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10,000 Attend Rally Of Ceylon Trotskyists

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Harsh Weather Hastens British Economic Crisis

Worn-Out Industrial Plant Shut Down As Government Tries To Patch Up Capitalism

By John Saunders

British capitalism finds itself today in the gravest economic crisis of its 300 year rule. The descent of harsh winter weather sufficed to cause a breakdown of England's worn-out and antiquated industrial plant.

Although Minister of Fuel and Power Emanuel Shinwell places the onus of the crisis on the weather, it is clear that it is only a contributing factor. Echoing Hitler's slogan, "We must export or die," the British capitalists, served by their labor lackeys in office, have driven their dilapidated machinery beyond endurance.

Declining productivity due to worn-out machinery, lack of raw materials and manpower, the general weariness of the workers, as well as the greed of the British industrialists to export

beyond the country's capacity, have brought this crisis to a head.

Lack of coal, made worse by transport difficulties, has caused a large number of the power plants to shut down completely and forced the curtailment of many others. In addition thousands of factories have turned off their power, causing widespread unemployment. This is now estimated at above 5 million, with the possibility that the situation may get even worse in the coming days.

Millions of British workers are living in darkness and bitter cold under conditions more grim than in the bleakest days of the war. Millions stand in long queues to receive their meager unemployment doles.

British industry has already lost millions of dollars as a result of the almost complete shutdown and loss of export trade. This sum is rising steadily with each passing day.

TIGHTEN BELTS
Bewilderment mixed with bitterness is mounting among British workers, who are asked once more, this time by a Labor Government, to tighten their belts. When coal was withheld even from hospitals, workers demonstrated in London three times on Feb. 8.

Thus, the Labor Government finds itself holding the bag in the crisis, with many trade unionists resentful and hostile to the people they have placed in office.

Yet the Labor Government has thus far refused to take any necessary steps to ameliorate the situation despite the demands of the workers.

It is possible to improve the situation with regard to manpower shortage. As the Engineering and Allied Trades Shop Stewards National Council stated at a recent meeting: "The crisis makes it clear that Britain can no longer afford to keep 1,600,000 men in the services, with another half-million producing weapons for them. We must cut our foreign policy according to our cloth and bring home from the Middle East thousands of men."

Further from the minds of the labor lackeys, however, is to
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Minneapolis Union Secures Escalator Clause

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 15 — An escalator clause providing for automatic wage increases to meet increases in living costs was incorporated in a contract signed here last week between AFL Lathers Local 190 and building contractors.

Walter Frank, Local 190 business representative, also announced other wage gains, vacation pay provisions and a work-week of 35 hours to be reduced to 30 hours on Nov. 1, 1947.

In the contract, which is reported in full in the Feb. 6 issue of the *Minneapolis Labor Review*, the escalator clause is designated a Cost of Living Adjustment. It reads:

"This adjustment shall be based on the official figures of the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The 'All Items' column for Minneapolis as of May 15, 1947 shall be the commencement anchor point. For every four-month period thereafter, that the cost of living has increased three points or more in the 'All Items' column, then the wage-scale of the Union from and after the 15th day of each four-month computation period, shall automatically be increased one cent for each point commencing with said three points."

The contract provides for a wage-scale of \$2.05 per hour for all members of the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers Union in the Minneapolis area.

National Conference Seeks Consolidation Of Enginemen

CHICAGO, Feb. 13—In this greatest rail center of the world representatives of locomotive enginemen working on the main railroad lines from coast to coast have been meeting for the past three days in the first national conference of the Consolidation Committee of Enginemen.

This rank and file caucus of progressive railroad unions is composed of members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen who aim to merge these two dual unions into one organization democratically representing all 210,000 organized enginemen.

This rapidly growing unity movement, already backed by 25,000 enginemen, is undoubtedly the most important development in rail labor since the May 1946 strike.

At a mass interview held by conference delegates here at the Midland Hotel yesterday their newly elected national officers explained the program and purposes of the Consolidation Committee of Enginemen.

These men who operate the crack flyers and pull the freight on the main rail lines of the country, with seniority ranging from eight to 53 years, provided an extremely impressive setting for the interview. They certainly looked as though they meant business in their fight against

the hardened bureaucracies of these two brotherhoods.

"In the past 27 years the wages of railroad workers have slipped from second to 27th place," said Russell R. Walker, Secretary-Treasurer of the CCE. "There has not been a single improvement in working rules and conditions on a national basis during this time. The main reason for this is the division among the railroad workers which is especially crippling and wasteful among the enginemen."

"Both the BLE and BLFE compete for the same men in the cabs and often represent them in the same shop on the same grievances. Some men, called 'double-headers,' belong to both organizations."

He introduced one of the delegates present, J. P. Morris of Tucson, Arizona, who had a combined membership of 77 years in the two unions! This veteran engineer was anxious to consolidate himself before he retired. Imagine his predicament last May when the BLE was called out on strike and the mem-

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WHITE, NEGRO UNIONISTS IN SOUTHERN MASS MARCH

A "Minor" Operation



Chicago SWP Candidate Demands Housing Action From Government

CHICAGO, Feb. 17 — Homer Lewis, first Trotskyist ever to win a place on the municipal election ballot here, is running a vigorous campaign for Alderman in the Third Ward as the Feb. 25 election date draws near.

The Socialist Workers Party has chosen as its first candidate here a militant Negro leader who represents the most oppressed section of the Chicago workingclass.

South Carolina Negro Murdered By Lynch Gang

Another butchered victim of the post-war wave of Jim-Crow terrorism was added on Feb. 17 to the rising toll of mob-murdered Negroes.

In Pickens, South Carolina, an armed gang of about 35 white men invaded the Pickens County Jail and seized a 25-year-old Negro, Willie Earle. Earle had been arrested the day before, accused of stabbing a Greenville taxi-driver. But he never got a trial by a jury.

When Earle was found an hour later in the dawn-light on a frosty roadside, his face had been nearly blasted away by shot-guns; his body was punctured with stab-wounds.

Jailer Ed Gilstrap described the lynchers as unmasked men who drove up in seven cars. He accompanied two of the men, armed with shotguns, to the prisoner's cell, which the turkey unlocked. Gilstrap explained, as is usual in these cases, that he didn't "recognize" any of the murderers, although he probably knows everybody for forty miles around.

Identification of the bestially mangled body was established by Pickens County Sheriff Wayne H. Mauldin from two dirty one-dollar bills found in the clothing, the money Earle had on him when he was first arrested. A flurry of "investigation" is under way, with Governor Strom Thurmond expressing his "indignation" and ordering the state constabulary to join in the "search" for the lynchers.

That is the usual cover-up procedure by Southern public officials following a lynching. And as usual, it is expected that as soon as things "quiet down" the lynchers will be walking the streets as free men without fear of apprehension.

cratic and Republican mayoralty candidates, Kennelly and Root, as agents of Big Business, and is urging Chicago labor to vote for Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers Party write-in candidate, in the mayoralty election on April 1.

This week Lewis assailed the corrupt city administration which permits the existence of fire-trap tenements where in the past few weeks a dozen men, women and children have been burned to death. Following the latest fatal fire last Thursday, he urged "the necessity of the people organizing Tenants Unions to fight for immediate safety measures to prevent any more fatal fires. The profit-greedy landlords will not do this unless they are forced to do so."

He called for organization to force the city and state "to provide immediate emergency housing for all inhabitants of unsafe buildings" and "to build low rent public housing projects."

He demanded that the \$200,000,000 in the state sales tax fund be used for immediate low-rent housing.

Landlords Handed "Hardship Relief"

Millions of landlord applications for rent "relief" began to flood into OPA rent division offices this week as the Administration's new "hardship" provisions went into effect on Feb. 15.

Throughout the country, OPA was spending its fast dwindling funds setting up new offices for the sole purpose of handing out rent boosts under the new "liberalized" regulations.

The Housing Appropriations Committee in Washington meanwhile rejected OPA requests for funds to continue rent control enforcement after March 31.

Almost all OPA activities are expected to be concentrated on considering landlord "hardships." "Hardship" for any landlord means not being able to charge any extortionate rent he pleases.

As the Truman Administration knocks the props from under rent control by the slick device of the landlord "hardship" provisions, Congress is preparing a frontal attack on all rent ceilings.

The rent subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee is expected some time

Rubber Union Rejects 'Big 4' Contract Stall

URW Policy Committee Calls for Strike Vote

(Special to The Militant)

AKRON, Ohio, Feb. 15 — After a week of fruitless negotiations with the "Big Four" rubber corporations, the CIO United Rubber Workers, is now taking strike votes to enforce its demands for a 26-cent an hour general wage increase to meet the increased cost of living.

Negotiations between representatives of all locals in the "Big Four" set-up and representatives of the rubber monopolists broke up February 3, after the corporations refused even to discuss a wage increase. The only subject the company spokesmen would discuss was a 90-day extension of the old wage agreement.

Basing themselves on the action of CIO President Philip Murray, who had agreed to a 90-day extension in steel, the rubber bosses demanded that the rubber union follow suit. But the URW International Policy Committee, representing all local unions in the Goodrich, Goodyear, Firestone and U. S. Rubber plants, unanimously rejected this proposal. The Committee voted to take immediate strike votes and prepare to win their demands by whatever action may be necessary.

REFUSE TO SURRENDER

Thus, the rubber workers are the first major section of the CIO to refuse to follow Murray's surrender policies.

Should the union be forced to strike the "Big Four" to win its demands, this will be the first nation-wide rubber strike.

The union is on solid ground in stubbornly pushing its demands. The corporations made
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U. S. Steel Pact On Inequities Stirs Criticism

By Harry Braverman

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Feb. 17 — The recently announced CIO United Steelworkers' Wage Inequities Agreement with U. S. Steel Corporation, concluded after three-year negotiations, has stirred a hot current of criticism among steel workers and militant local unions here.

Designed to eliminate wage inequalities between jobs and geographical areas, the agreement contains some surprising union concessions to Big Steel pressure, including several large wage reductions. In addition, various job ratings on both incentive and hourly jobs, have aroused considerable indignation. Workers consider the pay set for them in some of the job ratings as far too low.

Locals 1330 and 1307 at U. S. Steel's Carnegie-Illinois subsidiary are most immediately affected. They have agreed to work jointly for elimination of the agreement's undesirable features. "Other steel workers throughout the Mahoning Valley are also incensed at the pay cuts and other bad features of the agreement, because they realize that the U. S. Steel settlement sets the pattern for the whole industry."

Steel union militants here agree that the principle of eliminating wage inequalities is a good one and that the agreement as a whole fulfills a worthwhile purpose, but that in many specific cases it works a raw injustice. For instance, bricklayers are cut 15½ cents an hour; railroad workers, 7½ cents.

United Labor Demonstration At Tennessee State Capital

By Art Preis

Feb. 17 — The tramp of marching feet in the streets of a Southern state capital on Feb. 13 sounded a clarion call for white and Negro labor unity in common struggle against the capitalist exploiters of all workers.

In Nashville, Tennessee, some 2,500 white and Negro workers, representing every union affiliation from all parts of the state, united in a mass march on the state capitol building to fight against a threatened open shop bill and other anti-labor laws. Never before has Nashville or any other state capitol of the labor-hating, Jim-Crow, Southern Bourbons witnessed such a scene.

A four-block-long column of AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhood members, with white and Negro workers standing shoulder to shoulder, marched four-abreast behind one big banner that read: "Opposed to the Open Shop."

They entered the capitol building in a body, filed past the Gov-

ernor's first-floor office and up the stairs into the General Assembly chamber where the State Senate and House were in joint session. The marchers jammed the galleries.

JEER REACTIONARIES

During a two-hour hearing, union spokesmen denounced the proposed bill to outlaw closed shop contracts in Tennessee. The workers jeered when sponsors of the union-crippling bill remained silent after five separate requests to come forward and defend their measure.

The State Senate Labor Committee, which had called the hearing, subsequently voted five to one to report out the bill without recommendation. The House Labor Committee voted to table it. It was later reported that the bill may be pushed through some time this week under orders from Memphis' corrupt Boss Crump.

Whatever the immediate outcome of their demonstration, Tennessee unionists have given an inspiring example to the whole American labor movement.

From the backward South, with its traditions of anti-unionism and racial bigotry, has come a demonstration of labor militancy and solidarity that points the way for labor nationally. Tennessee workers have shown in action the way to combat the anti-labor offensive of Big Business

ALARMS RULERS

and its Congress. The deep significance of the march in Nashville must certainly alarm the cruel Southern ruling class of rich industrialists and landowners. It is evidence that their Jim-Crow system for dividing the workers is crumbling. It is a sign that a new progressive force is emerging right inside the strongest citadel of American reaction, the South. That force is the awakening Southern working class.

Hail the unionists of Tennessee! Let all American labor follow their example of unity in action as the only way to defeat the anti-union drive.

"CAUTION" TALK SCREENS DEADLY ANTI-LABOR DRIVE

Wall Street's legislative drive against organized labor rolled ahead last week under cover of a propaganda smoke-screen about proceeding "cautiously."

Taft, boss of the Senate Republican steamroller, again declared that his Labor and Public Welfare Committee will report out a revised version of the savagely anti-labor Case bill by March 15. The Senate will then discuss the measure for two weeks, he declared, and be prepared to vote by April 1.

