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What Program For AFL-CIO Unity?

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AFL, CIO PROTEST ANTI-LABOR BILLS

British Workers Set Up Councils To Meet Crisis

By J. Kelly

LONDON, Feb. 17—Great Britain, the home of "Coal Capitalism," received a rude awakening when a fuel shortage led to a vast factory shutdown affecting millions of workers on Feb. 10. It is symptomatic of the death agony of capitalism in a country which was once described as the "workshop of the world" that a shortage of coal forced the government to take this drastic action.

The crisis had been forecast months earlier in Tory speeches and statements by reactionary opponents of the government. Not accidentally, it coincides with the decision to nationalize the nation's transport services which are the "lifelines" so far as coal distribution is concerned.

Out-spoken comments from such officials as Bob Edwards, organizer for the Chemical Workers Union, have demanded a public inquiry into what they claim to be capitalist sabotage in railroad hold-ups. The chairman of the Shop Stewards Committee of the giant Metro-Vickers works in Manchester employing 17,000 has bluntly accused the employers of trying to stir up hostility between the workers and the government.

ORGANIZING FIGHT

Meanwhile, all over the country, "vigilance committees," consisting of local trades councils and delegates from adjacent factories, are being set up to organize the localities in the fight against the employers during the emergency.

These Soviet forms of organization have become doubly necessary because it is clear that the bosses are endeavoring to take

advantage of the enforced hardships and suffering of this new army of unemployed and attack their hard-won rights and conditions.

Engineering workers, whose union, the AEU, has a 34-hour guaranteed week agreement with the Employers Federation, were paid a full 34 hours and then sacked after a week's notice. Workers employed in non-federated factories were fired on the spot at the commencement of the crisis, while large numbers working in such industries as pottery making, suffered a similar fate.

While the Stalinists are endeavoring to cash in on these movements for their own treacherous ends, the militant shop stewards committee of the Standard Telephones and Cables factory, which represents 5,000 workers and is led by left-wing Labor Party members in opposition to the Stalinists, has issued a number of resolutions around which it proposes to organize the widest possible campaign to mobilize London's factories.

CRISIS HITS WORKERS

In one resolution the shop stewards committee points out that the brunt of the crisis is being borne by the workers and not by those responsible for it; (Continued on Page 3)

Biggest School Strike Begins In Buffalo

Hard-pressed Teachers Unite On Picket Lines

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 24—Demanding decent living salaries and more funds to halt the deterioration of the public schools, the Buffalo Teachers Federation (Independent) today launched the greatest school strike in American history.

Eighty of 98 grade and high schools were shut tight as 2,400 teachers, including members of the AFL and CIO teachers unions walked out on schedule and set up picket lines or "observation posts" in the freezing weather.

WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT

Tens of thousands of pupils walked out with their teachers and gave wholehearted support to the teachers' demands. Even those schools where a few teachers had been persuaded to scab were almost empty of students.

All teachers unions are united in the fight. Members of AFL Teachers Local 377 and CIO Teachers Local 755 stood side by side at their "observation posts" carrying placards reading: "Buffalo Teachers — AFL — Federation — CIO — Want A Living Wage."

Both the Academic High School and Vocational High School Principals Associations have announced they will not report to schools tomorrow. This action is hailed as support for the teachers' walkout.

LAUGHED AT THREATS

Striking teachers laughed at threats of city officials that their strike was "a breach of contract" for which they could be fired. The shortage of teachers has become so acute because of the bad pay and conditions that qualified teachers are not available to replace the strikers.

The AFL Teachers declared in a statement that they would not be intimidated. Raymond J. Ast, president of the Buffalo Teachers Federation, said the union would stay out "two, three, four or more weeks" to gain its demands for higher pay.

Federation members, joined by AFL and CIO, carried banners "AFL — Federation — CIO Want Higher Salaries." "We are engaged in a fight to determine whether a free public education is to live or die," said the union statement. "The haters reach to every corner of the United States. We are soberly aware of the tremendous responsibility we have assumed. The outcome of our struggle here may have permanent influence on the public schools of America."

"We cannot stand idly by and watch our public school system deteriorate for want of sufficient financial aid in the richest state in the union. We are in this fight to a finish."

OPA Speeds Up Rent Boosts Before Its Final Breakdown

Real estate interests and slum landlords are rubbing their hands in greedy anticipation of the complete breakdown of OPA rent control enforcement within the next few weeks.

Hopes of the rent sharks were heightened last week when the House of Representatives on Feb. 18 voted to deny an OPA-requested deficiency appropriation of \$5,900,000. This sum is needed to continue the agency from March 1 to June 30, when the whole set-up is scheduled to end unless a new bill to extend rent control is passed.

FLOOD OF RENT BOOSTS
Congress has the power to kill OPA simply by shutting off its funds. This was the device used last year in disemboweling the Fair Employment Practices Commission prior to its final dissolution.

Meanwhile, the OPA is ex-

Loading Up The Hopper



Wall Street Pushes Drive To Prussianize The Youth

Wall Street's drive to Prussianize American youth is proceeding according to plan. President Truman on Feb. 20 announced that as soon as his special committee has made its report, he will renew his demand on Congress for legislation to force every youth

to submit to training under the military caste. The report, of course, will favor the War Department's military blueprint for American youth, since the committee was carefully handpicked by Truman.

Truman's announcement is only the latest step in a carefully planned pressure campaign.

On Dec. 29, just four days before the 80th Congress convened, the Public Relations Division of the War Department issued a pamphlet demanding six months of continuous training and a second six months of "part-time" activities in reserve components.

A few weeks later, Secretary of War Patterson was widely quoted in the capitalist press as insisting that universal military training "is a must."

Patterson was brutally frank about the impossibility of peace under the capitalist system: "In the future there will be no time lag during which we can prepare. Our first inkling of actual hostilities may be bombs and guided missiles crashing into our cities."

WANT THE YOUTH
All the brass hats, naturally, are pressing for legislation that will put American youth into their hands. Their technique is to paint the horrors of the war they envisage and insist that the only way out is to convert America into an armed camp.

General Kenney, commanding the Strategic Air Forces declared, "The attack will come . . . across the North Polar basin . . . The results may be a casualty list of 25,000,000 men, women and children."

The Communist Party (Stalinist) is throwing its support behind the incumbent, George Moore, who is at present Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce in Wilmington, also in District 15. Support of this outright boss candidate has aroused the opposition of many rank and file CP members and sympathizers who want to support a labor candidate, and a number of radical workers have volunteered to work for Kinsner's election.

The opening gun in the campaign was a public meeting held in Watts, where a new SWP branch is being formed. Several dozen workers heard Kinsner discuss the important issues facing the workers today.

The Watts Citizens Welfare Committee, having heard of Kinsner's position, has written him the following message: "On behalf of the committee and as their attorney, I wish to congratulate you upon taking a firm stand against discrimination here in the 'City' of Watts. I am sure that if you make known your plans in detail, you can expect mass support from the Negro people. Very truly yours, Rayfield Lundy."

Every day brings closer the blow of huge rent increases for 60,000,000 tenants. Only militant mass action will halt the impending rent-gouge and a wave of evictions. The tenants' battle-cry must be: Freeze All Rents!

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Congressmen Bait Politically-Weak Labor Spokesmen

AFL President William Green and CIO President Philip Murray, testifying before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee on Feb. 18-19, sharply assailed the 250-odd anti-labor bills now pending in Congress.

Green attacked the Taft-Ball-Smith revised version of last year's Case bill and Ball's proposal to outlaw the closed shop, ban industry-wide bargaining and disembowel the Wagner Act.

Murray accused "various groups" of wanting to force labor back to the open shop days of 1890. He pointed out that 1946 corporation net profits at 12 billion dollars will be the highest in history, while workers are "losing out" in their effort to hold their share of the national income. Murray accused the Senators of saying by their actions "that the strength of government must be thrown behind those employers who are today prepared to protect their present and future profit levels against any demands for wage increases."

LABOR'S WEAKNESS

Murray and Green thoroughly demonstrated the anti-labor character of the bills before Congress. But the hearings served only to underline labor's political weakness.

