!
Government operation of all idle and government-built plants under workers' control!
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment!
2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!
No restriction on the right to strike!
3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!
4. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!
Down with Jim Crow!
5. Build an independent labor party!
6. Tax the rich, not the poor!
No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
7. A working class answer to capitalist militarism!
Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
Trade union wages for all workers in the armed forces!
8. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!
For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!
Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
9. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
116 University Place
New York 3, New York

- I would like:
- To join the Socialist Workers Party.
 - To obtain further information about your organization.
 - To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME _____ (Please Print)
STREET _____
CITY _____
POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____

What Karl Marx's Teachings Mean For The American Working Class

By Larissa Reed

Sixty-three years have passed since Karl Marx, founder of the revolutionary Communist movement, leader and teacher of the world working class, died in exile at London on March 14, 1883. Marx was undoubtedly the most titanic figure in all modern history.

Since his death the movement of scientific socialism he created has spread from country to country, until it has penetrated the most backward sections of the planet.

Wherever working people have fought to liberate themselves from endless agonies and harsh exploitation of capitalist rule, there the most advanced sections of the masses have been inspired and enlightened by Marx's doctrines.

Karl Marx was born in Trier, Germany in 1818. During the 1840's, as an editor and writer he produced a series of works in which he set forth the social, economic and political views which subsequently formed the basis of his scientific socialism. On the eve of the Revolution of 1848, he wrote, together with his life-long friend and intimate collaborator, Frederick Engels, the world-famous Communist Manifesto. Ninety-eight years after it was written, the Communist Manifesto still serves as an irreplaceable guide to action upon the most burning questions of the working class struggle for emancipation.

After the defeat of the 1848 revolution in Germany, Marx was banished first to Paris and then to London, where he and his family lived as impoverished exiles until the end of his days.

EPOCHAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Of all the epoch-making discoveries that Marx contributed to the treasury of science, two are of outstanding importance. The first is his materialist interpretation of history. Marx found the key to the movement of history in the development of the productive forces at man's disposal, the division of society into antagonistic classes and the subsequent struggles between the classes for the possession of wealth and power.

Marx showed that capitalism, far from being a permanent social system, is only a single stage in the evolution of mankind. It is one link in the chain of social systems which, after raising the level of productive forces to new heights, outlived their usefulness

and had to be overthrown. Almost 100 years ago, Marx established that capitalism was retarding the further rapid development of the productive forces and that social conditions were ripening for its destruction.

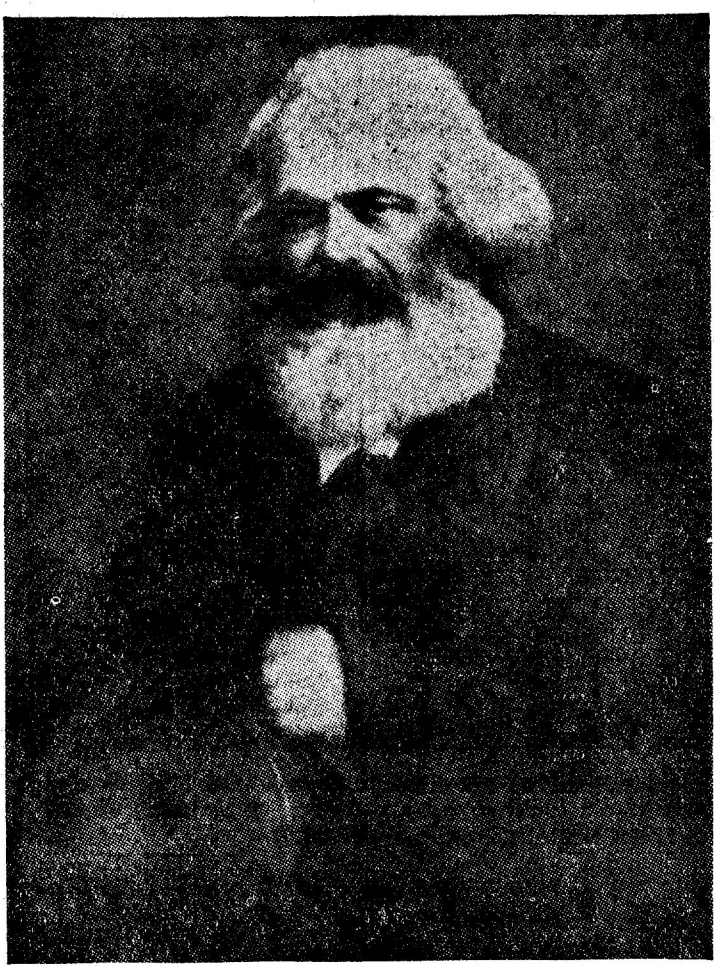
He explained that with the advent of the world-wide division of labor, modern science, technique and large-scale industry, there was no longer any need or justification for the social divisions into rulers and ruled, exploiters and exploited perpetuated by capitalism. The second important discovery of Marx is most fully expounded in his monumental work Capital, upon which he labored for almost 30 years. There Marx elucidated the real relations between capital and labor and demonstrated how the exploitation of the worker by the capitalist takes place. He pointed out that the wage workers must sell their labor power to the capitalist owners of the means of production in order to live and provide for their families.

