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UNION CHIEFS PUSH 'APPEASEMENT'

Protests Assault On PCI

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—In a vigorous protest to French Premier Paul Ramadier this week, the Socialist Workers Party served notice of its intention to give the widest publicity to the repeated attacks by the French government on the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, French section of the Fourth International.

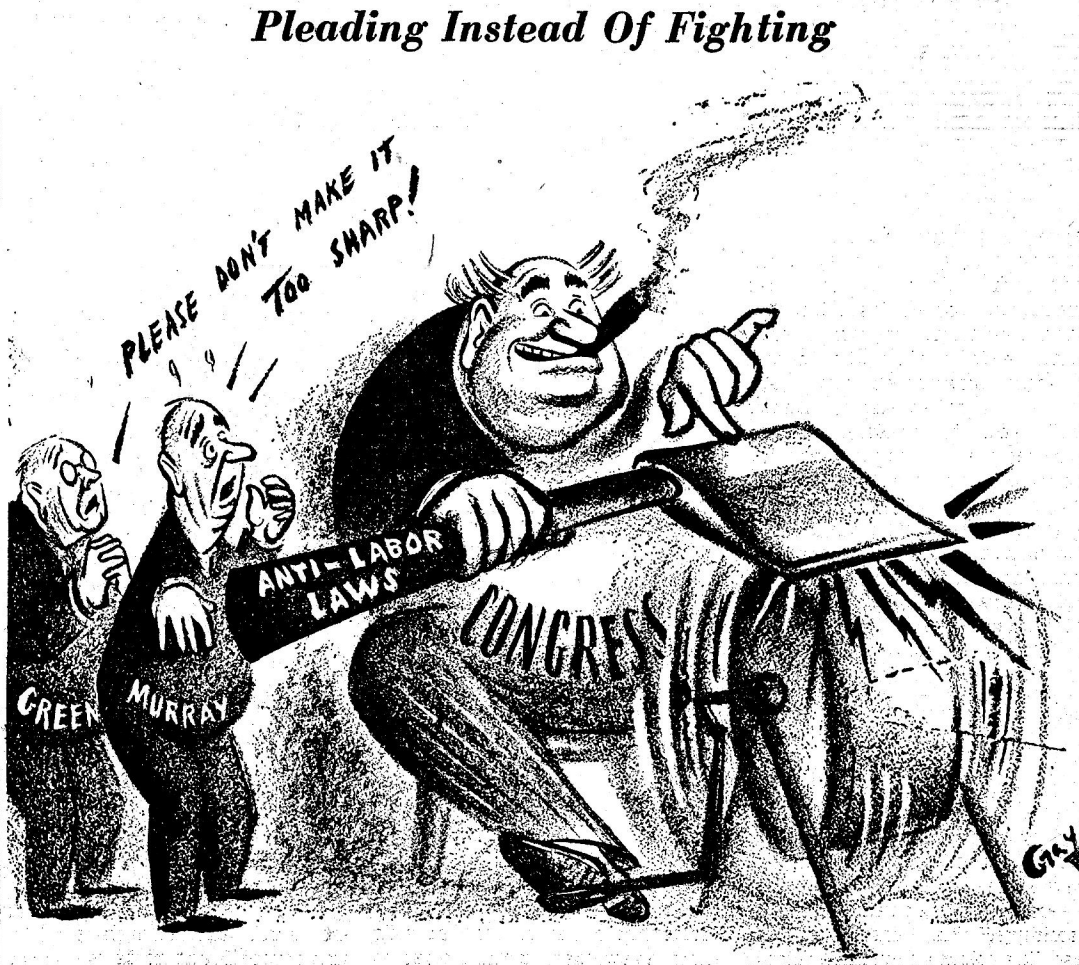
SWP Rally Opens Chicago Campaign

CHICAGO, Feb. 3.—One hundred and fifty workers last night attended the Socialist Workers Party election rally that opened the campaign to elect Michael Bartell, write-in candidate for Mayor, and Homer Lewis, candidate for Alderman in the Third Ward.

CHICAGO, Feb. 1 — Homer Lewis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for alderman in the Third Ward, is awaiting the final ruling of the Board of Election Commissioners on his petitions to be placed on the ballot. No challenges to his petitions were filed with the Board of Election Commissioners by any of the eight opposing candidates.

Chicago CIO Supports 3 Labor Candidates

CHICAGO, Feb. 1 — The Chicago CIO Council has thrown full support behind the three union candidates who have been nominated by the Revere Copper and Brass Local, CIO United Auto Workers, to run for aldermen in the Feb. 25 city elections.



Pleading Instead Of Fighting

Rent Gougers Push Drive For 15 Per Cent Increase

The real estate sharks got a tantalizing taste of blood last week when the OPA mimeographed an announcement boosting rent ceilings a blanket 10 per cent. Reporters were waiting for the freshly inked sheets when Truman suddenly got cold feet and at the last moment countermanded the increase.

N. Y. SWP Asks To Be Heard On Election Laws

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 — A demand for the right to speak at the public hearing on revision in the state election law, which will be held in Albany on Feb. 11, was made here last week by George Clarke, state secretary of the Socialist Workers Party.

Rubber Workers To Press Demand For 26-Cent Raise

AKRON, Feb. 1 — Despite CIO President Philip Murray's signal to all CIO affiliates for a retreat on wage demands, the United Rubber Workers are proceeding with their negotiations for a 26-cent an hour wage increase from the "Big Four" rubber corporations, Goodrich, Goodyear, Firestone and U.S. Rubber.

Bow To Big Business Demands; Fail To Fight Anti-Labor Laws

AFL and CIO top leaders are beating a cowardly retreat before the Congressional anti-labor offensive. They are handing one concession after another to the employers in a futile attempt to appease the labor-haters.

Ultra-conservative bureaucrats of the AFL last week made two especially craven gestures of appeasement. Leaders of the

Paper Monopoly Endangers Free Labor Press

The grave danger to the continued existence of the free labor press was underscored last week by the disclosures of Senator James E. Murray, Chairman of the expiring Senate Small Business Committee.

KNUCKLE UNDER

This was made explicit in the case of the AFL Building Trades arbitration by the fact that it was publicly announced not by union leaders but by President Truman. He hailed it as a pattern of "voluntary" surrender for the whole labor movement.

"There is almost no such thing as an open newspaper market in which small papers may bid for and buy the paper they need," said Murray. "During the war the government protected their supplies and held the price for them. But now thousands of small publications, daily, weekly, religious, farm, labor, trade, fraternal, foreign language, are defenseless in the face of growing big-publisher-big-mill arrangements which cut small users out."

AFL Building Trades Department, keystone of the AFL craft-union structure, imposed an indefinite no-strike arbitration pact on some 2,000,000 building trades workers, who were not even consulted on the matter.

One day later, the AFL Teamsters Executive Board formally announced a drive of repression against union militants who go on so-called "wild-cat" strikes, threatening the bureaucratic suspension of local unions, officers and members.

Coming in the very midst of the Congressional drive for anti-strike laws, compulsory arbitration and other measures to cripple the unions, these latest moves by the heads of leading sections of the AFL are calculated and demonstrative acts of surrender to the demands of Big Business.



TOBIN

Tobin has not lifted a finger in real opposition to Congressional anti-labor legislation, while he deals savage bureaucratic blows at the rank and file of his own union.

The CIO leaders have merely made the record with verbal protests and objections to anti-labor laws. Murray wrote a letter last Dec. 5 calling for joint action of the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods. But the top CIO leaders have done nothing to mobilize their own members for any serious mass struggle to halt union-busting legislation.

At the same time they are laying down their own pattern of appeasement. They are re-

Anti-Labor Law Timetable Stepped Up By Senator Taft

By Joseph Hansen

Wall Street cracked the whip over Congress last week with a curt command to move still faster in its legislative drive against the labor movement. The order came from Robert R. Wason, chairman of the board of the National Association of Manufacturers.

REASONS FOR HASTE

The House Republican machine, dominated by Governor Dewey's henchmen, likewise set March 15 as the deadline for their omnibus anti-labor bill to reach the floor. Opening public hearings February 5, the House Labor and Education Committee expects to shotgun through this stage of the drive in record time.

Sen. Ball Hurls New Anti-Labor Knife

Senator Joseph H. Ball, Republican of Minnesota, threw another legislative knife at the union movement January 27 when he introduced a bill (S. 360) to severely penalize strikers.

Street's insistence on such haste is its fear the miners will renew their demand for wage increases to meet the rising cost of living when the United Mine Workers contract expires on March 31. But more important is Wall Street's hope of greasing the measures through Congress before the outraged rank and file of the unions succeed in compelling the union bureaucracy to put the heat on Congress and to tighten union defenses against the Big Business assault.

The hearings before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare last week were a field day for the union haters. Manufacturers, corporation law-

storation of the wide-open shop. The cowardly appeasement policy of the union leaders will not soften Wall Street's blows. It will embolden the labor-haters to more ferocious assaults. For the ruling capitalist class is determined to permanently cripple and ultimately destroy the whole organized labor movement.

The ominous conduct of the union leaders is a warning signal to the militants in all the unions. They must redouble their efforts to forge a united front of action in every locality for a determined fight against the anti-labor offensive. It is up to the ranks to call a halt to the leadership's retreat and to set in motion labor's mighty counter-offensive.

and assorted flunkies of Big Business turned loose with everything they had against the labor movement. Even where they displayed differences, it was only over how sharp a knife they needed to cut labor's throat. Secretary of Labor Schwelienbeck, for instance, opposed some of the most vicious measures before the committee, but nevertheless advocated the far-reaching union restrictions proposed by Truman.

GRAVEN LEADERS

In the face of this savage barrage, spokesmen of the union bureaucracy have done little outside of issuing public statements complaining that the bills are "unjustified" and "unnecessary."

Meanwhile the NAM, the Chamber of Commerce and the entire Big Business press continue to hammer for speed in the drive against labor. The efforts of top union bureaucrats to appease Big Business only brings a redoubling of blows. As the Journal of Commerce coolly puts it: "The new trend will not prevent Congress from enacting a series of far reaching changes in basic labor laws."