Although Green and Murray stand at the head of 15 million organized workers, they entered the hearings without an iota of organized political power to back up labor's case. The Committee, packed solid with Wall Street's political representatives, amused itself heckling and contemptuously cross-examining the witnesses.

The hearings were in fact a farce. The Taft Senate machine and the Dewey-dominated House machine, after respectfully hearing corporation lawyers, bankers, industrialists and high-paid Big Business publicity experts for two weeks, had previously announced they had made up their minds on the legislation Wall Street wants enacted.

Murray and Green stood in such a weak political position they could only "reason" with Wall Street's political hatchet-men and complain about the "injustice" of the bills now earmarked for passage.

BRUTE FORCE

But monopoly's professional politicians, busily sharpening a legislative knife to cut labor's throat, do not give a tinker's dam about what is "reasonable" or "just." They view the pro-

Portal-To-Portal Bills Knife Fair Labor Act

The "portal-to-portal" legislation given top priority by Wall Street's Congressional steamroller at the beginning of the 80th session came out of committee according to schedule. Both the Senate and House versions are designed to knock out the foundations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

These far-reaching measures not only rob millions of workers of portal-to-portal back pay due them, but enable employers to violate the Fair Labor Standards Act with relative impunity on the plea they acted in "good faith."

A worker would be banned from filing a suit through his union, and the courts could not assess an employer for lawyer's fees incurred by a worker in filing suit.

found struggle between Big Business and labor as a matter of brute power.

Since Wall Street enjoys a monopoly in the field of politics, Taft's committee does not have the slightest fear of being called to account in Congress for disregarding labor's views.

Neither the CIO nor the AFL, mighty as they are on the economic field, has a single representative inside Congress to fight for labor's interests.

Murray, Green and the other labor bureaucrats have themselves blocked the workers from organizing on the political field and putting labor's own spokesmen in office. They have even failed to organize militant mass demonstrations against the anti-labor drive.

Wall Street's anti-labor drive could be brought to a halt by a mass pressure drive on Congress from the outside combined with a drive to put a labor majority inside Congress.

What labor needs is its own political party, a labor party capable of giving effective battle to the entrenched political forces of Big Business. This is the most important lesson to be drawn from the appearance of Green and Murray before Taft's committee.

SPECULATORS, PROFITEERS FORCE PRICES SKYWARD

For the past five weeks prices of all commodities have been soaring steadily. With food prices heading the advance, the cost of living each week has been hitting a new all-time peak.

Claims of the capitalist press and monopoly profiteers' last June that "free enterprise" would soon bring about "price adjustment" are exposed as lies and deception.

More recent propaganda about big declines in prices is also proved to be so much hogwash. This propaganda was released simultaneously with renewed CIO wage demands.

PRICES AT PEAK

Every commodity price index, private and government, stands at the highest point in history. For the week ending Feb. 15, the Bureau of Labor Statistics recorded wholesale commodity prices at 143.1% of the 1926 average. This is 1.6% higher than the record high of mid-January and 33.5% above a year ago.

Dun & Bradstreet's index, totalling prices of 31 standard food items per pound, on Feb. 20 hit the unprecedented high of \$6.50 — up from the \$4.20 figure in Jan. 1946.

New York City shoppers last

week found butter prices 15 cents a pound higher than a month ago—between 80 and 84 cents a pound. Meat prices are skyrocketing out of reach. According to the Department of Agriculture, "wholesale beef and pork prices were substantially higher in comparable grades than the black market charges in OPA days. At the same time, the department said supplies of beef are better today than they have been in some time." (N. Y. World-Telegram, Feb. 20.)

MORE HIKES COMING

Two days later the United Press reported that "Agriculture Department economists saw danger signs today pointing to another sharp increase in retail food prices."

These terrific price hikes are not due to wage increases—that's obvious. Nor are they due to unusual weather conditions; they began weeks before the current severe weather. Commodities speculators and profiteering manufacturers are deliberately forcing up prices.

A Program For Labor Unity

By Art Preis

American organized labor is faced with the greatest threat in decades. Capitalist reaction is becoming more unbridled. The anti-labor drive in Congress grows more ominous each day.

The ranks of every union, regardless of affiliation, are aware that crucial danger confronts the whole labor movement. Pressure is mounting for a program of action to halt the menacing anti-labor drive.

The AFL Executive Council, through AFL President William Green, has declared that what the situation requires above all, and before all else, is "organic unity" between the AFL and CIO. It has invited the CIO leaders to establish a committee to meet with an AFL committee so that the two organizations might be "blended into one parent union."

In reply, CIO President Philip Murray has announced the appointment of a CIO committee to meet with the AFL; but he insists that the answer to the anti-labor drive is first of all joint action. He writes:

"We do not believe that words or clichés should prevent the organized labor movement from taking immediate and effective steps to protect our entire membership. . . . We hope that through a demonstration of the ability of organized labor to act in a united manner in the interest of our membership we can provide the basis for a discussion of other means to achieve effective and enduring unity . . ."

APPROACH WITH CAUTION

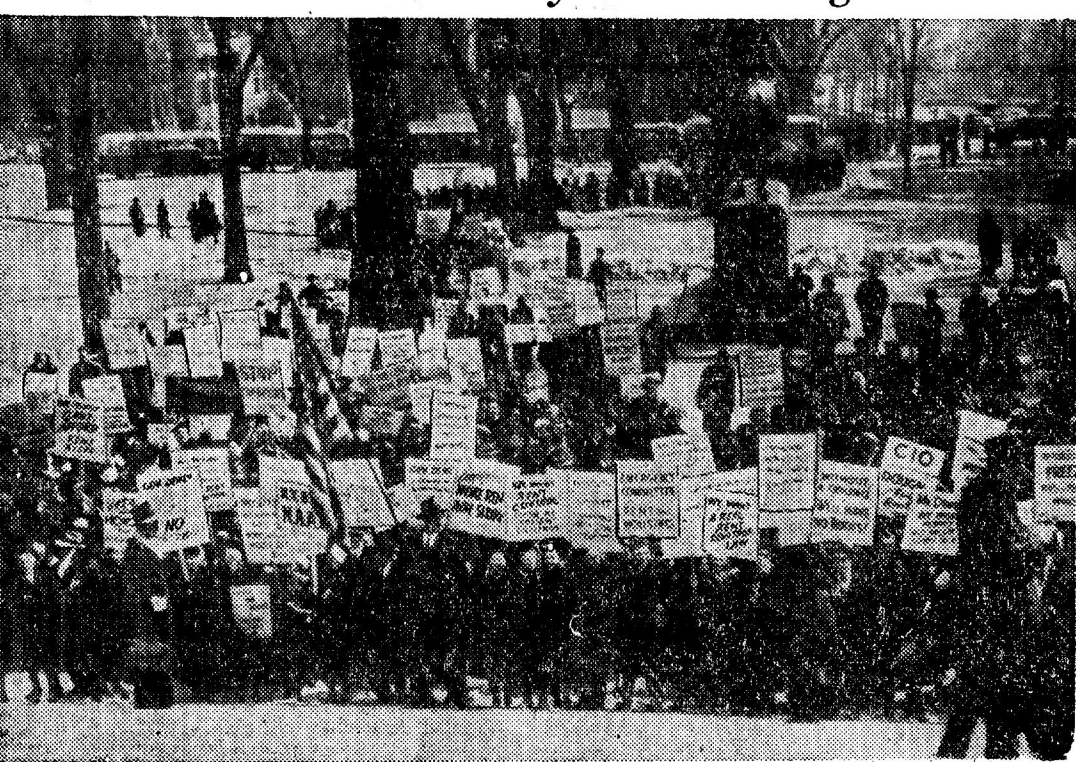
It would be a wonderful thing if organized labor were united in one giant organization able to take concerted action against its enemies. A program of genuine struggle against the anti-labor drive would be all the more effective if carried out by a united labor movement.