Union spokesmen will be permitted to appear before Taft's committee for about eight sessions. But Wall Street's political representatives do not expect labor testimony to slow Taft's time schedule, since labor hasn't a single representative to defend its cause on the floor of Congress.

Fred A. Hartley, Jr., henchman of New York's Governor Dewey and Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, announced on Feb. 17, precisely 12 days after opening hearings, that his committee has reached virtual agreement on a 7-point omnibus bill designed to tie labor to the stake.

This bill will inflict heavy punishments for mass picketing;

Hartley's announcement of agreement on these measures followed wide publicity that his Committee had changed its mind and decided to proceed with "caution" on anti-labor legislation. On Feb. 12 Dewey's lieutenant told the press that the House would wait to see what Taft's Senate machine decided on before plunging ahead. The time schedule set by the Dewey forces, however, is the same as that of the Taft crew. They plan to have a bill ready for action on the floor by March 15.

The real purpose of the talk about "caution" is to blind the labor movement to the deadly danger of the laws earmarked for passage.

N. Y. Subway Riders Win Round In Battle To Save 5-Cent Fare From Assault Of Real Estate Interests

By Joseph Hansen

New York's strap-hangers won another reprieve for the five-cent subway fare at the public hearings held February 10-11. After giving 69 speakers the floor, Mayor O'Dwyer declared that "an increase in the fare on the city's transit system is not in the best interests of the people of the city at this time."

The hearings marked a high point in Wall Street's persistent drive for a 10-cent fare. Held on Mayor O'Dwyer's initiative, the hearings gave every spokesman of the real estate interests full opportunity to argue for a higher fare and try to break down the traditional resistance of New York's masses to any tampering with the nickel fare. Twenty-two corporation lawyers and professional publicity experts were granted the rostrum. Defendants of the five-cent fare were limited to 47 spokesmen.

LETTERS POUR IN

How heavily this ratio was weighted in Wall Street's favor can be judged from the letters pouring into City Hall. Out of 6,426 letters received in about three days, 98.1% were against any increase while only 1.9% favored socking the public.

In the face of such overwhelming sentiment the Mayor did not dare come out in favor of an increase. It would have meant political suicide. He therefore played the role of putting up a "last ditch fight" against any increase, posing as a champion of the five-cent fare.

But he skillfully avoided probing into the rotten deals that converted New York's transit system into a gold mine for Wall Street operators for decades. He did not touch the sordid scandal of City Hall's issuing \$326,000,000 in 3% bonds in 1940 for the privilege of operating its own subways.

O'Dwyer utilized the hearings to build up pressure for a further huge increase of some \$400,000,000 in New York's already staggering debt burden.

ONLY POSTPONED

Wall Street's mouthpiece, the N. Y. Times, expressed sharp editorial disappointment over O'Dwyer's decision against an increase "at this time," and said the Mayor emerges with "damaged prestige." The financial page of the same paper took a cooler view, declaring that "it means only a new postponement of the day of reckoning."

Although the bankers and real estate interests expressed angry resentment over the postponement of a boost in fares, the hearings were far from a total loss from their viewpoint. The Christian Science Monitor considered it news of national importance that a Mayor for the first time in 30 years would dare hold a hearing on the 10-cent fare. And the New Yorker reflected a similar judgment with its cynical wisecrack: "As evidence of the frankness of the modern age, there has been open discussion in New York of the 10-cent fare. Once, a boy would have had his mouth washed with soap for using such language."

The real estate interests have battered at the five-cent fare because an increase in the present subway operating profit would mean a decrease in the taxes levied on their holdings. In 1941, for instance, LaGuardia put through a 1% city sales tax. As City revenues increased from this tax on the poor, the share of

Winter Eviction



The Smith family of Brooklyn was evicted in the middle of a cold wave so the landlord could make alterations in their cold water flat. The eviction law was made for landlords, not tenants. (Federated Picture)

taxes carried by the real estate interests decreased from 80.3% in 1941 to 67.9% in 1945-46.

Last year O'Dwyer, as one of his first acts in office, proposed doubling the sales tax. His proposal carried. In 1946-47 the tax share carried by real estate dropped to 60%.

In the many years of Wall Street's drive against the five-cent fare, this is the closest it has come to success. Since O'Dwyer took office the capitalist press has hammered away at "free" subway rides, trying to psychologize the public into the feeling that not even a "last ditch fight" can avoid an increase. O'Dwyer's demagoguery has not served to break this drive, but only to help cover it up. O'Dwyer is an agent of Wall Street as shown most clearly by his strike-breaking role in the tugboat strike last year and in the Western Union strike when he ordered out the greatest num-

ber of cops in any one strike in New York's history, to protect scabs and strikebreakers and club down pickets.

O'Dwyer's demagoguery at the hearings on the subway fare was gratefully greeted by the Stalinists. The Feb. 14 Daily Worker boasted that the Stalinists were "one of the groups in the pro-O'Dwyer coalition" that put the strike-breaking mayor in office. The Daily Worker painted O'Dwyer as a champion of the people in the struggle to save the five-cent fare.

But the truth is O'Dwyer leaves the door wide open for an increase in the future. He has even indicated he would support a referendum on the issue if the Republican State Legislature would take responsibility for calling it. The five-cent fare can be saved, not by trusting a capitalist politician like O'Dwyer, but only through the eternal vigilance of New York's working people.

Vandenberg -- Anti-Labor Senate Gavel-Wielder

Boosters of Arthur Hendrick Vandenberg for President of the United States in 1948 are not backward about chanting his virtues. They say he is "equipped with a generous measure of warmth and personal charm," is "adroit, buoyant, both persuasive and smart," has "humor, intelligence, easy affability," and is "amply blessed with the gift of gab."

Even his enemies admit that he lends uncommon dignity to the Senate in the dais of president pro tempore, smoothing his silver hair or adjusting the neat bow-tie under his double chin as he presides over Wall Street's legislative drive against labor.

The favorite son of Michigan's auto barons has come a long way since he started out on the Grand Rapids Herald as copy boy and cub reporter. Rung by rung he has hoisted himself up the hierarchical ladder in the Republican party until today in the Senate his fingers are under the feet of only Robert A. Taft, boss of the Republican crew in the upper house and rival aspirant for the 1948 nomination.

In 1912, at the age of 28 Vandenberg, became a member of the Republican State Central Committee, a post he held until 1918. In 1916 he moved into the Chairman's seat of the Republican State Convention, staying there until 1928, the year the Governor of Michigan appointed him to the Senate.

With the generous assistance of influential Republicans Vandenberg had meanwhile become editor and finally owner of the Grand Rapids Herald, selling his interests in 1928 for \$549,000. His editorial views can be judged from his characterization of the First World War as "the greatest revival the world has ever known since Christ came upon the earth." Early in his career he began



SEN. VANDENBERG

to concentrate on foreign policy for the Republican machine. He helped to ghost-write the pronouncements in this field in Warren G. Harding's campaign speeches and is credited with thinking up the high-powered slogan: "With Harding at the helm, we can sleep nights."

During the early part of the Second World War, when the Republicans were still grinding the axe of isolationism, Vandenberg advanced a program most of which was written by Gerald L. K. Smith, according to the boast of that fascist demagogue.

SPECTACULAR SWITCH

When Wall Street decided to have both Democrats and Republicans back the same foreign policy as part of the preparations for another world war, Vandenberg made a spectacular switch from isolationist opposition to "bi-partisan" support of Democratic foreign policy.

While generally known as the most authoritative mouthpiece of the Republicans on foreign policy, Vandenberg has not overlooked domestic issues. He voted against the passage of the Wagner Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and similar legislation.

Vandenberg labelled the sit-down strikes as "revolting." Vigilante gangs won his approval as "modern Minute Men." He bitterly attacked the steel workers during the Little Steel strikes, calling on Roosevelt to follow the 1894 example of President Grover Cleveland who sent troops into Illinois to smash the Pullman strike.

In the last session of Congress Vandenberg continued to wield a legislative hatchet against the labor movement. He voted for the Case bill that would have cut the heart out of the Wagner Act, repealed the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction act, and opened the way for crippling court suits against the unions.

He voted for Truman's draft labor bill and he voted to remove price ceilings from homes.

Like other reactionary Congressmen, Vandenberg occasionally makes a liberal gesture to win favorable publicity. Thus he

voted in favor of a cloture rule to forestall a filibuster against the anti-poll tax bill. This was safe enough from his viewpoint, since the proposal was doomed to defeat no matter which way he voted.

Vandenberg's record shows that he is one of the most dependable machine politicians Big Business keeps in Congress. Wall Street has undoubtedly placed his name high on the list of candidates bidding to represent its interests as a tenant of the White House.

Rubber Union Rejects 'Big 4' Contract Stall

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the greatest profits in their history in 1946. The union has proved by facts and figures that the "Big Four" could pay the 26-cent an hour increase, and still emerge in 1947 with a profit of over 50 million dollars.

While profits have been enormous, real wages of the rubber workers have fallen. By conservative government estimates, the cost of living has risen 16% since March, 1946, when the union won an 18-cent an hour increase.

The union has further shown that between 1941 and 1946 the profit per worker-hour has gone up 46%. The rubber workers have piled up huge profits for the rubber barons, who have used every means to increase the exploitation of the individual worker.

The rubber workers are conscious of the fact that their chances for protecting their living standards will never be better. With extensive layoffs threatened, militant workers feel that they cannot afford to wait. They must push for wage increases now while there is comparatively full employment, and not wait for layoffs, when the union will be put at a disadvantage.

The fact that the URW International Policy Committee unanimously refused to follow Philip Murray's retreat, promises great unity in action from coast to coast in the rubber union.

The United Rubber Workers is in a position now to blaze a trail for the whole labor movement. By sticking to its demands and making an effective fight, the URW can call a halt to labor's retreats, and break the paralysis that grips the whole labor movement in the face of the full-blown anti-labor drive.

It is expected that the union will offer to meet with the "Big Four" corporations at the end of this month. Should the companies refuse, or should such a meeting result in deadlock, strike action seems now to be inevitable.

A PHILADELPHIA STORY

The Career Of J. David Stern: From Liberal To Red-Baiter

By Max Geldman

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12—"Scratch a liberal," to paraphrase the old proverb, "and you'll find a reactionary." One of the best recent illustrations of this is the unmasking of J. David Stern by the events growing out of the strike against his former publications, the Philadelphia Record and Camden Courier-Post.

Three months ago, the CIO American Newspaper Guild workers on Stern's papers were forced out on strike. The Guild was supported by all CIO unions, and even some AFL unions, despite the fact that AFL unions in both cities crossed Guild picket lines and remained on the job.

The Guild demanded that Stern provide wages and conditions in line with those prevailing in other cities. Stern arrogantly refused from the start to consider the Guild's demands or any compromise. His attitude throughout negotiations was like a feudal lord's. He let it be known that "he" had made the Guild and "he" would break it if it persisted in its rebellion against autocrat J. David Stern.

BLOW AT UNION

On Feb. 1, Stern delivered what he considered a mortal blow at the Guild. He announced the sale of the Record, Courier-Post and radio station WCAU, to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, a conservative non-union publica-

tion. This left the almost 600 striking Guild members jobless, besides facing possible blacklisting in the industry. Thus the strikers, whom Stern in his "liberal days" called "his boys and girls," were to be punished for their audacity in fighting for their just demands.

Time magazine reports that Stern made \$4,500,000 on the deal. Guild officials, testifying before the House Labor Committee in Washington, showed that Stern had heavily mortgaged his newspapers to buy radio station WCAU. The mortgage was pressing him and he took the opportunity to sell out at a good profit and also deliver a crushing blow at the Newspaper Guild.

The House hearings on the sale of Stern's newspapers are being used as part of the pressure for anti-labor laws. It is easy to see the cloven hoof of the big publishers in these hearings. They are ready to follow Stern's lead in war against the Guild.

Stern's testimony at the hearing yesterday reeked with the hypocrisy of a sinner returning to the fold. He bewailed the fact that he had been the first publisher to sign a contract with the American Newspaper Guild and thereby "had put newspapermen in the strait-jacket of a sinister pressure group."

The Associated Press, anti-labor news monopoly, touchingly reported the scene: "All my aim have turned to dust," he (Stern) said in an emotion-choked voice. "I have done more to harm the position of the working newspaperman than to benefit him." With the last remarks all unionists can agree.

Stern was a liberal only because liberalism was a paying proposition at the time he recognized the Guild. When liberalism no longer paid, he bucked the Guild and concluded the deal which netted him \$4,500,000.

His anti-labor line gave the lie to the Record's boasted liberal policies and circulation went down. The Record's attacks against last year's General Electric and Westinghouse strikes, its defense of police brutality to worker-readers that Stern's liberalism was a sham. Faced with a strike directed against his own newspapers, Stern dropped his liberal pose completely. He appeared in his true colors as "a crusading labor-hater bent upon crushing the union."

STRIKE GOES ON

Record and Courier-Post workers, though shaken by the sale of the newspapers, are determined to carry on. "The strike still goes on," Stern has quit, we have not," says the Real Record, weekly published by the strikers. Pickets still patrol the now-silent Record and Courier-Post buildings. The Guild is holding the strikers together until, as it is rumored, attempts to publish the former Stern newspapers under different management come to a head.

National Conference Demands Consolidation Of Enginemen

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bers of the BLFE were ordered by President Robertson to stay on the job and scab!