SOURCE OF CAPITAL

The capitalist employer thereupon sets the laborer to work. In the process of production, the worker always produces more value than he is paid in the form of wages. This unpaid labor constitutes surplus value, which is the source of all the enormous riches acquired by the capitalist exploiters.

The class struggle in capitalist society today revolves around the struggle for this surplus product. Under the rule of monopoly capitalism, which is the highest and final form of capitalist development, this surplus value becomes increasingly concentrated in the hands of a small minority of parasitic monopolists.

But what capitalism creates above all, explained Marx, was its own grave-digger, the modern proletariat. "Along with the constantly diminishing number of the magnates of capital, grows the mass of misery, oppression, slavery, degradation, exploitation. But with this too grows



KARL MARX

the revolt of the working class, a class always increasing in numbers, disciplined, united, organized by the very mechanism of capitalist production itself."

This process leads to the socialist revolution. But the workers must organize their own forces and actively intervene in political life in order to bring this revolution about. Marx's theory of scientific socialism was designed to make the present-day working class aware of these needs. He pointed out both the historical responsibility of the working class and its ability to win its emancipation. This great aim can be accomplished only through the conquest of political power, which will pave the way for the abolition of capitalism and the creation of a new socialist society based upon collectivized property and a planned economy. Marx founded the First Inter-

national, political organization of labor, in 1864 to mobilize the working class for the practical realization of this goal. The Bolshevik Party under Lenin and Trotsky in the Russian Revolution of October 1917 carried out the Marxist program in leading the workers and peasants in overthrowing capitalism and establishing the first workers' state in history. The Socialist Workers Party is the only political tendency in the United States which bases itself solidly upon the same principles of revolutionary Marxism which guided the Russian Revolution. Those American workers who in increasing numbers are seeking a solution to the great social and political problems confronting them today, will find in the teachings of Marx the scientific insight needed in their struggle for a new and better world.

SWP Speaker Flays Fontana Case Secrecy

LOS ANGELES, March 11 — In the final meeting of her West Coast tour against vigilante terror, held here in the Masonic Hall, Sunday night, Myra Tanner Weiss, Los Angeles organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, blasted away at the secrecy behind which the authorities have sought to shroud the Jim Crow murders of the Short family in Fontana, California.

This entire Negro family was burned to death a short while after receiving threats from vigilantes. Comrade Weiss called upon the labor movement to continue and to extend its defense system so as to prevent any similar atrocities in the future. "The attack on minorities by the vigilantes is only a preparatory step to attacks on the labor movement itself," she said. "Therefore labor's defense of the minorities is self-defense."

KENNY'S INACTION

She showed that the inaction on the case by Attorney General Kenny, is due to his reluctance to give up the support of vigilante elements and their backers in the coming elections, just as Roosevelt never made a break with the reactionary poll-tax Democrats of the South. "Only a labor government would have a real interest in bringing the vigilantes to justice," she said. Lorenzo Bowdoin, President of the Los Angeles NAACP, stated in his speech that his organization was one hundred per cent behind the work of publicizing the Fontana case and bringing the murderers to justice. A report from the arson expert hired by the NAACP shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that the fire was of incendiary origin.

A telegram from Mr. Gach, editor of the Jewish Voice, stated his "heartiest support in the struggle to build a united front against all forms of vigilante terror and fascism."

A message to the meeting from J. Robert Smith, editor of the Tri-County Bulletin, Negro weekly published in San Bernardino (near Fontana), reported that the Central Council there was still waiting to hear the results of the Attorney General's investigation.

FOUR RESOLUTIONS

Four resolutions were passed: 1.—Protesting the whitewash of the killer of the Ferguson Brothers and calling for a broad committee to launch a public investigation with a view to bringing those responsible for the Freeport outrage to justice.