But any proposal for organic unity put forward by the craft-minded AFL leaders must be approached with great caution. Their record of ceaseless warfare against the industrially-organized CIO; their recently intensified jurisdictional raids on the CIO; their opposition to the CIO wage demands; their consistent hostility to militant unionism — all justify the suspicion at least that the AFL proposal is motivated by special organizational interests rather than an earnest desire to fight unitedly against anti-labor laws.

But whether or not these proposals have been advanced as subterfuges for aims other than claimed by their proponents, it is necessary to examine them on their merits apart from the question of motives. And this leads us to the basic consideration.

The main question to be decided is: Will labor unity by itself — whatever its organizational form — suffice to beat back the all-out attack

New York's Governor Dewey Bars Housing Marchers



Republican Governor Dewey's reply to this delegation which marched on Albany, N. Y. to protest the housing shortage, was to utilize state troops to prevent their entering the state capitol building. Federated Pictures

able labor to effectively fight the anti-labor drive?

A thoughtful examination of both the AFL and CIO proposals reveal that they lack one essential and decisive element. They embody no concrete program of action. They are purely organizational proposals.

NO ANSWER TO KEY QUESTION

They differ to the extent that they reflect a difference of organizational interests between the two rival union leaderships. But they are similar in one vital respect. Neither gives an answer to the key question: How will either a united organization or a joint committee proceed to fight — on what program and by what methods — against the labor-haters and their offensive?

Suppose the AFL proposal for organic unity were realized on the basis of the traditional methods and policies of the AFL craft-union bureaucracy? How will these methods of back-room deals, conciliation with labor's enemies, opposition to militancy, bureaucratic stifling of the ranks, en-

able labor to effectively fight the anti-labor drive?

Such a unification might lead, perhaps, to a peaceful settlement of jurisdictional disputes. It is clear, however, that a unified body dominated by the methods and concepts of the craft-union moguls will never effectively combat the Congressional anti-labor drive.

An army marching unitedly in retreat, or in the wrong direction, will not achieve victory. Labor unity by itself will not halt the savage attack of a united American plutocracy. Unity without an effective program of action, is a gun without ammunition.

MEANING OF WALL STREET'S DRIVE

Any serious proposal for defeating the anti-labor drive must proceed first of all from a clear, realistic understanding of the nature and meaning of the anti-union offensive.

This is no incidental or accidental phenomenon. It isn't something that will "blow over" if labor just "sits tight." It will not be stemmed with hat-in-hand pleading or verbal protests, however loud, or by reasonable argument. The sweeping storm of capitalist reaction is generated by the fundamental aims of the American Big Business ruling class.

Wall Street is determined to cripple and ultimately destroy organized labor in America, to drive down living standards and safeguard ruling class profits, privileges and power. American imperialism wants a regimented and docile working class in order to carry out unhampered its preparations to destroy the Soviet Union and completely dominate the world.

Labor has demonstrated great power on the economic front in the struggle for higher wages. In spite of this, Big Business was able to quickly wipe out the wage gains of the workers. It is now moving forward to put permanent restraints

on the unions. No opposition by the union leaders has as yet placed any serious obstacle in the way of Wall Street's attack.

LACKS POLITICAL WEAPON

How does it happen that a tiny clique of billionaires can wield such power? Why is it that the leaders of 15 million organized workers, potentially the mightiest force in the country, are reduced to impotent verbal protest before the onslaught of Big Business?

The capitalist ruling class not only controls the country's economy, but enforces that control with its political power. It is this political power that capitalism is wielding so mercilessly and effectively today.

Before the political might of American capitalism, the American labor movement stands defenseless. It has no political weapon of its own. For politics and government are the monopoly of the tiny capitalist ruling class.

This political rule of the capitalists, maintained through their two-party system, enables them to bring the whole power of the state to bear on the labor movement. Their agents dominate Congress, introduce the laws, vote on them; their judges interpret these laws; their government executives enforce them.

Green and Murray come before hearings of the anti-labor Congress as petitioners. This situation would not be altered merely by organic unity. Separated or together, they represent no organized threat to capitalist political power. Not one genuine representative of labor stands in Congress to champion their demands.

BREAK WITH CAPITALIST PARTIES

Indeed, the union leaders are political captives of the capitalists, so long as they support the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties. Organized labor cannot halt the political power-machine of Wall Street when it is tied hand and foot to that machine.

What must American labor do to meet and defeat the political power of Big Business? It cannot counter-attack on the political field without its own political weapon — its own party.

A united labor movement can halt the capitalist anti-labor drive — provided it breaks with capitalist politics and paves the way for an independent labor party. That is the kind of unity the rank and file of the CIO and AFL must demand. Unity on that basis alone will correctly answer the burning problem of how to defeat the anti-labor drive.

UNION RANKS MUST INTERVENE

Up to now, the various proposals to bring the AFL and CIO closer together have stemmed from the top leaders. But labor-unity is above all the concern of the rank and file union members. It is imperative that any unity move flow from the needs of the workers and not the narrow organizational interests of the rival bureaucracies.

The union ranks must intervene to ensure that unity on a sound and progressive basis is established. They must not let the issue be confined to the top circles, to back-room conferences and deals of a few leaders. This issue must be discussed openly and thoroughly by the ranks in their local unions.

They must pass resolutions expressing their views and needs — resolutions to achieve unity based on a program of genuine independent labor political action. A unity built from the bottom by the union members, based on a granite foundation of program, will endure. Such a unity will become the greatest guarantee of effective struggle against Wall Street's anti-labor offensive.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

The employers front in the bitter 13-month redwood Lumber mill strike is crumbling. Hammond Lumber Co., one of the largest of the nine major companies in the California redwood industry, has capitulated to AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union and signed the first union shop contract ever granted by a major redwood mill. The contract also provides a \$1.20 minimum wage and a 35-cent an hour across the board increase over all scales prevailing on V-J Day.

Nat Ganley, long-time Stalinist business agent of the Detroit Tool and Die Local 155, CIO United Auto Workers, and notorious Communist Party whip at UAW conventions, was defeated for re-election last week. John Anderson, his henchman and incumbent Local 155 president, got a 50 vote majority, but a recount is being demanded.

The membership of CIO United Electrical Workers Local 201, representing 15,000 General Electric workers at West Lynn and Everett, Mass., have repudiated a company-inspired "Committee Against Communism" which attempted to split the union on the eve of wage negotiations. The red-baiters, after trying to hold a rump meeting, announced they "would take no further action during negotiations."

Labor had better start taking vigorous action on state anti-labor laws. Virginia, Florida, Arkansas and Arizona now have laws banning union security contracts in the form of the closed shop. The Arkansas bill was made law on Feb. 19. The same day the Tennessee legislature passed a closed-shop ban, needing only the Governor's signature to become law. Georgia, New York and North Carolina are considering

similar measures. New harsh union-busting bills are in the hoppers of every state legislature.

A teachers strike is impending in Detroit. A strike vote has been approved in both AFL and CIO teachers' unions in New York City. The New York City AFL Teachers Guild last week voted "full moral and financial support" to the Buffalo teachers who walked out as scheduled on Feb. 24.

First returns in local union elections of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union shows the incumbent machine of David Dubinsky outpolling the Stalinist opposition by sweeping majorities. Dubinsky's forces raised, as expected, a red-baiting hue-and-cry against the Stalinists. The latter complained about Dubinsky's well-known undemocratic methods. But talk of "union democracy" never sounds convincing from the lips of Stalinists.

Top councils of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists have sounded a call for retreat to their over-zealous local lieutenants who engineered a split of nine Connecticut brass locals from the CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. The ACTU's national paper, The Labor Leader, on Feb. 14 commends the red-baiting "secessionists" for their intentions but advises that the "secession" movement was a "tactical mistake."

A "Little" Nathan Report on U. S. Steel Corporation, prepared for the CIO Steelworkers' wage negotiations, reveals that Big Steel subsidiaries can say average wage increases of 21% — from 20 to 23% — without raising steel prices.

