

Anti-Red Statement Backed By Stalinists

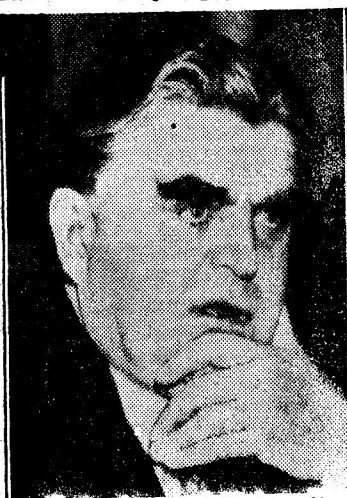
— See Page 2 —

VOL. X — No. 49

Crying Need Is Labor's Unity In Action Now!

An Editorial

Big Business is hurling an unprecedented propaganda barrage against the striking miners. Its vast press and radio artillery is pouring out lies and slander day and night.



There should be no underestimating the effect of this propaganda assault. It is having influence even upon sections of the working class.

This campaign, as almost every union leader and member realizes, isn't directed at the miners alone. Wall Street is trying to create a general atmosphere of anti-labor hostility for the further development of its drive against the American working class.

How can organized labor meet and answer this tremendous propaganda attack?

Only by mobilizing its own forces for a full-scale counter-offensive—only by showing the same unity in action as the capitalists are displaying.

Labor must gather together its full resources, unite every worker in the ranks, and strike back with all its concentrated weight and power.

For this, it is necessary to establish effective machinery for joint action of all unions. The crying need is for a National Conference of Labor, composed of all unions, to formulate and carry out a unified fighting program.

But the top leaders of the CIO and AFL are too narrow-minded, too blinded by their own bureaucratic interests, to take this imperative step on their own initiative.

It is up to the union members in every locality to build a fire under the union leaders and to initiate a tremendous campaign against the government's attempted frame-up of John L. Lewis and its infamous strikebreaking injunction.

Every union local, large and small, regardless of affiliation, must take a public stand in defense of the miners. Protests by the thousands and tens of thousands must pour into Washington. The local press and radio must be forced to give these actions fullest publicity so that labor's support of the miners becomes known and felt in every community.

In every city and county, the local unions must form their own United Labor Conferences, mobilize actions on behalf of the miners and demand that the union leaders call a similar conference on a nation-wide scale.

The danger to organized labor was never more acute. Act now! For Labor Unity in Action! For a Fighting Counter-Offensive Against Wall Street!

Public Hearing Held In Move To Evict Detroit SWP Local

By Kay O'Brien

DETROIT, Dec. 1.—A public hearing on the attempt to oust the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party from its headquarters at 6108 Linwood Avenue, was held before the Detroit City Planning Commission last Wednesday. The case of the Socialist Workers Party was ably presented by Walter M. Nelson, prominent Detroit attorney, and representative of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Mr. Nelson warned the Commission that the right of a political party to occupy headquarters of its own choosing was a political right which the Commission had no power to deny. "Nor is there any other body in the land," added Mr. Nelson, "which is empowered to deny this basic political right."

From statements, both written and oral, which were submitted to the Commission at a previous hearing by the Linwood and McGraw Civic Association, Inc., it had been clearly established that hatred toward the intermingling of colored and white workers on a plane of complete social equality, motivated not only the ouster move but also the arson attack made on the headquarters on July 25 of this year.

STORM OF PROTEST

This reactionary drive, however, has brought such a storm of protest from the entire Detroit labor movement and has evoked such strongly worded statements supporting the Socialist Workers Party, that the spokesman for the property owners was forced to back down and apologize to the Commission for having openly raised the issue. Nevertheless, it was perfectly apparent from his further statements as well as from

questions asked by the chairman of the Commission, that the racial issue remained dominant. The efforts of the Commission to sidetrack the hearing onto the technicality of whether, under the terms of the zoning law, the Socialist Workers Party could be considered part of the neighborhood community, were ably met by Mr. Nelson. He pointed out that it is precisely in residential areas, as part of the life of the neighborhood, where political parties belong.

In support of his argument, Mr. Nelson presented petitions signed by more than 500 residents of the area surrounding the party headquarters, demanding that the Socialist Workers Party be permitted to stay. These petitions completely silenced the previously hostile Commission secretary.

In the course of the questioning, an attempt was made to connect the Socialist Workers Party with the Communist Party which had formerly had headquarters a few blocks away. Arthur Burch, Detroit organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, replied that the only connection was that the same fascist gangsters who drove the Communist Party out by violence in 1939, were now trying to drive out the Socialist Workers Party.

The hide-and-seek game of the Commission to bury the political and racial issues beneath zoning law technicalities failed completely, and the Commissioners retired in confusion without rendering a decision.

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CIO Packing Union Set For Strike Action

(Special to The Militant)
CHICAGO, Dec. 1 — The CIO United Packinghouse Workers Union has cleared the way for strike action against the Big Four meat packing corporations. Its 27-man strike strategy committee meeting here on Nov. 27 called the packers' terms "inadequate" and directed International officials of the union to call a strike "when and if such action is necessary."

Demands of the union include a cost-of-living bonus, which is a variant of the escalator clause long advocated by The Militant and the Socialist Workers Party, to provide a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.

Other demands are a minimum wage of \$1 per hour, a guaranteed annual wage, and a health and welfare fund.

Arrogant counter-proposals by the packing profiteers had called for freezing wages at present levels for a year with no reopening provisions, and eliminating all forms of union security. A reported new offer by Swift and Co., the terms of which have not been made public, is said to be far out of line with the union's just demands.

The union represents 200,000 workers in packing centers throughout the country. The critical need of these workers was emphasized at the CIO convention by Herbert March, UFWA leader, who declared that "the people who produce the meat products of the nation are in a position today to eat very little but neck bones and spare ribs, if they can afford them."

Ford Local 406 Backs Miners

LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 26.—At a regular meeting of UAW-CIO Ford Local 406 today, a strong resolution was unanimously adopted giving 100 per cent support to the striking coal miners. The resolution condemned the anti-labor action of the government and called upon the Los Angeles Industrial Council to appeal to all sections of the labor movement, AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods for united action in backing the miners.

The Local resolved to "set aside \$2,500 to be used in behalf of the United Mine Workers if and when the federal government seizes their treasury."

St. Louis Machinists Demand Monthly Living-Cost Raises

(Special to The Militant)
ST. LOUIS, Nov. 26.—Another union has decided to demand a sliding scale of wages in future contracts. To protect the members' standard of living from skyrocketing prices, the independent International Association of Machinists here will request monthly wage adjustments, Lawrence Connors, business agent of District 9, announced today. The union represents some 20,000 workers in this area.

Connors said that about half of the District's approximately 500 contracts will expire before Jan. 1. In all the new contracts the Machinists will demand a clause along the following lines: "All employees shall receive a monthly bonus of 1 per cent of their regular earnings for each 1 per cent in the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumers' index above the bureau's index (for the month in which the contract was signed). Adjustments will be made one week



Ganging Up On The Miners

"Obey Or Starve" Is Washington's Policy On Food Relief For 1947

Beginning next month all the wraps are coming off and food will be employed exclusively as a political weapon by the U. S. Government. That is the meaning of Washington's decision to abolish UNRRA and its blunt refusal to set up an international or UN-controlled relief fund.

Hunger and starvation are still widespread in Europe and Asia, and 1947 will see little improvement over 1946. But from here on the U. S. government is discarding its "humanitarian" cloak and will give food only to nations which are ready to grant the political concessions demanded by Washington. After Jan. 1 there will be no U. S. relief for nations who do not toe Wall Street's political line.

Fiorenzo LaGuardia, retiring director of UNRRA, whose work in Europe expires Dec. 31, has proposed the establishment of a \$400,000,000 fund to meet world emergency needs during next year. But the State Department refuses to even consider contributing to such a fund. Anyone who wants food should make direct arrangements with Washington, says the State Department.

The reason for this new procedure is plain to everyone who has followed the recent crack-

down on Czechoslovakia and the withdrawal of its credits and loans because some Czech officials had dared to voice criticism of Washington's economic policies. The nations in the U. S.-British political orbit will get some handouts, if they do what they are told. The nations trying to follow an independent political line and those in the Soviet Union's sphere of influence—who will need relief most urgently in 1947—will go hungry until they are ready to come to terms.

The junking of UNRRA and the refusal to establish an international relief agency in its place cannot be explained in terms of an improved food situation next year. On the contrary, some countries will suffer more drastically than this year from shortages of the most basic necessities. An article in World Report of Dec. 3 has the following figures in annual world production by millions of tons:

Prewar 1946 1947 (Est.)

	Prewar	1946	1947 (Est.)
Cereals (Wheat, rice and corn)	410	340	380
Fats and Oils	22	17	18
Sugar	35	27	30

Thus it is certain that famine and famine-created disease will claim millions of additional victims in Europe and Asia next year. But Washington says that those who dissent will starve.

No Compensation For Steelworkers Laid Off In Ohio

By Harry Braverman

(Special to The Militant)
YOUNGSTOWN, Dec. 1.—The ruling of the Compensation Bureau in Ohio denying unemployment compensation to steel workers made idle by the coal strike is being strongly protested by the labor movement here. Workers in the area feel very strongly about this dirty move by state officials to prejudice the steel workers against their brothers in the mines.

The executive board of the Mahoning County CIO Council has wired Governor Lausche protesting the ruling. This is one of many protests by local union leaders and bodies, including a public statement by James Griffin, candidate for office of CIO Steelworkers District Director.

CIO Steelworkers Local 1330 sent a sharply worded letter to all PAC-endorsed political office-holders from the Youngstown region condemning their silence on the issue of compensation for idle steelworkers. By their silent acceptance of the vicious ruling, these politicians once again demonstrate the incorrectness of the present PAC policy of giving support to candidates of the capitalist parties.

The district directors of the Steel union from Ohio are at present meeting with the Compensation Bureau in Columbus to demand for the steel workers the unemployment compensation to which they are entitled.

Wall Street Offensive Aims To Cripple Union Movement

By Art Preis

The ferocious, all-out assault of Big Business and its government against the striking coal miners is far more than a strikebreaking attempt against one union.