2.—Protesting the delay of the California State Attorney General's office in providing a conclusive report on the investigation of the Fontana vigilante case.

3.—Demanding a stay of execution and a fair trial for Dewey Adamson, Los Angeles Negro, convicted by an all white jury on purely circumstantial evidence and without adequate defense.

4.—Pledging its redoubled support in the campaign to place the FEPC on the ballot in California.

Over \$200 was contributed to aid the work of the Socialist Workers Party, under whose auspices the meeting was held, and more than 100 copies of "Vigilante Terror in Fontana," the pamphlet published by the Los Angeles Local of the SWP, were sold.

Bronx SWP Has Housewarming

NEW YORK, March 9 — A capacity crowd of comrades, friends and neighbors participated tonight in a gala housewarming party at the new Bronx Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, 1034 Prospect Avenue.

Many neighborhood readers of The Militant came up to visit our attractively decorated headquarters, and stayed to participate in festivities which included dancing, games, group singing and amateur entertainment.

We hope to have many more of our Bronx neighbors join us in our next social planned for April.

AFL and refused to grant elections. Stassen obviously inspired this decision.

In the face of these facts, does anyone have the gall to assert that Stassen is a friend of the CIO, or of the labor movement?

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

by CHARLES JACKSON

Who Won In Tennessee?

As we pointed out last week, the recent Columbia, Tennessee "race riot" turns out on examination of all the facts, to be an anti-Negro pogrom carried out largely by the so-called peace officers of that section wherein the Negro populace prepared and tried—mostly in vain—to defend themselves against the onslaughts of the fascist terrorists.

A study of the events as they truly occurred, however, is still not enough to fully understand the significance of this type of violent persecution. For such a task, all of the underlying economic and social factors present in the case must be evaluated in terms of their relation to the happenings at the time of the terror.

Contrary to the condition in many of the rural settlements, the majority (¾) of Columbia's 12,000 population is white. But in Columbia instead of being employed only as cooks, yardmen or ditchdiggers, the Negro workers have succeeded in obtaining many unskilled and semi-skilled jobs in the factories. In chemical manufacturing plants, in canneries and in clothing factories one will find many Negroes employed in other than menial capacity. In the chemical works Negroes are reported to be doing the same work as whites in the same departments.

But here is the catch. In each case the company has established a wage differential whereby a Negro worker is paid one third to one half less than a white worker doing the same job. This is the accepted practice of the bosses. When a Negro is lucky enough to get off the cotton or tobacco farm and get work in a factory in Columbia, he automatically expects to be paid less than the white worker who is performing the same task.

This practice (as it had been calculated to do) breeds further prejudice among the whites against the Negroes and vice versa. It drives a wedge between the two races to the extent that they become more interested in fighting each other than they are in uniting in a common fight for concessions from the exploiter of both—the company.

Every time the whites (who are themselves underpaid) present a grievance or make wage demands they are confronted with the fact that the Negroes are doing the very same work at much less pay. They are also reminded that there are many other Negro workers who would be glad to leave their \$3 to \$4 a week jobs as domestics and take the jobs of the whites in the factories.

Thus to a shortsighted raw and backward white worker it is the Negro who is his job competitor. It is the Negro who is undercutting him in the sale of labor. It

is the Negro who is preventing him from making more decent wages and buying that extra loaf of bread for the table or that extra pair of shoes for his kid.

Out of this situation has grown an even more bitter prejudice than is ordinarily indoctrinated into the people of the South under the institutions of today's capitalist society. Jim Crow is the standard policy in every field. The Negroes are only allowed to live in the restricted ghettos of the town. When purchasing articles or obtaining service in the "white" part of town they must be openly subservient and Uncle Tomish if they want to leave there in the same condition in which they arrived.

All who know the facts firsthand will agree that in the unorganized South the white workers who think their main enemy is the Negro are themselves more extremely exploited by the industrialists and the landowners than in the North where Negroes and whites get more nearly the same wage for the same work.

Thus it should be plain to all that the super exploitation of the Negro is not an advantage but a disadvantage to the just economic struggle of the white worker. It should be plain that interracial prejudice and terrorism can serve in the end only to further benefit the wealthy rulers. It should be plain that the real job of the white workers is to organize themselves together with the Negro and demand equal pay for both so that there will be working class solidarity against the enemy of both. Negroes were arrested, beaten and murdered in cold blood in Columbia during the "riot." But among the losers were the white workers themselves.