Dewey Orders Troopers To Bar Delegation On Rent And Housing

By Eugene Shays

NEW YORK — The Emergency Committee on Rent and Housing (ECRH), an organization composed of New York tenants leagues, trade unions, the American Labor Party and veterans organizations sent a mass delegation to Albany on February 18, to demonstrate for the retention of rent controls and a housing program.

When the delegation wanted to enter the legislative chambers of the State Capitol, its way was barred by State Troopers acting on orders of Gov. Dewey and his Republican henchmen. This, in spite of an article in the State Constitution requiring that "the doors of each House shall be kept open, except when the public welfare requires secrecy."

Dewey's action was directed not merely against the demonstrators but against all the working people and veterans of New York state whose living standards would be gravely imperiled by a lifting of rent controls and who have had to put up with unspeakable housing conditions. It shows an utterly callous disregard for their welfare and their needs.

This occurrence again proves the reactionary character of the "democratically elected" capitalist legislature and, thereby, the

inadequacy and ineffectiveness of mere legislative action and "pressure."

The Stalinists, who dominate many of the groups affiliated to the ECRH, have consistently avoided putting teeth into the program of the Committee or of other tenants organizations which they control. Theirs is a war of words, of telegrams, penny postcards and petitions, all addressed to capitalist politicians who are well aware of the people's needs but who are not afraid of words or of "pressure" groups.

STALINIST RECORD

As in other matters, so in rent and housing, the Stalinists are shielding the Democratic Party, whose record on both the state and local level is every bit as bad as that of the Republicans. Thus, the Board of Estimate of New York City, all Democrats, has allowed bond issues amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars to be appropriated for construction of airports, sports palaces and traffic improvements, including the 70 million dollar Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.

But the terribly urgent needs for housing have received very scant attention, and plans such as the N. Y. Housing Authority's proposal to build unsubsidized housing, have been contemptuously shelved.

The Stalinists have kept cautious silence on the criminal inactivity of the Democrats, and they are using the crimes of the Republicans to cover up their own crimes.

The program put forward by the ECRH and similar groups can be put into action in only one way: The threat of a city-

wide rent strike must be hung over the heads of New York's greedy landlords and capitalist politicians, and the threat must be made good if the demands of the tenants are not met. The masses are ready and willing to support a militant program of action on rent and housing.

Reactionary Role Of The ACTU

A series of recent disruptive splits in several CIO unions and an intensified red-baiting drive against "communists" have highlighted the emergence of a powerful, organized religious group seeking to establish trade union policy in the American labor movement.

This group, the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, has been boring from within the AFL and CIO for years. While extremely influential at all times, the ACTU's activities until recently have been so surreptitious that many unionists did not know of its existence or were only vaguely aware of its role.

Committees and organizations of racial and religious groups in unions are not unusual. From time to time, for instance, Jewish and Negro unionists have combined within the labor movement. Their purpose, however, has been primarily to combat discrimination and break down racial and religious bigotry. In their general programs they represent not some special religious or racial policy,

but rather one or another working class political tendency — social-reformism, revolutionary Marxism, etc.

The ACTU is a unique formation. It represents a specifically religious labor policy, based on the doctrines of the Catholic Church, and zealously propagated in the general trade union movement. These doctrines are not an outgrowth of the development and experiences of the labor movement. They are not the expression of a working class tendency. They are the product of an organized, world-wide, religious institution, centuries-old, and now closely linked by property interests with the capitalist system.

It introduces into the labor movement not the principle of unity among all workers, regardless of race, creed, religion, national origin or political affiliation, but the extremely dangerous and divisive principle of special religious groupings fighting for their special religious program inside the labor movement.

If this principle became widespread in the labor movement, we would soon have complete chaos and disruption along religious, racial and national lines. Protestant and Jewish workers could set up factions based on their specific religious programs. White and Negro workers could split up into two warring camps around a "white" and "Negro"

policy. Irish, Italian, Swedish and every other nationality could be organized into factions, all contending for their special "national" programs.

What must non-religious or non-Christian workers think of a movement inside their unions which proclaims that it is "dedicated to the proposition that the teachings of Jesus Christ furnish the only sound basis of social reform"? (Policy statement of The Wage Earner, ACTU organ published in Detroit.)

Or what must they think of the advice in The Labor Leader, ACTU national organ, which in its Feb. 14 issue called for a struggle against "the Communists" and advised that "reform must begin within the union by the establishment of cells of Christian democracy?" Such "cells of Christian democracy" refer, of course, to exclusive circles of Catholic unionists, functioning as Catholics and propagating a Catholic program.

The ACTU doesn't limit itself to the dissemination of abstract church teachings. It is an organized power grouping inside the unions fighting for posts and control. It combines with and forms blocs with other groups whenever this will help it put over its program. It mercilessly wars on any group with which it differs, and seeks to drive them from office and out of the unions.

Its primary activities are, in reality, far removed from abstract religious tenets. Throughout the labor movement its two chief activities are: 1. fighting communism; 2. defending capitalism. The ACTU is intervening throughout the CIO as the spearhead of the employer-inspired red-baiting drive against the

"communists."

They talk occasionally in the language of social demagogy about "social justice" and "economic democracy." But they have no program of militant struggle for the interests of the workers against the bosses. Their official program calls for "recreating the basic natural partnership of capital and labor" and for an economic system of "Industry Councils" of the capitalists, labor and the capitalist government. This system strongly recalls the structure erected by Mussolini — the "corporate state" — which was endorsed by the Vatican. This system — fascism — has its most complete clerical expression now in Portugal where the people live in disease and hunger under the capitalist dictatorship of Salazar.

One of the most sinister methods of the ACTU is to assail every criticism of its reactionary, anti-labor policies as an "attack on religion and the Church." Most recently, New York City Councilman Michael J. Quill, Stalinist president of the CIO Transport Workers Union, has been subjected to powerful attack by every agency of the Catholic Church. He is denounced as "anti-Catholic" because he protested the interference of the ACTU in the TWU and scored the Jesuit "labor school" movement as a "hindrance, nuisance and strikebreaking outfit."

This school, headed in New York by the Rev. William J. Smith, S.J. (Society of Jesuits) has already succeeded in gaining official status in several CIO union locals where the ACTU in combination with other red-baiters has seized control. The ACTU is a menace to organized labor — including Catholic workers — because it violates the basic principles of labor unity and class solidarity. It sets up religious division. It supports the most reactionary elements in the labor movement. It brings into the labor movement the influence of a non-working class agency, over which even its followers have no democratic control, and which is devoted to the rule of capitalism.

TWIN-CITIES SUNDAY FORUM

V. R. Dunne

National Labor Secretary of the SWP speaking on

"Senator Ball—Tool of the Bosses"

SUNDAY, March 2, 8 p.m.

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Both Imperialists And Stalinists Oppose United Socialist Europe

Europe must be unified economically and politically, or it will decay further and eventually be destroyed, perhaps taking the rest of civilization along with it, in new imperialist wars. This fact has been recognized by the revolutionary movement since at least the first world war and is the basis for the struggle to achieve the Socialist United States of Europe. (See the resolution adopted by the Conference of the Fourth International last year, part of which is reprinted elsewhere on this page.)

The greatest obstacle to the unification of Europe along progressive lines is, of course, the capitalist system and its national states, barriers, hatreds, exploitation and oppression. But even the capitalists, who are responsible for keeping Europe divided and weakened, have known how to exploit the masses' instinctive desires for unification.

Most notable among these in the recent period was Hitler, whose propaganda for a forcible union of Europe (under Nazi German leadership) made considerable headway before and during the first part of the recent war.

IMPERIALIST AIMS

And today, although circumstances have altered considerably, certain imperialist circles are again putting forward "unification" proposals designed to take advantage of the undoubtedly strong sentiments for a reorganization of Europe to guarantee peace and maximum production.