This bitter battle between the 400,000 soft coal miners and the capitalist government marks a new and more crucial stage in the great social struggle between American capitalism and organized labor that has been unfolding since the end of the war.

The mine strike is developing as a great test of class strength between organized labor and organized capital. That is the real significance of the capitalist government's abandonment of all pretense of impartiality in this fight. That is why the government's capitalist class character is being revealed so nakedly and unashamedly in this struggle.

Behind the government's attempt to crush the AFL United Mine Workers and to victimize their leader John L. Lewis, is the determination of Wall Street to launch a general offensive that will deal all organized labor a smashing and decisive blow.

That was the chief aim of the ruling capitalist class at the end of the war. It had hoped in the period of war production cutbacks, lay-offs, down-grading and reduction of take-home pay, to cripple and paralyze the unions. It had attempted to reduce permanently the American work-

well give up." "This is the final showdown. The Government must write the terms. If it does not, or if it writes them in terms of appeasement, the Government might as well give up."

These political rats who thus incite the use of force and violence against the labor movement hide under a cloak of anonymity. The meeting where they voiced their pent-up hatred of labor was "guarded from public record." "Participants," said the press, "refused later to identify themselves . . . publicly."

Their reasons for hiding their names like poison-pen letter writers is obvious. If their names were made public in association with their real views it would give fresh impetus to the movement for a Labor Party. And that is something these Wall Street political agents fear above everything else.

Call For "Greatest" Demonstration

Evidence of the growing demands for militant action by all organized labor to defend the AFL mine workers, is the appeal made by the 5,000-member local of the Hoosier Workers in Philadelphia. The local wired CIO President Philip Murray and AFL President William Green on Nov. 27 to "alert the entire labor movement for the greatest demonstration in history in the event that John Lewis is sacrificed on the altar of Big Business and a reactionary administration."

Detroit Auto Workers Back Fighting Miners

By E. Kennedy

DETROIT, Nov. 29.—A tremendous wave of solidarity with the striking AFL coal miners is sweeping the CIO auto workers here. The main topic of conversation in the shops is the miners' fight and its importance to the entire labor movement.

Evidence that the UAW-CIO rank and file, unlike the UAW and CIO top leaders, are serious in their expression of support for the miners, is shown by the strongly worded resolutions passed this week by the General Council of Briggs Local 212 and the Dodge Local 3 membership.

These resolutions pledge strike action, if necessary, in order to repel this new attack of Big Business and its government on organized labor.

Local 212's resolution pledges "complete and unqualified support" to the mine workers. It states: "We stand ready to aid them financially, and with strike action if they should find it necessary to call upon us to do so." The resolution further calls upon the International Union "to take a similar stand and to take the lead in organizing a National Labor Conference of AFL, CIO and independent unions to prepare any joint action which may become necessary to defeat this attack on labor."

The only sour note in the Lo-

cal 212 Council meeting was sounded by a leading Stalinist who launched a tirade against John L. Lewis while ostensibly speaking in support of the resolution. He was sharply answered by several delegates and the resolution adopted unanimously.

At the Dodge Local 3 membership meeting, only a couple of members spoke against the resolution and for support of the government under all circumstances. Militant auto workers quickly answered them. Even a Stalinist gave unqualified support to the resolution.

Resentment is growing in the UAW ranks because the national CIO leaders are giving only lip-service support to the miners and because the UAW top leaders have failed to take any action on behalf of the embattled mine union.

The auto militants clearly understand that their own ability to win new wage concessions or even to maintain their present standards will be seriously undermined if the miners' fight is lost. New efforts to force the top leaders into action to aid the miners are expected shortly.

Two Weaknesses In The CIO Wage Policy

The major attention of the recent CIO convention centered on wages. A resolution unanimously endorsed by the convention stated that prices are "inevitably" going to continue upward and it demanded that industry grant "substantial wage increases."

Few workers would dispute the correctness of the CIO's wage policy—as far as it goes. But, unfortunately, it does not go far enough. It leaves unanswered the two decisive questions most workers have in mind when they think of the wage problem today:

1. How can labor defend its standard of living if flat wage increases are quickly wiped out by the continuously rising cost of living, as has happened to the wage gains won last spring?

2. What program of action shall the unions push in order to compel the big monopoly corporations to grant wage increases, particularly in the face of the combined resistance of Big Business and its government to any wage boosts?

The failure of the CIO leaders to answer the first question—how to effectively meet the attack of rising prices—was especially deplorable. They had the answer presented to them on a silver platter by O. A. Knight, president of the Oil Workers International Union.

He described in detail to the CIO convention the contract won by his union from the big Sinclair Refining Co. That con-

tract not only provides for a substantial increase in the basic hourly wage scales—but it has what Knight called a "unique" clause that protects this higher scale from being slashed through the indirect wage-cut of rising prices.

This is the escalator clause, embodying the principle of the sliding scale of wages that The Militant and Socialist Workers Party have advocated since 1938.

The Oil Workers' escalator clause provides an automatic increase in wage rates for every three point rise in the government's cost-of-living index, with the contract reopened every three months. If prices go down, on the other hand, the basic wage cannot be reduced.

No CIO leader, except Joseph

Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, spoke against the oil workers' escalator demand. And Curran's only argument was a brazen misrepresentation of the Sinclair workers' escalator clause.

What honest argument could the CIO leaders give against this sound proposal? Their method of opposing it was simply to ignore it.

Their reason for ignoring the program of the sliding scale of wages did not lie in its merits. Their opposition in reality reflected their reluctance to undertake a militant struggle—the only way in which the sliding scale of wages, like all other major wage demands, can be won.

At the root of the inadequacy of the wage program adopted by

the CIO leaders, is their fear of a real fight with the American plutocracy. That is why even their plea for "substantial wage increases" remained vague.

In the great strike struggles of last winter and spring the CIO unions were battling on isolated sectors, from industry to industry, while the whole capitalist class and all its agencies were mobilized in united opposition to any single union's demands. That is why the strikes were so prolonged and costly. That is why the gains were limited.

Will the big corporations yield any more readily today to simple persuasion and across-the-board collective bargaining? We need only look at the ferocity and all-out scale of the attack now being hurled at the miners

to get the answer.

But CIO President Philip Murray, for instance, offered as his only program to win "substantial wage increases" his piteous plea to the corporate pirates to "Come on; be decent; be gentlemen." You might as well ask a wolf to say grace before devouring a lamb.

The CIO leaders emphasized their reluctance to prepare for militant united action by completely ignoring Walter Reuther's suggestion for building a "ten to twelve million dollar war chest" — Reuther himself didn't seriously push the idea.

If the CIO leaders meant business about winning higher wages, they would have put forward a real nation-wide program

of action.

First of all, they would have advanced the conception of a unified, strategic plan for the entire CIO. They would have proposed a program of joint action to bring to bear on the corporations the entire weight of the estimated 6,000,000 CIO workers.

Secondly, they would have proposed preparations for a showdown fight. The entire CIO membership would be alerted and put on a fighting footing. A special national CIO wage conference, with broad representation from the local unions, would be held to map out preparations and strategy. A clear-cut, unambiguous program of demands would be drafted and presented to the corporations.

Fortunately, the CIO convention didn't say the last word on the coming wage fight. That will be said by the CIO rank and file.

Only a few months ago, the top CIO leaders were doing everything in their power to forestall any wage demands. They were yelling for a roll-back of prices, for a "good" OPA, for "buyers' strikes." But the pressure of the ranks has forced them to come out for reopening wage contracts and to concentrate on wage demands.

That pressure must now be doubled and tripled to force the CIO leaders to advance the progressive principle of the escalator clause and to prepare the CIO for a united, militant fight for higher wages.

CIO Anti-Red Statement Supported By Stalinists

Stalinist co-authorship and support of the anti-communist Declaration of Policy adopted by the recent CIO convention, has evidently aroused much rank and file criticism inside the Communist Party.

To quiet this criticism, the Stalinist leaders feel it necessary to wage a campaign of "enlightenment" in the CP press.

The aim is to convince the disturbed CP members that the Stalinist union leaders were not cowardly capitulators to the red-baiters and anti-Soviet elements when they helped draft and unanimously endorsed the declaration that "we resent and reject efforts of the Communist Party . . . to interfere in the affairs of the CIO." On the contrary, the Stalinist press brazenly claims that this was nothing less than "a great and statesmanlike move."

This "statesmanship" consisted of a behind-the-scenes deal in which the leading Stalinists in the CIO agreed to place the CIO formally on record as opposed to the activities of Communist Party members inside the CIO. In return for this and a pledge to support CIO President Philip Murray's conservative policies, the Stalinists received Murray's verbal assurance that the CIO would not engage in a witch-hunt against them.

JUMP OFF ROOF

Just the day before the CIO convention began, the Nov. 17 issue of *The Worker*, CP Sunday paper, published a lengthy article on the convention issues by George Morris. He attacked "the naive view that the CIO can ward off red-baiting attacks by itself joining the howl against 'reds.' Knuckling down by the CIO would only whet the reactionary appetite . . . Rejection of red-baiting would serve flat notice upon labor's enemies that red-baiting will not succeed as an anti-union weapon." Editorially, the same paper warned that "red-baiting has the same logic as jumping off a roof. Once you start it, there is no telling where it will end."

The Stalinists did not fight red-baiting at the convention. They themselves "jumped off the roof" with the professional red-baiters and agreed to "serve flat notice upon labor's enemies" that the CIO "resents and rejects communism — under which label the reactionaries place all militant labor activities and opinions."

Two days after he wrote that any concession to the red-baiters would only whet their appetites, George Morris was "explaining" in the Nov. 19 *Daily Worker* that the anti-communist Declaration of Policy "was the long sought-for answer of the CIO" to the reactionary demands for a red-purge. The Stalinist party "especially," he says, has "always favored a statement tell-

ing the world the CIO isn't Communist." He concludes that the declaration "leaves the basis for continued unity, freedom of thought and political affiliation."

"STATESMANSHIP"

Evidently this didn't satisfy many CP members. We find the Nov. 24 *Worker* going so far as to claim "the Communist (Stalinist) delegates made a great and statesmanlike move in their determination not to let any outside issue split the convention's unity."