Briggs Auto Local Militants Fight Against Inclusion Of Reutherite Red-Baiting Plank In Caucus Program

(Special to The Militant)
DETROIT, Feb. 1 — The fight against the rightward trend of the Reuther caucus supporters at CIO United Auto Workers Briggs Local 212 was climaxed this week when Ernest Mazey, candidate for Vice-President on the Pioneer Caucus slate, was forced to wage a battle against the red-baiting program which was foisted on the caucus.

When the caucus accepted the red-baiting plank in its program, Ernest Mazey withdrew his name as a candidate on the Pioneer slate. At a later meeting, Harold Fox, another union militant, also withdrew as a candidate for the Executive Board for the same reason.

The Pioneer Caucus has from its inception been the scene of sharp conflict between those who sought to confine it to an election machine for Emil Mazey, present International Executive Board member, and those interested in building it into a fighting caucus of union militants. A new feature has been added in the past year with an important section of the caucus and its chairman, Art Vega, aligning themselves with the Thomas-Ades group in the International Union.

Because of these conflicting tendencies a year ago, the caucus had been split, with a section going over to the main opposition group in the Local which is predominantly under the Stalinist influence. During the course of the year a reunification had taken place, but now the Reuther-Thomas rivalry was added to the conflict between the Emil Mazey machine men and those militants grouped around Ernest Mazey.

Reflecting the steady rightward evolution of the Reuther forces in the UAW, Emil Mazey and his lieutenants have been intriguing against the militants in the Pioneer caucus. This intrigue led to an attempt to make an election deal with Art Vega, a Thomas-Ades supporter, and to cut Ernest Mazey from the slate. Vega has the distinction of not once taking the floor in a membership meeting in the ten-

New York Teachers Picket



Continuing their campaign for higher wages, thousands of New York City teachers picketed the building where a budget hearing is in progress. Members of the Teachers Salary Conference, to which both AFL and CIO teachers unions belong, participated in the recent demonstration. Federated Pictures

year history of the local union. He also had been a supporter of the no-strike pledge.

This back-door deal was denounced by the militants at a membership meeting of the Pioneer caucus. The caucus then proceeded to select its slate, headed by Tom Clammitt for President and Ernest Mazey for Vice-President.

The Reuther forces thereupon inaugurated a vicious red-baiting campaign against Ernest Mazey and insisted that plank No. 1 of the Pioneer program consist of a red-baiting clause: "We support CIO policy. We will oppose the attempt of any minority political party or group to interfere or control the local or the International union."

The issue was thrashed out at

a special meeting of the Pioneer caucus. Ken Morris, Recording Secretary of the Local, spoke for the steering committee and attempted to pose the issue as though "Ernest Mazey thinks he is bigger than the steering committee or the caucus." After the chairman arbitrarily ruled an amendment by Ernest Mazey out of order, the latter took the floor and launched into an impassioned speech against the attempt to convert the caucus into a reactionary pack of red-baiters.

He pointed to the issue of red-baiting as one of the most crucial issues confronting the labor movement today. He answered the slanderous personal attack against himself by reviewing his record in the labor movement as one of consistent militant unionism and struggle against all those who tried to foist false policies upon the labor movement. He pointed to the all-out campaign against labor of the present Congress and how it all was proceeding under the cover of an anti-red crusade. He scored the Murrays, Greens and Reuthers who had picked up this poison of the bosses and were spreading it in the labor movement. He pointed out that this reactionary campaign of red-baiting, if not smashed, would succeed in destroying not only those against whom it is used today but the labor movement itself.

He posed the issue in these words: "What kind of a campaign shall we conduct? Shall it be a constructive campaign on program — on issues which will help educate our membership and strengthen our union or shall we permit ourselves to become part of an anti-red campaign which can only injure or destroy our union?"

Ernest Mazey concluded by declaring that if the caucus should uphold the proposal of the steering committee, he would be forced to withdraw his name as a candidate on the Pioneer slate. He withdrew his candidacy when the caucus voted 61 to 22 to include the red-baiting plank in its union program.

The action of the Reutherites has already provoked a sharp reaction from the militants in the shop. The militants are convinced that they have scored a moral victory and that the groundwork has been laid for a regroupment of the progressive forces on the basis of a militant program to meet the issues of today.

Smith -- Prudential Life's Congressional Watchdog

S. 55, the vindictive anti-labor bill now in public hearings, bears the names of three Senators who sponsored it, Taft-Ball-Smith. Taft and Ball long ago achieved notoriety as Wall Street politicians. But who ever heard of Smith?

The oldest cog in this well-greased combination, H. Alexander Smith will be 73 when he completes his present term in 1953. Yet he has the least seniority, having been elected to the Senate for the first time in 1944 to fill the unexpired term of W. Warren Barbour of New Jersey.

Preserved for decades in the Republican Party warehouse, Smith reminds people of a worn-out gear wheel still in service years after it should have been scrapped. However, the publicity experts of the Republican Party present Smith as a liberal statesman with the interests of the people at heart.

Way back in 1905, as an up and coming shyster lawyer, Smith left his native state of New York and nailed up his shingle out west in Colorado Springs, Colorado. By 1918 he had advanced high enough in the Republican hierarchy to win a post on Herbert Hoover's U.S. Food Administration staff.

SMITH'S RECORD
Having extracted all the juice of this political plum, he next became chairman of the committee on organization of trustees and faculty of Princeton University. (The powerful National City Bank controls the policies of this rich man's school.) Smith stayed at Princeton from 1919 to 1930. Then from 1932 to 1941 he practiced law in New York City.

Meanwhile he inched higher up in the Republican machine. In 1934 becoming treasurer of the New Jersey Republican State Committee, and in 1941 moving into the chairman's seat.

Smith's record in the Senate is precisely what could be expected



SENATOR SMITH

from a man so thoroughly worn in the Republican groove. When Congress stamped the Case bill through both houses last year, Smith joined Taft and Ball in steering it through the Senate. While it lay on Truman's desk, Smith did his utmost to high-pressure Truman into signing it, putting his name with Taft, Ball and three Democrats on a 7,500 word document urging Truman to disregard labor's angry opposition to the sweeping measure.

Smith considered the Case bill as no more than "a wholesome beginning" in the legislative assault on labor. In his short period in the Senate, Smith has already proved his value to the real estate interests, having pressed tirelessly for an end to rent controls and voting to remove price ceilings on existing housing. Besides this he voted to table FEPC, to emasculate the Railroad Workers Retirement Act, and to put crippling amendments in the Full Employment Bill. When Senator Taft moved to cut the

appropriation for school lunches by more than half, Smith backed him up.

To this Wall Street politician belongs the distinction of a blunder rarely committed on the Senate floor — revealing the name of his Big Business patron.

The incident occurred June 14, 1946, when Senator Wheeler of Montana was high-balling a measure through for the railroad companies. Smith was not sure how his backers regarded Wheeler's measure and so he asked: "There are in my State some very important insurance companies which have large investments in railroad securities, and I am wondering whether those companies favor the bill. I do not happen to know, and I called my office to see if there had been any correspondence on the subject, but there is none."

Wheeler had picked a Saturday near the end of the session for his move when not more than a handful of Congressmen would be present. Wheeler wanted speed and no opposition. "Was it the Metropolitan?" he asked Smith.

"I am thinking of the Prudential," said Smith. "I should like to be advised about that."

"Frankly," responded Wheeler, "I think Mr. Stedman, of the Prudential, disagreed with some features of the bill, not with all of them, but I believe that there are one or two points in the bill which will have to be worked out later on."

Smith still felt uneasy. "They may hold senior obligations. Would the position of those senior obligations be jeopardized?" "Under all circumstances the senior bondholder gets his pound of flesh," Wheeler cynically assured Smith, "regardless of what it does to anybody."

The cool brazenness of this remark satisfied Prudential's political watchdog; he joined the representative of the railroad interests in shoving through the measure.

Crisis in Communist Party

Line Of CP Dissidents On War

One of the chief questions agitating the growing opposition in the American Communist Party (Stalinist) is the position of the official party leadership on the struggle against imperialism.

Virtually all the documents of the dissidents, who are conducting an organized attack on the CP leadership, charge that the Foster group is not conducting a real anti-war struggle and is, in fact, siding U. S. imperialism. But on this, as on every other point of criticism, the CP oppositionists attack only superficial manifestations of CP policy. They themselves put forward only a more "leftist" expression of the fundamental Stalinist line.

A document put out by the expelled executive committee of the Bronx P. R. Club of the CP, "An S.O.S. To All Communists," asks: "What has the CP leadership done about the danger of war? Very little—and logically so—because it does not believe in it."

APOLOGY FOR STALIN

But this document can't get around the fact that Stalin himself is the author of the statement that there is "no danger" of war between the imperialist powers and the Soviet Union. Since the oppositionists claim to be "better" Stalinists than the official American Stalinist leaders, they invent an ingenious apology for Stalin's disarming of the masses:

"Stalin's bold, confident, but not complacent answers come at a high point in war preparations and deliver a subtle, complex blow for peace. It is unfortunate that our National Committee has misinterpreted and misused these answers in order to justify an election policy which supports too many 'military and political adventurers.'"

ITS ONLY COMPLAINT

But what has this group to say about the greatest and most monstrous crime of all—the CP's support of U. S. imperialism and Roosevelt's war program? Its only complaint is that "during the war, we had the opportunity to explain to a sympathetic America the meaning of socialism" but "Browder scuttled this opportunity." The Bronx P. R. Club leaders complain that Browder prevented them from using their support for Wall Street's war to gain "sympathy" for "socialism!"

Events Driving U. S. Toward Revolution

A combination of objective forces is driving the United States inexorably toward the socialist revolution. The nature of these forces and their inter-relationships were soberly and incisively evaluated by James P. Cannon in his speech at the 12th Convention of the Socialist Workers Party held last November. The conclusion of the speaker is: "He who doubts the socialist revolution in America does not believe in the survival of human civilization, for there is no other way to save it. And there is no other power that can save it but this all-mighty working class of the United States."

Every reader of The Militant can now acquaint himself with the text of this important speech which is contained in the Feb. issue of Fourth International. Single copies can be obtained for 25c, yearly subscription \$2, from Business Manager, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N. Y.

from McKenney and Minton about the Stalinists' support of the Roosevelt war program and the CP's strikebreaking during the war! They still support and defend the greatest crime of all.