The heads of the blacks were bloodied, and their homes looted by the Tennessee Gestapo. Some prejudiced white workers with loose shingles on their own shacks may feel that they have obtained "revenge" against the Negroes who work for less. But all the while the bosses, who are the only victors, are sitting back laughing at both.

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Some Facts The Michigan PAC Leaders 'Forgot' About Stassen

By Roger Kent

The recent endorsement of Harold Stassen for the Republican Presidential ticket in 1948 by the Michigan CIO Political Action Committee must come as a surprise to many people. The truck drivers of Minneapolis, who were denied their democratic right to join the CIO in 1941 by this same Mr. Stassen, will be particularly shocked to learn that Stassen is now a "liberal."

It would be well for the CIO-PAC to investigate a little more carefully the backgrounds of the candidates it endorses. In the case of Stassen the heads of the Michigan PAC must be either ignorant of the facts or cynically indifferent.

The kind of president Stassen would make may be fairly judged from his record as Governor of Minnesota.

Stassen's chief claim to fame is the Minnesota Labor Relations Act, which he drafted and pushed through the Minnesota Legislature in 1939. This law is a model of strikebreaking legislation. The workers of Minnesota correctly dubbed it "The Stassen Slave Law."

STASSEN 'SLAVE LAW'

Under this law the governor appoints a labor conciliator for a four-year term. Every union is required to give ten days' written notice to the conciliator of intention to strike. If the strike is vested with a "public interest"—and this clause is broadly interpreted—the governor appoints a commission of three to investigate the dispute and file a report within 30 days, during which time the union may not strike.

In addition, the bill defines a long list of unfair labor practices for unions and employers. Should the workers violate any of the many clauses directed against unions, the governor can crack down with the full force of the law. But if an employer

chooses to flaunt the law, the unions must seek redress through the courts and bear the huge expense of protracted, and usually fruitless, litigation. Finally, the employer is empowered to obtain injunctions from anti-labor judges.

This is the law which Stassen claims has brought "industrial harmony" to Minnesota. The Minnesota CIO workers know from bitter personal experience just how this "harmony" is achieved at the expense of the workers.

In 1941, the CIO United Electrical and Radio Workers was attempting to organize the Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Co. The company provoked a strike and the dispute went to the conciliator. Stassen invoked the "public interest" clause and appointed a commission so prejudiced against the union that counsel for the union terminated the hearings. The commission subsequently "found" what it had intended to find from the start; i.e., no discrimination by the company against any employee for union activity.

SORDID TALE

But even the vicious provisions of this bill did not suffice for Stassen when he set out to deal the CIO its worst blow—the smashing of CIO Motor Transport and Allied Workers Local 544.

Stassen had to violate his own "Slave Law" to accomplish this travesty of justice. Bear in mind, as you read this sordid tale, that this is the same Stassen who car-

ried off the endorsement of the Michigan CIO-PAC.

In the spring of 1941, General Drivers Union, Local 544-AFL, opened negotiations with the trucking bosses of Minneapolis. The current contracts were due to expire on June 1st. The union's leaders, backed solidly by the drivers, demanded improved contracts and a substantial wage increase to meet the rising cost of living. Abiding by the terms of the Stassen "Slave Law," the union filed strike notices with the state labor conciliator.

After holding these notices for almost ten days, the conciliator, Alfred Blair, notified the union that these notices were improper, though they differed not a whit from previous notices which had been accepted without question. That was the first step in a conspiracy which then began to unfold under Stassen's direct guidance.

Daniel J. Tobin, president of the AFL Teamsters International, had long been irked by the opposition of Local 544's leaders to Tobin's antiquated craft-union ideas, to his support of Roosevelt's war-mongering, and to his attempts to saddle the teamsters with compulsory arbitration.

V. R. Dunne, Farrell Dobbs, Karl Skoglund and other members of the Socialist Workers Party had led the union to victory in the great strikes of 1934 by militant mass action and in direct opposition to President Tobin. Each year, these leaders were elected to office by overwhelming majorities, proving the confidence that the workers had in their honesty, their ability and their uncompromising devotion to the workers' interests.

Tobin, aided by disgruntled elements in the union who had failed to be elected to the executive board, proceeded to appoint a receiver—a dictator—over the union and to unseat the duly-elected officers of Local 544. He entered into a joint conspiracy with Stassen and the Minneapolis bosses to sign contracts behind the backs of the drivers and present them as accomplished facts, from which

there could be no appeal, to members of Local 544. The leaders of the union took steps to thwart Tobin's sell-out.