The promoter of the most important of these movements is the British imperialist, Winston Churchill, who has organized the United Europe Committee, advocating the United States of Europe in order to "recreate the European family or as much of it as we can," within the frame-

"Europe's Economic Unification Is A Life-And-Death Question" Resolution Adopted By Conference Of Fourth International, April 1946

Under the present conditions of complete economic disorganization and disintegration of Europe, of national oppression imposed on a number of viable nations by the victors of the second imperialist war, the slogan of the Socialist United States of Europe acquires enormous propaganda value. Our sections must demonstrate concretely that the economic unification of Europe is a life-and-death question for all countries composing it; that the accomplishment of this task is possible only if carried out by the exploited masses of the continent under the guidance of the revolutionary proletariat. The interests of imperialism, the mutual antagonisms of the European bourgeoisies, are opposed to the unification of European economy. They maintain and aggravate its Balkanization, the ruin of its productive forces, of its civilization and culture.

To the "peace" program of the imperialists our sections counterpose the program contained in the slogan of the Socialist United States of Europe.

A Socialist Europe will be based on the economic unification of the continent, suppressing all tariff walls, planning its economy, and at the same time presenting the best framework for the development and flourishing of its national civilizations and cultures. National borders in the new Socialist Europe will be determined democratically according to language, national culture and the freely expressed sympathies of the populations.

A Socialist Europe will grant complete independence to all the colonies, establishing friendly economic relations with them and leading them progressively, without the use of violence and by example and collaboration, toward a Socialist World Federation.

The USSR, freed of its directing bureaucratic caste, will join the Socialist European Federation, which will aid it in solving its difficulties, and attain a level of prosperity and culture never before achieved. The slogan of the Socialist United States of Europe is the only realistic alternative to the plans of reaction which are leading the continent toward barbarism and chaos.

work of the United Nations. Churchill naturally has no interest in a Socialist Europe; in fact, the purpose of his committee and his propaganda is to preserve European capitalism through the collaboration of the western European governments in a bloc under the leadership of Britain.

Such a bloc would not achieve a real unification of Europe or solve the problems facing the European workers any more than Hitler's "new order." But it might for a time partly ease the position of Britain, France and other capitalist countries which were reduced to second-rate powers by the war; it could strengthen the position of these powers in bargaining with American imperialism; and it could serve as the basis for a European bloc with American imperialism in the preparations for war against the Soviet Union.

KREMLIN HOSTILE

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Kremlin reacts with the greatest hostility to such proposals as Churchill's. This was demonstrated last week in an article written for Pravda by an old-time Stalinist hack, Otto Kuusinen, who now holds the post of president of the Karelo-Finnish Republic.

The article contains "a strong admonition to France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway and other states to beware of plans for a United States of Europe."

"Mr. Kuusinen specifically warns western Europe against an American plan for a reciprocal lowering of tariffs the world over . . . His advice to Europe is to retain its economic national independence in the face of the American danger . . ."

"Joining a United States of Europe, as proposed by Winston Churchill, would mean the loss of political sovereignty, the nations were told, and their subordination to the authority of a central government dominated by the United Kingdom and its empire." (N. Y. Times, Feb. 20.)

But despite their sharp differences on this question, Stalin and Churchill are united on a far more fundamental one: BOTH are opposed, equally opposed, to a genuine solution of the European problem — a Socialist United States of Europe. BOTH are fighting, each in his own way and according to his own resources, to prevent the establishment of socialism anywhere on the continent or in the world.

WHAT IS OFFERED

What does Stalin's puppet, Kuusinen, offer the people of Europe as an alternative to the Churchillian program? Not socialism, but capitalism in an alliance with the Kremlin:

"As an alternative they (the countries of western Europe) were asked to consider the treaties of friendship, mutual aid and postwar cooperation between the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia as 'models' of international agreements."

In other words, a continuation of capitalist anarchy and rivalry conducted under the heavy hand of the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union which is concerned only in protecting its own privileged position. Churchill offers the maintenance of the capitalist status quo under British domination; Stalin offers the maintenance of the capitalist status quo, with some reforms thrown in, under the Kremlin's domination.

The struggle for a Socialist United States of Europe — which alone can regenerate the Soviet Union as a workers' state — must therefore be directed against the Stalinist bureaucracy as well as against world capitalism.

Defenseless Unionists Brutally Shot Down By Trinidad Police

Effects Of British Coal Crisis



Londoners waiting in line for coal, during the current economic crisis. This is the gravest economic breakdown in the history of British capitalism. Federated Pictures

Calcutta General Strike Against Repressive Law

CALCUTTA, India, Feb. 8 — The general strike in Calcutta on Feb. 5 passed off successfully and peacefully. Thus the anti-strike propaganda failed and the "predictions" that the strike was likely to result in riots and disturbances proved false. In keeping with the decision of

the Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress, no processions or demonstrations were held, but over 75% of the employees of mercantile offices and over 50% of the factory workers kept out. With 50,000 workers including the tramway workers already on strike, and another 22,000 in the Port Trust striking the same day on their own demands, the paralysis of the city was virtually complete.

Attempts to run the harbor with the Pioneer Force — a corps formed during the war for local defense and since retained by the government for strike-breaking operations — proved a dismal failure. The success of the strike was all the more outstanding considering the difficult conditions under which it took place.

On the one hand, the ordinance known as Section 144, Criminal Penal Code prevails in the city — an ordinance that permits police and military to take immediate action, including firing on groups of more than four persons. Heavy police and military pickets had been posted all over.

On the other hand, the Con-

LONDON, Feb. 14 — Trinidad workers in the oil fields, waterfronts and public works have been engaged in recent months in a series of bitter struggles for decent wages, conditions and elementary freedom. The Governor of Trinidad, Sir Bede Clifford, has vainly denied and tried to conceal the labor struggles, but despite this and outright suppression of news, the facts have seeped through and the British Minister for the colonies has been forced to demand a report in London.

An account of a brutal attack upon unarmed and sleeping men and women oil workers has been published here by the Feb. 5 Daily Mirror from its correspondent, John Walters:

"The attack started at 1 p.m. on January 22 last, when (Police Commissioner) Muller's men armed with tear bombs and truncheons descended upon the hall belonging to Uriah Butler's oilworkers union.

WORKERS UNARMED

"Five hundred men and women who were sleeping in the hall had marched from the oilfields of southern Trinidad to the capital to protest against the State of Emergency proclaimed there by the Governor, Sir Bede Clifford, because of the strike.

"These Trinidad workers weren't armed, because their leader, Uriah Butler, like Gandhi, preaches non-violence. 'Just to

ensure that there should be no violence,' the union general secretary, Lionel Cross, told me. 'I took even penknives from the men and hats from the women.'

"When the attack started a few men were outside the building because it was so stuffy inside. Two of these men are now in the hospital, guarded day and night by two policemen.

"I am a prisoner," said James Leptiste, who had his leg in plaster and fresh scars and bumps on his head, 'but I haven't been told what I'm charged with. A searchlight shone down the lane onto the hall. Police were running towards it. I heard shooting. Then a bullet hit me in the leg. Another went into my right hip. I hid under some boards. And from there I watched the police shooting. I saw them beating people who were running from the building. A policeman saw my head peeping from the boards and he then struck me with the butt of his rifle.'

"Leptiste was unhappy . . . His wife had received a letter from his employers, the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, saying the family must get out of their home in seven days. They have six children.

POLICE BRUTALITY

"In the adjoining bed was prisoner Peter Edwards who also doesn't know yet why he's under arrest. 'I was sitting in the front of the hall when I saw a white man in khaki, with a revolver in each hand. Behind him, like a swarm of bees, came black and white men with rifles with bayonets attached. Firing at the building, some ran into a ground floor room where men were sleeping. Others went upstairs to where the women slept. I stood up and felt rather dazed. A bullet hit me in the left leg. Then another bullet went into my belly. Policemen were hitting out at people with their sticks.'

The students were driven back into the University and every time they tried to go out, they were met with tear gas charges. A large meeting was then organized, and addressed by various political figures, including Sarat Bose of the Congress, who was hooted and denounced when he advised them to disperse and go home.

Half the students obeyed Sarat Bose's advice, but the meeting continued. Although the Trotskyists were denied the platform by the chairman, they took it anyhow and offered the students a program based on cooperation with the workers. After the meeting the student leaders approached the BPTUC and set up a joint Council of Action, representing the students, the BPTUC and all political parties.