On top of this dualism the needless duplication of official setups costs the enginemen over a million dollars a year in dues and assessments. The heads of the two brotherhoods, Johnston and Robertson, give "only lip service to consolidation," said Walker, "because they are interested only in maintaining their own jobs."

These and many other grievances brought to a head by the events of the railroad strike last May have spurred this movement for speedy merger of these two overlapping brotherhoods. "We had our eyes opened then—and we don't intend to close them," remarked one delegate.

The Consolidation Committee of Enginemen, its spokesmen explained, is not another labor organization, or dual union. It does not propose to assume any of the functions of the established brotherhoods. It aims to eliminate the dual unions now afflicting the enginemen and bring about their consolidation into one organization for the benefit of all men in engine service.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has about 70,000 members; the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen has about 140,000. Both will hold conventions this year; the BLE in Cleveland in March, and the BLFE in San Francisco in July. The Consolidation Committee of Enginemen is working as a rank and file caucus to have genuine merger resolutions passed by the delegates to these two conventions.

"There have been sincere proposals over the past 30 years for consolidating the two unions," said Walker, "but this is the first time that a special group representing both unions has been organized on a country-wide basis for this purpose." Previous attempts had failed, he said, because the proposals had been turned over to committees "handpicked by the brotherhood heads opposed to losing their soft jobs. But this time we intend to do the job by organizing the rank and file."

The CCE conference elected a 38-member national board and concluded its three-day sessions last night with a mass meeting of enginemen in Chicago and surrounding areas.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

CIO leaders, including Phillip Murray, are scheduled to testify beginning Feb. 21 at Senate hearings on anti-labor bills.

CIO Packinghouse Workers Local 4, South St. Paul, Minnesota, goes after Senator Ball in its Bulletin. "Who is Ball representing when he proposes this legislation to render organized labor impotent? Is it you and me? No! He is definitely in the camp of the Bosses and should be considered accordingly. It's about time that the workers wake up and start electing people from our own ranks who are responsible to and controlled by organized labor."

the pace for a similar agreement in the lumber industry."

CIO United Electrical Workers starts national wage and contract negotiations on Feb. 17 with General Electric and Westinghouse, the two biggest corporations in the electrical equipment industry.

Philadelphia Record strikers, members of the CIO American Newspaper Guild, wanted to put out their own small daily of 10,000 circulation. Monopoly-created paper shortages stopped them. Although they searched the whole eastern market, they could buy no newsprint.

974 coal miners died in mine accidents in 1946. Yet a Wall Street judge dared to fine their union \$3,500,000 for "contempt" of his illegal injunction.

The CIO Brewery Workers Union in twelve western Pennsylvania breweries last week won an NLRB collective bargaining election by a vote of 1,734 to 259. AFL Teamsters Czar-President Daniel Tobin has had his goons in the Pittsburgh area for the past few months attempting to terrorize and split the CIO union.

The latest effort to break the bitter Allis-Chalmers strike in Wisconsin, now in its eleventh month, failed when CIO United Auto Workers Local 248 won a state-imposed collective bargaining election against the company-inspired Independent Workers of Allis-Chalmers. The original count was disputed. A recount, announced on Feb. 8, showed Local 248 with 4,132 votes, two votes more than a majority, and a gain of ten over the first count: the "independent" outfit got 4,010 votes, or a loss of five. 117 voted "no union." 17 challenged ballots are still uncounted.

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!**
Repeal 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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Slanderous Attack On L. Trotsky Printed In Trygve Lie Biography

The first number of a new magazine, **United Nations World**, carries a brief biography of Trygve Lie, Secretary-General of the United Nations, that includes a scurrilous attack on the martyred Leon Trotsky.

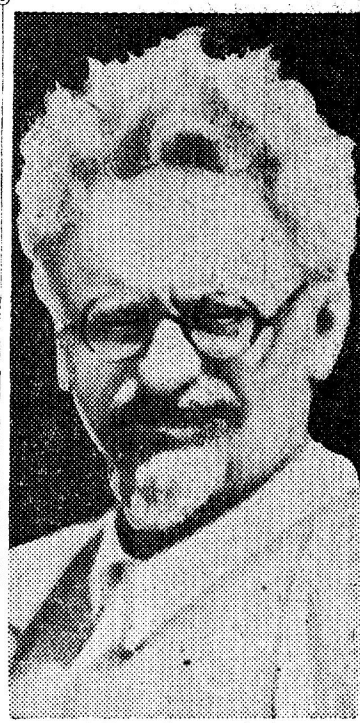
When the Norwegian Labor Party came to power in 1935, Norway granted Leon Trotsky the right of asylum. The Norwegian government was simply observing one of the democratic rights traditional since the downfall of feudalism. But the Trygve Lie biography claims Trotsky was granted asylum only "on the grounds that he was very ill and did not have long to live."

The biography continues with the declaration that Trotsky "promised not to engage in political activity while he lived in Norway." But to ask Trotsky to refrain from political activity for the world revolution was like asking fish to give up swimming. The Labor government learned that Trotsky was up to his old tricks, and Lie sent for him.

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Trotsky "was brought to the Ministry of Justice in great secrecy and surrounded by guards," continues the biography. Trygve Lie "politely warned Trotsky," explaining that the coming election was "crucial" for the Labor Party. "Trotsky replied arrogantly: 'I don't give a damn

Marxist Literature In German Wanted
A number of German-speaking workers have asked **The Militant** to help them obtain Marxist literature in the German language. Readers of this paper who have such literature to spare are requested to forward it to **The Militant**.



LEON TROTSKY

about your Labor Party. In five years you will all be exiled. Trotsky was later expelled from Norway. . . The Prime Minister felt that Trotsky had lied to the Labor ministry about his health. He had promised that he was dying and had failed to die."

The truth is somewhat different from Lie's version. When the first of the infamous Moscow frame-up trials was staged in August 1936, Stalin named Trotsky as one of the principal defendants, accusing him of the foulest crimes. But the frame-up was so weak and ill-contrived it was certain to topple at the first serious examination. If Trotsky were permitted to answer the accusations levelled at him, the frame-up would be exposed while the GPU victims were still in the dock.

KREMLIN HUSH-HUSH
Trygve Lie and the other Labor Party officials rushed to the assistance of the Kremlin. They arrested the exile and his wife Natalia and held them incommunicado for four months! Minister of Justice Trygve Lie called on his prisoners and the

following exchange occurred, as reported by Trotsky in his book, **The Crimes of Stalin**, published in 1937:

"We committed a stupidity by granting you a visa! I was unceremoniously told by the Minister of Justice in the middle of December (1936).

"And, are you preparing to rectify this stupidity by means of a crime? I replied, repaying frankness with frankness. 'You are behaving towards me in the same way that Noske and Scheidemann behaved toward Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. You are paving the road for fascism. If the workers of Spain and France don't save you, you and your colleagues will be emigres in a few years like your predecessors, the German Social Democrats.'"

For a time it appeared that Trygve Lie and his associates would bend so far under Kremlin pressure as to hand their prisoners over to the GPU executioners. But when hope seemed lost, the Cardenas government of Mexico granted asylum to Trotsky. The adherence of Cardenas to democratic principles forced the GPU to wait another three and a half years before it succeeded in sinking a pickaxe into Trotsky's brain.

Harsh Weather Hastens British Economic Crisis

(Continued from Page 1)
cut down on the size of the British army and navy, save a tremendous amount of fuel, add to the labor forces and thus aid production.

They know that the return of troops from any part of the British Empire would be an invitation to the native population to demand and obtain their independence. The Labor Ministers of His Majesty's Government, contrary to the wishes of the workers, rule out this alternative. They hope to resolve the present crisis as they have those in the past—by forcing still further hardships on the much overburdened British working class.

MASSES OPPOSED
Opposed to this policy, the British masses refuse to heed the panicky outcries of the Labor Ministers to curtail the use of gas and electricity. They realize that very little, at best, can be saved in this manner. Because of this, the public is accused of "cheating" by government spokesmen.

The workers are bitter. The government they elected carries out the same Tory policy as did Churchill. They voted for a socialist government, hoping it would nationalize industry and lead the way to socialism. The government began by nationalizing the Bank of England and the coal industry, but left the management in the hands of the former owners. It did not call on the owners of the bankrupt coal mines to make sacrifices, but instead insisted on paying them sums far above the value of their property. Yet today, it demands that the workers carry the full load of the present crisis.

MAKING DEMANDS
Small wonder that the Labor Ministers are losing support and confidence among the workers who put them in power. The workers, emboldened by the recent victorious dockers' strike, are answering the government's appeal for more sacrifices by raising their own demands for a 40-hour week.

The government's Attorney General, Sir Hartley Shawcross, pleads that "if we don't succeed in overcoming this situation, the Labor Government will fall and there will be an end to any idea of socialism in our time." Increasing numbers of workers reject this plea. They realize that it is precisely the failure of the Labor Government to take energetic socialist measures that has led to the crisis. This government uses its energies not to clear the path for socialism but in a futile attempt to repair the broken-down capitalist system.

Confronted with its own impotence, and with the unwillingness of the British workers to be squeezed to save British capitalism, the Labor Government has only one recourse. It must seek additional aid from United States capitalism. That such aid will be forthcoming, of course at a handsome price, was evidenced by Truman's unsolicited offer to divert colliers bound for other countries to British ports.

British labor now clearly faces the alternative of quickly changing its course and moving rapidly in the direction of a genuine socialist government or permitting capitalism to drag them and the whole country down to ever lower levels.

10,000 Workers Attend Rally Called By Ceylon Trotskyists

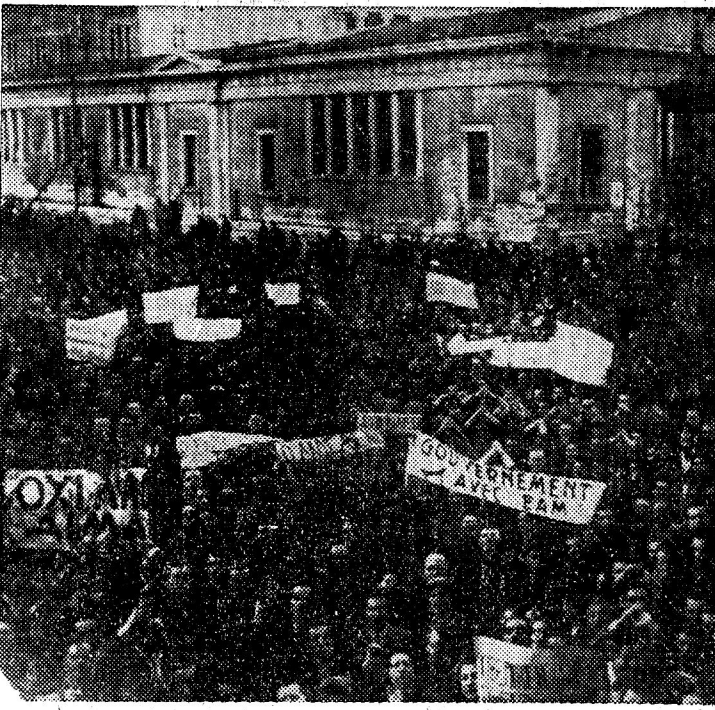
Left Wingers Quit CP In Germany

PARIS, Feb. 7.—The Swiss paper, **Neue Zurichische Zeitung**, on Jan. 21 reported the growth of a crisis in the German Communist Party arising from opposition to its perfidious policy: "An event similar to that which took place in Bremen last summer has taken place in Cologne: Eight members of the regional leadership of the Communist Party have decided to leave the party."

"At the same time the majority of the editorial board of the Communist organ in Cologne have resigned; a number of party functionaries followed with resignations. "In remarkable contradiction to the events in Bremen—where the dissidents joined the Social Democratic Party—they demand in Cologne a return to the 'revolutionary tradition'."

As the official reason for the resignations it was declared, moreover, that "the tactic of democratic camouflage is fought by all the real and genuine communists."

Demonstration In Athens



Supporters of the EAM in Athens demonstrate outside of the Acropolis Hotel where the United Nations Inquiry Commission is staying. Among the banners is one reading: "British troops must leave Greece." Although the Commission is holding hearings now, the Greek government's execution of its opponents continues right along.

French Cabinet Shaken By New Wage Struggles

CP Prints Scab Paper To Fight Union On Strike

Feb. 18 — The fight for wage increases to meet the rising cost of living plunged the new French Cabinet into a crisis last week as printing pressmen and editorial workers struck and closed down all French newspapers and Paris policemen, public utility workers and other government employees staged token strikes to back up their demands.

Still resisting pressure for wage increases sought by the Confederation of Labor (CGT), Premier Ramadier sought to rally support for the government by rushing plans for another "price decrease" similar to the fraudulent scheme put over by his predecessor, Leon Blum.

The printing pressmen, who have engaged in two militant strikes during the last year, walked out with a demand for a 25% wage raise, and as before, their strike was virtually 100% effective despite the opposition of the Stalinists who dominate the CGT.

CP SCAB EDITION
Communist Party Minister Ambrose Croizat attacked the pressmen in a Cabinet meeting, and L'Humanite, the CP paper, managed to get out a scab edition denouncing the strikers as Trotskyists. The Socialist Party leaders of the government joined in the attack on the pressmen by issuing a ruling through the Ministry of Information "barring any paper from publishing a report if it granted demands from mechanical workers for a 25% wage increase." (AP, Feb. 15.)