But then George Morris had to try his hand once more, in the Nov. 29 *Daily Worker*. Here he indignantly defends Philip Murray, who forced the Stalinists to sign the anti-communist statement, against some reactionary complaints that Murray didn't go far enough against the "reds." Morris again expounds on the "correctness" of the Stalinists' agreement in principle with the position of the red-baiters "after they succeeded in eliminating all the major damage that the right wing sought to include in it."

The essence of the Stalinist "statesmanship" is to try to conceal the fact that the Declaration of Policy strengthened the hand of the reactionary red-baiters inside the CIO, gave them a formal sanction for continuing and extending their efforts to whip up a witch-hunt against militants and members of working-class political parties.

REVISE RULES

It is true Murray didn't dare to launch an open purge and was compelled by the sentiments of the CIO ranks to voice his opposition to any repressive measures. But the CIO Execu-

16 On Trial For Protesting Police Role In Phila. Strike

(Special to The Militant)

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 30.—Nine months after the bitterly-fought General Electric strike, 16 union men have been hauled into court to stand trial on false charges of rioting, inciting to riot and unlawful assembly.

At the conclusion of this case, ten union leaders will still face trial for contempt of court, allegedly because they failed to observe a vicious injunction limiting picketing.

The trial of the 16 arose out of the response of Philadelphia labor to the injunction issued against Local 119, CIO United Electrical Workers. On Feb. 27, 1946, members representing

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Court Battles Labor



John L. Lewis, AFL United Mine Workers president, entering the Washington courthouse to stand trial for "contempt of court." All organized labor has denounced the government injunction and supports the fighting miners. Federated Pictures

Powerful United Labor Pickets Back Allis-Chalmers Strikers

(Special to The Militant)

MILWAUKEE, Nov. 29.—A militant mass picket line of an estimated 10,000 workers from scores of plants in this area on Nov. 25 halted the attempts of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co. to run scabs into its plants here in an attempt to break the seven-month-old strike.

Estimates of the peak number of pickets ranged between 9,000 and 10,000, according to Al Leggat, CIO United Auto Workers international official. During the day-long mass picketing demonstration, Leggat stated, some 20,000 workers had been in the line at one time or another. At the height of the picketing, there were about 10,000 at all gates. Near the main gate 7 alone, there were about 3,000.

The large number of pickets turned out in response to an appeal by CIO President Philip

Attack On Miners Spurs Drive Against All Labor

(Continued from Page 1)

ers' standard of living, deplete labor's fighting powers and quickly regiment the working class behind American imperialism's program of war against the Soviet Union.

But this arrogant and power-drunk American plutocracy met an unexpected obstacle. American labor fought back. With the CIO in the vanguard, the labor movement unleashed the greatest strike wave this country has ever known.

Big Business did not succeed in its schemes to beat labor to its knees with one quick blow. The mighty American labor movement emerged from the strikes with wage gains, more unified, confident and stronger than ever.

But none of the basic issues had been resolved. Neither side had scored a clear-cut victory. The first stage of the struggle ended in a temporary stalemate, with all the conflicting issues remaining and growing more acute.

Not for an instant did American capitalism abandon its plot against labor. It worked feverishly to prepare a new and more powerful offensive. It laid the basis for a broader onslaught, more determined and savage, to be waged on every front and with every weapon at its command.

What the American ruling class is indicating by its unprecedented attack on the miners is its determination to come to grips now in a decisive fashion with the American working class. It wants to beat down labor once and for all and to clear the path for Wall Street's all-consuming ambition, the destruction of the Soviet Union on its way to unchallenged world domination.

The judicial farce being played in Washington in the court of Federal Judge T. Alan Goldsborough, a small-time political hanger-on of the Democratic administration, plainly reflects the class nature of Washington's assault on the miners.

MAKES IT UP

This judicial wheel-horse, who wouldn't dare to spit out of the window without a nod from higher up, makes up the law as he goes along; tears up federal statutes as he sees fit, issues injunctions; orders contempt trials; denounces the mine strike in the midst of the "impartial" proceedings—all on the direction of the Wall Street administration.

Consider the Judge's actions during the contempt trial against John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers last week. He didn't wait even for the UMW attorneys to present their evidence and arguments. In the very midst of the hearing, he blandly announced that the defendants are guilty of contempt even if the injunction against the mine strike was illegal. He made plain that so far as he was concerned the miners were "guilty" before the case began or the injunction was issued. They were "guilty" for no other reason than daring to fight for their rights.

Attack On Miners Spurs Drive Against All Labor

ists are to crush the miners! How unrestrained they are in the methods they are prepared to use! How united and single-minded they are in their aims! They see in this struggle a chance to break the deadlock between the organized workers and the capitalist class. That is the secret of their all-out mobilization.

This clearly points out the real nature of the struggle. It is not simply a question—vital as it is—of defending the miners. All of organized labor must recognize that what is at stake are the rights and life of the labor movement itself. That is why all the unions must see the need to go further than a mere defense of the miners.

This is a key point in a gigantic social struggle. That struggle must be settled in the interests of the entire working class. It can be resolved only if organized labor, with the same single-mindedness and determination as the capitalists, launches its own tremendous counter-offensive.

The whole titanic power of America's 15,000,000 union men and women must be mobilized and hurled into united action for the conquest of social demands that go far beyond the issue of limited hourly wage increases. American labor must fight for permanent security.

DECISIVE WEAPON

In this fight, the decisive weapon will be political. The mine strike has confirmed what all the past experience of labor has already demonstrated. The most serious weakness of organized labor is its political helplessness. Tied to the capitalist political machines, without any independent party of its own, labor stands the constant prey of the capitalist government apparatus, its corporation-dominated courts, its executives, its legislators.

The present critical test of class strength finds, on the very day after the national elections, not one single voice in Congress to speak out for the miners. Those miserable capitalist "liberals" that labor voted to place in Congress are all lined up with the plotters against labor, demanding labor's blood.

To safeguard its very life, labor must now embark on a new course. It must open up a nationwide united militant struggle, waged remorselessly on every front, political as well as economic. The present deadlock must be broken—but broken in the interests of the vast majority, the working class, and not in the interests of the tiny minority of ruling capitalist exploiters.

Any Old Stick To Beat Miners

The reactionary Virginia state authorities dug around in their dusty law books and last week came up with a state injunction to back up Truman's federal injunction against the striking coal miners.

These new injunctive proceedings are based on the alleged illegal "sale" of memberships in the United Mine Workers. The Virginia State Corporation Commission complains that "solicitation of the memberships violates the state securities law."

The Virginia authorities, seeking any stick to beat the miners, are claiming that urging miners to join the union is the same as selling corporation stocks. Even a law against capitalist swindlers is twisted into an anti-labor club.

Doesn't the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act state explicitly: "No court of the United States shall have jurisdiction to issue any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction in a case involving or growing out of a labor dispute?"

This hand-picked minion of the bosses replies that the government itself is above the law, that this case did not grow out of a labor dispute and that "the court has the right to enjoin a labor union which is about to take steps that would be against the public interest."

If this decision stands, it means that any strike can be made illegal simply by having some class-biased judge enjoin it as "against the public interest."

And the Judge goes further to say that "regardless of whether the Norris-LaGuardia Act applies—that is, even if the injunction was legal—still the miners' refusal to abide by an illegal injunction is a crime, punishable by any sentence the Judge sees fit to mete out. And, anyway, mine strike spells "anarchy."

This strikebreaking injunction, ordering Lewis to announce that the UMW contract with the government is still in effect, is now being used for a further threat to swindle the miners out of millions of dollars in future pay through "fines" to be collected by the mine owners.

The Federal Coal Mines Administration thus announced on Nov. 30 that "yes, we have already authorized numerous individual coal companies to assess fines against their striking miners" for "absenteeism."

How determined the capital-

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The Situation In Poland

Resolution adopted unanimously by the International Executive Committee of the Fourth International, October 1946

The terrorist and pogromist activity of the Polish underground gangs and the diverse manifestations demonstrating a serious current of opposition among the masses against Stalinist policy, pose before the proletariat the task of drawing the lines between itself and both the Bierut regime and the political representatives of the reactionary classes.

The party of Mikolajczyk, the "legal" opposition party, imposed on the Stalinist government by the pressure of Anglo-American imperialism for the purpose of destroying one after another all the reforms introduced since 1944, has tried to channel into this counter-revolutionary path the discontent of the masses, provoked by the criminal policy of Stalinism.

The Fourth International is opposed to pillage, deportation, and the transport of industrial equipment to Russia. It fights for the immediate withdrawal of the occupation troops by propagating fraternization between the Polish masses and the Soviet troops. It demands complete liberty for the labor movement, so as to put a stop to the increasing demoralization of the proletariat, the result of its being in the grip of the Stalinist organizations. It fights simultaneously for the consolidation and broadening of the agrarian reform and the nationalizations, bringing to the forefront the need for workers' control and workers' management. It is through combining this struggle with the most energetic prosecution of the class struggle against the bourgeoisie, the rich peasants, and the clergy, that the Polish workers can build their revolutionary organization and demonstrate to the masses that Stalinism is

really the antithesis of communism.

This is why the Fourth International warns the toiling masses against any confusion between their independent revolutionary actions and the counter-revolutionary anti-Soviet activity of the legal and illegal organizations in the service of the bourgeoisie and imperialists. This sort of organization, such as the party of Mikolajczyk, has nothing in common with the interests of the oppressed masses, but struggles to restore a regime which means for them unspeakable misery.

The Fourth International therefore, is in the forefront of the fight against the NSZ, the Armja Krajova, the terrorist bands, and all reactionary forces. It will try to show the proletariat that the autonomous revolutionary struggle of the masses against reaction wins much more decisive successes, at infinitely less costs, than the Stalinist police action against it. Here is, at the same time, the only way to deprive Stalinism of every possibility of canalizing to its own profit the anti-fascist feelings of the masses.

The International Executive Committee states that any form of support of the Mikolajczyk camp — as for example the "critical support" put forward by the editorial in the September number of the American Shachtmanite *New Internationalist* — means objective support to the drive of imperialism, whereof this camp constitutes the principal fortress in Poland. It denounces this support of a counter-revolutionary bourgeois organization as a break with the Marxist class criterion. Such a position would, in Poland or elsewhere, completely block the road to the building of an internationalist communist party in the country.