William F. Dunne, another CP leader expelled by Foster, now states: "The Democratic Party has been the operative war party of finance-capital in two world wars. It is still one of the two capitalist war parties—and it still has the executive branch of the government machinery. The Roosevelt program made it possible for U. S. imperialism to secure its present premier position in the postwar capitalist world. These were the major objectives of the 'Roosevelt program.'" (original emphasis)

Yes? But what about the CP's support of the Roosevelt war program? We ask Dunne. Silence—dead silence. That was Stalin's program—not just Browder's and Foster's. So Dunne, the ever-loyal Stalinist, shuts up.

What about Stalin's participation in the United Nations, that instrument for mobilizing world capitalism for war on the Soviet Union in the name of "peace"? What about Stalin's continued efforts to deceive the masses into believing that it is possible for the Soviet Union to live indefinitely in imperialist encirclement?

THEIR ANSWER

The answer of the CP dissidents is — line up some more countries to strengthen the "veto power" of the Kremlin in the UN. "The increased following of the French Communist Party registers the approach of the time when Russia will not be the only anti-capitalist nation holding veto power in the United Nations organizations. . . . So long as Russia has the veto power, Russia can veto any attempt to use the power of UNO against the working class or against colonial peoples."

That is what is stated in the Nov. 18, 1946, NCP Report, published by the left-Stalinist New Committee for Publications. In short, like the official Stalinist leaders, the CP opposition too proposes to halt imperialist war not by the Leninist method of international proletarian revolutionary struggle against capitalism, but — by the "veto power" in the United Nations! Maybe they can "veto" the atom bomb too.

'Daily Worker' Slanders Steel Union Militants

The Communist Party (Stalinist) has launched a new poison-pen attack on the Trotskyists in the unions. Its latest slanders and misrepresentations are contained in two articles on "Steelworkers' Wage Negotiations" by Andrew Onda, printed in the Daily Worker, on Jan. 28 and 29.

Onda's lies are served up in a stew supposed to be an analysis of the CIO Steelworkers current negotiations. He tries to make this dish palatable for workers by seasoning it with a pretended desire for a militant policy. He even speaks about the need "to prepare the steelworkers and the union machinery for any eventuality including a strike!" But these bold words disguise a different and opposite aim.

COVER UP MURRAY

Onda's aim is to cover up Philip Murray, who is responsible for leading a retreat on the wage front and the failure to prepare the union for a genuine wage struggle. Thus, the Stalinist articles contain only lickspittle praise for Murray. They go so far as to attribute the reactionary red-baiting campaign of Murray's own machine to "those forces who wish to undermine the influence and prestige of the union and of President Philip Murray."

Who are "those forces"? Why, of course, "the Trotskyites"! Onda carefully explains that "the Trotskyites are insignificant within the Steel Union." But "they are able to play a damaging role because, and solely in those locals and districts where red-baiting is permitted to flourish."

We read further, however, that this red-baiting flourishes most of all in the union's official organ, the chief mouthpiece of Philip Murray. Onda complains about "red-baiting carried on in every issue of Steel Labor since the May convention."

RABID RED-BAITING

He should have added that the red-baiting in Steel Labor has been most rabid since the Nov. 1946 CIO national convention, where the Stalinists themselves helped draft and unanimously supported the red-baiting CIO Declaration of Policy that "resented and rejected" the "in-

terference of the Communist Party." Murray personally ramed this declaration through without debate at the opening of the CIO convention. The Daily Worker hailed this reactionary declaration as a "great statesmanlike move."

On the other hand, it was the Trotskyists of the Socialist Workers Party and The Militant who denounced both this declaration and the Stalinists who capitulated to the red-baiters.

Onda's purpose is to pin the label of "red-baiter" on the genuine union militants who are opposing Murray's retreat on the wage front. His chief complaint is "that the weakness in adequately preparing the union for struggle, and particularly the neglect of the piled up grievances, results in the Trotskyites in the union working more boldly among the membership."

ESCALATOR CLAUSE

He complains further that the "Trotskyites counter the union proposal inside the union with their 'demand' for a sliding scale." This refers to the proposals of the New England and Youngstown, O., area steel conferences for an escalator clause providing automatic wage increases for every rise in prices. This was not a counter proposal to the basic wage rate demands, but an additional demand to protect these new rates from rising living costs.

Onda exposes his hand completely when he charges that the Trotskyists want "to weaken the support for the (union's) demands . . . by ridiculing them as too mild, saying 'nice words' and 'they are all right as far as they go.'" In this way, Onda huris stinkbombs at the militants who are demanding an adequate wage program and a fighting policy, while protecting Murray and performing his program of retreat.

Our Program:

- 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!
- 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!
- Against all anti-labor laws and government strike-breaking!**
No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!
No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
- Build an independent labor party!**
- Tax the rich, not the poor!**
Repeat the payroll tax! No sales taxes!
No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
- An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!**
- Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!**
End Jim-Crow! End Anti-Semitism!
- For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!**
- 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!
- 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!
- For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!**

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Rubber Workers To Press Demand For 26-Cent Raise

(Continued from Page 1)

in a position to give sizable wage increases. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that a representative of a big rubber company stated that the industry is "lousy with profits." The fact is that the industry as a whole doubled its profits in 1946 over 1945. It is therefore one of the most vulnerable industries from the standpoint of wage demands.

All local unions in the "Big Four" have already sent in notice to the government that a dispute exists with the companies, thus clearing the way for strike action if necessary.

NO MOOD FOR STALLING
The Akron locals are in no mood for stalling. Already three months have gone by since the International Policy Committee announced that the union was demanding 26 cents an hour.

Also open for discussion are the general questions covered by the union's seven-point wage and hour program adopted at its last convention. This means that the negotiating committee can and should demand the six-hour day, 30-hour week throughout the industry, with time-and-one-half for all hours worked over 30 in one week and over six hours in one day.

The seven-point program also includes the following demands: Double time for six designated holidays when worked; straight time for six designated holidays when not worked; a 10-cent

IMPORTANT PROVISION

Thus, when the unionists meet with the "Big Four" they will confront a U. S. Rubber agreement with an eight-hour day provision. This prejudices the negotiations on this exceedingly important point in the union's program.

The task of local unions is to pour the heat on the top officers of the union and let them know in no uncertain terms that the workers expect a wage increase. If the companies do not come to terms within a set deadline period, then the union must prepare for action.

The rubber union can break the traitorous truce which now exists between top CIO officials and the Wall Street profiteers. The time for a wage increase is now. Decisive action by the rubber union can be the signal for an advance by all labor.

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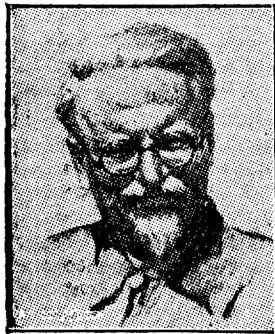
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"Partial reforms and patchwork will do no good. Historical development has come to one of those decisive stages when only the direct intervention of the masses is able to sweep away the reactionary obstructions and lay the foundations of a new regime."

—Leon Trotsky

AFL Unity Proposal

The AFL Executive Council last week rejected CIO President Philip Murray's appeal for immediate joint labor action to fight anti-labor laws. They countered his plea for a united front to beat back the imminent peril to all unions with a proposal for "organic unity."

At first glance, the AFL proposal sounds like a good thing. It would certainly be the greatest advance to have an organically united trade union movement combining the strength and resources of all unions in a struggle against the monopolists and their government. But is this what the AFL big-wigs have in mind? Let's examine the record. It will shed a different light on the AFL Executive Council's unity proposal.

The CIO came into existence 12 years ago in a revolt against the AFL. The AFL craft union moguls refused to organize the great mass of unorganized mass production workers. They opposed and obstructed industrial union organization. The AFL leaders were ultra-conservative, craft-ridden bureaucrats, content to rest on the "aristocracy of labor," the relatively highly-paid skilled crafts. That is what they remain today.

These AFL leaders have waged a relentless war against the CIO since its foundation. In recent months they have stepped up their jurisdictional raids on CIO unions. Tobin, head of the AFL Teamsters and a member of the AFL's unity negotiating committee, at this very moment is warring in every city against the CIO Brewery Workers Union, seeking to break up its industrial structure by taking away the beer drivers.

Right now the AFL leaders are publicly attacking the CIO's demands for higher wages and its suits to collect portal-to-portal pay. In this, the AFL chiefs are echoing the NAM's propaganda against the progressive demands of the CIO.

While Big Business conducts a red-baiting drive to split the labor movement, the AFL leaders come to the corporations' aid with red-baiting attacks on the CIO for the purpose of splitting the industrial unions.

The CIO, organized on industrial lines and based upon the mass production workers, has made and is continuing to make a great contribution to the advancement of American labor. It has taken the sweated and disorganized workers of the giant monopoly corporations and forged them into a mighty industrial union army. It has welcomed into its fold hundreds of thousands of Negro workers who in the past were denied the benefits of organization by the AFL's discriminatory policies.

Any unity proposal which is designed to destroy the CIO's industrial form of organization and its progressive policies is reactionary to the core.

The whole past record and present actions of the AFL leaders are proof that their "unity" proposal is a slick formula to cover up their moves to split the CIO. It is not a unity proposal at all. It is a smokescreen for their campaign to destroy industrial unionism and for their refusal to unite labor in immediate struggle to defend its rights.

Organic unity of the AFL and CIO will never be achieved through such phony maneuvers. While organic unity is not in the cards at this time, the need for united labor action to defeat anti-labor laws is more urgent than ever. Such united action is feasible and realizable.

Real unity can be forged through a program of joint action against labor's common enemies. It is precisely through unity in action that a solid foundation will be laid for ultimately building an enduring structure of organic unity.

"Withdrawal" In China

General Marshall's first important announcement as Secretary of State concerns "withdrawal" of the greater part of American troops now in China.

As the capitalist press emphasizes, this announcement does not indicate a change in Washington's policy toward China. As before, Wall Street's imperialist aims in China are to inherit the holdings of Imperialist Japan and Great Britain and to extend its economic tentacles deeper into this great prize of the Second World War.

Wall Street's military and political aims

likewise remain the same in China — to bolster Chiang Kai-shek's dictatorship, stifle the aspirations of the Chinese masses, and prepare the Asiatic bases for attack on the Soviet Union in the projected Third World War.