Officers of the Union of Newspaper Employees denounced the Stalinists for strikebreaking and for attacking and driving out a group of pickets from the telephone switchboard room of L'Humanite.

The token strike of government employees on Feb. 14 was a powerful demonstration of union strength, which totally paralyzed Paris for four hours.

The subways were shut tight and no buses appeared on the streets. Policemen left their posts and traffic was hopelessly snarled on all the main streets. Commuters were in many cases unable to return to their homes until late at night.

Telephone, telegraph and postal services stopped operation. Many school teachers left their classes to attend demonstrations and parades.

Workers Start Action To Secure Raises To Offset Price Jumps

PARIS, Feb. 7.—The situation in France since the "liberation" has been characterized by a series of periods of tension, especially during the last year on the question of wages.

At the beginning of 1947, threatening movements were headed off by the trickery of the 5% price decrease cooked up by Blum. But in less than six weeks this fake has exhausted its effectiveness.

For several days now, actions in the factories, among the longshoremen, railwaymen and government employees are simmering, heading to a readjustment of wages to reach a "living minimum" defined by the CGT (General Confederation of Labor) at the ridiculously inadequate figure of 84,000 francs per year (\$323 at the real rate of exchange).

Strikes and work-stoppages are breaking out here and there, although there are not yet any broad-scale movements or the signs of a clear tendency toward big actions. But this is only the first stage, and there is no reason to suppose that the treacherous mis-leaders will once more succeed in keeping control of the movement as a whole.

The Stalinists come out for the living minimum in words. Under the signature of Frachon, secretary of the CGT, L'Humanite maintains that the living minimum can be granted without any resulting price rise and with-

out conflicting with the government's "struggle" to reduce prices. In Le Populaire Blum, who is the power-behind-the-throne of Premier Ramadier, answers Frachon that all his economic arguments fail to stand up to the facts and that it is "necessary first of all to produce a lowering of prices before even dreaming of raising wages."

The polemic between the Stalinist and Socialist parties, who together hold the majority in the government, remains purely academic; neither one wants to push on to an intervention by the masses to settle the differences.

In the government, difficulties are breaking out on other questions as well — particularly around the powers of the Stalinist Minister of National Defense in regard to the Ministries of War, Navy and Air, which are held by the other parties, and around certain nationalizations to which the MRP and Radical ministers are opposed.

For the toiling masses, however, the pressing and urgent questions remain those of wages and food supply, which continues to be precarious during the severe cold wave.

By Robert Gunawardena
COLOMBO, Ceylon, Jan. 27.—Ten thousand workers gathered at Galle Face Green on Jan. 18 at the first mass rally of the Ceylonese Trotskyists since the unification of the Ceylon Unit of the Bolshevik Leninist Party of India with the Lanka Sama Samaja Party.

The rally itself was preceded by a huge demonstration in which more than 5,000 workers paraded the main streets of Colombo on their way to the meeting place. The slogans they shouted proclaimed their determination to smash the bourgeois-imperialist alliance, destroy the reactionary Soulbury Constitution, save the Indo-Chinese people from French imperialism, and not to load a single ship carrying arms, men or supplies to the French imperialists in Indo-China.

The purpose of the rally, besides being the first meeting to publicly announce the unification of the Trotskyist forces, was to announce the party's final election list and to inaugurate officially its election fund.

This was the opening of the second front — the parliamentary front — against the new slave constitution which the imperialists are attempting to force on the people of Ceylon through the agency of the native capitalists.

The party announced a list of 27 candidates for the parliamentary elections, contesting all seats in the city of Colombo and a fair number of seats in the up-country areas where the plantation proletariat is concentrated.

But most interest has been caused by the decision of the party to put forward one of its front-rank men, comrade Edmond Samarakody, to fight the leader of the reactionary Ceylonese capitalists, D. S. Senanayaka (would-be Prime Minister) in

International Notes

General MacArthur, trying to secure a more authoritative Japanese puppet government than the Yoshida Cabinet, has ordered a new general election for the Diet (Parliament) next spring. The Japanese labor movement, which has been locked in struggle with this government since its inception, will undoubtedly play an important part in both the national elections, which will be held on April 25, and the local elections, which will take place in April.

In Nuremberg, Germany, 8,000 trade unionists demonstrated on Feb. 3 against the "Naz-inspired bombing of the offices of the denazification court trying von Papen." The demonstration concluded a six-hour trade union strike against the bombing.

Just a few weeks after adopting a "democratic" constitution, Chiang Kai-shek has instituted new dictatorial decrees returning China to a "wartime" basis. Among these is the prohibition of strikes and the freezing of wages. The pretext for these anti-labor measures is the bounding inflation caused by shortages, breakdown of production and speculation. 300 were arrested as "communists" in Peiping last week as the government's secret police began to round up all opponents of the dictatorship.

The Brazil government's Public Prosecutor last week called on the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to ban the powerful Communist Party of that country on the ground that it is "unconstitutional, undemocratic and ur-Brazilian." A decision by the Tribunal is expected in a month.

Although Congress did not authorize the U. S. government to carry through the proposed program for standardizing land, sea and air forces of the Western Hemisphere, the Inter-American Defense Board has been operating in Washington just the same and continuing its plans to bring all North and South American forces under the domination of the American General Staff.

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Police Raid Offices Of India Stalinists

BOMBAY, Jan. 17 — Police in all parts of India executed simultaneous raids on offices of the Communist Party and residences of prominent members, arresting several of its leaders on Jan. 14.

The ostensible reason for this action is stated to be the publication six months ago in the Stalinist paper, **People's Age**, of an article dis-

closing certain secret military plans of the Government of India. The fact of the matter, however, is that this is a first step on the road to crushing the mass movement.

The first attack has been made on the Stalinists because of their acknowledged general unpopularity throughout the country—the legacy of their policy of supporting the war and opposing the mass upsurge against imperialism in August 1942.

The Bolshevik Leninist Party of India, section of the Fourth International, promptly issued the following statement on the raids to the press:

"Despite irreconcilable political differences with the Communist Party, the Bolshevik Leninist Party of India, section of the Fourth International, condemns the action of the Central and Provincial Governments in raiding the offices of the Communist Party and other organizations connected with it as well as in arresting several Communist Party leaders, as a violation of civil liberties.

"The BLPI warns the people that this constitutes but the first step of the growing imperialist-bourgeois-feudal alliance to suppress civil liberties and stifle the mass movement. And it calls upon all leftist organizations to form a united front to protect civil liberties and the mass movement against the developing imperialist-bourgeois-feudal offensive."

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has since declared that "the police raids on the Communists took place without the authority or knowledge of the Ministers." This is indeed difficult to believe. But if Nehru's statement is true, it only bears out, in a more glaring manner than even the Trotskyists anticipated, the correctness of the Trotskyist analysis that the real role of the Indian Congress Ministers in the Central and Provincial Governments is to provide a facade behind which British imperialism can operate.

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

—Leon Trotsky

In "Critical Condition"

"The world is in a very critical condition" politically, Secretary of State Marshall is reported to have told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee February 14.

Even without the inside channels of information tapped by the Secretary of State, anyone following the press must agree that Marshall was not guilty of exaggeration.

In the Philippines, a U.S. equipped army, commanded by former collaborators of Hirohito, is trying to stamp out rebellion against the hated landlord system.

In Japan, MacArthur is breaking strikes and trying to save Hirohito and Japanese capitalism.

In China, dictator Chiang Kai-shek, equipped with U.S. armaments, is doing his utmost to drown the rising mass movement in the blood of civil war.

In Korea, U.S. armed forces are struggling to keep the knots tight on the straitjacket fastened upon the people there.

In Indo-China, French troops largely supplied with U.S. arms, have been hurled in full scale war to repress the drive of the Annamese for independence.

In Indonesia, the Dutch, attempting to stifle the freedom movement by brute force, have applied for more armaments from U.S. supply dumps.

In Burma and India, hundreds of millions of colonial slaves are surging forward against the British overlords.

In the Arab world the elemental forces of revolt against imperialist rule are rising to new heights.

In Palestine, tens of thousands of British troops wage terror against the Jewish people.

All Europe seethes with unrest as the masses turn leftward seeking a road out of the ruins of war.

Great Britain, once mistress of the seven seas, is wracked with a profound economic crisis that will inevitably impel the workers further leftward. In Australia, a new strike wave impends.

Strikes have flared up in Africa, indicating the deep uneasiness of the masses throughout that continent.

In South America, governments have toppled in the past year and the sweep of the workers and peasants toward Communism has taken colossal proportions.

And right here in America, the present lull in the class struggle is only the quiet preceding a new outbreak of the storm.

Yes, the world is in very critical condition, politically. The masses have gone through two world slaughters under capitalism. They have no intention of going through a third one.

Sliding Scale Pays Off

Conservative labor leaders, the Stalinists and other opponents of progressive union policies have deliberately misrepresented our program of the sliding scale of wages to meet rising living costs.

They have falsely claimed that the escalator wage clause prevents the workers from gaining higher real wages and holds the threat of outright wage cuts if prices fall rapidly.

Fortunately, the CIO Oil Workers International Union has given dollars-and-cents proof that these arguments against the sliding scale of wages are completely false. We have the actual example of how the sliding scale works in the case of the Sinclair Oil Co. contract.

First of all, the Sinclair contract signed last November provided an outright 18-cent an hour wage increase. This was the second such increase in a year. Thus the Sinclair workers, starting retroactively from October 1, enjoyed 18 cents an hour more, while most other workers received no additional basic wage increase since last year.

But that isn't all. The 7,000 Sinclair workers won an escalator clause. This provides for an automatic wage increase every time the government's cost-of-living index rises three points or more in three months.

Between Oct. 1, 1946, and Jan. 1, 1947, the index showed a 7.4-point rise. Several weeks ago, the Sinclair workers got another 7-cent an hour raise, retroactive to Jan. 1 and covering the period to March 1. So that's a total raise of 25 cents in three months.

On March 1, the cost-of-living index will be reviewed again. If further rises are record-

ed for the past three-month period, the Sinclair workers will get another corresponding wage increase — automatically.

If the index should fall three points, let us say, the Sinclair workers will still enjoy four cents more an hour over their basic 18-cent increase. But if the index should fall below the October 1, 1946 level, the basic wage, including the 18-cent increase, remains. Under all circumstances, the 18-cent basic wage increase stands as an outright gain in real wages.

Let the union leaders who oppose the escalator clause explain how it is that the Sinclair workers are now getting 25 cents an hour more, while the workers in most other unions haven't received even a nickle in any kind of wage increases.

A Bubble Bursts

The UN General Assembly on Dec. 14 voted unanimously to reduce armaments. After this, you might have expected at least a temporary halt in the manufacture of atom bombs. Such an expectation, however, would be nothing but a pacifist dream.

The Militant pointed this out when Molotov first called for arms reduction last Oct. 29. "The slogan of disarmament," we said, "has always been raised by imperialist politicians to cover up their preparations for war. Adolf Hitler, for example, found the slogan of disarmament of great aid in building up German armaments in preparation for the Second World War."

We also emphasized that Molotov's proposal was not in the tradition of Lenin but that of the Social-Democrats of the post-World War I era, whose appeals to the bloodthirsty imperialists to disarm were branded by Lenin as "bourgeois pacifism, which actually . . . serves to distract the workers from the revolutionary struggle."

Lenin and Trotsky taught that disarmament in the sense of general abolition of arms is utterly utopian under capitalism. The warring imperialist cliques cannot give up armaments any more than they can give up profits. In the narrowing world of today, the imperialist rivalries over markets, colonies, spheres of influence and plunder must inevitably lead to war.

The slogan of arms reduction is just as perfidious as the slogan of general disarmament. This "plausible" proposal plays into the hands of the imperialist power with the most advanced and most productive economic machine. A reduction of armaments would permit American militarism to clear the decks of obsolete equipment — and replace it with up to the minute death-dealing instruments when another war breaks out.

Now the disarmament question is again in the headlines. On Feb. 14 the Kremlin categorically rejected the Baruch plan on "control" of atomic energy and Andrei A. Gromyko, representing the Kremlin, declared: "Eight months have been lost."

This means that the two mightiest powers on earth have got nowhere since last June in the debate over what to do about the atomic bomb. It remains a monopoly of Wall Street and Wall Street continues to stockpile the bomb with feverish haste. Despite all the unanimity about disarmament, the preparations for World War III continue full blast.

It has thus taken only a few short months to confirm the analysis made by The Militant of the disarmament bubble blown in the UN by the representatives of Wall Street and the Kremlin.

Stop The Lynchers!

Last week the blood of another victim of the Jim-Crow system dripped from the hands of the Southern white ruling class. South Carolina was added to the roll of states where a dozen Negroes, women as well as men, have been murdered by lynch gangs in the past twelve months.

In almost every case there have been admitted eye-witnesses of the lynch gangs in action. The jaller and turnkey stood at the very side of the unmasked men who seized and murdered Willie Earle in Pickens County, S.C. Once more, however, the murderers are described as "strangers".

So numerous and bestial have been the recent lynchings that Truman has been forced to make a show of putting FBI men on the lynch cases. These much-vaunted sleuths, who have no difficulty in hounding down "reds," haven't uncovered a single useful clue.