Purges, Police Terror Mount As Soviet Crisis Sharpens

By Larissa Reed

Conditions in the coal industry in the Soviet Union, one of the pivotal factors in the achievement of the fourth Five-Year-Plan, are verging on the catastrophic. Coal production has been steadily

dwindling. In one area of the important Kuznetsk coal basin, production is only 8.7 per cent of that before the war; in another only 28 per cent. Another trust in the Moscow coal basin fulfilled only 54 per cent of its plan for the third quarter of this year and only 42.5 per cent of its plan for October.

Coal production of the Don Basin in the Voroshilovgrad area was only 48 per cent of the 1940 production. For many months none of the mines in this area have fulfilled their plans. The Don Basin "owes" 122,000 tons of coal for the first 29 days of November. According to a Moscow dispatch to the N. Y. Times, coal loading operations must now be placed on a 24-hour basis. At the same time, operating expenses have risen to staggering heights. For example, in the Kuznetsk coal region, the cost of producing a ton of coal during the first quarter of this year was 103 per cent greater than in 1940.

PURGE DEEPENS

Deep slashes in real wages, as a result of continued scarcities and higher prices and worsening living conditions, are driving the mine workers into abandoning the mines. To meet this situation the Kremlin has drafted thousands of peasants into the mines and reinforced police repressions in the mining areas through the injections of several thousand Communist Party and Komsomol youth members into the coal fields. Under the familiar charges of graft, embezzlement, mismanagement, swollen administrative staffs, etc.

Thus on Nov. 19 the Moscow Bolshevik complained: "The number of miners is getting smaller every month, yet at the same time the staff of workers in the supply departments on the state farms that supply these mines is . . . highly swollen and includes many men who could be used successfully underground."

The widespread purge in the collective farms continues unabated. In recent weeks some 5,500 members of the Cossack Don River collective farm system were transferred from desks to plows. About 1,500 persons were stricken from the collective farm personnel rolls in the same area.

The struggle against the budding capitalist elements in the villages is growing sharper. Among the measures introduced were the confiscation of some 47,000 privately owned and cultivated strips of "garden" land in the Rostov district alone.

The purge is sweeping into the vast system of consumers' and

producers' cooperatives. Before the war, the distributive cooperatives did an annual business of about 25 billion rubles, distributing through 30,000 societies which maintained 200,000 stores, shops and stalls in the USSR. About 75,000,000 people belonged to these cooperative societies.

Since the end of the war this network of distributive cooperatives has, in effect, become a part of the "free market" — the equivalent of the black market. The bulk of goods allocated to these stores find their way into the hands of speculators. Now the Kremlin is trying to restore its disrupted trade system primarily through the purge.

As a supplementary measure the prices of all rationed goods were recently hiked to the levels prevailing in the black market. This slashed the real wages of the workers, already pitifully low, to one-third and one-fourth.

The purge is continuing in the top layers of the Soviet bureaucracy. On Nov. 15 the presidium of the Moscow Collegium of Lawyers was disbanded for not having eliminated money grabbing and "other amoral actions," according to *Izvestia*, the government newspaper.

CHILD LABOR

To meet the acute labor shortage, more and more young children are being dragged out of elementary schools and thrown into State labor battalions. According to a Nov. 14 Moscow dispatch to the N. Y. Times, "students who show no great promise in elementary or secondary schools are mobilized for labor reserves."

To stifle protests of indignation, union committees are commanded to explain to their families "the particular significance of the preparation of state labor reserves" in fulfilling the Five-Year Plan.

All these reported developments, give only a partial picture of the drastic measures taken by the Stalin regime. But they suffice to disclose the sharpening crisis in the USSR. Far from alleviating the antagonism between the rule of the bureaucracy and the needs of the Soviet masses and the country's economic life, it is clear that the war has resulted in a monstrous aggravation of this contradiction.

Today the situation is most acute at the very inception of the Five-Year-Plan. And the first year is decisive so far as its success is concerned. Thus the balance sheet of the first year of the Fourth Five-Year-Plan shows that a profound crisis is convulsing one branch after another of Soviet industry, agriculture and cultural life.

Soviet Collectives Holding Back Grain

By John G. Wright

The Soviet Union is now in the throes of the gravest agricultural crisis since the famine that convulsed the country during the First Five Year Plan. For the first time since the introduction of collective farming there has been a nation-wide breakdown of grain deliveries by the peasants to the state. This information was made public in a leading editorial in Pravda on Nov. 23, and cabled to this country two days later by Drew Middleton, Moscow correspondent of the N. Y. Times.

The Pravda editorial is ostensibly a report on the fulfillment of grain deliveries but it omits the most important grain producing areas in the USSR, among them the RSFSR, the largest republic, and the Ukraine, once the granary of the USSR. Byelorussia, Moldavia and Kazakhstan are likewise omitted. The text of the editorial covers these omissions as follows: "There are many districts and whole regions that are lagging far in delivering the grain to the state."

EXTEND RATIONING

In many areas the peasants are permitting the grain to rot in the fields. According to Pravda, "many regions of the eastern and southeastern Urals and elsewhere" have left large quantities of grain unthreshed. Peasants in other areas refuse to make deliveries although Pravda maintains, they possess "stocks of grain sufficient for fulfilling and overfulfilling the plan of supplies, gathering seed stocks and satisfying the needs of the collective farms."

Bread rationing, which the Kremlin has repeatedly promis-

ed to abolish this year, has been extended to the next year. Prices of rationed foods in Soviet cities, already inordinately high, have doubled and tripled in the last period. The workers face a hungry winter, with shortages even more acute than in wartime. The entire Fourth Five Year Plan is obviously endangered by the crisis in agriculture.

The responsibility for this grave situation rests wholly on the shoulders of the Kremlin. As The Militant has consistently pointed out, the growth of capitalist tendencies in the collective farms has been fostered and intensified by Stalin's policies. These capitalist elements have now struck by sabotaging the grain deliveries.

The Stalin regime has no policy for emerging out of the crisis except through police measures, its one and only resort. Pravda places the blame for the collapse of grain deliveries on "party Soviet organs of backward regions."

This means that the purge which has been in progress throughout 1946 will be stepped up. But the collective farms and the rural administrations have already been purged drastically. Thus, by last August, more than 50 per cent of the incumbent party and Soviet officials in the Ukraine alone were reported removed. The entire existing administrative machinery is being plunged into chaos without in any way ameliorating the situation.

British Atrocities In Palestine



With barbed wire barricades, armored cars and police hordes the British have turned Jerusalem into an armed camp. British ships continue to seize refugee-laden vessels seeking to enter the Holy Land. While Truman hypocritically suggests Britain open the doors of Palestine to 100,000 refugees, he keeps the doors to the U. S. tight shut.

Federated Pictures

Wages, Prices and Profits

The Fake "Spiral Of Wages And Prices"

By Warren Creel

In times of inflation we commonly speak of "cheaper money." Sometimes this idea is expressed by a more precise statement, such as that the dollar has gone down to 65 cents in purchasing power, compared with some earlier time.

These popular terms, such as "65-cent-dollars," and now even "50-cent dollars" are scientifically correct, as far as they go. It is correct to look at inflation as a process of cheapening money. Inflation has been seen many times in the world's history, and the end result of it is that all prices, including wages, finally go up to new levels to match the new cheapened value of money.

Thus, if money is cheapened to the level of 50 cent dollars, the result, after a slow and painful period of adjustment, is that all prices and wages would be doubled. It would take twice as many of the "50-cent dollars" for a purchase as it took before the inflation. Also it would take twice as many "50-cent dollars" to pay a day's wages.

Really, neither wages nor prices would have changed in relation to each other. In an inflation the value of money changes in relation to both wages and prices. As Marx said: "In such a case nothing would have been changed, either in the productive powers of labor, or in supply and demand, or in values. Nothing would have been changed except the money names of those values. To say that in such a case the workman ought not to insist upon a proportionate rise in wages, is to say that he must be content to be paid with names instead of with things. All past history proves that whenever such a depreciation of money occurs, the capitalists are on the alert to seize this opportunity of defrauding the workman." (Value, Price & Profit.)

The American capitalists have invented a new and fraudulent theory called "the spiral of wages and prices" for the present inflation. They say the cure for inflation is low wages, because wage increases force price increases, which force wage increases, which force more price increases,—and so on. That's their "spiral," regardless of the value of money. Even proposed anti-labor legislation is excused by this new "spiral theory" yet it has no standing even in capitalist economics.

It's so far wrong that serious capitalist economists see danger in it. For instance, Prof. F. A. Fetter of Princeton writes, on the editorial page of the Saturday Evening Post of July 13, 1946:

"We hear much talk of the wage-price spiral, as if increasing wages and prices were the mutual cause of each other, but the real cause is outside the spiral, it is the excessive supply of money. No wage settlement, however costly, can long endure under these conditions . . . industrial warfare is inevitable."

Further, "The real cause of inflation is well known alike to students of theory and to practical financiers. Without a shadow of a doubt, that cause is the enormous increase of money and of bank demand deposits (checking accounts) . . . This increase began soon after the gold content of the dollar was reduced in 1933-34, and has been enhanced by constant sales of Government bonds to meet continual budget deficits throughout eight years of profound (sic) peace and four years of global war. The banks now own a large part of the national debt."

He then lists a number of signs which show that the government in various direct and indirect ways has been printing money and pumping it into the economic system during this period. Among them: Money of all kinds outstanding was less than six billion dollars in 1933 and had increased to 29 billion dollars in 1945. Bank deposits in checking accounts were 15 billion dollars in 1933 and had grown to 106 billion dollars in 1945, and so on. He adds: "The salient fact is that in all these respects the increase has been from five to eight fold. Nothing comparable has ever occurred before in our financial history. Nearly all prices, and wages too, have been rising, but more tardily, as is normal in such cases, and are still rising toward a peak not yet attained. That is the impending catastrophe . . ."