On June 9th, in a regular membership meeting, the leaders of Local 544 urged the drivers to leave the AFL and affiliate with the CIO. There were 4,000 drivers present. Almost to a man, they voted to adopt the proposal. Soon afterward, other Teamsters locals throughout the area followed suit. Tobin was panicked.

He immediately dispatched about 300 goons to Minneapolis to loose a reign of terror upon the CIO drivers and herd them back into the AFL. In this pursuit, they enjoyed the wholehearted co-operation of the Minneapolis police.

FRAMEUP AGAINST 18

Tobin also appealed to his fellow-Democrat, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and this "great friend of labor" placed the Department of Justice at Tobin's disposal. As a result, eighteen persons, members of Local 544-CIO, and of the Socialist Workers Party, were railroaded to prison under the Smith "Gag" Act solely because of their revolutionary socialist convictions—a frameup which became internationally famous as the "Minneapolis Labor Case."

In attempting to seize possession of the offices, equipment and records of Local 544-CIO, Tobin also secured frameup indictments against Kelly Postal, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 544-CIO, and others, for "embezzlement." While Stassen was governor, the Board of Pardons of which he was a member, refused to grant the imprisoned Postal either a pardon or parole.

The leaders of Local 544-CIO filed petitions both with the state labor conciliator and the NLRB, demanding that the drivers themselves be allowed to choose which union they wished to represent them.

After holding a series of farcical hearings all summer, during which hundreds of drivers testified, in spite of the terror, that they wanted to vote to join the CIO, the conciliator handed down his decision. He certified the

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AKRON — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p. m.; also Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 to 9:30. Current events discussion Wednesday evenings. Fridays at 7:30, class on "Forward March of American Labor."

March 29, 8 p. m., Minneapolis Truckdrivers Strike: By Vincent R. Dunne.

Afternoon sessions on same series of lectures every Friday by Milton Genecin.

ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM — Open meeting every Friday, 8 p. m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown. Public Forums—First Sunday each month, 2:15 p. m.

BOSTON — Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Mondays and Saturdays from noon until 5 p. m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.

BUFFALO — Every Saturday night, Current Events Discussion and Open House, at Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO — Visit SWP, 160 N. Wells R. 317. Open 11 a. m. to 8 p. m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7562.

Classes every Wednesday, 7:30 and 9:00 p. m.

SOUTH SIDE: 354 W. 63rd St. Meetings every Thursday evening.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p. m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St.

DETROIT — Forums on topical questions every Sunday, 3 p. m. at 6108 Woodward. Office open daily 10 to 6. Phone Tyler 7-6267.

KANSAS CITY — SWP Branch meets Saturday, 8 p. m. Rm. 203, Studio Bldg., 418 E. 9th St., for study and discussion.

LOS ANGELES — Visit SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

MILWAUKEE — Visit the Milwaukee branch of the SWP at its headquarters, 424 E. Wells St., an evening from 7:30.

MINNEAPOLIS — Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily. Forum every Sunday, 3:30.

NEWARK — Branch meeting every Friday at 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30.

Reading room and office open Mondays-Thursdays, 4 to 10 p. m.

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NEW YORK - CENTRAL, 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149. Sat., 4:30 p. m., rehearsal of Trotskyist chorus. Militant readers invited.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor.

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St. Open 1 to 9. Phone ST. 3-7433.

HARLEM: 103 W. 110th St., room 23. Phone MO. 2-1866. Office open Monday through Thursday, 1 to 4:30; Fridays and Sundays, 7:30-10:30 p. m.

PHILADELPHIA — SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open forums every Friday, 8 p. m., on current topics.

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PORTLAND, Ore. — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W. Washington, 3rd Floor. Tel. ATwater 3992. Open 1 to 4 p. m., daily except Sunday, and 6 to 8 p. m. on Tuesday and Friday.

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SAN FRANCISCO — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 3 p. m., Monday through Saturday, and 7 to 9 p. m. Monday through Friday.

EAST BAY BRANCH—P. O. Box 1618, Oakland, Calif. Meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, I.O.O.F. Hall, 410 Eleventh St.

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Diary Of A Steelworker *By T. Kovalesky*

It was sort of funny when we came back to work. We walked up onto the furnaces as if we owned them and took our time about getting to work.