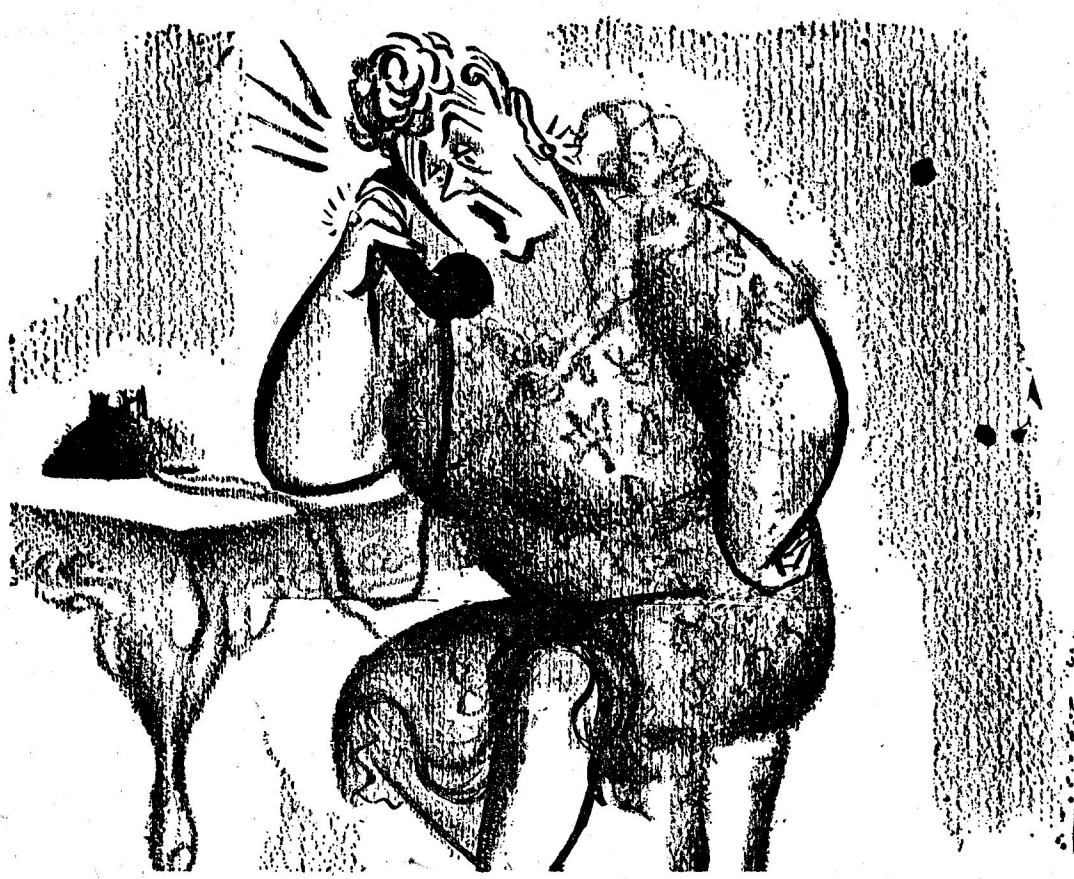
The FBI, which boasts it rounded up every Nazi spy in this country during the war, since last July has failed to make a single arrest in the mass lynching of two Negro couples in Georgia.

Louisiana lynchers of Negro veteran John C. Jones were identified and named last September by another intended victim, Albert Harris, Jr., who saw the atrocity, but escaped himself. The FBI has these names. But not a single conviction has been made.

It has been proved over and over again that the federal government, the government of Wall Street and the Southern "white supremacists", does not intend to halt lynchings. The government itself upholds the Jim-Crow system in the armed forces and in all its other agencies.

If the murderous terror against the Negro people is to be halted, action must come from the entire labor movement in alliance with the Negro organizations. A broad committee of representatives of the unions, Negro and veterans groups must be established to undertake its own vigorous and ruthless investigation of the lynchings.

A nation-wide drive must be launched for immediate passage of effective anti-lynching legislation. Every means of mass pressure must be brought to bear on the government to force the arrest and full punishment of known lynchers.



"Of course we're a hardship case. Don't you think it's been terribly hard on us not being able to raise rents during this housing shortage?"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE by Stetson Kennedy, Doubleday & Co., 370 pp., 1946, \$3.

This documented book is valuable source material to anyone seeking the truth on conditions in the South. The author, whose grandfather fought for the Confederacy, is not only familiar with the South as a native, but has for many years done intensive research into all phases of its life.

A great portion of the book consists of a detailed analysis and exposure of American fascist groups which through force and terror help maintain the lily-white rule of the Southern Bourbons. The author visited several "native" fascist organizations to get first-hand information about the structure and functioning of the Ku Klux Klan and similar outfits.

Kennedy gives a mass of statistics on wages, housing, health and education in a section entitled "The Squalid South," which reveals the intense exploitation by the landowners, Southern and Northern industrialists. In every instance the shameful degradation is worse for the Negroes. He describes accurately how dividing the black and white workers is essential to the continued rule of the Southern capitalists.

A chapter called, "The 7.7 Democracy of the South," proves conclusively that the great majority of the Southern people, poor whites as well as Negroes, can expect nothing in the way of justice or democracy from either the Democratic or Republican politicians. The author gives damaging evidence of the methods by which Negroes are disfranchised, how lynch law supersedes federal laws in the Americas of the Bilbos, Rankins, Eastlands, etc.

Kennedy demonstrates how Negro discrimination is utilized as a weapon by the capitalist

ruling class of this country. He shows why native fascist groups find fertile soil for development in the reactionary South. But he fails to draw the necessary conclusion — that this diseased condition cannot be eradicated within the framework of the capitalist system. Nevertheless, the mass of material he presents makes the book important.

—Edith Konikow

A BELL FOR ADANO by John Hersey, Bantam Books, 246 pp., 1946, 25 cents.

This novel is the story of Major Victor Joppolo, an AMG officer in charge of the Italian town of Adano during the "liberation," who tries to better the life of its people. A civil-service worker before he entered the army, Joppolo is one of those liberal-minded officers who did not subscribe to the military callousness of the regular army officer corps. Adano for him is not merely a dreary little village where he is to maintain order without concerning himself about the welfare of its people, as it is for Captain Purvis, the MP officer, and Lieutenant Livingston, the naval officer in charge of harbor facilities. It is the home of his Italian ancestors. He is going to restore the spirit of which it has been robbed by the fascists.

Joppolo does not, of course, attempt to upset the existing capitalist social relations. He maintains the local fascist officials except for the mayor and works through the town dignitaries. But he eliminates graft, establishes relief, procures supplies, enforces sanitation and gives sympathetic consideration to complaints, grievances and suggestions. On the day of a party given in his honor by the village, however, he receives notice of his recall for having countermanded a general's arbitrary order which would have meant

starvation for Adano.

Joppolo's recall does not come as a surprise to the reader. In striving to do his best for the people whom the American army had supposedly liberated, he has to buck the brass hats. His fellow-officers regard him as an "eager beaver" who talks too much about democracy.

In the end he is penalized for accepting as genuine the democratic phrases of American imperialism.

Hersey tells his story well. Joppolo is an appealing human being in his intense desire to be liked by the townspeople, in his embarrassment and delight at being praised by them, in his loneliness for his wife and his growing love for a village girl. The people of Adano, their idiosyncrasies and mannerisms, are described with tender humor. The Americans, too, are described realistically and with a judgment which becomes less gentle as it portrays the aristocratic Lieutenant Livingston, and downright bitter as it strikes out at the bullying General Marvin, whose original is believed to have been the notorious General Patton.

The author, who accompanied American troops as a correspondent when they landed in Sicily, knows the brass hats and military red tape. But, like his hero, who often acts as his mouth-piece, he is naive. When an Italian soldier says to Joppolo, "We had no cause to fight . . . Do you men?" he replies, "I don't know, Nicolo . . . That's one thing that worries me about this war." The American soldier, like the Italian soldier, did not feel that he was fighting for a cause that was his own. He fought for the same reason that the Italian soldier did not fight — to get the war over with and go home.

—Paul Schapiro

Congressmen At Work

The Score Up To Now

Anyone still suffering from the delusion that capitalist politicians become genuine representatives of the people when they start drawing a guaranteed annual salary from the public treasury, should take a look at the record of the 80th Congress in the month and a half since it convened.

Confronted with the worst housing crisis in the history of America, for instance, Congress has not lifted a finger to work out a program of government home-building to meet the needs of the working masses. These men on the public payroll have hacked away at rent controls and put a jack under rent ceilings. Their latest move is to pave the way for mass evictions. Their differences are only over the lengths they can go in behalf of the real estate interests without losing their scalps at the polls.

Faced with a looming depression and the consequent menace of mass unemployment in America, they have done nothing in the way of long-range planning to meet the threatened catastrophe. Instead they have engaged in a savage drive against the labor movement, throwing into the legislative hopper a mass of bills designed to cripple unionism in America. Having tossed all price controls into the waste basket last year, their objective this year is to keep wages nailed down to a fixed level while living costs soar and Big Business



stacks up profits higher than the lushest bonanza years of the Second World War.

Violence against the Negro people has increased on an alarming scale throughout the country, yet the main concern of these politicians was to reach a nauseous deal over the most foul-mouthed anti-Negro spokesman in high office, Senator Bilbo. Instead of sweeping away the dictatorial electoral system in the South that continues to keep Ku Klux Klanners like Bilbo in office, Congress has tried to divert attention by pointing a finger at the dictatorial elections in Eastern Europe. As for an anti-poll tax law and an FEPC with teeth, Congress is following its timeworn procedure — sending token measures into committee as a gesture and then letting them quietly gather dust in a pigeonhole.

The 66,000,000 killed in the Second World War have not yet

crumbled to dust in their graves, yet Congress is preparing for another slaughter. Once again a war budget of astronomical size is up for rubber-stamp approval and along with it proposals to Prussianize the youth of America. And the only concern of these politicians is, how much can they get away with? Both Republicans and Democrats see eye to eye on the foreign policy Wall Street is following in its blueprints for World War III. Washington bolsters hated reactionary dictatorships throughout the world and acts as quartermaster for the imperialist armies of France and Great Britain in shooting down colonial peoples seeking freedom.

Nowhere does Congress show with greater clarity whose interests it represents than in the field of atomic energy. A Workers' and Farmers' Government would develop this limitless source of power to free mankind from toil and drudgery and build a world society of undreamed abundance. But the only concern of the 80th Congress is to maintain Wall Street's monopoly on the colossal forces in the atom now available to humanity and to use this greatest of all scientific discoveries solely to manufacture atomic bombs.

In a month and a half the 80th Congress has shown that it has no other interests at heart but those of Wall Street. Workers, who voted these men into office, should think this over.

Signs Of Saturation In Retail Market

By John G. Wright

Capitalist statisticians and analysts pay close attention to trends in retail sales, especially of big department stores. In periods of boom such sales show a generally upward trend. Conversely, among the symptoms of a shift in the economic cycle is the leveling off of retail sales, followed frequently by a decline.

The quantity of consumer goods sold began to decline in the retail field before last Christmas. But the steep hikes in prices have kept the dollar volume at last year's peaks and even above them.

While the stores sold less goods than before, they continued to ring up larger sums of money than ever before. And after all, that's what really counts in capitalist enterprises.

But in the latter part of January, a downward trend set in not only in the volume of goods sold, but also in the dollar volume. Retail merchants' cash registers began to ring less merrily in spite of much-advertised price cuts since last Christmas.

PRICES STILL HIGH

However, because most price levels still remain above those of 1946, cash receipts likewise still compare favorably with previous figures. These "bargain" sales have gone on but the volume of goods sold has continued to dwindle. Thus the point has now been reached where the dollar volume compares less and less favorably with previous figures.

Last week's report of the Federal Reserve Bank takes grudging note of this new development. In its issue of February 11, the Journal of Commerce, an authoritative organ of Wall Street, acknowledges that "department store sales in New York City are now just about holding last year's dollar volume — in physical volume they have definitely dipped below 1946."

Taking into account the large price hikes, it is possible to measure this "definite dip" in physical volume. It is close to the percentage of price increases in 1946, that is, a slash in quantity of 25%, at a most conservative estimate.

Despite "lower" prices, despite the huge installment buying, and despite the widespread hunger among the masses for all sorts of consumer goods, they simply have not the funds with which to buy as much as they did last year. For this reason the retail field is beginning to stagnate; the domestic market is starting to show signs of saturation.

HIT WHERE IT HURTS

Retailers were hit where it hurts most — in the cash register. The consensus of opinion among them today is less than optimistic. They are now watching developments nervously, fearful lest the decline become more marked and precipitous, as the purchasing power of the people drops lower and lower.

The Journal of Commerce concludes: "Retail trade executives say that the next few weeks should 'tell the story' as far as the retail trade comparison with last year is concerned."

This is a shrewd observation, but it leaves unsaid just what an "unfavorable comparison" with 1946 will actually entail. New York department store sales, the largest in the country, epitomize the consumer goods turnover from coast to coast. It is by no means excluded that the dollar volume in sales may not drop below last year in the next few weeks. But this fluctuation would not alter the basic trend, which is downward.

When the people are able to buy constantly less, as is the case, they must finally reach a stage where their purchasing power reaches the vanishing point. We are now in the first phase of this process which is seen most clearly during depressions. One fancy name for it is — a "buyer's market."

The next few weeks may indeed "tell the tale" of what happens in the next period not only in retail sales but in the country's economic life as a whole. Millions are now quite aware of this particular tale's ending, told so many, many times already by capitalism: First boom and then bust.