"This is the central problem, not merely the temporary scarcity of some consumer's goods whose prices are out of line with the rest of the price system. To deal with the real cause, anything and everything must be done that will reduce the excessive amount of money in circulation and will check the inflationary use of bank deposits . . . Unless Washington does something effective to stop inflation, we are headed for the greatest financial explosion in our history."

The capitalists, who are merely talking spiral and using the inflation to defraud the workers, are fiddling while Rome burns, and it has Prof. Fetter worried. He sees that it's time to face the facts. Yet his own proposed remedies, such as "increasing bank reserve requirements," don't go to the heart of the trouble either.

As we shall see, the extra price now going on our groceries is the delayed result of the medicine which sick capitalism has been taking through the past two decades.

Trotskyists Defend Marxist Line In Debate With Greek Stalinists

The second debate between the Trotskyists and Stalinists in Athens, Greece, took place on Nov. 3 in the Alikki theater. The subject was "Which Way for Greece—People's Democracy or Socialist Soviet Democracy?"

The Trotskyist speaker opened the discussion. "If the objective possibility of a 'people's democracy' really existed in Greece," he said; "if the productive forces can really develop without the overthrow of capitalism; if a peaceful and gradual transition to socialism is also possible—then all the tactical and strategic appraisals of Marx and Lenin must be rejected. The issue in this discussion is the correctness of the scientific foundation of revolutionary Marxism."

Reviewing the history of the

Belgian Workers To Protest Price Rise

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Nov. 21.—The Belgian General Labor Federation is organizing a general strike throughout the whole country for Dec. 5, as a protest against the recent increases in retail prices. Monster demonstrations, to expose the disparity between wages and prices, are to be held on that date.

British Trotskyist Faces Trial For Distributions To POW's

(Special to The Militant)

LONDON, Nov. 18.—What may prove to be an important test case and exposure of the British Labor Government's "re-education" of German prisoners of war is the coming trial of William Cleminson, a member of the Sheffield Branch of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British section of the Fourth International. Cleminson has been summoned to appear before the local court on the charge of distributing written material to German POWs.

A campaign calling for support and funds for a Defense Committee is being made by the RCP. Its circular to all trade unions and workers' organizations states:

"All workers who value the ideas of internationalism and working class solidarity, and who wish to assist the German so-

14 British Soldiers Face Court-Martial

LONDON, Nov. 21.—For demonstrating and protesting against the recent slowing down of demobilization, 14 British soldiers are to face court-martial. It is believed that these troops are from those stationed in Tel-el-Kebir, Port Said, Suez and Appasi, where strikes and protest meetings by the soldiers recently took place.

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for the Stalinist, and 32 blank. In the previous debate the Trotskyists got 189 votes and the Stalinists 542.

Labor Struggle, organ of the Trotskyists, published articles supplementing answers to the questions asked by the workers during the two debates. To show the correctness of the Trotskyist program, Labor Struggle compared predictions made by the two parties during 'underground days.

An example is the following quotation taken from the Stalinist theoretical organ, Communist Review, of March 1943:

"Now in this period when the war is shifting in favor of the Allies, that is Liberty, all our people rejoice and are heartened. But in this climax of high hopes and enthusiasm come the vultures, the paid Trotskyists, croaking from the roof:

"LIBERATION"

"A wave of hope has swept the people because of the victories of English and American imperialism in Africa. But the English and American imperialists, if they come to Greece will not liberate us. In cooperation with the Greek capitalists they will continue the job of German and Italian imperialism. They will rebuild the old Greek bourgeois state for the purpose of continuing our slavery."

In the light of such a quotation, asks Labor Struggle, who followed correct policy and who betrayed the masses? And for telling such truths as quoted above from the official Stalinist organ, the Stalinists murdered more than 100 Trotskyists during the civil war!

Greek Terror Mounts As King Jails Thousands

Latest issues of Labor Struggle describe the continuing terror in Greece under the Anglo-American protected monarchy. Labor Struggle is the weekly newspaper of the International Communist Party (Fourth International).

In Salonika, reports this Trotskyist organ, the average number of arrests each day is 200. Through the streets of the city, in addition, endless lines of prisoners arrested in the villages march on their way to the penal islands.

Already far more prisoners are held than in the days of the dread Metaxas dictatorship when some 60,000 were under arrest. Death sentences are passed out on wholesale scale.

In Peleponnesia and Sterea armed monarchist bands range unfettered. On Oct. 23, for instance, monarchists raided a village, tortured inhabitants and murdered 11 people.

In the last few days similar bands killed seven people in Calamata, six in Sterea, four in Volos, one in Atalanti, one in Agrini and a large number in Epiri.

Among those executed by the government was Vilos, an Arch-eco-Marxist. He was condemned to death on the charge that a rusty revolver had been found near his room.

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Fourth International

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR DECEMBER

Is The U. S. Heading Towards
A New Depression An Editorial

The Decline of Capitalism and the Jewish Tragedy By A. Leon

The Jackson Period in American History By Harry Frankel

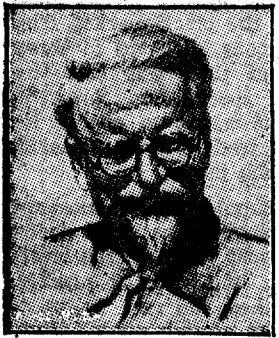
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"The transition from a bourgeois society to a socialist society presupposes the activity of living men who are the makers of their own history . . . Their own actions — their initiative, audacity, devotion, and likewise their stupidity and cowardice — are necessary links in the chain of historical development."
 —Leon Trotsky

Who Is To Blame?

The postwar world is here. Not the rose-hued world of enduring peace and plenty promised by Wall Street's high-paid publicity experts during the war. But the brutal postwar world of general instability, turmoil and strife.

Instead of security, the workers face the combined assault of the capitalists and their government — an assault rolling with all the ruthlessness of a flame-throwing tank. And the workers are forced to defend themselves with their strike weapon.

Who is to blame?

The capitalists blame the workers, naturally. The capitalist class, to read its propaganda, is always right. This tiny clique of plutocrats, having fallen heir to the world's greatest fortunes, thinks about nothing night and day except how to improve the lot of the poverty-stricken masses in its power!

If the postwar world looks tougher than advertised during the war, say the capitalists, it's the workers who are to blame—the workers with their unholy greed for enough wages to keep up the standard of living of their families.

If the workers would only tighten their belts, forget their inconsiderate ideas about a decent living, and permit the cosmically wealthy bankers and stockholders and monopolists to continue pushing prices into the stratosphere, then all the ills of the United States would vanish. That is, all the ills worth worrying about.

That's the capitalist fairy tale. But what is the truth?

The truth is that as capitalism grows older, shakier and more decrepit, it staggers blindly from one crisis to the next, from a fearsome depression to a worse one.

Production capacity of the industrial system has far out-stripped its profit capacity. The capitalists consequently limit production, raise prices, drive down wages, try to crush competition, go to war—anything to bring up profits.

The workers and farmers thus face increasing insecurity, grinding poverty and death in imperialist war. Only socialism, which would end the profit limitation now shackling the industrial system, points the way out for them.

Today capitalism can no longer be stabilized on a level that will assure even minimum security to the masses. The present difficulties faced by the workers—bitter struggle just to keep wages in line with prices! — are just a sample of what the grim future holds in store if capitalism continues to rule.

No, it's not the workers who are to blame for the ills afflicting America. It's the general instability of the decaying capitalist system.

A Statistical Trap

The mounting pressure for a sliding scale of wages has been recognized by Wall Street. An editorial in the November 26 Journal of Commerce grudgingly admits that the wage escalator clause in the contract Sinclair Oil signed with the CIO Oil Workers Union "sets a pattern."

As reported in last week's Militant, the oil workers won an 18 cents hourly increase from Sinclair. To protect this new wage level, the contract provides for a premium payment whenever the cost of living goes up three points. Adjustments are made every three months. In the event living costs decline, premiums can be lowered. But wages, according to the contract, cannot be cut below the new level just won. This level constitutes the minimum wage.

The Journal says that "By means of this provision, both employer and employee are protected during a period when living costs are subject to conflicting influences and may fluctuate over a wide range."

The editorial thus reveals how closely Big Business studies the trends in the labor movement. The giant corporations recognize that sentiment for a sliding scale of wages is rapidly mounting and that it can become one of the unions' main demands in the near future.

The editors of the Journal undoubtedly be-

lieve Wall Street may be forced to concede this demand. But this does not mean that Wall Street's bag of tricks is exhausted. Far from it.

The corporations hope to undermine the effect of the sliding scale by a very cunning device—doctored statistics.

The big outfits would prefer to use figures padded by statisticians in their pay. But this is obviously too crude. No union would easily be caught in such a trap.

Here is where Wall Street's political agents in Washington come in. They can camouflage doctored statistics with the mask of government "impartiality."

Wall Street's politicians, for instance, control the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. If the unions agree to base wage adjustments on figures issued by this Bureau, then cost of living premium payments can be kept down by lowering the figures in favor of the profiteers. It's as simple as loaded dice!

How real this danger is can be judged from the already notorious way in which the Bureau of Labor Statistics juggles figures. Both the AFL and the CIO have shown that the government's index on the rise in the cost of living is false.

The answer to this stratagem is clear. In fighting for the sliding scale of wages, the unions must insist on statistics compiled by their own services such as the AFL and CIO Research Bureaus.

The CIO Oil Workers broke ground for the entire labor movement in winning a wage escalator clause. But the full protective benefit of this clause is yet to be won. The contract accepts the price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics as the basis for cost-of-living wage adjustments. It is this feature of the contract that is played up by the Journal.

The Oil Workers, however, will quickly discover in practice how the doctored statistics of this Government Bureau help the company. In the next round of the battle they must insist on using statistics verified by the CIO.

Stalinist Definition

The Foster-Dennis regime has given a curious answer to the criticisms of the rank and file over class-collaborationist policies followed by the leadership. The Stalinist bureaucrats call the critics "red-baiters" and have expelled them by the score.

The Maritime Worker, issued by the Water-front Committee of the Communist Party of San Francisco, for instance, says that four expelled trade unionists carried on "a red-baiting campaign of their own . . . Of course, their red-baiting SOUNDS different than that used by the ship-owners . . . They say that the Communist Party isn't 'radical' enough for them. They say that the Party is 'too conservative' . . . they say that we are 'reformist.'"