Marshall's announcement signifies a tactical shift in carrying out long-range strategy in China. After V-J Day, it will be recalled, Wall Street rushed military supplies to the reactionary Chiang Kai-shek dictatorship. This hated regime, confronted with vast discontent and spreading civil war, was obviously on the verge of collapse.

United States equipment revitalized Chiang's armies. From V-J Day up to the present, Chiang has been handed more than twice the military equipment given him in the entire previous eight years of the Chinese-Japanese war. United States officers trained Chiang's forces in the use of the very latest weapons. United States ships shuttled Chiang's armies to strategic positions.

While Chiang equipped, trained and developed his armies, American diplomats did their utmost to help him get the necessary breathing space for recuperation by "mediating" with the Chinese Stalinists at the head of the insurgent forces. General Marshall himself spent more than a year in China directing this policy.

Now apparently Chiang has been strengthened sufficiently so that his backers believe him capable of going ahead by himself to crush all opposition. By the maneuver of "withdrawing," Wall Street ends its role as moderator. While still backing Chiang, it has cut off relations with the Chinese Stalinists.

The implications are obvious. "The absence of a restraining influence on the extreme Right-Wing in the Kuomintang," says the Feb. 2 N. Y. Times, "might lead to an all-out war of extermination" against the Communists."

By the tactic of ostentatiously "withdrawing," Washington hopes to evade political responsibility for the streams of blood which Chiang may now turn loose on Chinese soil. "If the civil war continues," points out the Christian Science Monitor, "the blame will be on the Kuomintang extremists. In anticipation of this turn of events, Washington has lately even been criticizing the Kuomintang and calling for more democracy in China. This of course is primarily intended for the record. Washington will continue to recognize and support its puppet, Chiang Kai-shek.

The curtain is rising on a new bloody phase of the civil war in China.

Tax "Relief"

If your income happens to be in the \$1,000,000 bracket, Republican Representative Knutson's tax reduction bill (HR 1) would save you a cool \$110,891 a year, or about \$2,132 a week.

But if you are trying to keep alive on \$12 a week, Knutson's bill would cut your income taxes only 2 cents each year day. This is not enough to buy a postage stamp for a letter to tell Knutson what you think about him and his "soak the poor" measure.

The tax laws obviously need revision—but not along the lines now being considered by Wall Street's Congress. The income of the average worker has steadily declined in terms of purchasing power. Yet the outrageous taxes on the lower income brackets continues. Despite skyrocketing prices, Congress has not even provided more generous exemptions for dependents. In fact, as HR 1 proves, the leaders of Congress are only concerned about rushing tax "relief" for the rich, now enjoying the greatest profits in history.

The Socialist Workers Party has long advocated revision of the tax laws. Our proposals are designed to bring relief to those who really need it—those millions of hard-pressed families trying to skimp by on meager incomes. The Socialist Workers Party proposes that all incomes below \$5,000 be exempted from taxation. The Socialist Workers Party proposes that the payroll tax be abolished and along with it, all sales taxes.

These necessary adjustments in taxation should be supplemented by a 100 per cent tax on all incomes above \$25,000 to help finance necessary public expenditures.

The only just program of tax relief is to tax the rich, who can afford it—not the poor!

Encouraging Signs

If the actions of the top labor leaders were all that counted, the labor movement would indeed be in a bad way. Fortunately, it is the actions of the union ranks which are decisive. On a local scale in a growing number of key centers, there are encouraging developments in the unions.

The sentiment among the workers for united action of all unions against the Congressional anti-labor drive is beginning to find organized expression. In cities like Chicago, Rochester, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and St. Paul, and elsewhere, joint action committees of the local CIO, AFL and railroad unions have been established or are in process of formation.

Along with this movement in the union ranks for joint action, there has been a significant development of the movement for genuine independent labor political action.

An outstanding example is Flint, where several CIO auto locals and the CIO Council have launched a campaign to build a local Labor Party as a step in the direction of forming a national independent Labor Party. CIO unions in Chicago and Los Angeles are running union candidates, independent of the capitalist Republican and Democratic parties, in forthcoming city elections. These are heartening signs of the trend away from company unionism in politics.

Here are examples for the unions in every community to follow. It is along the road indicated by labor in the above-mentioned cities that the American workers will reach new heights of independence and power.



"Why the fuss about dumping twenty million bushels of potatoes? They're too fattening anyway!"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

THUNDER OUT OF CHINA
By Theodore H. White and Annalee Jacoby, William Sloane Associates, 325 pp., 1946, \$3.

This book gives an inside story of what has been happening in China over the past decade. "Americans must realize now one of the hard facts of Chinese politics—that in the eyes of millions of Chinese their civil war was made in America . . . Our marines were moved into North China, and remained there to support Chiang's regime—though fiction succeeded fiction to explain their continued presence in noble words. These fictions hold only for the American people themselves; in China it is clear to all that the chief duty of our marines there is to preserve, protect and defend Chiang Kai-shek's government . . ."

In these words the authors point to U. S. imperialism as the chief proponent of the bestial Chiang regime. So hated is this bloody dictator that he would long since have been overthrown except for the military and financial intervention of Wall Street.

The book is banned in China because it exposes the misery which Chiang and his cut-throat gang have inflicted upon hundreds of millions of Chinese peasants and workers.

The Chinese people fought heroically in the war against the Japanese imperialist invader. But under Chiang "corruption in the Chinese forces was a cancer at the heart that infected every limb." Chinese soldiers starved while Chiang's generals stole the money that should have bought them food. They rotted with disease while Chiang's bureaucrats pocketed the appropriations for quarters and medical supplies. They were brutally punished, even "killed at a commander's whim . . ." Whole divisions were decimated by deaths, disease and desertions. Armed with primitive weapons, victims of indifferent war planning at the top, masses of Chinese "doomed men" were mowed down by the modern, mechanized war weapons of the Japanese.

But so vast is the population

of China that tens and hundreds of thousands of additional Chinese men were virtually kidnapped into service to plug up the gaps. It is not known even today, the authors state, whether China has 400,000,000 or 550,000,000 people. This disparity alone is as large as the entire population of the United States!

The famine in Honan, an area populated by 30,000,000 is one of the Chiang-created disasters described in detail by the authors. The masses perished by the tens of thousands. The authors explain how easily grain could have been diverted from neighboring regions. Instead, for the rich this was an opportunity for land speculation. "Merchants from Sian and Chengchow, small government officials, army officers and rich landlords . . . were engaged in purchasing the peasants' ancestral acres at criminally low figures."

Repelled by Chiang's misrule, some 90,000,000 Chinese peasants have been attracted to the Yanan regime, controlled by the Stalinists. The authors give ample evidence to show that the Chinese Stalinist leaders have not gone beyond small agrarian reforms, such as reduction in rents and taxes, while preserving the landlord and capitalist system. They have prevented any revolutionary class action by the masses and have made repeated deals with Chiang which propped up his regime.

The authors, correspondents for Time magazine, are supporters of American capitalism. But they are aghast at the consequences of its imperialist policies. "Asia today regards America as the last great bastion of reaction," they report; "a nation that speaks of freedom but in the ultimate analysis always aligns itself on the side of the status quo."

In conclusion they warn: "It is impossible to halt the revolution going on in China and in Asia . . . China is the most advanced politically of all the Asiatic nations. What will be happening in the rest of Asia tomorrow is being worked out in blood in China today."

—Larissa Reed

NANA by Emile Zola, Pocket Books, 489 pp., 1946, 25 cents. In reprinting Zola's novel of sensational reputation, the publishers refer to it as "a case history of a courtesan." However, Nana is more than a courtesan; she is a symbol of the corruption of the upper aristocratic crust of French capitalist society in the time of Napoleon III.

The novel begins with Nana's theatrical debut. Zola brilliantly describes the feverish first-night atmosphere, the garish splendor of the theater, and the fashionable audience, drawn from the world of letters, finance and pleasure. Unable to dance, act or sing, Nana nevertheless takes this mixed assemblage of jaded aristocrats, cynical journalists and libidinous bankers by storm, holding it enthralled by her magnetic sexual attraction.

From this time on, the girl from the slums of Paris is sought by all. Zola describes her affairs and her life of wanton luxury with an exactitude of detail which almost becomes monotonous. Gradually, however, she ruins her lovers so that the end of the novel rises to a climax with a series of catastrophes. She bankrupts financiers, dishonors officers and degrades aristocrats. "Her work of ruin and death was accomplished, the fly that had taken its flight from the filth of the slums, carrying with it the ferment of social decay, had poisoned those men merely by touching them. It was good, it was just; she had avenged her people, the rogues and the vagabonds from whom she sprang."

In the end Nana succumbs to small-pox. The novel concludes with a vividly repulsive picture of Nana lying in her hotel room, her face eaten away by decay, as if the virus with which she had poisoned a society had taken possession of her. Meanwhile outside a crowd is shouting: "To Berlin! in a frenzy for war. This Franco-Prussian war of 1870 saw the destruction of the regime of the last Napoleon and the establishment of a republic, which was to become as corrupt as the regime which had preceded it."

—Paul Schapiro

Hand-Picked Committee On Youth Conscription

On Dec. 19 Truman appointed a nine-man commission to make "recommendations" on peacetime conscription. *Conscription News*, published by the National Council Against Conscription, reveals how carefully hand-picked this body is:

John Oly acts as Executive Secretary for the commission. While not counted as a member, he is in charge of all its work. By strange coincidence John Oly happens to be Special Assistant to the Secretary of War.

Dr. Karl T. Compton, President of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is Chairman. Compton's views can be judged from the following testimony which he gave before the House Military Affairs Committee on Nov. 21, 1945: "Universal military training will help to relieve the unemployment that apparently looms ahead during the reconversion period and would be far more wholesome than does or any other form of government subsidy for not working."

Dr. Daniel Polling, editor of the *Christian Herald*, evidently was appointed because of his devout belief in the gospel of Prussianizing American youth to save them from "physical deterioration." On Apr. 10, 1945, he declared: "In my journal, in my own pulpit, and in every opportunity as a citizen, and in my faith as a Christian I shall support this principle."

Charles E. Wilson, President of General Electric, another prominent member, feels strongly about putting American youth into a military strait-jacket. "The role of Congress is limited to voting the needed funds," Wilson maintains. "Industry's role in this program is to respond and cooperate . . . in the execution of the part allotted to it; industry must not be hampered by political witch-hunts, or thrown to the fanatical isolationist fringe tagged with a 'merchants of death' label."