The bosses eyed us, but we either ignored them or else just grinned back at them insolently, something like a bunch of kids that had got the upper hand. And they didn't try to do anything about it, either, because they knew we were "feeling our oats" after having won the greatest strike in American history.

But all that wore off, and once again we got down to the dirty, sweaty business of making iron and steel for the company. A couple of days ago, as we were sitting down on a bench after cast, Tom said: "You know, I been wondering just what we did win out there on the picket lines. The cost of living is jumping, and before that 18 1/2 cent part of the contract runs out, we're going to be left way behind."

Notes Of A Seaman *By Art Sharon*

According to an ancient legend, there was a ghost ship that haunted the oceans of the world and never came to port. With full sails and no man to be seen on her decks she would come into sight once in a while, evoking terror and wonder in the mariners who saw her.



The Flying Dutchman, she was called. Every man who spoke of her did so with solemn voice. For each had his theory as to the reason for her tragic fate. What could be more tragic to a sailor's mind than to be doomed to sail forever and never make port? That is why the legend of the Flying Dutchman expressed the terrifying fear that such a fate would hold for the men who go to sea.

However, the seamen of 1945 and 1946 are Dutchmen. Unlike the Flying Dutchman of Dutchmen. Unlike the "Flying Dutchman" of the fable, which never saw port, these modern ships I'm going to tell you about are sometimes anchored for months in little lagoons of south Pacific islands, but finally do get home. And although the "Flying Dutchman," according to the ancient story, had no crew, these ships are very much alive with men.

Vets Housing Crisis *By John Fredericks*

Worker veterans are returning home to the worst housing crisis in the nation's history. Throughout the country veterans are desperately seeking any kind of shelter for themselves and their families.

Under pressure from the banks and real estate interests, the Truman administration has failed to take any effective measures to alleviate the veterans' housing plight. The extent of the housing shortage was indicated by Edmond B. Butler, Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority, who reported that while dwelling construction has been at a virtual standstill, the population of the country has increased by eight millions since 1940.

Ten Million Needed A conservative estimate of the need for new housing could be placed at ten million dwelling units. New York City alone needs 785,000 new dwellings, according to the admission of Mayor O'Dwyer.

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nipped the company's union-busting plans in the bud. "Remember how we all agreed before the strike that we weren't just fighting the wage dispute? We said we were battling for the very preservation of the union—and we were. Where would the union be if we'd lost that strike?"

"So don't get the idea that winning the 18 1/2 cents doesn't mean very much, since prices are going to eat it up. Prices are coming up, and we'll be holding the bag, but they'd have gone up anyhow! They went up when our wages were frozen, didn't they?"

"Hell," Tom snorted. "Seems like we're licked every way! Strike and we lose. Don't strike and we lose a whole lot quicker!"

"There's an answer to it, Tom, but not the way things are now. The capitalist system's all worn out. It's like old Number Three furnace. That got so bad they never could fix it up any more. They had to tear it down so they could build a new one that will work. We've got to tear down this economic system and build a new one that will work so we'll all have a decent living. That new system will be Socialism."

I'd gotten a little off the track in my enthusiasm, so I added: "No strike will solve our problems, as long as we have capitalism. Tom. We strike because we've got to keep things from getting too bad. It'll take the Great Strike — The Revolution — to solve our problems."

"Well, all right!" Tom grinned. "Let's go!" "Take it easy, brother," I grinned back. "You'll know when it's time. I guarantee that."

long. Every week one of them is finally allowed to come back to port.

Last week the S.S. Edwin Markham sailed into San Francisco, a "Flying Dutchman" that got off comparatively light. She sailed aimlessly about for only six months. Her crew was justly indignant at their experience. They spoke bitterly of their trip which carried them from one part of the Pacific to another.

They began their trip from San Francisco on August 26th after they knew definitely the war was over. But that made little difference to the powers that be. Plans which had been drawn up some months previous called for the S.S. Edwin Markham to sail with a complete load of war materials. And is there anything so irritating to swivel-chair planners as to have something interfere with paper plans?

So, despite the fact that the war was over, the Markham sailed with a full cargo of camouflage netting, camouflage paint, land mine markers, tank trailers and other combat material.

With a cargo that no longer had any immediate use, she sailed to one port and then to another. Each time she would pull into a port, authorities would order her out again. At Okinawa she and twenty-five other ships of the "lost fleet" were ordered from one side to the other. Speaking of that episode, the captain said, "We understood this was for the purpose of hoodwinking a Congressional Committee into thinking we had just arrived."