Few Who Own America Want To Hang On

By Jeff Thorne

Estimating U.S. national wealth at 305 billion dollars, the Research Council for Economic Security, Chicago, has issued a report warning against any "rash and radical measures" that might let the majority of the 140,000,000 Americans enjoy this "nest egg."

America's 60 Families and their millionaire retinue who own the country have innumerable high-sounding "research" agencies to preserve the "social security" of the rich and to fight against any demand for economic justice for the workers who produce all wealth but own practically nothing.

The Research Council for Economic Security refers to the 305 billions as "a backlog of private protection" and waxes eloquent about "the good it has done in the past." But even its own figures partially disclose how few enjoy this "private protection."

Only 8 to 9 million persons are listed as owning anything real whatever. That many own all the shares in industry. But they are only 6% of the population and most of even these few own precious little. Less than 2,000,000 persons actually own nearly all of America; about 6,000,000 own a very little and 132,000,000 of us have no security outside our own organized might, our insecure jobs and starvation government social security.

The Council reported 44,000,000 persons (that's only a third of us) "carry" health, accident or life insurance, but these policies are obligations to pay premiums. The 40 billion dollars of real wealth behind insurance belongs to insurance companies owned by the same 2,000,000 rich.

The Council arrived at the national "nest egg" as follows: savings, government bonds, etc., 175 billions; real estate, 60 billions; stocks, 30 billions; life insurance, 40 billions. It did not list how few persons own the savings, bonds and real estate.

The Council's aim is obviously to preserve the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the few. It fights against even mild capitalist reforms. But the workers need to assert their organized might to take back the wealth they have created. Through a Workers and Farmers Government which will eliminate the special privilege of exploitation, they can wipe out all poverty and misery and put an end to capitalist depravity and wars.

Build A Labor Party Now!

By George Clarke

16 pages 10 cents

Pioneer Publishers

116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.

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 "Militant's" Truth And Conciseness

Editor: My mother, who has been reading *The Militant* for two years, told me that she also reads *Life*, *Time*, *Readers Digest* and the daily press; but in none of the latter publications has she found the truth and concise presentation that she has found in *The Militant*.

Mill Adams
New York

3-Room Apartment On Lower East Side

Editor: A three-room apartment on the lower East Side in New York costs \$18 a month. That is cheap, but is the apartment worth that much? You've got to be half Yogi to sit in the tub; it is about three or three-and-a-half feet long and is in the kitchen. The toilet is enclosed in a little closet about three feet by three feet.

There is more plaster off the ceilings and walls in the apartment than there is on. The view from the windows is disgusting. I have never figured out which is the back or the front of the apartment.

From two windows there is a view of a rusty junk yard. From the other three you see the side of the next building.

The cracks in the floor are so large and frequent that the light from the lower apartment shows through when you turn out the lights at night.

Nothing is gained by complaining to the rent agent. He promises repairs but they are never made. But if rent is due on the eighteenth and the rent is not paid in seven days, he serves a dispossession notice. This means that even if you pay the rent four days after the notice you've got to pay the \$18 plus \$4 for the court cost of the dispossession notice.

Glady Barker
New York

Answers P.M.'s Letter In Last Week's Forum

Editor: Yes, "P.M. of Vermont," there is democracy in Communism. First of all, there is democracy in the Socialist Workers Party that stands on the program of genuine Communism. Our ranks take an active part in reaching all major decisions of the party. They are free to write, discuss and present any views they wish during the periods when the party prepares to make a decision on policy. In no other party will you find such independence of thought and freedom to advance a point of view as in the Socialist Workers Party. It is this democracy in our party which makes possible our centralization of authority in



carrying out the decisions once they are made. When the majority has shown what its wishes are, the minority loyally abides by the decision and pitches into the party work.

There will likewise be democracy when America progresses to a Communist society. In fact you will then see democracy on a scale never achieved in the best days of capitalism.

First of all, a Workers' and Farmers' Government in America would break the Bourbon monopoly on the ballot boxes in the South. The poll tax laws and trick legal requirements would be struck off the books. Not only would the Negro people and poor whites be able to go to the polls without fear of being lynched, but they could organize, campaign and vote for a party of their choice.

The Workers' and Farmers' Government would likewise democratize the election laws in all the other states. The arbitrary and dictatorial requirements now existing in most states to bar minority parties from the ballot would be tossed into the ash can.

Far more important even than these democratic reforms would be the great leap forward that would then be possible for the productive system. Unlimited plenty is possible under a planned economy. This plenty means leisure time for the workers. And leisure time means better education, freedom to think about problems of concern to the nation and the world, and the time and means to do something about it.

It is thus clear that Communism provides an economic base that will make possible an expansion and flowering of democracy such as is difficult to conceive in the prison house of capitalism. As for the oppression of government, that too will disappear as class divisions are outgrown in the new society. In the opening stages, the Workers' and Farmers' Government would break the monopoly grip of the colossal wealthy 60 families who rule America today. This would undoubtedly be felt by this ruling clique as "undemocratic"; but for the overwhelming majority of the people it would be the first breath of genuine democracy in America.

J. H.
New York

Rubber Worker Draws Lesson From Survey

Editor: The United Rubber Workers recently took a cost of living survey. This survey points out the plight we are in, showing how the rising cost of living has wiped out the 18 1/2 cents we got last year.

The survey also points out that six groups control the economic life of the country. They are the House of Morgan and its affiliates, the Rockefeller crowd, the du Ponts, the Mellons, the Cleveland crowd and the Ford interests.

What to do about this situation and how to solve it? The high point of this survey is their political "solution." Here is what they say: "The foregoing unfortunate situation can be attributed in large measure to the anti-labor attitude of some federal and state representatives. Their presence in these strategic positions can be charged to the indifference, negligence and thoughtlessness of American wage earners. It is high time that we began to protect our interests, or very shortly we will awaken to find that we have no interests left to protect."

"You will have as bad a Government as you are willing to stand for, or as good a Government as you are willing to work, fight and vote for." The emphasis is mine! Enough said.

The record of the Murrays and Greens and Buckmasters is clear. By their support of capitalist class politics, they led the workers into a blind alley.

The workers see no difference between the Democratic and Republican parties. They want a different kind of party that will fight in their own interests. They want to see independent political action on the part of the trade union movement. It is up to us to push these labor leaders forward or throw them aside. *The Militant* is doing a swell job in promoting the interest of the workers on this score.

A. D.
New York

Capitalist Newspapers Silent On Real Crimes

Editor: The indignation of the newspapers over "fixing" of sports shows how they try to shape the thinking of the American workers.

They do not aim their protest against the indignities heaped on mankind — the mass destruction of people by the atom bomb, starvation all over the world, people wandering without homes, malnutrition right here in America.

The capitalist propaganda machine strains to keep us from seeing and understanding such things. Yet these are the real crimes that should be ended.

Edith Landi
New York

New York Sets Pace For Rest Of Country In \$20,000 SWP National Fund Campaign

By William F. Warde
National Fund Campaign Director

New York took the center of the spotlight last week in the \$20,000 Emergency Fund Campaign for the Socialist Workers Party. This fast-moving local sent in \$687.60 from its various branches, more than half of the total for the week. This lifts New York to \$4,113.83, or 74% of its big \$6,000 quota.

Last week thirteen branches contributed the sum of \$1,253.85 which brings the campaign total up to \$11,445 or 57% of the \$20,000 goal.

Fund Director Duncan Conway writes concerning New York's achievements: "Central branch, which has maintained a consistently high pace, climaxed its splendid performance by going over the 100 per cent mark last week. This is the first branch in the city to do so."

"Saturday night, Feb. 15, Central arranged a colorful Mexican Fiesta which was attended by a considerable number of out-of-town visitors. The entire proceeds, which came to over \$100, were turned in to the party fund. Central's total now stands at \$1,187.42, or 108% of its \$1,100 quota. This is a remarkable sum for one branch to collect and Central must be commended for the seriousness with which its members met this campaign."

Other New York branches also deserve special mention. Bronx now has 99% — only \$2 short of its \$500 allotment. Harlem has an excellent record, standing third in the city scoreboard with 89%. It should go over the top very soon.

Militant readers and other friends of the Socialist Workers Party also did their part last week. H.A. of New York donated \$100 to the fund with these cheering words: "I expect to give more to the campaign before it is finished. While I cannot be as active in your great work for a Socialist United States as your members, I feel obliged to take on my share of your financial burden. Without success for your movement, I see no hope for humanity. Keep moving forward."

Four more friends from New York, E.K., I.K., S.K., and A.K., mailed a \$3 contribution with the following message: "All power to you in your fight for a better world, a workers world!"

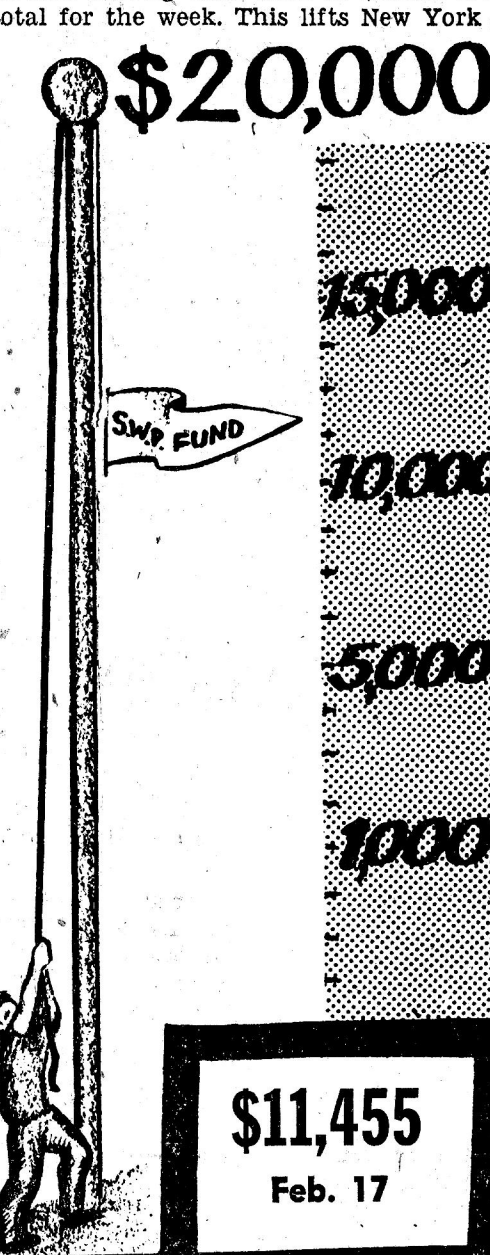
M.M. of Minneapolis sends \$5, "If you like, you can add this to the Minneapolis contribution," M.M. says. "I hope the American workers have their eyes opened. With best wishes for your fund drive and the work for Socialism."

St. Paul encloses a check for \$47.38 which brings its payments to \$197, or 60% of its \$330 quota. "One railroad worker had been depositing money in a Christmas Club all year," writes P. Mertens. "He had \$80 coming and gave \$50 of this to the fund drive. Some other comrades, caught in the pinch of inflation, have pledged to raise certain amounts from their friends and contacts and some of this money has been collected in this way."

Pacemaker St. Louis marches far ahead of the nearest contender by sending in two more contributions last week. This banner branch is coming close to its promise of doubling its original \$50 quota.

"The Flint comrades are watching the Militant Fund Campaign column with keen interest," writes Genora Dollinger. "They are filled with confidence that, despite the wage slashes in the form of high costs of living, our Party will come through this campaign with flying colors. Where there's a will, there's a way."

Here's one way, Genora points out. "Again we stress, don't forget our sympathizers. One young office worker gladly contributed \$15 to our Scotty Hunter Memorial Fund drive."



SCOREBOARD

Branch	Quota	Paid	Per cent
ST. LOUIS	\$ 50	\$ 93.50	187
NEWARK	300	302.00	101
BOSTON	400	400.00	100
BUFFALO	700	700.00	100
YOUNGSTOWN	500	500.00	100
CONNECTICUT STATE	120	92.00	77
MILWAUKEE	200	154.00	77
Baltimore	20	15.00	75
New York Local	6,000	4,411.83	74
Flint	200	140.00	70
Minneapolis	670	440.00	66
Pittsburgh	150	93.00	62
Reading	150	93.40	62
San Francisco	1,250	757.00	61
St. Paul	330	197.00	60
Philadelphia	500	295.50	59
Cleveland	300	171.80	57
Chicago Youth	25	14.00	56
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	39.00	52
Rochester	75	35.00	47
Toledo	300	132.00	44
Los Angeles Local	1,500	607.00	40
Detroit	1,000	390.00	39
General	1,725	664.50	39
San Diego	100	33.82	34
Akron	400	126.00	31
Chicago Local	1,500	385.37	26
Oakland	250	57.50	23
Bayonne	25	5.00	20
Houston	25	5.00	20
Philadelphia Youth	25	5.00	20
Seattle	800	90.00	11
Akron Youth	10	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	\$11,445.22	57%

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, 316 1/2 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.

HARLEM Social
Sat., Feb. 22, 9 p.m.
103 West 110th St.

YOUNGSTOWN Open Forum
"The Anti-Labor Drive"
Hear HARRY BRAVERMAN
Sunday, Feb. 23, 8 p.m.
35 1/2 South Ave. at Boardman

THE MILITANT ARMY

Flint And Connecticut Tie For Week's Subs

Two branches of the Socialist Workers Party tied for first place in sub-getting this week—Flint and Connecticut State. Each branch obtained 20 subscriptions to *The Militant*.