Samuel I. Rosenman, another Truman choice, is said to be the ghost writer of many of the speeches delivered by Roosevelt when the late President was campaigning for universal military training.

Truman K. Gibson is known to favor peacetime conscription. He also happens to be a former aide to the Secretary of War.

Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, Vice-President of Georgetown University, was apparently selected because, as a former Army instructor who taught geopolitics to brass hats above the rank of major during the war, he can be counted on to see eye to eye with the Wall Street war-mongers.

Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, once a member of the White House palace guard, was appointed, it appears, for her consistency in parroting Roosevelt's phrases about the need for conscription.

Harold W. Dodds, President of Princeton University, did not wish to consider peacetime conscription during the war. But now that the fighting is finished he has revealed himself as favorably inclined to introducing American youth to the goose-step.

Joseph E. Davies, former Ambassador to Moscow, who thought Stalin was 100 per cent right in shooting all the men who once constituted Lenin's general staff of revolution, is the ninth member of the commission. His views on conscripting youth in peacetime are not known, but apparently the brass hats believe he can be had.

This is the commission appointed by Truman to bring in "recommendations." It does not take much imagination to guess that those recommendations will be nothing but a rubber-stamp approval of Wall Street's plans for converting America into the greatest peacetime military camp in history.

Capitalist Propaganda In AFL Monthly Organ

The government estimates that profits of the big corporations in 1946 reached the astronomical sum of \$12,000,000,000, or 20 per cent higher than the sharpest peak during the lush years of the Second World War.

At the same time the income of the workers has steadily declined when measured in terms of what wages will buy. The 18-cent increase in 1946 was quickly liquidated by mounting prices; and the great bulk of workers who did not get this increase found their living standards still further depressed.

What is the connection between the sharp increase in profits taken by the capitalists and the decrease in real wages paid the workers? It is so obvious it would seem unnecessary to explain it to anyone who went far enough in school to learn how to add and subtract. What is added up in the profit column is subtracted from the payroll column.

Yet the January AFL *Monthly Labor Survey* takes a different view. "The business man's profit," claims this so-called labor journal, "in a free enterprise economy serves two useful purposes, both of which raise workers' living standards. It creates better products at lower costs and expands production, increasing productivity, creating more jobs, more consumer goods and making higher wages possible."

This is typical Chamber of Commerce swill. You wonder how it happened to get into one of the leading AFL journals.

If profits "raise workers' living standards," why wasn't the 12 billion shaken down by the monopolists in 1946 reflected in a year of unprecedented prosperity for the workers? Why did their standard of living sharply decline?

If profits "create" better products at "lower costs," why did prices skyrocket to unprecedented heights precisely in the year when profits reached unprecedented heights?

If profits expand production, create more jobs, etc., etc., why did the enormous profits of 1928 only lead to closed-down factories and endless lines of unemployed in the thirties; and why now have officials of 17 governments predicted—in the very year profits reached an all-time high—that we are on the verge of the "severest economic collapse" the world has yet seen?

Could it be that the Chamber of Commerce propaganda in the *Monthly Labor Survey* is off base? The answer, for the sake of the editors of the AFL journal, is—yes, it is off base. You can't pump away real wages and build up profits without lowering the workers' living standards and paving the way for a shattering economic crash.

The capitalists run the economy not to raise the living standards of the masses but simply to raise the level of profits, or at least keep profits up. The greater the proportion of profits, the smaller is the proportion of wages. The more the capitalists rake in for themselves, the harder it is for the masses to maintain their relative standard of living and the sooner the economic depression occurs.

So far as the capitalist is concerned, the worker is nothing but a means to a sordid end—pyramided profits. And if a worker's family lives badly, that's no skin off the boss's back.

Congressmen At Work

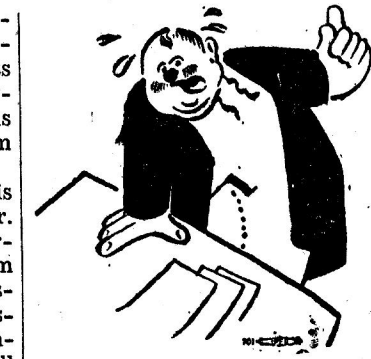
Cash Payment On Terminal Bonds

Representative Wright Patman, Democrat of Texas, has introduced a measure in Congress (HR 6) providing for cash payment of the terminal leave bonds given veterans on discharge from the Armed Forces.

Why Patman sponsored this progressive measure is not clear. He may have sought the favorable publicity it would give him or he may fear the political pressure of the veterans in his district. Often the most reactionary politicians in Congress will sponsor some worthy measure, knowing that after all no bill can become law unless earmarked for passage by the Wall Street machine that runs Congress. (About 18,000 bills are introduced in the average session.)

Patman is undoubtedly aware that one of the sore points with veterans is the refusal of the 79th Congress to grant them the option of cash payment on their bonds. To date, 2,915,000 such bonds have been audited, totaling \$627,800,825, the average bond amounting to \$208.60.

Officers are entitled to cash payment. But the enlisted personnel cannot cash their bonds for five years. If a man is entitled to less than \$50 he is paid in cash. But if he is entitled to \$199, he is given bonds in multiples of \$25 for \$175 and paid \$24 in cash. Interest of 2 1/2 per cent is provided, but most veterans need the money now when they are readjusting themselves



to civilian life, looking for work and for housing. They feel that their money may not be needed so sorely in 1952 as it is right now.

Patman filed his bill last August with the Clerk of the House. He hoped that this would entitle it to be numbered HR 1, which would give it additional publicity.

—Larissa Reed

The Republicans however, shunted it aside, and made HR 1 a bill to reduce the income-tax payments of the rich by 20 per cent (for additional income over \$300,000 a year they will get "only" a 10 per cent reduction if the bill goes through.)

Patman's bill to pay terminal leave bonds in cash was assigned to the Committee on Ways and Means, as was the bill to reduce the taxes of the rich. Since this Committee is headed by Harold Knutson, Republican of Minnesota, sponsor of the tax-reduction measure, it is not difficult to foresee which bill will get preferential treatment in his committee and be reported first for action.

In fact, unless the veterans and the labor movement really put the heat on Congress, HR 6 to pay terminal leave bonds in cash may never emerge from the files of Knutson's committee.

SEATTLE

Marxist Labor School

Six Sessions, Every Tuesday Feb. 4 to Mar. 11

1. **Democracy, Fascism and Socialism**

7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Instructor: FRANCIS PERRY

2. **The Coming Socialist Revolution in the U. S.**

8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Instructor: DANIEL ROBERTS

\$1 a course; 25 cents a session

1919 1/2 Second Ave.

WORKERS' FORUM

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

Likes Articles

Exposing Congress

Congratulations on that series of articles you are running on various prominent anti-labor hatchmen in the new Congress. You got Taft and Ball pegged just right, and I hope you will cover their pals too. Those caricatures by Gray are also swell.

T. H. New York City

Exposes Capitalist Press On Fascism

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Minneapolis Star Journal last week: On August 21, the labor movement of Minneapolis organized a magnificent anti-fascist demonstration against the race-baiting demagogue, Gerald L. K. Smith. In the Sept. 9 issue of the Minneapolis Star-Journal, an editorial attack was made on this demonstration. This editorial said in part:

"The resulting encounters gave Smith and his fascist-like movement the attention they crave." But G. L. K. Smith doesn't share the opinion of the Minneapolis Star editorial writer as to what "they crave!"

In an editorial in the January issue of that pernicious journal, The Cross and the Flag, Smith says:

"We have just put our hands on an article which has been appearing in the various Jewish journals in the nation advising various communities how to fight a rabble-rouser. Of course, according to their definition the rabble-rouser they are fighting is Gerald L. K. Smith. The current strategy is to use silence—do not picket, do not protest, do not publicize, let him alone, and if you let him alone, he will die and the cause he leads will die. Well, that is fine. Can I count on it? If so, just give our people one year to peaceably assemble without the fear of being as-

"HAND IN GLOVE"



saulted or spit upon or attacked by Jewish extremists and we will thank the writer of this article for the influence he has had upon our enemies."

In this, G. L. K. Smith is following the program of Adolf Hitler himself. In 1933, shortly after Hitler came to power in Germany, he said at Nuremberg, "Only one thing could have broken our movement—if the adversary had understood its principle and from the first day had smashed with the most extreme brutality, the nucleus of our new movement."

Fortunately, the Minneapolis labor movement did not follow the advice of the Minneapolis Star-Journal or of the Minneapolis "liberals," who advocated the "silent treatment" against Smith. Much more realistic, Minneapolis trade unionists showed that they learned something from the tragic experience of the German workers. Minneapolis trade unionists are going to fight race-baiting, union-busting fascists wherever they rear their ugly heads!

Grace Carlson, Organizer Socialist Workers Party Minneapolis, Minn.

BUFFALO

Thursday Night Class on Public Speaking, 8 p.m. MILITANT FORUM Sat., Feb. 15, 8:30 p.m. "The Answer to Wall Street's Anti-Labor Offensive." 629 Main Street 2nd floor

Wake Up in a Hurry!

I think we should wake up in a hurry, or the first thing we know we will have some laws passed that may cripple the unions for years to come. Too many workers are complacent about what is going on in Washington. Too many people fail to understand how immediate this danger is.

We should remember what happened in Germany, when many people underestimated the danger of fascism. I am not saying that fascism is an immediate prospect in this country today. But if we permit them to forge these new anti-labor chains and to bind us in them, then we will be in a greatly weakened position when fascism begins to develop.

When I say that too many workers are complacent, I mean in the sense that they are not putting pressure on the union leaders. These leaders are acting in their usual cowardly fashion, sucking around the anti-labor congressmen and politicians, and doing nothing stronger than praying. What we have to do is build a fire under them and FORCE them to put up a fight or kick them out. Leaders who can't lead now are not worth keeping in office.

Finally, I want to say this: All over the world the workers have parties of their own—all over except in the United States, which has the strongest labor movement. If we don't begin to use our strength on the political field beginning right now, we may soon be in a position where we cannot use our strength in any way. Subscriber Bronx, N. Y.