The Edwin Markham was finally allowed to dump its cargo after months of wandering about. She then proceeded to Manila where she took on "officers' club furniture, expensive sedans for generals" and other officers' luxury items.

I suppose the running cost of the legendary Flying Dutchman was paid by Davey Jones. But the running costs of these modern Flying Dutchmen are added to the already huge burden of debt that the lately concluded slaughter has bequeathed to the working people. And of course the lucky ship—"owner" who was the agent of the War Shipping Administration and operator of the Markham did very well for himself since he was paid by the day for every day that the Markham wandered about.

was drafted originally to provide \$600,000,000 as subsidies for building material manufacturers and provide only 2,700,000 homes. Yet even this incorrectly-conceived, inadequate bill was decimated in Congress. In its present form it is a bare skeleton, stripped of its provisions for subsidies, regulation of ceiling prices on existing homes, and authority to investigate gouging practices for the building industry. The revised bill does little more than insure contractors and mortgagors against financial loss and provide a doubtful system for the allocation of building materials.

State and local authorities have proposed as their solution, old barracks and Quonset huts built on swampy, undesirable sites. In New York City, veterans are feeling so strongly about the situation that they are talking about a "March on Washington" and even threatening to occupy unused "townhouses" vacated by the rich during their winter vacations. Hundreds of these townhouses and penthouses have remained unoccupied while their pleasure-seeking owners were idling in Florida.

Every effort to solve the housing crisis has met powerful opposition from The Producers' Council (building materials suppliers) and the National Association of Real Estate Boards, under the direction of Herbert U. Nelson. The profiteers and rent-sougers demand the end of all controls over materials and construction prices and rents.

At present prices, few workers or veterans can afford to build houses or buy or rent them. The outrageous minimum rentals of \$60 to \$100 per month proposed by private industry for new dwelling units are beyond the means of those in most desperate need of housing.

For Full-Scale Program The government must immediately undertake a full-scale building program to provide ten million new dwelling units at low rentals within the reach of every worker and veteran. The costs of this program should not be passed along to the worker in the form of increased taxation but rather should be borne by taxation of the war profiteers, who have grown bloated out of the misery of the workers.

The capitalist government plunged into debt for \$300-billion to finance the bloody destruction of war. It mobilized the whole of American industry to produce at incredible speed, mountains of means for imperialism. War. Labor and the veterans should demand that no less be done—and quickly—to ensure decent housing for the American people.

UMW Negotiators Indict Coal Operators For Million Casualties In Mine Disasters

Murder For Profits



Rescue workers removing the bodies of miners killed in the Havaco Coal Mine disaster at Welch, West Virginia, on January 17. A frightful explosion caused by the mine owners' criminal neglect of safety measures killed 13 coal miners and injured 38.

Every ton of coal mined in the United States is "smeared with the blood" of the mine workers, was the charge which the AFL United Mine Workers hurled at the soft coal operators at the opening of new contract negotiations on March 12 in Washington.

The "murder for profit" of tens of thousands of miners which The Militant recently exposed in connection with the horrible mine disasters at Pineville, Kentucky, and Welsh, West Virginia, was the chief theme of the union spokesmen during the first three days of negotiations. A major demand of the miners is for adequate safety measures and inspection in the mines and a union fund from the operators' profits to provide decent medical care, compensation and welfare for miners and their families.

Miners' charges against the operators were summarized by UMW President John L. Lewis, who stated that the gross "mismanagement, cupidity, stupidity and wanton neglect" of the mine owners has resulted during the past 14 years in the mine-deaths of 28,000 and injury for more than a million mine workers. "Do you know of any war in which the losses were as great as those in the mining industry?" Lewis asked.

Lewis further charged that the mine operators responsible for this mass slaughter do not even "bury its dead nor bind up the shattered bones and mangled flesh of its victims in any adequate, humane or modern sense."

He denounced the mine operators for abandoning their responsibility even toward the helpless dependents of the murdered mine workers and cited the case of the Pineville Kentucky disaster, which left a total of 96 destitute widows and orphans. One important mine operator, he said, cynically discharged his responsibility with a \$5 donation. "I would like to take that five-dollar bill and cram it down his throat," Lewis stated.

In his 75-minute summary, Lewis further charged: "We accuse by the record that the management and stockholders of the

Flint Chevrolet Local Asks UAW To Launch Labor Party Drive

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

FLINT, Mich., March 14—At a regular membership meeting of Chevrolet Local 659 UAW-CIO this week a resolution was passed without a dissenting vote, calling for the establishment of a National Labor Party. The resolution was addressed to the forthcoming convention of the United Automobile Workers.