ROLE OF CONGRESS

Creation of this Council of Action led later to the decision to call the general strike for the removal of Section 144; the date was first fixed for Jan. 29 and later altered to Feb. 5. The Council of Action became inactive when the Congress moved from uninterested disapproval of its activities to outright opposition.

But the BPTUC, with the All-India TUC sessions to be held in a few weeks, realized that its existence was at stake and decided to go through with the strike despite the opposition of the Congress labor leaders inside the BPTUC.

The success of the general strike in the face of the strongest opposition came as a surprise to many. The workers' solidarity and ready response to a call to action on political grounds indicated a significant growth in their class-consciousness.

The Congress can look upon Feb. 5 only as a major defeat; even their strong hold on the petit bourgeoisie has been shaken to its foundations. Students and employees in action showed their willingness to defy its authority.

But for the existence of Section 144 and the definite directive of the BPTUC to refrain from processions and picketing, the impressive demonstration of last July 24 would have been repeated and Calcutta would have thundered to the triumphant march of the working millions.

WORKERS RESENTFUL

While the workers have rallied solidly behind the government, there is a widespread criticism that its measures are completely inadequate. Its policy of dilly-dallying with the employers is deeply resented.

The Revolutionary Communist Party, British section of the Fourth International, has produced a fighting program for the crisis, demanding a national plan under workers control. Arrangements are under way to wage a campaign popularizing it amongst the organized workers and there is little doubt but it will be sympathetically received. The powerful British working class is closing the ranks for what promises to be the beginning of the most glorious pages in its history.

On which side of the class struggle these two organizations align themselves.

The fact that the vast majority of the masses followed the lead of the BPTUC in open defiance of the Congress, and on a political issue at that — the strike was the withdrawal of Section 144 — shows the rapidly with which the Congress is losing prestige. Its compromise with imperialism has already had a damning effect on its popularity among the workers.

BRUTAL ATTACK

The general strike was a sequel to police brutality on Jan. 21, when a procession of students was broken up by tear-gas, lathi charges and revolver fire. This barbarous attack, which killed three and injured 100, took place just outside the gates of the University, when the students, celebrating Viet Nam Day, set out in defiance of Section 144 — to demonstrate outside the French Consulate against oppression in Indo-China.

"In the hall's ground-floor room was the union's beloved but antiquated printing machine. Men who saw the police smash it are in prison, where I can't reach them.

"Police occupied the hall for two days. And when a few of the unarrested strikers returned they found the printing machine ruined, lavatory bowls and wash-basins smashed, desks upstairs forced open and labor books and pamphlets strewn over the blood-stained floor.

"Several men and women have identified the man with two guns as Muller (Police Commissioner). And Muller, it is stated, was running wildly about crying, 'Where's Butler? Have you got Butler?'

"Another witness stated: 'Some police were beating them with sticks. They pushed the prisoners towards vans a short way up the road . . . I saw the police push them with bayonets. There was an old woman trying to fix her clothes, a policeman was pushing her with a bayonet, too. The police were led by white men.'

HUNDREDS ARRESTED

547 members of Butler's union have been arrested and now face trial. Scores of workers' families have been evicted from their homes, which are owned by the oil companies. Others have been dismissed and victimized.

This recent butchery, which was likened to the Amritsar Massacre in India by a member of the Trinidad Legislature, recalls the brutal suppressions of the 1937 general strike, in which scores of workers were shot and wounded. Some knowledge of the conditions of the workers can be gained from the fact that "several commissions of inquiry have all referred to highly unsatisfactory conditions of general poverty, low pay, widespread undernourishment, shocking overcrowding and prevalent disease, (mainly malaria and hookworm)." (Tribune, Feb. 7.)

Trinidad's immense natural wealth in oil, asbestos, sugar, cocoa, etc., make it one of the treasured objects of foreign exploitation. In 1942 Trinidad's total exports worked out at about 26 pounds sterling per head, or as much as England itself with its modern vast industries. In 1936-37 the various oil firms made a profit of 1,540,000 pounds or about 23% on a capital of 6,770,000 pounds. In the same year the wages bill in Trinidad amounted to 473,000 pounds — for a population of almost half a million workers.

International Notes

The All-Burma Trades Union last week announced a victorious conclusion to the 25-day waterfront strike of 30,000 workers in Rangoon. Most of the union's demands, including wage-increases and equal pay for women, were met by the government.

The people of the Philippines will vote on March 11 on a proposal to change the constitution to give American businessmen "equal rights" in exploiting resources and operating public utilities in the Philippines. "Equal rights" is actually a synonym for special privileges, which will guarantee supremacy for American business interests. President Manuel Roxas and his Liberal Party are supporting the constitutional amendment in return for Wall Street support of their administration.

The Dutch imperialists have imposed a blockade around Indonesia, threatening to seize any ships or products used by the Indonesian Republic for trade with the rest of the world.

The Soviet Union is charged with "buying" German atomic scientists for 6,000 rubles a month. Since this sum represents only \$500, it is no wonder that the U. S. government has been able to attract a greater number of the German scientists.

Strikes are spreading in Spain.

Australia is experiencing the greatest strike wave of its history. Not only industrial workers are involved, but even sections of the middle class, including butchers who are protesting against high prices charged by the meat trust.

Von Papen, who helped to put Hitler in power and was exonerated by the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg last year, has been found guilty by a German denazification court and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment.

The Soviet Union's military budget has been sharply reduced, according to Moscow. Over 72 billion rubles in 1946, it is scheduled to fall to 67 billion this year, or 18% of the total budget.

Maurice Thorez, Stalinist vice-premier of France, has come out in support of the government's economic program, which promises to freeze and even lower prices but refuses to grant the workers a general wage increase to compensate for past price rises.

An Appeal For Aid To Trinidad Strikers See Letter in Workers Forum On Page 5

Growing Danger Of Deal With Spanish Militarists

By Pedro

PARIS, Feb. 14 — In the new Spanish exile government of Rodolfo Llopias are to be found about the same parties and personalities as in the preceding one of Giral. But it would be quite wrong to conclude from this that nothing has changed.

On one vital point the Llopias government has cut through the questions which were the main cause of the crisis of the Giral government; the new government now tends toward accepting the idea of a "plebiscite" which would be held by a government acting in agreement with the army and the monarchists. The constitutional problem would be postponed until after this plebiscite.

In sum, Llopias heads an essentially provisional and transitional cabinet whose main role is that of facilitating within a given time the formation of a government within Spain led by a general,

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Fourth International

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"The historic function of fascism is to smash the working class, destroy its organizations and stifle political liberties when the capitalists find themselves unable to govern and dominate with the help of democratic machinery."

—Leon Trotsky

Who Was Right About The War?

At the beginning of the Second World War, the people of America and the entire world were promised "Four Freedoms" if victory was won. The workers were promised that their sacrifices at home and on the battlefield would make the world safe for democracy and end the threat of fascism.

The loudest salesmen of the war were the Stalinists and the liberals. The Stalinists claimed that it was not an imperialist war, because the Soviet Union was allied with the "democracies." They bundled up with Wall Street in the same political bed, became the most ardent advocates of the no-strike pledge, and broke strikes where workers tried to defend their hard-won union rights.

The liberals claimed that victory meant a free America, with democratic rights and civil liberties assured. Wall Street was in the war, they claimed, to break the backbone of world reaction.

The Socialist Workers Party which refused to be stampeded by this hysteria stood completely alone. The SWP, keeping its eyes on reality, said that the war was an imperialist war just like the First World War, a war fought over profits, markets, colonies and plunder.

The Second World War could not uproot fascism, the SWP pointed out. Even in Europe, the war would only sow the seeds of worse barbarism; and at home the war would give tremendous impetus to the growth of reaction. World War II could accomplish nothing except pave the way for another and more terrible slaughter. Only the construction of a socialist society could guarantee an end to imperialist wars and fascism and bring enduring peace and plenty to the oppressed masses.

For promulgating these beliefs, 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party were railroaded to federal prison by the Roosevelt Administration. The Stalinist warmongers distinguished themselves by demanding even harsher persecution of these prisoners.