Youngstown Joins 100 Per Centers; Total Hits 45% In SWP \$20,000 Fund Campaign

By William F. Warde NATIONAL FUND CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Fifteen local branches in all sections of the country pitched in to add \$1,419.50 last week to the \$20,000 Emergency Fund Campaign for the Socialist Workers Party. This amounted to a seven per cent boost in the national total which now stands at \$8,944.64 or 45 per cent of the goal.

These encouraging returns show that the branches are beginning to respond to the need for quickening the pace of collections in the campaign. This was well expressed in both word and deed by Youngstown which entered the 100 Per Cent Club by hastening to send in two payments totalling \$133.

"We read your letter on the way the fund is lagging with concern and took special trouble to see to it that our payments were brought up to 100 per cent at once," writes Harry Braverman, branch secretary. "We are sure that the branches will take your alarm signal seriously and make a great effort in the closing weeks of the campaign that will bring us over the top. We don't want to break our record for always oversubscribing any fund or campaign decided upon."

Two more branches, Connecticut State and Houston from the deep South, have removed the zeros from their record. "We are bending every effort to complete our quota before the deadline set for the end of the drive," writes Anne Reese from Texas. "One of our plans is to contact subscribers to The Militant with the purpose of having them contribute to our fund."

"Here is an initial contribution of \$70 toward our \$120 quota," remarks M. Morris of Connecticut. "From the beginning of our work for the fund we took the view that the proper way to raise our quota was to raise it from our sympathizing circle and Militant readers who can directly aid the Socialist Workers Party through such financial support."

"At our social gatherings, the Lenin Memorial meeting, and through personal contact this month we have received the bulk of the money forwarded from the industrial workers in this area who have come to appreciate the work we are doing for Socialism here. We find that these friends of ours understand why we must come to them for help in this emergency. They accept the fact that the worker members of the Party must carry the burden of ordinary expenditures and are not in a position to take care of this extra load by themselves alone."

Thanks to a big donation from the Chelsea branch, the New York local passed the halfway mark in its \$6,000 quota. New York has been striding along in fine style from the start of the campaign.

In the mail today comes \$2 from J. P. and P. P. of New York with the following heartening message: "A contribution from a class-conscious worker and wife to the \$20,000 fund of the SWP. We are with you in your fight for a better world!"

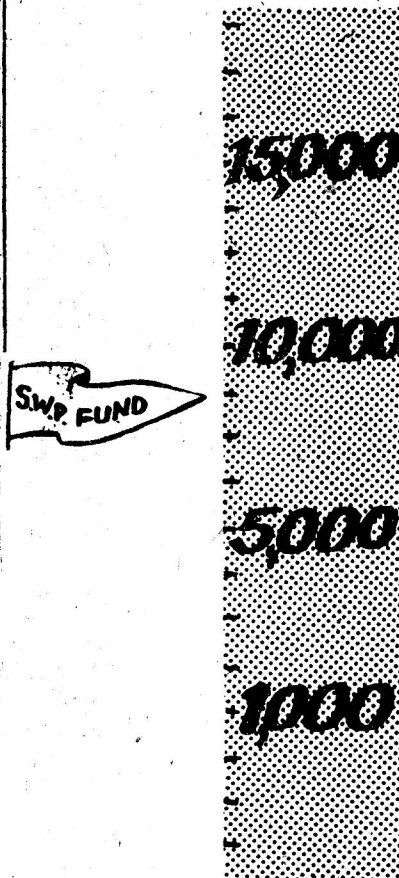
Through Chester Johnson Minneapolis encloses a check for \$100 which brings that branch up to 65 per cent. "Payments on individual pledges are coming in very well," says Chester. "We are confident of completing our quota before the close of the campaign. Our hope is to be in the 100 per cent column before long. In fact we have hopes of being in the 100 per cent plus class!"

So far St. Louis is the only city in that super class. This outstanding branch mailed in another \$12 and says it expects to double its assigned quota.

Los Angeles applied \$145 to its \$1,500 quota last week. "Last week we launched a drive in the sections to have the pledges paid up," writes Julie Miller, Campaign Director. "The next payment should be a large one."

The Chicago Youth is way out in front of all the other youth groups. "Here is five bucks more which puts us around 50 per cent and still going strong. We hope to send in more very soon," they write.

\$20,000



\$8,944

Feb. 3

SCOREBOARD

BRANCH	QUOTA	PAID	PER CENT
Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
ST. LOUIS	\$ 50	\$ 78.00	156
BOSTON	400	400.00	100
BUFFALO	700	700.00	100
YOUNGSTOWN	500	500.00	100
Minneapolis	670	435.00	65
Newark	300	182.00	61
Milwaukee	200	121.00	60
Connecticut State	120	70.00	58
New York Local	6,000	3,218.73	54
Pittsburgh	150	78.00	52
Chicago Youth	25	12.00	48
Flint	200	94.50	47
Reading	150	68.40	46
St. Paul	330	149.62	45
San Francisco	1,250	542.00	43
Philadelphia	500	202.70	41
Rochester	75	30.00	40
Toledo	300	110.00	37
San Diego	100	33.82	34
General	1,725	539.50	31
Cleveland	300	91.00	30
Los Angeles Local	1,500	447.00	30
Chicago Local	1,500	385.37	26
Detroit	1,000	259.00	26
Akron	400	82.00	20
Houston	25	5.00	20
Philadelphia Youth	25	5.00	20
Oakland	250	30.00	12
Seattle	800	75.00	9
Akron Youth	10	0	0
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	0	0
Baltimore	20	0	0
Bayonne	25	0	0
Los Angeles Youth	25	0	0
New York Youth	50	0	0
Portland	150	0	0
Tacoma	100	0	0
Total	\$20,000	\$ 8,944.64	45%

St. Paul SWP Exposes Bosses' Man, Labor-Baiter

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 1.—"Senator Joe Ball—the Bosses' Man" was the subject of a public meeting sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party in its local headquarters at 540 Cedar Street last night. Denouncing Ball as "a man with a working class background who sold himself to the highest bidder," Charles Scheer, speaker of the evening, declared that the Senator's anti-labor legislation is designed "to hogtie the labor movement." "The plans of American capitalism for world domination include a shackled, subservient labor movement," Scheer stated. "U.S. imperialism's strongest enemy now is at home—America's

15,000,000 organized workers. World domination is not possible with an active, militant, free labor movement at home," he continued. Condemning the "weak-kneed attitude" on the part of the leaders of the labor movement as "fatalistic," the speaker declared the union heads are more susceptible to the interests of the capitalist class than to the interests of their own members. This is so because the top leadership believes that capitalism guarantees the privileged position of the union bureaucracy, he stated. The interested audience bought literature, and the meeting netted additional subscriptions for the Fourth International campaign.

San Francisco American History Class

Thursdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Beginning Feb. 13 \$1.50 for 10 sessions 25 cents each session School of Social Science 305 Grant Ave., 4th Fl.

NEWARK VALENTINE SOCIAL

Saturday, Feb. 15 Food, Fun, Dancing 423 SPRINGFIELD AVE.

Youth Activities

AKRON. — Socialist Youth Club meets Sunday afternoon, 2 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing, 8 South Howard St. 2nd floor.

CHICAGO. — Youth meeting Fridays at 8 p.m. Discussion on pamphlet Socialism On Trial. Games and refreshments, 777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES. — Socialist Youth Club meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Educational after every meeting. Refreshments served.

NEW YORK. — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3. Open Forum: Every Friday, 8 p.m., 116 University Pl., Dancing, refreshments.

Saturday Nite House Parties: call GR 5-8149 for information. For information about Queens Youth Group, write M. Kevin, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3. PHILADELPHIA.—For information call ST. 4-5820, from noon to 6 p.m.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Socialist Competition Steps Up Sub-Getting

The Akron and Chicago branches of the Socialist Workers Party have stepped up sub-getting through socialist competition among the comrades.

The Chicago comrades sold more subs to The Militant during January than any previous four months. "We now have at our headquarters," writes Leon Forth, Literature Agent, "a really swell looking race track with race cars, etc., to show who the leading Militant sub-getters in the branch are. The track has been up only a few weeks and so far Helen S. is in the lead with 6 subs. Prizes of \$5, \$3, \$2, and \$1 in trade in our bookshop are to be given to the winners. A great interest has been stimulated in the race and the subs are coming in. So far since the race started, 40 subs have been turned in."

The Akron Branch has already reached the sub goal it set for January. Guilford Pennington reports: "Our Handicap" race has been an incentive for more comrades to participate in sub-getting. We are confident that we will go over our quota this month." Comrade Pennington sent in 7 subs with this report.

Paul Shell, Literature Agent for St. Paul, and Winifred Nelson, FI Campaign Director, sent the following joint report: "Enclosed are subs to apply on our Militant and F. I. quotas. These bring our F. I. score up to 16 and our Militant quota over the top for January. We have had many interesting experiences on our Sunday callbacks for F. I. and Militant subs. Paul Shell obtained 8 of these Militant subs in his shop where he works. One of the comrades reported tonight that one of the women (a Militant subscriber) she called on Sunday for an F. I. sub told her, 'I just love that paper,' and asked her to come back in a week when she had enough money to get a sub to the F. I."

"The Buffalo comrades know the importance of procuring subscriptions," says Charles Carlson, "and we know that in the future you can count on us for more subscriptions. We are conducting our regular mobilization drives and each and every comrade knows the full importance of the results of these drives." Fourteen subs to The Militant accompanied this report.

Connecticut State Branch sold 24 subs during the week. James

White gives us a brief report of their campaign to date: "We have obtained a total of 151 subs to date with C. Raymond in the lead with 57 subs, F. Spangler following with 42 and L. Morris with 34."

Hilda Webster of Lynn sent us 7 subs, stating: "The reason I send in these subs directly is that we comrades are in the midst of setting up our own branch here in Lynn, although we are not yet officially established. Our renewal campaign is well underway and we are pleased to report almost a 50 per cent renewal in this area."

Today's mail brought in 8 subs from Rena Breski of Boston, and 12 from E. Brent of Detroit. Comrade Brent says, "I can't tell you how good it is to go out and get these subscriptions. Not only do you meet nice people, but we are building the circulation of The Militant."

EI Snyder reports for Flint Branch: "We have had several mobilizations and all of those comrades who went out have obtained their quota of subs. Although I have 7 subs to my credit this month, two of them were obtained at our Saturday night open house, which goes to show that a little work and effort can do."