Red-baiting, as every class-conscious worker knows, is a weapon of the capitalist class. Confronted with union demands, company agents attempt to divert attention from the real issues. They claim the employees have no legitimate grievances but have simply been "stirred up" by "reds." The red-baiters aim to persecute the militants, split the union and destroy its fighting power.

But political criticism is not "red-baiting," no matter how the term is stretched by a cynical bureaucrat. Even a revolutionary socialist party can be criticized from the left. The criticism can be false, but that doesn't make the critic a "red-baiter."

In this case, however, the Stalinist party is not revolutionary and its critics are right. They have begun to see that Stalinism is rotten to the core. One of the evidences of this rottenness is the fact it pins the label "red-baiter" on honest political opponents.

If it be "red-baiting" to make such mild observations about the Foster-Dennis regime as did the four expelled trade unionists in San Francisco, then it is also "red-baiting" to call a strikebreaker a scab.

Mine Owners' Lies

How the capitalist press slants the news against the labor movement is graphically shown by its handling of mine owners' propaganda in the coal strike.

Harry G. Kennedy, a paid lickspittle of the Kanawha Coal Operators Association, issued a statement to the press that "mine owners had been advised by their attorneys" that an extension of credit to strikers by company stores "might be construed as a violation of the Smith-Connelly Act" and of "the order issued in Washington before the strike by Federal Judge T. Alan Goldsborough."

Cooked up in the inner sanctum of the Southern coal operators, this propaganda smells so rotten that any objective editor would have brushed it into the waste basket without a second glance. What has the extension of credit got to do with the Smith-Connelly Act? Don't the miners have to pay for whatever they buy? And at prices notorious among even the most ruthless profit-gougers? Did the Federal Judge issue an injunction stopping the credit system for the duration of the strike?

This coal operators' propaganda is obviously nothing but a threat to starve the miners into submission. Its legal pretense about conforming to the Smith-Connelly Act cannot stand the slightest examination.

Yet the capitalist press gave this threat a big play. The November 27 N. Y. Times ran it on the front page. The Times even tried to perfume the stench of this coal operators' swill!

In the great sweep of the coal strike this incident may not seem important. But it shows once again to what great lengths the capitalist press will go to present in a favorable light the worst company lies against the workers.



"But doctor, you can't cure my case of nerves if you're going to wear a lamp like that!"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

WHAT HAPPENED IN HISTORY by Gordon Childre.
 Penguin Books, reprinted 1946.
 275 pp., 25 cents.

This book, written by a well known English archeologist, refutes capitalist pretensions that man has always been what he is today, that human nature always remains the same, and that the present capitalist organization of the economic and social system is fixed and eternal.

Professor Childre goes back to the first evidences of man's social life some "500,000, perhaps 250,000 years ago." From this Paleolithic stage of Savagery he surveys the evolution of mankind up to the builders of the Roman Empire some 1,500 years ago. Even this recorded history is only a fraction of the life-span of the human race till now.

Man, he states, emerged as a "rare animal" and a "food-gatherer," that lived like any other beast of prey. This vast period of Savagery lasted during nearly 98 per cent of humanity's sojourn on this planet. Even to this day, "it is still practiced by a few backward and isolated societies."

Childre points out that what distinguished man from other animal species was his development of hand and brain. When man developed the first, simplest tool, he entered upon the long upward climb toward civilization. His first tool was probably a broken branch or a chipped stone. Today these tools include the gigantic and fearsome power of atomic energy.

Man himself has changed as

he changed the material conditions of his existence and fought for mastery over nature. When he evolved language, the author points out, he "pooled" experience. No longer did man have to start from the first beginnings; instead, he went forward on the shoulders of preceding generations.

About 10,000 years ago man made one of his major conquests over nature, through the cultivation of plants and breeding of domestic animals. This new "food-producing" economy marked man's emergence into the higher stage of Barbarism.

It was only some 5,000 years ago in the Nile Valley when man initiated the production of a surplus of foodstuffs. This supported a new urban population of specialized craftsmen and merchants through which man emerged into the dawn of civilization. With civilization came private property and the formation of classes—the rulers and the ruled, the rich and the poor. With class society came class struggle. In this book the author shows the first evidences of the strike as a weapon of the toilers.

The author concludes his book before the emergence of capitalism — the most recent economic and political social system which has brought this class struggle to its highest point. But the reader cannot fail to draw the most striking conclusion from this book: that capitalism, far from being fixed and final, is only a brief and transitory episode in the history of man's struggle toward full emancipa-

tion and freedom.

This book is not only valuable in information. It is an aid in breaking the hypnosis of capitalist propaganda, whose main aim is to keep the workers in ignorance and prevent them from making their next great historic step forward, into socialism.

—Larissa Reed

THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER by Carson McCullers. Penguin Books, 1946.
 304 pp., 25 cents.

Carson McCullers mercilessly exposes the narrowness and brutality of a Southern town, as the characters in her novel unfold their lonely, thwarted lives.

Each person pours out his thoughts to John Singer — the deaf-mute who seems to understand them all. The most memorable are Dr. Copeland, a Negro physician who tries to teach Marxism to his people; and Jake Blount, a wanderer looking for a radical solution to the degradation he sees everywhere.

Dr. Copeland's own children accept their fate as Negroes in a bigoted community, but their surrender does not save them. Willie, arrested and thrown into solitary confinement, emerges from prison as a cripple. The story draws to a close with a brawl unleashing the anti-Negro hysteria of the Southern whites.

Dramatic, well-written, and especially good for its understanding of the Negro fighting for emancipation, *The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter* is recommended reading.

—Ruth Benson

Our Program:

1. **Defend labor's standard of living!**
 A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!
 Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!
 Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers' control!
2. **Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!**
 For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!
 Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!
 Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
3. **Against all anti-labor laws and government strikebreaking!**
 No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!
 No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
4. **Build an independent labor party!**
5. **Tax the rich, not the poor!**
 Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!
 No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
6. **An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!**
7. **Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!**
 End Jim-Crow! End Anti-Semitism!
8. **For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!**
9. **A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.**
 Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!
 Against capitalist conscription!
 Abolish the officer caste system!
 Full democratic rights in the armed forces!
 Trade union wages for the armed forces!
 Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
10. **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!
11. **For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!**

Agents Of Imperialism In The Labor Movement

Wall Street imperialism's red-baiting drive against militant labor and its propaganda-preparations for war against the Soviet Union are being eagerly aided by a particularly unsavory crew in the labor movement—the Social Democrats.

These self-styled "democrats" and "socialists" are acting as the spearhead of the reactionary elements in the CIO who are calling for suppressions of "communists" and for a "tough" policy against the Soviet Union.

At the recent CIO convention, the floor leader of the pro-war jingoes and undemocratic Social Democrats was Jack Altman, of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees. He took the lead in pushing for repressive measures against members of the Communist Party and in opposing any resolutions which did not conform 100 per cent to the foreign policies and war plans of U. S. imperialism.

It was likewise noteworthy that United Auto Workers President Walter Reuther, who likes to represent himself at times as a "socialist" and who claims to be a progressive, played a behind-the-scenes role in trying to initiate a purge against "communists." Since his election to the UAW presidency, Reuther has alienated much militant support in the UAW because of his red-baiting. He was on the six-man committee that drafted the CIO's anti-communist Declaration of Policy.

Jack Altman, a more direct representative of the American Social-Democrats, openly and shamelessly espoused the full reactionary program of American imperialism. He sought to introduce a direct attack on the Soviet Union in the CIO's foreign policy resolution. He took the floor as the sole delegate to object to even the mild criticism of American foreign policy contained in the resolution. He opposed the CIO's endorsement of American labor's traditional stand against universal peacetime military conscription.

Altman's statements were so reactionary that both Philip Murray and Van A. Bitner, old-line conservative trade union leaders, were impelled to rebuke him publicly.

In Europe, the Social-Democrats share with the Stalinists an equal responsibility for betraying the

Out in The Cold

Homeless veterans and workers are being kept on the streets while rooms and apartments stay empty. Greedy landlords in Dallas, Texas boast of padlocking "at least 3,000 housing units" in the drive to extort higher rents from desperate home-seekers.

"The landlords aren't fooling," said the president of the Texas outfit, Statewide Landlords, Inc. The nationwide withdrawal of empty dwellings has already deprived the homeless of 300,000 units as winter begins.

workers to the rotted capitalist regimes. In this country, they have been forced to take a back seat, particularly during the war when the Stalinists outshouted them in professing their slavish devotion to American capitalism's war.

Naturally, these yellow "socialists" found it a little difficult to spill their venom against the Soviet Union during the wartime honeymoon between Stalin and U. S.-British imperialism. Now they are trying to make up for lost time.

The Social-Democrats are no less reactionary than the Stalinists. They merely serve different masters. The Social-Democrats are servants of their own "democratic" capitalists. The Stalinists are primarily servants of the Kremlin bureaucracy. Both cliques seek to dominate the labor movement in order to betray it.

On the real issues before labor, especially the fight for higher wages, the Social-Democrats and the Stalinists at the CIO convention revealed not a hair's-breadth of difference in policy. Both supported Murray's policy of conservatism in wage demands and opposition to a program of militant action.

The slimy role of the "Social-Democrats" is to act as a "socialist" bait to lure the workers into the camp of "their own" capitalists in the war American imperialism is planning to wage against the Soviet Union.

Federal Reserve Board Shows Trend To Crisis

There's a depression coming and Big Business knows it. Every week some admission of the coming crash is carried in the financial section of the capitalist press, while the grasping corporations keep on demanding higher prices that can only speed up the catastrophe looming before the American workers.

On Nov. 28 the Federal Reserve Board revealed that the value of goods distributed in October fell below the level of production and that inventories increased. This continues the trend since June. That means that as prices soar, workers are buying less and less of what they produce. All their pay is needed for food and rent alone. They can't afford radios, refrigerators, and washing machines. They can't even buy winter clothes; proof of this is that for the first time in years retail stores are running clearance sales in the middle of the season to unload part of their surplus stocks.

The same report stated that price advances in wholesale and retail markets after the lifting of controls sent the consumers' price index up two per cent from the September level and 15 per cent above the figure at the close of the war. And this is a conservative estimate.