WHEREAS: The labor movement, organized 15 million strong on the economic field, has no organization of its own on the political field, and

WHEREAS: Support of the Democratic and Republican Parties constitutes company unionism politically, inasmuch as the two parties are puppets of the monopolies, and

WHEREAS: The fruits of this policy have resulted in labor being without a single representative of its own in a Congress of close to 500 members, a Congress which can wipe out by a single act all of labor's economic gains and victories, and

WHEREAS: The overwhelming electoral victory of the Labor Party in England proves conclusively that labor can organize on the political field as it has in the economic field, more than that, that it must organize politically if it wishes to guarantee its existence, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the UAW-CIO spearhead a gigantic drive for labor's own political party in the same decisive manner in which it led the drive to maintain the standard of living of the American workers, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the UAW-CIO issue a call for a National Conference of all labor unions, CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods, and Independents for the purpose of establishing a broad national Labor Party, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Chevrolet Local 659 UAW-CIO submit this resolution to the Twelfth Convention of the UAW-CIO.

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Deal With Chiang Wins French Foothold In North Indo-China

By combining duplicity with armed force French imperialists have apparently been able to gain a foothold in northern Indo-China. The Viet Namh Republic, backed by the overwhelming majority of the Annamites, had kept the French armies confined to the southern part of the country.

In the north the Republic was tacitly supported by 100,000 Chinese troops. The French tried to persuade the Chinese government to withdraw its armies from north Indo-China and "cease protecting" the Viet Namh government. On February 28, the French concluded a deal with Chiang Kai-shek whereby the French government agreed to "end their extraterritorial rights in China" in exchange for "withdrawal of Chinese troops from northern Indo-China."

The calculating French colonial despots then promised Ho Chi Minh president of the Viet Namh Republic, "recognition" of the Republic provided Viet Namh would remain within the "French Union" and under "French control," and permit the landing of French troops in northern Indo-China. This is the same cynical stratagem that the Dutch imperialists are attempting on the Japanese. In exchange for "recognition" as a "republic" within the empire, the imperialists demand the "right" to land armed forces.

Freeport Case Protested By Buffalo CIO

BUFFALO, N. Y. — The CIO Council recently passed a resolution protesting the murderous attack upon four Negro brothers in Freeport, L. I., which resulted in the death of two of the Ferguson boys, the wounding of a third and the railroad to jail of the fourth. Among local unions and other organizations taking similar action are United Steelworkers Local 2601-CIO and the Ebenezer Baptist Church, both in Lackawanna.

The Buffalo Branch of the Socialist Workers Party held a protest meeting on March 9, attended by many steel and auto workers. A resolution, unanimously adopted, called for the formation of a broad committee of labor, Negro, veteran, and other progressive organizations to make an investigation of the Ferguson case in order to secure the punishment of those responsible.

Once a base is established more troops will be brought in until the treacherous imperialists have a military force large enough to completely dominate the country. Despite their deals with Chiang Kai-shek and the heads of the Viet Namh government, the French imperialists were not at all assured of the "welcome" they would receive from the Annamite population.

Vice-Admiral Philippe-Marie Aubouneau, charged with executing the French landing in northern Indo-China, according to a March 11 dispatch to the Christian Science Monitor, boasted "the most powerful naval concentration she ever stationed at one single point in her empire since the war started."

"We shall need all these warships," admitted the Admiral "to reestablish our sovereignty in Chinese occupied northern Indo-China . . ." "Although the French and Chinese governments appear in agreement in regard to their respective positions in this country," he confessed, "it is obvious that our reoccupation of northern Indo-China might be hampered by 'local incidents'."

Likelihood of such armed clashes was confirmed by the well-informed Christian Science Monitor correspondent, who reported: "Highest ranking French administrators and military leaders at Saigon recently became convinced that the entry of their forces into northern Indo-China never could be accomplished against joint opposition by Chinese and Annamites." "Therefore it was necessary for the French 'to split' the union between the Chinese occupation authorities and the Viet Namh government at Hanoi. In spite of former declaration that Viet Namh would not permit the landing of French troops, president of the Republic, Ho Chi Minh said the French forces would be welcomed. The agreement with the French, he declared, would be 'submitted for approval by the Annamite people through a referendum.' The first French forces have landed at Haiphong. But, the Christian Science Monitor correspondent reports, "there still remains the possibility of an aftermath."