Seattle Branch has added considerable spirit to its sub-getting by using a poster. "The Militant poster shows a worker reading the paper," writes Clara Kaye, "with the comrades' names and scores on the paper. The worker is standing beside a plant boasting two tremendous smokestacks, each a thermometer—each for January and one for February. Comrade Frank conceived and made this poster, and it is excellently done. We are trying to emphasize the individual quota of two subs a month."

Militant boosters are doing everything they can to get more people to read the paper. V. O. of Rison, Ark., renewed her own sub for six months and sent in new subs for three of her friends.

E. J. Carmona of New York City sent us \$3 with the following notation: "Please continue my subscription to The Militant for a year and use the extra \$2 for the benefit of the paper in any way you see fit."

Akron Tenants Demand War On Rats In Federal Housing

By Milton Genecin (Special to The Militant)

AKRON, Jan. 31 — Armed with petitions demanding immediate action to wipe out the growing danger from rats, representatives of the newly founded Tenants Defense League yesterday saw Mayor Slusser in an effort to find out what the city administration planned to do.

James Carmichael and John Matthews, spokesmen for 260 tenants of the flimsy Federal Housing mobile units, described the situation as an emergency and demanded that the Mayor take the following steps immediately:

1. Clean up all city dumps and stop using them altogether.
2. Build incinerators to burn all garbage, trash and rubbish.
3. Arrange for adequate pick-up of garbage and trash from homes.
4. Institute a widespread campaign of rat extermination and control.

RESPONSE NEGATIVE

The response from the Mayor was rather negative. Insisting that there was no emergency, he told the tenants' spokesmen that "Akron always had this rat problem... We are doing better than we used to... We have appropriated \$10,000 to be spent during the year for rat control... That should be enough money... I'm not sure that having the city pick up trash and rubbish in addition to garbage and burning it would be the best way... It is impossible to allocate more money to the Health Department... The Federal Housing Authority pays no taxes," and so on and so on.

However, the Health Department authorities are reported to be dissatisfied with the \$10,000 appropriation and would like more money to do a real job in rat control. They report that Akron has half a million rats, much higher than the national average, and that they do a million dollars worth of damage a year in addition to carrying a dangerous health hazard.

CONTINUE ACTION

The spokesmen for the tenants, after describing the terrible conditions in their areas which are heavily infested with rats and demanding action, left the Mayor's office with the promise to return if conditions do not take a turn for the better. They said they would continue to organize tenants in all parts of the city and solicit the support of other organizations to get some action. Further reports of rats invading homes were made by Carmichael whose home has been entered many times.

It was clear from the interview with the Mayor that the city authorities were taking a routine attitude to the entire matter and that great public pressure would have to be brought to bear to get any real action to prevent an outbreak of an epidemic and further danger to residents of federal housing that offer no protection against the rat danger.

NEW YORK
February Frolics
Saturday, Feb. 8
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Candidates For
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AKRON—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays, 7 p.m. Public Speaking class.

BALTIMORE—For information write Box 415, Baltimore 3, Md. Monthly forums.

BAYONNE—62 W. 23rd St. Open house 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

BOSTON 30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO — Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone MADison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday. Public-speaking Class; Every Thurs. 8 p.m. Open house and current events discussion every Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Admission free.

CHICAGO—777 W. Adams (corner Halsted), Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Park Ave.).

DETROIT—6108 Linwood Ave., phone TY. 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.

FLINT—215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, 8 p.m. — Militant Workers Forum, 466 E. Vernon. **SAN PEDRO**, Militant Publishing Assn., — 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

MILWAUKEE—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St., open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Tel. Main 7781. Library, bookstore.

Sunday Forums, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN—Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open Mon., 7:30-9:15 p.m. Fridays, 8:15 p.m.; 1st and 3rd each month, open forum. 2nd and 4th, round table discussion.

NEWARK—423 Springfield Ave. Phone Bigelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.

Friday night forum, 8:30.

NEW YORK—CITY GR., 116 University Place. HQ. 5-8149.

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St. Rm. 23. MO. 2-1866. Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101. Reading room open Mon. to Fri., 7 to 10 p.m.

Discussion on the SWP Program every Wed. 8 p.m.

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433. **CHELSEA**: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434. **OAKLAND**, Cal.—Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351. **PHILADELPHIA** — 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open

daily, Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

PITTSBURGH—1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor. Office hours: Tues. and Thurs. 7 to 9 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 2 to 9 p.m.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Write to Socialist Workers Party, c/o C. M. Hesser, P.O. Box 3711.

SAN DIEGO—Headquarters 623 Sixth Ave., open 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SAN FRANCISCO — School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., cor. of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor open from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1926.

SEATTLE—1919½ Second Ave. Open Monday through Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Tel. SE-0543 Library, bookstore. Friday forum—8 p.m.

ST. LOUIS — 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

ST. PAUL—540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2, Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30.

TACOMA, Wash. — Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Oddfellows Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

TOLEDO—108 Summit St., Toledo 4, O. Open daily, Phone MAIN 8919.

YOUNGSTOWN — 35½ South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

By Grace Carlson

Writers of home-making columns in women's magazines are fond of telling housewives how lucky they are to have been born in the Twentieth Century.



There's the Dishmatic, for example. The machine holds 95 pieces, including china, glassware and silver.

The Negro Struggle

The Kind Of Action We Need

By William E. Bohannon

My mother often used to tell us: "When you don't have anything to say, hold your tongue."



"One of the techniques employed by minority groups to bring about pressure to bear upon members of Congress is questionable," he declares.

Then Lautier goes ahead to list a whole series of these marches—Coxey's Army, the hunger marches in the depression, the Bonus Army march, and the recent visit to Washington of an organized group calling for the ouster of Bilbo.

But this conclusion is 100 per cent false. As a member of the unemployed organizations during the depression, I know that no bills for unemployment relief were enacted while the hunger marchers were in Washington.

The Bonus Army was driven out of Washington empty-handed; but every historian admits that the resentment which was created by this brutal action against the veterans was re-

the Dual-Temp is the Steri-Lamp. The ultraviolet rays of this lamp discourage mold, the development of bacteria and the transfer of odors.

But the most miraculous of all is the Radarange. Operated by the magnetron tube, which is the basis of radar, the Radarange will cook a six-pound beef rib roast in two minutes; a hamburger in 35 seconds and gingerbread in 29 seconds.

Now, it may surprise the "home-making" advisers to hear it, but working-class housewives don't have that kind of money to spend.

And, if they wanted to investigate further, they would find that for the big majority of housewives, there is still an awful lot of drudgery left in housework!

responsible for the bonus bill passed a few years later. And while the small group that went to Washington last month was not alone responsible for stopping Bilbo at the door, this group as the representative of millions of people opposing Bilbo helped to exert pressure which shaped the final decision.

And even Lautier admits that it was the threatened Negro March on Washington in 1941 which forced Roosevelt to create the FEPC. If all Lautier was trying to say is that marches on Washington by themselves cannot solve our problems, I would have no quarrel with him.

"The orderly way to go about influencing legislation is for interested individuals and organizations first to interest themselves in getting a hearing on the measure in which they are interested. They may then request the committee chairman to allow them to appear before the committee during hearings on the bill.

But it certainly isn't the effective way to get capitalist politicians to pass legislation they are opposed to. "The statements will be printed in the hearings" all right and then they will be dropped into the waste basket.

The only kind of language that really gets over to them is fighting language, and the only time they act on such language is when it is backed up by fighting action. A militant March on Washington is one form of such action, and what we need is more and not less of them.

On The Railroads

Can You Spare A Billion?

By Henry Adams

After months of crying the blues, the railroad companies got a 17 1/2 per cent increase in freight rates — an estimated cool billion dollars dropped in their laps.



Are the railroad magnates happy? Not in public! Gloomy predictions for 1947 issue from every railroad president's office because the ICC did not grant the full 25 per cent increase.

asked. As one Washington correspondent wrote: "Should you be at the Union Station, Washington and happen to notice a portly gentleman with coat out of elbow and a battered hat, suppress the kindly impulse that might lead you to spare him a dime.

The kind of money the railroads actually make is graphically illustrated by a report in the November issue of Trains on the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac. The RF&P has 118 miles of track. It is owned jointly by five other roads (Atlantic Coast, B&O, C&O, Pennsy, Seaboard

Air, Southern) and the State of Virginia which put up \$275,000 in the 1830's to get the line started. On that original investment of \$275,000, the state has drawn five million dollars in profits. In addition, the original investment of \$275,000 has grown to two million — all on 118 miles of track!

This kind of loan shark profits is what the railroad bosses call "normal business." So when the Class I railroads make only 96 1/2 million net profits in the first nine months of 1946, they all start wailing that the railroad industry is going to the dogs.

As the ultra-conservative Barron's Financial Weekly says of their complaints and dismal predictions: "Such expressions of opinion must be considered in the light of the motives prompting them. Without doubt, the most important motive is to try to ward off further wage increases." (Dec. 30, 1946).

Pity the poor railroad bosses! Brother, can you spare a billion?

Notes From The News

The New York County Republican Committee is fighting an eviction notice from its landlord, the National Republican Club, which ordered the former to vacate its fourth floor office space in the national club's buildings.



The NAACP is demanding that the Department of Justice investigate and prosecute the Mississippians who testified before a Senate subcommittee in Dec. that they practiced intimidation and fraud to bar Negroes from the Democratic primary which nominated Bilbo last July.

Minneapolis now has a city FEPC law, thanks to the pressure of the unions, Negro and veteran organizations.

The UAW Veterans Conference in Washington last week threatened to organize tenant strikes if rents are boosted.

The unions in Kenosha, Wis., are sponsoring

four independent labor candidates in the city council primary this week.

A suit asking \$47,500 in damages for the murder of the two Ferguson brothers, the wounding of a third and the arrest of a fourth, was served on the village of Freeport, L. I., last week. The brutal assault on the Negro servicemen by the Freeport cop, Romeika, took place a year ago this month.

"A genuine Labor Party in Akron" is advocated by Air Bag, paper of United Rubber Workers Local 5.

The Social Democrats are getting ready a new monthly magazine, Modern Review, which will be published in the name of the American Labor Conference on International Affairs.