James White who mailed in the subs for Connecticut State explained: "Cold weather slowed our sub drive considerably during the past week, but we're still plugging."

El Snyder's report shows the determination and enthusiasm of the Flint comrades: "February 1 we started our all-out Militant campaign and even though the big storm had kept a large majority of workers from getting to their jobs, it by no means stumped the work of the Socialist Workers Party. They had a job to do and they certainly did it. It was so cold that after the comrades were out for awhile, they would hurry back to the hall to warm up—and right back out again. And so the Flint Branch started its Militant campaign with a bang! And we hope to end it with a bang! The comrades did a good job on our first day out and I am now certain the Flint Branch will do a wonderful job in our Militant campaign. Come on, Flint," urges Comrade Snyder, "back me up and let's show them."

Hilda Webster sent in 5 one-year renewals from Lynn, Mass. "There are no dropped subs in this area this week," she writes. "This brings our percentage of renewals to almost 55%. The comrades here are all very pleased with the success of this renewal campaign."

Buffalo Branch is also getting good results on one-year subs. The comrades sold 6 during the week. "We are planning another sub-getting expedition soon," writes Charles Carlson, "where the entire branch will participate. We know the importance of obtaining subs and the branch will go all out in an effort to put Buffalo at the top of the list. . . A special word for one of our comrades, Frank Kaminsky deserves a word of praise since he has handed in 18 subs since Jan. 1, 1947. He is our best sub-getter."

Youngstown Branch has assigned Miriam Braverman to take charge of literature work. She is now in process of getting the work organized and we can look for increased subs.

Paul Shell comments briefly about St. Paul's excellent sub record for January: "We went over the top with 22 subs, which gives us 108%. One of the



big factors for the spurt in Militant subscriptions is the F.I. campaign."

San Pedro wound up its free distribution of *The Militant* with excellent results. "Due to the economy drive," writes Yetta Fine, "we have been distributing a leaflet announcing the future sale of the paper. At our first distribution, we met with good results. After reading the leaflet, workers gave the distributors donations for the paper."

The leaflet, neatly stenciled and mimeographed, shows "Printing and Paper Cost" running up a steep incline. Underneath are the words: "Due to the tremendous increase in the cost of publishing *The Militant*, and since our paper carries no advertising and is paid for by the contributions of workers like yourselves, we are no longer in a position to continue free distribution of *The Militant*. However, *The Militant* will be on sale for 5c a copy at all future meetings."

"As a result of our distribution of this leaflet," adds Comrade Fine, "we sold 35 copies of the paper at the union meeting last week."

Rena Breski of Boston reports that "two of the new subs obtained were from persons who attended our forum. Some others have promised to subscribe shortly. They show much interest."

The following report was sent in by Harry Thompson of Los Angeles Local: "Friday, 125 copies of the latest issue of *The Militant* were distributed at the Los Angeles CIO-PAC Conference. This issue was distributed because it dealt principally with the need for united independent labor action against the anti-labor drive in Congress and for the need of a labor party."

Sam Taylor of Madison, Wis., one of *The Militant's* best boosters, sent in three more subs. He added a note about one of them: "This subscriber is an ex-American Youth for Democracy member, fed up with Stalinism, and interested in learning more about the real revolutionary Marxist movement."

Mrs. C. Laws of Austin, Minn., another Militant booster, sent in a sub for a friend in Manchester, Minn., and one for a friend in Denver, Colo.

Mrs. Annie Jones of Longview, Texas, renewed her own sub for a year and asked us to send a gift sub to a friend of hers in Denver, Colo.

F. I. Sub Drive Speeded For Remaining Month

During the first two months of Fourth International's three-month campaign to get 1,000 new readers, branches of the Socialist Workers Party have secured 421, or 42% of the quota. To get the remaining 579 subscriptions in the last month of the campaign — more subs than the total turned in during the first two months — the branches must step up the tempo of their local campaigns.

St. Paul and Pittsburgh have already reached their goals. Five branches — Milwaukee, Boston, Reading, Cleveland, Minneapolis — are on schedule. Although the other branches are behind at this point, letters from some of the Campaign Directors assure us that their branches will be among the 100 per centers when the campaign ends.

For instance, Leon Forth says for Chicago: "Our members are putting steam behind the drive. We are out for our goal." W. Lester of San Francisco writes: "We are doing our darnedest and hope to fulfill our quota."

Buffalo is also confident of reaching its goal. "We realize we have a long way to go to reach 40 subs," says R. Riley for the branch, "but feel confident of reaching our goal before the March 15 deadline."

Miriam Braverman expresses the confidence of the Youngstown comrades: "We are now

putting steam on our F.I. campaign and expect to certainly make our quota by the end of the campaign."

Below is a scoreboard showing the subs and percentage of each branch. These figures are as of Feb. 14.

Branch	Quota	Subs	%
St. Paul	20	22	110
Pittsburgh	10	10	100
Milwaukee	15	13	87
Boston	20	15	75
Reading	10	7	70
Cleveland	15	10	66
Minneapolis	50	32	64
Calumet	5	3	60
Connecticut State	10	6	60
Flint	30	17	57
San Diego	10	5	50
Chicago	80	39	48
Akron	20	9	45
Oakland	15	6	40
St. Louis	5	2	40
Toledo	30	11	36
New York Local	200	70	35
San Francisco	40	14	35
Youngstown	30	9	30
Detroit	70	19	27
Philadelphia	40	11	27
Buffalo	40	10	25
Newark	40	10	25
Portland	5	1	20
Rochester	5	1	20
Los Angeles Local	120	23	19
Seattle	30	2	7
Allentown	5	0	0
Bayonne	15	0	0
Tacoma	10	0	0
Texas	5	0	0
General		44	
Total	1000	421	42%

Life of a Steel Worker

What Can A Man Do?

By Theodore Kovalesky

It was a cold day. The wind came sweeping out of the north, whipping across the icy lake, and screaming through the wire fences of the steel plant across the street. Our mack-inaw collars were turned up, and the ear-flaps of our caps were down over our cheekbones, but the flesh of our faces was raw wherever it was exposed to the slash of the wind.

We closed the door of Emil's Tavern behind us and started down the street, stumbling through the drifts. But before we had gone twenty feet, Steve stopped. "Poor little guy!" I heard him say, and his soft Polish drawl was filled with compassion.

I looked down. There at Steve's feet stood a quivering, gaunt little dog, rubbing close to Steve for the warmth of Steve's body and the clumsy affection of Steve's big, gloved hands. "Poor little guy, out in all this cold!" Steve muttered, patting the dog's back and neck. Under the peak of his cap I saw in his eyes the starved loneliness and affection of a solitary man for a little living creature.

"I wonder what my landlady would say if I take him home," Steve murmured, half to himself. But he never found out, because a little kid came running up shouting, "Hey, mister, that's my dog!" Steve, with a childish look of disappointment, started through the snowdrifts with me on our way home.

Maybe you don't think a little incident like that is important enough to write about, a big 40-year-old steelworker stopping in the cold to fondle a little dog. But here's the reason I'm telling you!

Steve is a guy that likes to fondle things. He loves cats and dogs and birds, because they're small and have life in their bodies. Most of all, he loves children for the same reasons. He

was to make them happy and to protect them. In the same way, a slow, kindly, tender, protective way, he loves Julia, too, but what can he do, he asks you. What can a man do? Because Julia has a blind brother, and Steve has an old mother. There are duties and obligations in this world, and what can a man do if they cut off the road to his happiness?

For 20 years Steve has loved Julia in his slow affectionate way. For 20 years he has tried to save money so they can marry. For 20 years he has yearned with poignant passion for the blue-eyed children she might bear him to hug and fondle and protect. But always there was Steve's old mother cooking kielbasa for him on the kitchen stove or rocking in her chair on the porch in the smoky sunlight of a steel town summer.

What can a man do when his girl must do part-time cleaning in people's houses and then rush home to care for her brother who left his eyesight in the open hearth pit one autumn day, a quarter of a century ago when a ladle tipped and spattered?

What can a man do? I don't know, exactly, when he's a poor workingman like Steve. All Steve does is take Julia to a show on his days off, or sit with her in a quiet neighborhood tavern drinking beer... not much, for Julia is a good, quiet girl, but enough to be sociable and pass the evening.

But meanwhile there are gray places in Steve's hair, and on Julia's face little lines begin to show. The untouched white bedsheets and table cloths grow old, unused in her "treasure" chest. The days when she might bear children are drawing to a close, but she and Steve are honorable people who do their duty.

And the little living things they love? Time passes, and I'm afraid there will be no children... only the hungry little street dogs to fondle and feed and talk to in soft, affectionate tones.

The Negro Struggle

Nothing Wrong They Can Fix

By William E. Bohannon

At the same time that Big Business was opening its drive in Congress to outlaw the closed shop last month, the Afro-American came out with an attack on the closed shop. Just like the Big Business propagandists, the editors of the Afro twist the facts to cover up the truth about who will benefit if the closed shop is made illegal. The only difference is that the Afro tries to make it appear as if the closed shop is responsible for Jim-Crow employment practices, while the Big Business spokesmen don't use such a pretext.

The editorial says in part: "There is no sane person who will maintain that the closed shop helps colored people to get jobs as plumbers and electricians in the average town."

"The argument of closed vs. open shop, therefore, has nothing to do with the question of employing colored people. We should certainly oppose the closed shop."

This makes it look as if the unions and the closed shop are alone or chiefly to blame for Jim-Crow employment policies. But that is far from the truth. Long before any union in this country had a closed shop, Negroes were barred from most decent trades and jobs. Can the Afro deny this? Of course it cannot. Who was responsible for barring Negroes in those days? It couldn't have been the unions because in most places there were no unions. The ones who were responsible were the employers, and they are the chief culprits today too. Besides, do open shop bosses treat us any better than closed shop bosses?

In many industries the employers never employ Negroes until the white workers went on strike, and then they hired us only to break the strikes. And after these strikes were broken, they fired most of the Negroes when they no longer needed us to bolster their divide-and-rule policies. Can the Afro deny this?

Suppose that Big Business succeeds in outlawing the closed shop, will that help us? Only an insane person would think so. The employers who have Jim Crowed us all along are not thinking of our welfare now. Their only aim is to make more money. Smashing of the closed shop would lower wages in all of industry, and that would hurt Negroes everywhere, both those inside and outside the labor movement. And let us remember that almost two million Negroes are in the labor movement now.

It is true that some unions still Jim Crow Negroes. But it is also true that some unions are in the forefront of the fight to end Jim-Crow practices. The Negro people and the labor movement have the same enemies; if labor is crippled, we too will be driven back for many years. We cannot and must not support steps to weaken any of the unions. Our job is two-fold: force the employers to grant us equal treatment and fight to reform the backward and biased unions.

Joe Louis once said there was nothing wrong with America that Hitler could fix. And there is nothing wrong with the unions that Big Business or its politicians can fix. The fixing will have to be done by us and our allies, the white workers.

"Feminine Delinquency"

By Grace Carlson

In a Chicago Tribune article on Jan. 8, Willard Edwards writes of "feminine delinquency." He bases his findings on a short visit made to the Federal Penitentiary for Women at Alderson, W. Va. After interviewing prison officials there and talking to a few prisoners, Edwards concluded that "feminine delinquency" is due to "a deficiency in parental discipline and affection at a young and impressionable age."

I paid a much longer "visit" to the federal prison at Alderson than Edwards did and I probably had much longer "interviews" with prison officials — and with prisoners. (For the benefit of the new readers of The Militant, I should say that I was one of the 18 prisoners in the Minneapolis Labor Case. We were sentenced to prison because of our anti-war position and served our 16-month terms in 1944-45.)

But I came to very different conclusions from the Chicago Tribune writer as to the basic cause of "feminine delinquency." Although individual factors — "deficiency in parental discipline," etc. — may play a role in a few cases, I found that the vast majority of women prisoners were driven into lives of "crime" by the poverty of their homes.

At Alderson I wrote an article for the April, 1944 issue of The Eagle, the magazine put out by the women prisoners. It was entitled, "To Safeguard the Mental Health of Prisoners" and I still believe that it had a better explanation for "feminine delinquency" than Edwards has. Here are a few excerpts from this article:

"The development of an objective attitude toward herself, her 'crime' and her relation to Society is essential for the individual who wants

to return to function in the outside world as a normal person. Exaggerated feelings of guilt and self-condemnation, on the one hand, or intense bitterness and resentment, on the other hand, result in an over-emphasis on the individual rather than the social aspects of crime. Only an attempt to understand crime as a social phenomenon will enable the individual prisoner to develop the proper perspective and avoid these pitfalls.

"The only correct definition of crime is the legal one; i.e., a crime is any act which violates the law. Because laws vary from time to time and from one historical period to another, what is considered a crime varies also. 'Criminal behavior' cannot be considered inherently immoral, therefore, because the definition of crime is determined by the particular social period and the play of social forces...

"In the backgrounds of the vast majority of convicted 'criminals' is a record of over-crowded, poverty-stricken homes, economic insecurity, unemployment, disease and a general lack of cultural and educational opportunities. Illustrating once more 'Man's inhumanity to man,' Society punishes by imprisonment the unhappy products of these inadequate social backgrounds, whose very lacks have driven them to commit criminal acts!