Inflation drastically reduced the workers' real wages—slashed their buying power. Wage gains won last Spring by a large section of organized labor have already been wiped out by rising living costs.

That is why the inventory — the accumulation of goods in warehouses and on shelves—is growing. By the end of September it amounted to 32 billions of dollars, and was steadily mounting. There's "too much" of all the things the workers need—too much because they cannot buy. When this happens, capitalism inevitably faces depression.

Rather than keep turning out goods they can't sell, the bosses "cut production." They lay off thousands of workers, who then can't buy even a trickle of goods.

As the first victims are laid off, and production is slashed, more workers are laid off, and production goes even lower, until the unemployed number in the millions. The workers suffer, but the capitalists hope by cutting "labor costs" and by exorbitant prices to keep up their profits even though less goods are produced.

The capitalists run the factories for profit, not to meet the needs of the people. If management of production is left in their hands, we will see an even worse crash than the 1929-1939 depression, which was ended temporarily only by the Second World War.

Have you noticed how nickle-plating shops use "before and after" exhibits in their window displays? Next to a tarnished, smudged vase out of some ash can they stand a job fresh from the electrolytic bath. You can see your face in the shimmering surface.

The Democrats and Republicans make an exhibit like that before and after the election — only in reverse. Before election the promises of a capitalist politician look like solid 24-karat gold. How they shine and glitter! But after election — try to find a single campaign promise that doesn't look like a rusty can on the city dump.

Remember how the Truman Administration soft-soaped the miners when they filed notice on termination of contract? Remember how Collinson, the Coal Mines Administrator, announced he had full authority to discuss all disputed issues, including wages, hours and working conditions? Remember, just before election, how the last thing Washington had in mind was "getting tough" with the miners?

Remember how all the capitalist politicians, all the Republicans and Democrats and their allies and friends, proclaimed to the high heavens their undying love for labor — just before election? Remember how they asked the union man to put "labor's friends" in office? Nothing

was too good for labor, said these professional hand-pumpers, back-slappers and big-smile artists.

But once the Republicans and Democrats got another lease on Washington what happened to the shiny promises?

These "friends" immediately cracked down on labor. They forced 400,000 miners off the job. They unmuzzled and unleashed the Wall Street lawyers who had been yelping for a go at labor. They combed through half a century of accumulated legal rubbish — back to the 1894 Pullman strike injunction — hunting for some "precedent" to take the curse off their latest illegal injunction. They wheeled out a black-robed judge and through the amplifying system of the capitalist press converted his snarl against the miners into thunderous roars against the entire working class.

And the whole pack of capitalist politicians took up the howl against labor. "Liberal" Republicans and Democrats in Congress who had sworn public oaths of love for labor sent communications — anonymously — to Truman, demanding he get still tougher — even if it meant "blood shed." The capitalist press, naturally, gave front page headlines to these cowardly, yellow-bellied, anonymous incitements to murder.

Yes, there's quite a difference in the appearance of capitalist politicians before and after an election. They take a high campaign polish. But it doesn't last long in office!

The Negro Struggle

The Most Inspiring Gathering

By William E. Bohannon

The Twelfth Convention of the Socialist Workers Party, held in Chicago last month, was the most inspiring gathering I have ever attended.

Down to the marrow of our bones we understood, as we left the convention, that the SWP was the party that was going to lead the American workers in creating a new socialist society of security, brotherhood and peace.

The SWP has undergone a great internal change since its previous convention in 1944. Not only has it had a healthy growth in this time; it has also become a party of the workers in every sense, in composition as well as in theory and program. And what is especially encouraging — it is now a party of Negro as well as white workers.

For many years the SWP worked among the Negro people, taking a leading position in their struggles and presenting a practical program to kill Jim Crow. But we had only a small percentage, a mere handful of Negro members in our party. Today that is different. Negro militants learned that the SWP was the only party that did not betray the Negro struggle during the war, the only party that continued to fight against Jim Crow under all conditions. And the result is that our Negro comrades now represent one-fifth of the Socialist Workers Party membership.

At the convention I was able to meet and talk with many of these new members. I

found that they were serious men and women and that while they had not been in the SWP for a long time they were not newcomers in the fight for a better world. On the contrary, they already have long and honorable records in the unions, Negro organizations, veterans' groups, women's organizations, etc. Their experiences in these fields will be a great boon to our party.

Among the highlights of the convention was a panel on Negro work, attended by about 100 Negro and white comrades, which lasted for almost four hours one evening. Here we had a fruitful exchange of experiences from all parts of the country. As we listened to the reports, we had every reason to be proud of the part the SWP had played in the Negro struggle in recent years.

We also had a general discussion on perspectives, along the line of the program of action adopted by the convention. We discussed ways and means of advancing the struggle against Jim Crow, and came to agreement on the tactics we would follow in spreading our revolutionary message during the coming period.

One thing seemed clear to me: We are going to make big progress in the months that lie ahead. We have the core of experienced and enthusiastic people, we have the right program, and we know that the Negro people are looking for a way out of their misery and degradation. Before the Thirteenth Convention of the SWP rolls around, we are going to deliver some powerful blows against Jim Crow and the capitalist system that nourishes and sponsors Jim Crow.

Which Side Are You On?

By Ruth Benson

A treacherous attack was made upon the fighting mine workers last week by nine former officers, present officers and members of a local office of the CIO Newspaper Guild in Washington, D. C. Their attack came in the face of the overwhelming support of the miners by every section of organized labor, including both the AFL and CIO.

The capitalist press of course gleefully printed the statement, trying to make it appear that the desertion of this handful of individuals was a break in the solid ranks of labor. They smugly played up the arguments of these Guild members, which had been lifted bodily out of the boss press's own propaganda.

One of these arguments was that the mine strike is not "an ordinary labor dispute" but a test of "the government's sovereign power." And another, that there's a "difference" between the use of injunctions by a private employer and by the government.

What these Guild members don't see or don't admit is that the government itself is nothing but the executive committee for Big Business. It intervenes in every major strike, on the side of the employers against the workers.

The fiction that the government is an "impartial arbitrator" standing above the working class and the capitalist class, has been refuted in life over and over again. During and since the war, the government has openly supported the corporations against the workers. It is enough to recall the most recent occasions, last winter and spring when the government "seized" the packing plants, the mines and the railroads, in order to drive the workers back to their jobs.

The mine strike does not create a "different" situation, as the Guild writers claim, because it involves "a strike against the government." Every strike which affects a large industry today is or will become a strike against the government, which intervenes as the agent of the owners.

The real question is: What stand should the workers take in such a strike? Where do they belong, when one section of labor faces a struggle against the united forces of the bosses and their political tools, the courts, Congress and the Administration?

The answer, already given by the entire organized labor movement, in the case of the mine workers, is: With the strikers, supporting their demands and their struggles against both the owners and the government.

Veterans' Problems

Record Of SWP Vets

By Alvin Royce

After following the proceedings of the official veterans' organizations, the sessions of the Veterans Panel at the Socialist Workers Party came like a long-awaited breath of fresh air. Trotskyist vets from more than 25 areas throughout the country met to exchange and discuss their experiences. There was no haggling or name calling and very few words were wasted. Unlike many veterans' gatherings, these vets didn't come for a drunken spree or to make pretty speeches.

Many Militant readers are unfamiliar with how members of the SWP participate in the mass movement. These readers would be glad to know that report after report at the Panel indicated that Trotskyists played an important role in almost every major veterans' struggle since the GIs have come home. We can only give a brief review of some of these activities here.

During the great steel and auto strikes last year these vets were in the forefront of the organization of the union vet committees. These committees in many localities were the very backbone of the tremendous victories that the labor movement chalked up early this year.

But the need for trade union veteran committees didn't pass away with the end of the strikes. Veterans everywhere considered their union to be their "best veterans" organization. Whenever these vets had a problem they took it to the one place that enjoyed their confi-

dence — the union hall.

In spite of the obvious need for trade union organization of the veterans, reports at the panel indicated that the present leadership of unions desperately fear the responsibility of such a task. Most of these leaders have been advising the vets in their union to join one of the major organizations. Dubinsky, Reuther and a few others have indicated their support for the American Veterans Committee. However, all militant veterans will continue to fight for organization of the vets by the unions for that is the best means of uniting the workers and veterans in their fight for a decent way of life.

It was also evident from the discussion that the vets, as yet, haven't moved on any mass scale on any strictly veterans issue. Veterans were prominently active in anti-fascist demonstrations and housing actions throughout the country but none of these rallied any mass activity among the veterans.

However, the present stage of the veterans struggle is not the final one. If the vets are the most insecure in these days of relative "prosperity," what will their fate be when this country is hit by the next depression? The vets will be the first evicted, the first to get pay-cuts and the first fired from their jobs.

No one can predict when the veterans will move or what veterans' organization will lead that struggle. But after sitting in on the SWP Veterans Panel, one prediction can safely be made. Wherever or whenever the veterans move, vets armed with the program of the Socialist Workers Party will be in the thick of it.

THE MILITANT

Teachers Strike Shuts All Schools In St. Paul

By Grace Carlson

ST. PAUL, Nov. 29—Now in its fifth day, the largest teachers' strike in the history of the United States has shut down all St. Paul schools. Called by the Teachers Joint Council, central board for



Grace Carlson On Teachers' Picket Line

Among the pickets supporting the St. Paul teachers' strike were, left to right: Earsel Neal, a student of Maxfield School; Earl Nell, also a Maxfield student; Grace Carlson; Rev. Clarence T. R. Nelson, pastor of Camphor Memorial Methodist Church; Milton Siegel, CIO United Packinghouse Workers field representative; and Leona McGibbon, school principal.

Local 28 and 43 of the American Federation of Teachers, 1,165 teachers are taking part in the walkout. Hundreds of school children and their parents have joined the teachers who are picketing every grade and high school in the city.

Strike demands are: Recognition of the Teachers Joint Council as bargaining agent for all instructional employees; a cost-of-living bonus of \$50 a month for the last four months of 1946; revision of the permanent salary schedule, effective next Jan. 1, to provide a \$2,400 minimum and \$5,000 maximum salary; addition to each annual City budget of \$1,700,000 for modernization of school equipment and facilities, adequate school supplies, improved health and recreational services in the schools.