The increasingly important role of Negroes in the UAW in Flint was shown recently when the United Rank and File Caucus nominated Marie Norman for recording secretary of AC Sparkplug Local 651 and the Progress and Action Caucus nominated Harrison Johnson for the executive board of Chevrolet Local 659.

THE MILITANT

Bosses Invent New Lies Against Wage Increases

By Art Preis

Big Business is hurling a new propaganda barrage against wage increases. This is timed to blast CIO demands for "substantial wage increases" to offset a 35 per cent cost-of-living rise that wiped out the limited pay raises of last year and dragged real wages below last year's levels.

Since recent terrific price rises and all-time record profits have reduced the effectiveness of the old propaganda that wage raises cause price increases, the bosses are firing a new-type ammunition.

They are now claiming that the cost of living is declining and will speedily drop much lower. Every slight dip in this or that super-inflated commodity is blazoned in headlines. "Price adjustment" we are told is already in full flood. According to the reassurances of some capitalist "economists," the era of the nickel beer is just around the corner.

A cold study of the facts shows that the general cost of living is not falling.

ALL-TIME HIGH

On Jan. 23 the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed that in the week ending Jan. 18—after three months of a campaign about prices declining—average primary market prices rose to a new all-time high, 32 per cent above mid-January 1946.

The only decline noted is in food, and the average here is deceptive because it is weighted with a few outstanding items like butter which had a sharp dip. Food prices fell 1.1 per cent in four weeks; but were still 47.1 per cent higher than a year ago.

This slight dip has already been halted, at least temporarily, by government measures, including subsidies to rich farmers enabling them to withhold commodities to maintain scarcity and to destroy products outright.

BOLSTER PEAK PRICES

Cotton prices, which recently experienced a sharp drop are now rebounding as the result of a big inoculation of government price-bolstering funds. Roosevelt's New Deal program of crop and livestock destruction to keep prices up, is now being reintroduced. Thus, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson has issued an order to "dump" 20,000,000 bushels of "surplus" potatoes. The Jan. 31 U. S. News comments: "Even now, farmers are to be given checks for destroying potatoes, just as they once were paid to kill little pigs in order to try to support prices or push them higher."

When will the already proclaimed but non-existent gen-

eral price decline actually make its appearance? First we heard it would be no later than this Spring. Now you will find, if you read the financial pages carefully, that the capitalist prognosticators are fixing the date further away. "A decline in the cost of living during the CLOSING HALF of this year was predicted unanimously by eleven leading economists at a meeting of the National Industrial Conference Board Forum," reported the N. Y. Times of Jan. 31.

RENT RAISE LOOMS

For the immediate period ahead, then, labor would be foolish to bank on lower living costs. One of the biggest living-cost boosts is in the offing—rent increases. That is the premise on which labor must base its fight for higher wages.

For this reason, the program of the sliding scale of wages retains full force.

Labor lost billions in potential purchasing power by failing to fight before the war for the inclusion of escalator clauses in all union contracts. These would have provided automatic wage increases, above the basic minimum rates, for all increases in the cost of living. During the war, the Big Business government put out propaganda, that prices would be kept down, and therefore wages should be frozen. Wages were frozen at 15% above the Jan. 1942 level. But prices soared about 50 per cent.

NOTHING TO LOSE

When price control was eliminated, we heard that the capitalists would practice "self-restraint" and that "free enterprise" would lead to speedy "readjustment" of prices. Prices were "re-adjusted"—upward. If labor had fought for and won a sliding scale of wages, the wage gains of last Spring would have been protected against this inflationary knife.

The workers have nothing to lose and everything to gain by winning the sliding scale of wages. If prices rise, such a clause will protect their living standards. If and when general prices decline, the basic wage rates will not go below the guaranteed minimum incorporated in the contract.

Once the escalator clause is embodied in union contracts, the workers won't have to direct all their attention and energies just trying to catch up with elusive prices. With real wages automatically kept abreast of the cost of living, labor can then fight for basic wage increases that will mean an outright improvement in living standards.

New York Tenants Picket Mayor



These tenants, now living in a New York low-rent project, picket the offices of Mayor William O'Dwyer to protest attempts to evict all tenants with incomes above the present very low limit. "Out of the Foxhole into the Park," one placard reads. Federated pictures

Stalinists Try To Sow Division In NMU Ranks

By C. Thomas

With President Joseph Curran carrying the fight to the membership, the internal struggle in the CIO National Maritime Union is sharpening over the question of continued affiliation to the Stalinist-dominated Committee for Maritime Unity.

Curran is touring the ports, calling on the membership to force the Stalinist majority of the NMU National Council to grant a referendum on disaffiliating from the CMU. He charges that the Communist Party is using the CMU in an effort to tighten its bureaucratic grip on the NMU and perpetuate its control over the union apparatus.

In their reckless drive to retain control of the NMU, the Stalinists have given the dispute a sinister twist by deliberately sowing the seeds of Jim-Crow division and race hatred in the union ranks.

In flagrant violation of union policy, the Stalinist editor of the NMU Pilot published an unsigned letter in the Jan. 24 issue, containing an unspeakable attack upon the Negro union members. Vice-president Joseph Stack, leading Stalinist spokesman, alleges he received the letter and ordered it printed to illustrate a dangerous "trend" in the union. The anonymous letter was used by Stack to launch a

for their complete violation of the policies of the Union, that no anonymous letters should be carried in the Pilot. Many members, including myself, take the position that Stack wrote this letter."

The circumstantial evidence supports Curran's suspicion that Stack, or one of his henchmen, wrote the so-called anonymous letter.

The letter very conveniently contains the three main elements in the Stalinist campaign to discredit the opponents of CMU: red-baiting, Jim-Crow prejudice of the vilest sort, and a preference for the AFL. These are the three dirty sticks with which the Stalinists have been beating the opposition.

The internal evidence strongly indicates that the letter was especially manufactured to provide the Stalinists with "ammunition" against the Curran group. By trying the race question to the dispute on CMU affiliation, the Stalinists are stirring up fierce race hatreds which can tear the union apart.

This latest incident demonstrates that the reactionary Stalinist clique is prepared to go to any extreme to perpetuate its control of the National Maritime Union.

A Program To Meet The Crisis In Housing

By John Fredericks

Every worker today is acutely aware of the housing crisis. If 10 million homes were to be provided at once, this would be just a beginning in the solution of the problem.

My previous articles showed how greed for profits has deliberately fostered a scarcity of homes. Only through scarcity can a scale of high rents be maintained. Private industry has shown no intention of relieving this crisis through a program of home building. Yet, it is only through an emergency program of building modern, permanent homes for workers, that the housing crisis can find a solution.

On the other hand, the government, which spends countless billions for war preparations, siphons the few millions appropriated for housing into the coffers of the capitalists controlling the manufacture of building materials.

The responsibility for immediate action in this acute housing crisis rests with the government. It is only through a full scale program of home building by the government, that the workers can expect any immediate easing of the housing problem.

LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

Without tremendous pressure from the working class, however, the capitalist government will only continue with its present hopelessly inadequate program. The workers, through their unions and political organizations,

must launch an all-out campaign for government housing. This means a nation-wide fight for the following full-scale building program.

Congress must be compelled to adopt a bill authorizing the government to immediately construct 10 million homes, regardless of cost. The government, which had the power to spend hundreds of billions and rigidly regulate production and allocation of materials for imperialist war, has the power to obtain the necessary land and materials for building homes.

The interests of the greedy real estate, construction and building materials interests must be brushed aside. The land and materials of these obstructionist owners must be seized if they stand in the way of the completion of the building program. Plants of materials manufacturers who withhold materials should be taken over by the government and operated under workers' control.

A national board of management for the 10-million homes building program should consist primarily of workers' trade union representatives, plus representatives of rank and file veteran organizations and tenants groups. It is the working people, veterans and low-in-

come tenants who need housing and are most interested in the speedy completion of a real housing program.

MINIMUM PROGRAM

These Federal Housing Projects, when completed, should be managed by their tenants. The rents charged should not exceed \$50 per month, the maximum even the best-paid workers can afford. But the majority of dwelling units should rent at not more than \$30, to permit all workers to have a decent home.

This is the minimum program to halt the housing crisis.

Will such a program be expensive? Some people might think so. But when you consider the hundreds of billions spent for World War II, and the further scores of billions being spent on new war preparations, then you can see that a 10-million unit housing program is easily within the means of the government. Countless corporations, shipping lines, air lines, etc., are receiving government

subsidies running into billions. It is just as possible for the government to subsidize homes for workers at rents within their means. The money for such a program must come from taxing those who grew bloated on war profits.

OTHER MEASURES

While this all-out housing program is being organized, there are many measures that the government can take to alleviate the more pressing needs of homeless workers and veterans. All unoccupied space in the mansions of the rich, hotels, clubs and resorts, should be taken over for housing veterans. The government should halt the wrecking of all suitable housing that is being destroyed to make way for stores, theaters, office buildings, super-highways, etc. These latter projects consume scarce materials for the profit of the capitalists, with no regard to housing needs.

The government should also make available converted structures, but as an emergency measure only. It should be clearly understood that converted structures are no part of a permanent solution to the housing crisis, and those forced to live in converted structures must be provided new permanent housing as soon as available.

The main task is for the workers to demand the immediate full-scale government building program that alone will provide decent and adequate low cost housing.

Arne Swaback Analyzes Housing Shortage

What are the real causes of the housing shortage? Will this shortage continue and why? What is the solution for the housing crisis? Scientific answers to these and other burning questions are contained in a survey of the housing situation by Arne Swaback in the February issue of Fourth International.

The article deals with fundamental aspects which are deliberately slurred over by the capitalist press. Pointing out that scarcity is the chronic condition in housing, the author shows how this enables huge profits to be made, especially by the mortgage bankers who charge interest rates three and four times the actual cost of "building financing," including risks of depreciation, loss or foreclosure.

The real reasons for the soaring building costs are to be found in the profit motive. This industry, like the others under capitalism, is "infested with a veritable wolfpack of profiteering speculators and gamblers in real estate." Land prices have skyrocketed. Concurrently the mortgage sharks have enjoyed unprecedented prosperity. In 1946 mortgage investments set an all time high. "The total of new mortgages made on homes may reach 8 billion dollars" which is "almost 40 per cent more than in 1928, the peak year of the building boom in the Twenties."

Single copies can be obtained for 25 cents, yearly subscription \$2, from Business Manager, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.