Who was right in estimating the war and its consequences? The Trotskyists who were imprisoned? Or the Stalinists and liberals who peddled Wall Street's war slogans?

The liberal New Dealers, it turned out, were among the first political victims after V-J Day. Not a single one of them remains in prominent office. Those in strictly administrative positions, such as Lillenthal, are victimized in rabid witch-hunts led by such reactionary figures as McKellar and Rankin.

The Stalinists are in no happier position. A red-baiting drive of proportions not seen since the days of Attorney General Palmer has selected them as its first target. Thus the Stalinists are being paid off with the toe of Wall Street's boot for their invaluable services in sugar-coating Wall Street's war aims.

But if there is a certain poetic justice in this turn of the political wheel, no satisfaction can be drawn from it. The red-baiting drive is only one part of the mushrooming growth of reaction in America today. It is the spearhead of an onslaught against the labor movement such as has not been seen in decades.

Anti-Labor Drive

Having piled up the greatest profits in all history, Wall Street has become accustomed to a new rate of accumulation and refuses to accept a come-down. Instead, the monopolists insist on savage slashes in the standard of living of the workers. And this means a head-on conflict every time a section of the working class attempts to keep up with the soaring cost of living.

Wall Street has cold-bloodedly calculated its anti-labor drive. The entire press, radio and pulpit are pounding against unionism as if the working class were a deadly enemy. In Congress, legislation is underway to tear the insides out of the Wagner Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act. Wall Street demands the outlawing of the union shop and the hamstringing of the right to strike. So rabid is Wall Street's drive against labor that an objective observer might conclude Big Business is trying to convert its imperialist war into a civil war against labor.

This is not the only grim consequence of the Second World War. The seeds of fascism

are sending out deep-going roots in America. The brazen attempt of the Columbians to build a fascist movement and Talmadge's seizure of the Governor's office in Georgia show how fertile the soil has become for violent reaction.

The anti-labor drive is coupled with an alarming growth of racial prejudice. Anti-Semitism and Jim Crow were given a new lease on life by the war. The hand grenade has reappeared since V-J Day as a fire-bomb hurled at Negro homes. Horrible lynchings have broken out like syphilitic sores on the body of America. The spread of racial prejudice and the increasing violence of its forms is one of the ominous indications that fascism can develop faster in America than it did in either Italy or Germany. The Negro people in particular are being singled out as a national scapegoat, in the same way that German fascism singled out the Jewish people. Let the Negro people think over this consequence of the war when they recall how the Stalinists and liberals assured them that the battlefields of the Second World War were the battlefields of democracy versus reaction.

Rise Of Militarism

But this is only the beginning of the balance sheet. Ask any veteran if he recalls Wall Street's high-g geared publicity about the stream-lined post-war world—amazing plastics and electronic gadgets for the kitchen, with two helicopters in every garage. The pay-off should be at least a decent home for every family. But today in the city of Los Angeles there are more homeless people than after the San Francisco earthquake or the Johnstown flood; and Los Angeles with its 162,000 displaced families (50,000 of them veterans) is typical of major cities in America.

The war brought prosperity only for the rich. For the poor there has been a steep decline in the standard of living and they face the threat of mass unemployment as the coming depression moves visibly closer.

Instead of mobilizing America's resources to meet such basic needs of the people as housing, Washington is mobilizing to meet the demands of Wall Street's war machine. The military budget last year was \$18,500,000,000 and this year's proposed budget is something like \$15,000,000,000.

One of the fruits of the war is a military caste in America, already so powerfully entrenched that its leading figure has been named Secretary of State, second highest office in the land today.

Wall Street is relentlessly driving to Prussianize the youth of America and convert the United States into the greatest peacetime military camp the world has ever been burdened with.

The consequences of the Second World War are seen most clearly in the case of atomic energy. The atom, foreseen by scientists decades ago as a source of inexhaustible power, has been drafted by Wall Street's war machine. Developed for industrial use, atomic energy could eventually free all mankind from toll and drudgery; but in Wall Street's hands it means the pyramidal growth of atom bomb stockpiles and even more cataclysmic instruments of death.

Arsenal For Despots

Wall Street's foreign policy is the mirror image of its domestic policy. Everywhere it bolsters the most hated and reactionary regimes in order to stave off the impending doom of the capitalist system a little longer. In Japan, for instance, MacArthur is openly engaging in strikebreaking to save the Mikado from the wrath of the Japanese people.

The colonial peoples, who were enslaved by the Western imperialist powers, struck out on the road to independence and freedom with the close of the war. But Wall Street's policy was not to bring them the promised Four Freedoms. On the contrary, Wall Street opened up its arsenals for the beggared colonial despots and assisted them in every way to put down the hundreds of millions of people seeking democracy.

In Europe, Wall Street has replaced German imperialism as the most reactionary power on the continent. Wall Street entered Europe under the arch of rotten deals with the French collaborators. In Italy it tried to save the House of Savoy that put Mussolini in office and its latest act in Germany was a general amnesty for second-line Nazis.

Wall Street is driving for world domination. That is why it supports foul puppet regimes. That is why it seeks to retain and strengthen its military bases abroad. Washington is pushing to standardize arms throughout North and South America and Great Britain. Washington is taking islands over a vast area in the Pacific with little regard for the opinion of its allies in the UN. Washington has extended the frontiers of America in effect to Manchuria and Korea in the Far East and beyond the Rhine in Europe.

Wall Street is closing a global pincer on the Soviet Union, the power it views as a mortal foe. Does it take a seer and prophet today to add up the balance sheet and say that the Second World War only paved the way for the growth of reaction and another slaughter? Yet 18 Trotskyists were railroaded to prison; they were guilty of predicting too accurately the consequences of the Second World War!

Once more, let us repeat what we said at the outbreak of hostilities. Unless the workers end the capitalist system and build the planned economy of socialism, then fascism can come to power in America. Such evils as depressions, wars and fascism are inseparable from the capitalist system. Today we can say that something new has been added — another slaughter, waged with atomic weapons can mean the extinction of civilization. The question is no longer whether socialism is better than capitalism, but whether the working class can put a Workers and Farmers Government in power in time to prevent capitalism from dragging humanity with it into the grave.



"Oh, goodness! Look at all those rats coming out of my tenement property! I'll have to raise the rents if they insist on keeping pets."

BOOKSHELF

IMPACT OF U.S. ECONOMY ON WORLD TRADE by Harold H. Hutcheson, Foreign Policy Reports, Dec., 1946, 25 cents.

This report contains valuable material for studying the main trends in American economy. The author proceeds from the correct premise that because of its overwhelming productive capacity, the U.S. is today the dominant factor in world economy. Consequently, the level of economic activity in the U.S. exercises a profound influence on the trade and industry of other nations.

That is why the rest of the world dreads the instability of American economy and the prospect of economic collapse in the U.S., heralded by the slump on the New York Stock Exchange. Any serious disturbance in American economy would have even greater devastating repercussions throughout the world than the crash of 1929.

Between 1930 and 1939, the author points out, American economy was never able to reach its 1929 levels. In the latter part of 1937, production underwent the sharpest drop on record. Even at the end of 1939, there were still eight or nine million unemployed. This instability and stagnation of American economy dragged down the rest of world capitalism and drove other nations on to the path of economic nationalism and war.

Hutcheson is pessimistic about the duration of the present post-war boom. The steep rise in American prices following the lifting of price controls will adversely affect all importing and borrowing nations, such as Bri-

tain and France. Able to buy less for the dollars they possess, these countries must either seek additional credits or face a slowdown of recovery. At the same time, American buyers abroad are exerting a further upward pressure on prices in the world market, which places less wealthy nations at a decided disadvantage.

The post-war export boom has so far been financed largely by government credits, UNRRA gifts and lend-lease contributions. The last two props have already been taken away and new contemplated credits will by no means suffice to take up the slack.

At the present time, trade and industry in this country are thriving, but there are strong indications that serious lack of balance is developing. There is every indication that expenditures on producers' goods will eventually decline and that there will be surpluses of agricultural products," the author states.