"A consideration of the general problem of the social responsibility for crime rather than a brooding over personal responsibility can help to keep prisoners from slipping into dangerous mental states during imprisonment. But there still remains for every prisoner, as well as for members of Society in the outside world, the responsibility for so improving social conditions that new generations of young people will not be forced into lives of crime."

Notes From The News

Homer Loomis, Jr., funder of the anti-labor, anti-Negro, anti-Jewish Columbians, Inc., was sentenced to 12 months in a Georgia public works camp last week after being found guilty of inciting to riot.

Negro veteran, Isaac Woodard is suing the Atlantic Greyhound Bus Co. for illegally ejecting him from a bus and turning him over to the South Carolina cop who gouged out his eyes last year.

The All-Chicago Labor Committee is planning a series of local meetings and plant demonstrations against the anti-labor bills in Congress.

World War II has cost the U.S. 340 billion dollars to date. Inside of 25 years the total costs will amount to more than 700 billion.

A New York Supreme Court Justice last week upheld a restrictive covenant barring a Negro from buying a home in St. Albans, Queens.

The Hatch Act, prohibiting political activity by government employees, was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court last week.

The year's first official lynching took place during American Brotherhood Week.

School Crisis Imperils Free Public Education

By Art Preis

American capitalists boast that one of the great advantages they have "given" the people is the system of free public school education.

Today that boast is especially hollow. A national school crisis threatens the educational opportunities of tens of millions of working-class children.

The scope of that crisis is described by Joseph F. Landis, President of the American Federation of Teachers, in the December 1946 AFL American Federationist.

"Since Pearl Harbor 500,000 teachers have left the profession, 10,000 classrooms have been closed, 280,000 emergency certificates have been issued to teachers unable to meet the minimum certification requirements of the states in which they serve, and teacher training institutions have been almost denuded of trainees for the teaching profession."

DESTROYING EDUCATION

The stark meaning of these facts, says Landis, is that "year after year millions of American youth—not an abstract youth, but perchance your child or mine—will be doomed to grow up in complete ignorance, denied all educational opportunities, or be granted only a smattering of training under incompetent, ill-trained teachers."

This growing threat to free compulsory public school education strikes at one of the greatest achievements of the American working class. For public education was not a "gift" from the capitalist ruling class. It was wrested from the rising capitalist class during the Nineteenth Century by the struggle of the early American labor movement.

Mary Beard, in A Short History of the American Labor Movement, writes: "It is, in fact, largely to the agitation of organized labor in the twenties and thirties (1820-1840) that we owe the beginning of the public school system. Labor leaders looked upon education as the real hope of the working men in their struggle to improve their lot, and in 1829 public education took its place at the head of the labor reforms demanded by the Workmen's Party of Philadelphia. In March, 1834, the trade unions of the country, in a convention in New York City called to consider the 'professional monopoly of education,' urged the necessity of an 'equal, universal, republican system of education.'"

MAIN DEMAND OF WORKERS We learn from A. M. Simons' Class Struggles in America that "mass meetings of the workers in New York, Boston and Philadelphia placed general education as foremost among the demands of the working class. Every platform of the workingmen's political parties of that time contained a demand for the formation of a public school system and to this early labor movement more than to any other one cause we owe the great 'educational revival' of the thirties and our common school system of today."

Like every other great reform won by American labor, universal free public education is now being strangled by an utterly reactionary capitalist class which devours the substance of the country in imperialist war and war preparations.

Today, after spending 350 billion dollars for World War II,

charged "lack of foresight in not preparing for the normal cold winter weather." He said this was another example of how private interests mismanage a necessary public utility for private gain.

The company's legal mouthpiece Pringle answered the barrage of questions on the cause of the shortage with evasive replies of "I don't know," "It may be so," or "I believe so."

Vincent Frazier then declared that "in conveniently absenting himself from Cleveland and not sending a representative who could give satisfactory answers, Mr. J. French Robinson indicates a contemptuous and arrogant attitude to the people of Cleveland." Frazier demanded that Robinson be summoned to a further hearing. The Utilities Committee set Feb. 19 as the date for another hearing and voted to summon Robinson.

After adjournment of the first hearing, Pirc and Frazier told The Militant reporter that Local 337's next demand will be "a public investigation with full labor representation on the investigating body."

Local 337 President Pirc and other members of the union delegation. Members of the Cleveland CIO Council were in the delegation, and representatives from many CIO locals attended the hearing.

When the hearing opened, Local 337 Executive Board member Vincent Frazier demanded the presence of Mayor Burke and J. French Robinson, head of the East Ohio Gas Co. and president of the American Gas Association. Burke then hurriedly put in an appearance.

The City Council President later side-tracked a hearing before the entire Council, and referred it to the Utilities Committee which met yesterday afternoon. This committee finally agreed to hold a public hearing only after persistent pressure from Local

Joint AFL, CIO Picket Line



When the Freedman Cutout Corporation in New York refused to negotiate with the AFL-Pulp Sulphite & Paper Mill Workers, the union was forced to go out on strike. Rallying to the support of their brother paper workers, Local 292, CIO-United Paper Workers, joined the picket line to show the boss that labor is united against him. (Federated Picture)

N. Y. Anti-Labor Election Bills Attacked By Clarke

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 11 — An imposing array of trade union and political organizations blasted the reactionary election law bills now before the State Legislature at the public hearings held here today in the Senate chamber.

Speakers for the State and New York City CIO, the American Labor Party, Liberal Party, Socialist Workers Party, Communist Party, Socialist Party, Socialist Labor Party and others pointed out that the rigorous amendments to the election law introduced by Republican State Senator Williamson would have the effect of barring minority working-class parties from the ballot. All denounced these bills as a crime against democratic rights.

George Clarke, representative of the SWP, pointed out that the present law, without the proposed amendments, had proved sufficiently undemocratic to bar three minority parties from the ballot last fall. The new bills, he pointed out, could be explained only in connection with the reactionary anti-labor climate now

prevailing in federal and state legislatures. "These bills, Clarke continued, exhibit the trend of the ruling class to establish a monopoly in politics. Such a monopoly existed in its finished form under the Nazis in Germany and the Fascists in Italy.

"If you enact the present bill," Clarke concluded, "you are closing the door to the possibility of the workers and farmers of this state — and they are its great majority — of legislating change, from the smallest reforms to the most fundamental social changes. And mind you, you are legislating now not only for New York state but for the whole nation because the laws that you make now apply not only to state elections but also to presidential elections.

"If you enact this bill and worse ones which must inevitably follow as day follows night, you are saying in effect that the people have no other road except the road of revolution. This is the inevitable consequence of such legislation as is embodied in the Williamson Bill, and the responsibility rests squarely upon the forces which find it necessary to protect their fabulous wealth and privileges by such legislation.

FOR PRINCE BILL "Gentlemen, those who sow the wind of dictatorship must reap the whirlwind of revolution."

The Socialist Workers Party is supporting the Prince Bill which would liberalize the present election laws by striking out the provisions requiring minority parties to get 50 signatures in each of the 61 counties of the state in

order to get on the ballot. The Williamson bill opposed by the SWP and other organizations raises the total from 12,000 to 20,000 in the state and requires 150 signatures in each county; it also requires 250,000 instead of the present 50,000 votes for a minority party to secure a place on the ballot.

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The labor candidates, originally nominated by the Revere Copper & Brass auto workers local, are opening the road to genuine independent labor political action in this area. CIO-sponsorship of these independent labor candidates is described by the Chicago Sun as "marking a new political development."

Thousands of labor campaign leaflets have been distributed in the three wards urging the election of Wesoowski, Chialukos and Salvatore. Posters have been placed in many stores and stickers are on display everywhere.

Incumbent Democratic Alderman Rostenkowski's machine-men in the 32nd Ward have been tearing down the labor candidate's posters, but the union men are replacing these posters as fast as they are torn down.

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SWP Candidate Defends Negro Beaten By Cops

SAN PEDRO, Calif., Feb. 14 — Louis Kisner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council in District 15, has issued a call to all militant subscribers in San Pedro to rally to the defense of Alfred Giles, Negro victim of police brutality.

At the hearing of arguments for a new trial for Mr. Giles, all seats in the courtroom, and all possible standing room was filled by Militant readers and NAACP supporters.

Alfred Giles had been brutally beaten by two police officers on last Christmas Night, then jailed and charged with assault and battery. Despite his bloody shirt and trousers, Judge Irving Taplin determined that Giles was guilty. At the hearing on Feb. 13, attorney Everette Porter's motion for a new trial was denied by "liberal" Judge Taplin.

When asked after the hearing what he would propose next in this case, Louis Kisner had the following to say:

"The only possible answer to the obviously prejudiced court is to redouble our efforts in behalf of Brother Giles. We must take this case to the trade unions, themselves the victims of much the same police treatment, particularly in San Pedro which was the scene of many waterfront battles. The police and the courts prefer to deal with us one at a time, to snipe away at this worker and that Negro. It is up to us to present them with a solid united backing of every defenseless victim of police brutality.

Cleveland Union Forces Hearing In Gas Breakdown, Industry Tieup

By Bill Foley

CLEVELAND, Feb. 15—Aroused by the gas shortage that caused the recent 10-day shutdown of more than 800 plants and lay-offs for 10,000 workers here, CIO United Auto Workers Local 337, Bryant Heater Co., forced the Utilities Committee of Cleveland City Council to hold a public hearing yesterday on the mismanagement by the natural gas monopoly, Standard Oil's East Ohio Gas Co.

A committee of Local 337 officers called on Mayor Burke on Feb. 10 and demanded a hearing on why the gas monopoly refused to provide adequate facilities to maintain the gas supply in normal winter weather here. Burke was compelled to agree to the demand for a hearing.

The City Council President later side-tracked a hearing before the entire Council, and referred it to the Utilities Committee which met yesterday afternoon. This committee finally agreed to hold a public hearing only after persistent pressure from Local

337 President Anthony J. Pirc and other members of the union delegation. Members of the Cleveland CIO Council were in the delegation, and representatives from many CIO locals attended the hearing.

When the hearing opened, Local 337 Executive Board member Vincent Frazier demanded the presence of Mayor Burke and J. French Robinson, head of the East Ohio Gas Co. and president of the American Gas Association. Burke then hurriedly put in an appearance.

Local 337 President Pirc scored the gas monopolists for "inefficiency" and "mismanagement, dating back to the East Ohio Gas explosion in 1941" when 130 people were killed. He further

capitalist government officials, federal, state and local, are starving the schools to death for lack of funds. And they are starving the teachers too.

The reason why teachers are quitting the schools in wholesale lots—and striking or threatening to strike from coast to coast—is made plain by AFL Teachers President Landis, who reports: "In 1946 the national average salary was \$1,800... half the teachers of the land received less than \$1,800 per year, less than \$35 per week." That is equal, in terms of today's cost of living, to what a WPA relief laborer made in 1936.

There are 10,000 full-time teachers in this country who get only \$12 a week. There are 200,000 who get \$25 weekly or less. Benjamin Fine, in an educational survey for the N. Y. Times, sums up the teachers' economic status: "As long as 12 States pay their teachers less than \$30 a week, and another 12 less than \$35, and as long as half the teachers of America get less than \$40 a week, the profession will be decidedly unattractive."

WAR HIT SCHOOLS Fine tells the real story of the school crisis, when he states: "The war has hit the schools a disastrous blow from which they are still reeling... Everywhere school buildings are in need of repair; school supplies are lacking. Overcrowded classrooms have increased during the last five years." (N. Y. Times, Feb. 10.)

What is the richest country in the world doing about this? "The United States spends 1.5 per cent of its national income for its schools. Great Britain spends an estimated 3 per cent; the Soviet Union spends 7.5 per cent," reports the N. Y. Times survey.

BILLIONS FOR WAR Why this starvation dole to public education in "free enterprise" America? The answer is summed up by Truman's proposed budget for the federal government.

That budget of 37 1/2 billion dollars—four times the federal expenditures in 1939—provides more than 15 billion dollars for war preparations. Research on and development of the atom bomb alone get 444 million dollars in 1948. "Education and general research" get—88 million.

The educational opportunities of America's working class children are being poured down the drain of Wall Street's war preparations.

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SWP And CP Picket Meeting Of Senator Ball

By Milton Genevin

AKRON, O., Feb. 12 — Pickets carrying signs denouncing Senator Ball of Minnesota, marched up and down before the Mayflower Hotel here last night in a protest demonstration. Ball was speaking inside to an audience of local Republicans at a Lincoln's Birthday dinner.

The pickets gathered in response to separate calls from the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party. They formed a single line and paraded before the hotel entrance for about an hour while the audience was arriving.

The SWP and Socialist Youth Club picket signs described Joseph "Fou" Ball and Ohio's Republican Senators Taft and Bricker as agents of Wall Street. The Stalinists carried signs condemning Ball but not identifying themselves.

Local union leaders decided against calling for a picket line after a heated discussion the night before at the CIO Council meeting. George Bass, president of CIO Rubber Workers Goodrich Local 5, and I. H. Watson, president of URW Firestone Local 7, both took the position that picketing Ball would infringe upon his democratic rights.

What probably motivated the CIO leaders more than any other single factor was their blind anti-Stalinism. However, the way to fight Stalinism is not to oppose everything they propose, but to follow a consistent line of doing everything possible in the real interests of the rank and file of the organized workers.