The decision to strike was made by the teachers' unions despite tremendous pressure from taxpayers associations and similar groups. Prior to the walk-out, the bold and arrogant city officials had threatened the teachers with loss of their jobs, tenure and teaching certificates if they went on strike.

Others Party candidate for Congress in the recent elections.) A PTA strike committee was set up to organize picket support and to arrange for the serving of hot coffee and refreshments in the homes of PTA members. Acting on the committee are: Mrs. Clarence Nelson, Mrs. Milton Siegel, Mrs. Harry Ballard, Mrs. H. McAdam.

OTHERS ACT

Publication of the Maxfield PTA resolution in the daily press stimulated other PTA groups in the city to take similar action.

Despite the intense cold of the last few days, with the temperature dropping to zero, mothers and fathers with their children of all ages have appeared on the school picket lines. True to their calling, the teachers have maintained very neat and orderly picket lines!

Some children carry home-made banners, with such slogans as "We want Modern Schools," "The St. Paul City Council is Unfair to our Teachers." Others carry the banners provided by the Teachers Strike Committee. This reads:

"Strike For Better Schools AFT Locals 28 and 43" Picket line passes have been issued to members of the School Engineers Union. They have cooperated with the striking teachers by keeping the temperature in the school buildings at 40 to 45 degrees — warm enough to avoid deterioration but cold enough to prevent any activity on the part of school officials. Other Education Department employes, such as stenographers, clerks and cleaning women are respecting the teachers' picket lines.

Strike meetings called at the end of each day's picketing have been very well attended. The strike song, a parody of "East-er Parade" is sung at the strike meetings. Testifying to the high morale of the striking teachers is the refrain:

"We'll be the proudest teachers In the picket parade."

CHANGE TUNE

But the teachers' unions, backed by the entire St. Paul labor movement, called their bluff. The widespread public support given the teachers' strike has forced these same city officials to change their tune. Today, there is no talk of "reprisals" against the striking teachers but only of the "difficulty" of getting the necessary funds to meet the teachers' demands.

Aid given the striking teachers by the city's Parent-Teachers Associations has been a significant factor in the situation. In a resolution adopted on the eve of the strike, the Maxfield School PTA led off with a call for active support of the teachers' picket lines. Introduced by Mrs. Dorothy Schultz, a member of the Maxfield PTA for several years, the resolution was unanimously adopted. (Dorothy Schultz was the Socialist Worker-

Urge California CIO To Support Miners, Fight Anti-Labor Drive

(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 2—The Socialist Workers Party in California has issued a statement addressed to the delegates at the forthcoming CIO state convention in Santa Cruz, calling on them to take action on behalf of the striking miners and to fight against the government's anti-labor drive. The SWP statement says:

The California State CIO, representing close to one quarter million workers in California's industries, convenes in annual session at a time when the government of Big Business has concentrated its anti-labor offensive in a vicious attack against the United Mine Workers.

The California CIO convention has, as a primary task, action of solidarity with the mine workers, and at the same time condemnation of the anti-labor drive of the Democratic-Republican government.

This anti-labor drive is being camouflaged with a red-scare designed to create confusion and division in the unions. In California, as elsewhere, the AFL has been whipped up into a red-baiting campaign against the CIO.

This red-baiting campaign, directed by the U. S. State Department, is not being conducted by only the AFL bureaucrats. A section of the CIO leadership has buckled under the pressure.

The Murray machine seeks to make itself "respectable" by making concessions to red-baiters. The Stalinists in the CIO have tried to duck the red-baiting issue by a cowardly policy of capitulation in return for piddling organizational deals.

The State CIO Convention should remember the experience of last year. At that time, the right-wing Policy Committee was soundly thrashed for its red-baiting position. But the Convention failed to chart a course of militant united labor action on the economic and political field. It clung to the bankrupt policy of supporting "good" capitalist candidates. As a result, despite the rejection of the reactionary Policy Committee's line, the CIO has suffered a considerable setback during the past

year. Another major task before the convention is that of initiating a call for the immediate formation of a Labor Party. This is the lesson taught us by the November elections. The CIO-PAC policy of support to Democratic capitalist candidates has revealed its bankruptcy. Only by a bold rejection of this false policy, and a complete reorientation in the direction of independent labor action can the labor movement take the offensive against Big Business, attract to it the support of the middle classes who are suffering from monopoly domination, and proceed to solve the burning problems facing the nation.

The State CIO Convention has in its hands the power and the duty to unite labor in a successful fight against the increasingly more belligerent anti-labor schemes of Big Business in California. The convention's political course is of fundamental importance in determining whether or not the bitter struggle to defend labor's standard of living will be victorious.

Youngstown SWP Fights Delay On Veterans' Homes

(Special to The Militant)

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Dec. 1—A small housing project of 50 units, intended for veterans, is being delayed by the selfish and discriminatory attitude of middle-class residents who have complained about the erection of the project in their neighborhood, the Cochran Park area.

Mahoning County commissioners in charge of the project have given in to this pressure and terminated their option to buy 50 lots, even though they have no other site as a substitute.

This action was attacked two days ago, in a statement issued by Harry Braverman, Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party branch here.

Braverman described it as "a decided setback for veterans' housing in Youngstown. Even a small project of 50 dwellings would be of some help to homeless veterans. Arrangements must be made to have these houses set up at once."

Meeting objections of Cochran Park residents that the housing planned would be of a type to lower the "tone" of the neighborhood, Braverman replied: "Granting that better housing should be provided. But the need for homes is too vital, too immediate, too pressing to be pushed aside."

"Veterans who are members of the Socialist Workers Party strongly protest this action, and urge that Youngstown veterans organize to see to it that these houses, which are already on order, and for which money has already been provided, be put up at once."

The Youngstown SWP is preparing to aid protest actions by veterans in need of homes. A county commissioner has informed an SWP representative of a meeting to be held of veterans applying for homes in the project. The SWP will be represented at this meeting and do all in its power to help speed the project.

ACEWR Will Hold Festive Carnival And Bazaar In N. Y.

The New York Chapter of the American Committee for European Workers Relief is holding a gala bazaar and social at Irving Plaza, 15 Irving Place on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. All are welcome and Christmas bargains galore as well as an evening's fun are guaranteed.

A great array of articles by individuals and shops has been donated. Exotic handicraft work from all over the world will be offered, as well as articles for everyday needs. You can buy anything from a hand-made West African sword and scabbard to an alarm clock!

Costume jewelry donated by Fifth Avenue shops will be sold at bargain prices. Gifts for men and children will also be found in profusion. Among these articles are radios, bill folders, cigarette cases and lighters, hand-made dolls, etc.

The bazaar will have a true carnival aspect with numerous games, at which the skillful can win their gifts instead of buy-

ing them. Artists will do a silhouette or a sketch of you. There will also be refreshments and music.

All of the proceeds of this bazaar will be used in the ACEWR work of shipping food, clothing and medicine to anti-fascists in Europe. You are urged to come and bring your family and friends. A good time is assured.

The attention of all Philadelphians and those living near Philadelphia is called to the bazaar which is being run for European relief by the Philadelphia ACEWR Chapter. This affair will take place Saturday evening, Dec. 14, at 1303 West Girard Avenue. This bazaar will feature competing booths from Pittsburgh, Allentown-Beth-

lehem, Reading and Philadelphia. The European winter has begun and letters are pouring into the ACEWR office from European workers, asking for warm clothing and food. It must be remembered that in Europe this winter only the houses of the rich will be heated. Unless these workers and their children have warm clothing, both for indoor and outdoor wear, and nourishing foods, they will easily fall prey to disease.

If you want to help maintain and increase the flow of food, clothing and medicine packages to these needy European workers, make a donation today. \$10 will put 29 pounds of food in the hands of a European family. \$1.50 will pay the postage on an 11-pound package of winter clothing. Make all checks or money orders payable to the ACEWR and send to 197 Second Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.

Vyshinsky Branded By SWP As Hangman Of Bolsheviks

NEW YORK, Dec. 2 — A leaflet branding Stalinist spokesman Andrei Vyshinsky as one of the "hangmen of the Russian Bolsheviks" will be distributed tonight at Madison Square Garden where Vyshinsky is scheduled to speak.

"Vyshinsky was always a foe of the Socialist Revolution," says the leaflet, which is issued by Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party. "He fought the Russian Revolution from the other side of the barricades in 1917. He was on the side of Stalin and world imperialism when he sent the Old Bolsheviks to their death in the Moscow Trials."

Vyshinsky is listed as a featured speaker by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, the Stalinist front organization sponsoring the Madison Square Garden rally.

"Mr. Vyshinsky will speak as the representative of the Soviet Union to the United Nations,"

the leaflet points out. "But to millions of workers throughout the world Vyshinsky is better known as the prosecutor of the Moscow Trials of 1936-1937. In that capacity Vyshinsky sent scores of Old Bolsheviks to their death. These Old Bolsheviks were the great captains of the first successful workers' revolution."

The leaflet recalls that the Moscow Trials were the greatest frameup in history. The John Dewey Commission of Inquiry examined every shred of evidence presented in the Moscow Trials of 1936 and 1937. The Commission "found that the case presented by Vyshinsky was composed of the most monstrous lies, manufactured evidence and slander ever brought into a courtroom."

The crushing verdict of the Dewey Commission "was vindicated last summer at the Nuremberg Trial," continues the leaflet. "Not one solitary scrap of evidence was presented at that trial to prove Vyshinsky's charge of a conspiracy between the Nazi leaders on the one side and Leon Trotsky and the Old Bolsheviks on the other."

The request of Natalia Trotsky that her attorney be permitted to cross-examine the Nazi leader Rudolf Hess with whom Trotsky was accused of conspiring "was ignored. "That was to be expected," says the leaflet. "Cross-examination of the Nazi chiefs could only have proved: (1) That Trotsky and the Old Bolsheviks were innocent; and (2) that the real conspiracy leading to the Stalin-Hitler pact had been carried out by Stalin himself."

The leaflet ends with the demand: "Defend the Soviet Union from imperialist attack by fighting for a world socialist order!"