These drops in production will "in turn cause income and employment to fall."

Many capitalist economists are banking on an export drive to save the situation. But Hutcheson states that "it is not likely . . . that the U.S. can cushion unemployment at home by steadily maintaining a surplus of merchandise exports, once productive capacity abroad has been restored to the point where other nations, in turn, are in position to export on a large scale."

Although the writer himself hesitates to draw the conclusion, the facts and figures he cites and the course of his analysis

indicate that U.S. economy is headed towards another world crisis of colossal proportions. —William F. Ward

AGING SUCCESSFULLY by George Lawton, Columbia University Press, 266 pp., 1946, \$2.75.

In any society the individual who passes middle age encounters new problems, no less than the child who passes into maturity. But for the great majority of people under capitalism, the necessary individual adjustment is distorted by the problem of economic security.

Dr. Lawton's book, while recognizing this fact, sidesteps a fundamental analysis and answer to this paramount problem. He confines himself primarily to helpful hints on how to make the best use of advanced years, both mentally and physically. These are useful to the men and women with assured incomes.

But, as the author points out, 59 per cent of the ten million men and women over sixty-five are today dependent on their children or on the paltry sums provided by present old-age pensions. He admits that employers have a "prejudice" against hiring older people. In fact, men and women over 50 in the working class are cast out as socially useless, because they can no longer fit into the system of exploitation for profit.

All of these jobless and dependent old people would no doubt benefit from Dr. Lawton's "philosophy for maturity" — if they were first of all provided with economic security. —Larissa Reed

Congressmen At Work

Butler Of Butler-Welch Grain

The other morning Senator Hugh Butler, Republican of Nebraska, read an article by Drew Pearson, the Washington columnist, which struck him as far from model journalism. Pearson claimed that a special bit of legislation, (H.J.R. 57) vigorously but quietly being pushed by Senator Butler benefited a single alcohol plant in Omaha which happened to be operated by the Butler-Welch Grain Co. of the same city.

By odd coincidence Senator Butler was once a partner in this concern.

Such dirty journalism so aroused Senator Butler that he was fit to be tied by the time he got to his desk. And so when Senator Taylor, Democrat of Idaho, called Butler's attention to the article, on the off chance his colleague had not read it and might be interested, the Nebraska solon opened up. His indignation, in fact, appeared so great it could almost be described as "virtuous."

In the first place, raged the irate tribune of the people, "When I was elected to the Senate in November, 1940, I immediately resigned as of November 1st of that year from the Butler-Welch Grain Co."

In the second place, he continued, "I have not participated to the extent of one penny in the profits of the company."

In the third place, if he had been interested only in profits, "I would have had many times better off if I had retained my interest in the Butler-Welch Grain Co."

In the fourth place, "The reason I resigned was this: I had taken up the matter with the Department of Agriculture, and was advised that since the Butler-Welch Grain Co. was doing a storage business with the government I would be ineligible to

serve as a member of the Senate and if at the same time I were interested in the company."

In the fifth place, this was rank discrimination, for "Had it been doing business as a corporation there is no reason why I could not have continued to hold my interest in the grain company." Unfortunately, he was listed as a "partner."

In the sixth place it's not true the measure only affects this one plant. If there's any other plant similarly equipped and with operators similarly inclined, they too would be permitted to produce "alcohol and sirup at the same time" even though this practice, formerly against the law, might lead to the loss of considerable tax revenues to the Government.

In the seventh place, it is only temporary legislation. After April 30, 1948, "the Senate may have an opportunity to consider permanent legislation."

In the eighth place, "The reason I was late in arriving on the floor was that I was receiving some information by telephone from the plant at Omaha."

In the ninth place, the plant "produced more than 30,000 gallons of alcohol, at a profit to the operators of approximately one-half cent a gallon, which is not an enormous profit."

Lilienthal Case Shows Witch Hunters At Work

The four-week controversy in the Senate over confirmation of David E. Lilienthal as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission shows how unbridled the worst red-baiters have become in Washington since the November elections.

When Truman appointed Lilienthal on Oct. 28, his choice was applauded by Democrats and Republicans alike, by the brass-hats, monopolists, and even by the usually hostile N. Y. News. The liberal Lilienthal made his reputation as head of the Tennessee Valley Authority under Roosevelt. He tangled in conflict with certain power interests and pork-barrel politicians like McKellar of Tennessee. But he got along well with the Aluminum Trust and concluded agreements satisfactory to the Morgan-controlled Commonwealth and Southern utilities setup.

Last year, with Under-Secretary of State Acheson, he helped draft the atomic control report under which the militarists and Wall Street maintain their monopolist grip upon atomic power and continue to stockpile atomic bombs.

Although Lilienthal has proved to be a trustworthy caretaker of the interests of the ruling capitalist class, in the hearings he was attacked by McKellar as a "Communist sympathizer." Bridges of New Hampshire declared his "extreme New Deal" belief in public ownership was "so strong as to tend toward Socialism." Finally Taft condemned Lilienthal as "too soft on issues connected with communism and Soviet Russia." To this witches' brew were added unofficial whispers that he was not only a "Red" but a Jew whose parents were foreign-born.

This coalition of ultra-reactionaries has ganged up against Lilienthal for various reasons. McKellar seeks revenge because he was frustrated in his lust for patronage. Bridges is a well-known spokesman for the power and oil lobbies, which realize what a tremendous threat atomic power is to their vested interests. These trusts want this invaluable asset in their own hands, not those of the government, or at least supervised by their direct tools.

Taft and his friends aim to eliminate the last traces of liberalism from the administration. They are serving notice on Truman to jettison any cargo left from New Deal days, to step up the anti-red drive at home and to further "toughen up" the foreign policy against the Soviet Union.

Despite this pressure campaign, Lilienthal retains powerful sponsors in high places. His nomination is being supported by Truman, the War Department, QE, du Pont, and some Republican Senators as well as by the liberals and scientists. These responsible representatives of Wall Street have yet to be persuaded by their more vehement colleagues that Lilienthal represents a "red peril" to the atomic program of U. S. imperialism which he himself drafted.

How "Mr. John Rich" Chisels On His Taxes

A pictorial account of how "John Rich beats the tax law," in the Feb. 17 CIO News, reveals the numerous devices used by the wealthy to escape paying taxes and thrust this burden on the backs of the underpaid workers.

Mr. Rich calls in expert tax lawyers of his companies when he is faced with paying \$180,000 to the government on the \$236,000 income he made in 1946. It is easy for these lawyers to save him from the "ruin" of being left with only \$56,000 a year to support his wife and two daughters. They advise him to take the following measures:

Rich can buy the apartment house he lives in. Instead of paying rent, he now deducts \$4,000 a year as a "business loss." He can call his friends "business associates" and deduct \$20,000 a year for entertaining and gifts as business expense.

He can set up the John Rich Economic Institute with his "secretary" in charge and give her \$20,000 a year to fight for anti-labor legislation. This is deductible as a "contribution." He can "borrow" \$200,000 from his two daughters and deduct their \$12,000 a year allowances as interest expense.

Rich can call his country estate a "farm" and deduct \$16,000 a year as a business loss. He and his "secretary" travel a lot so they need four cars a year. Deduction, \$2,500 a year as business expense.

He can call his wife a private secretary and deduct her \$9,500 a year allowance as a business expense. He can call his home an "office" and deduct \$10,000 a year. When it's all over, Rich's tax rate is only 16%. His \$45 a week clerk has to pay a tax rate of over 17%.

In contrast to Rich's tax racket, a worker has 1% deducted from his pay for an old-age pension which will probably never total more than \$50 a month, if he lives that long. He has to pay an income tax on the 1% deducted. The executive who will get a pension of \$25,000 a year does not have to pay any income tax on the \$12,000 a year that one corporation provides and the \$11,500 that another corporation gives to help pay for it.

Because loopholes in the tax laws let the wealthy get away with such chiseling, taxes on workers are kept high to make up the lost revenue to the government. In 1939 individuals earning less than \$5,000 a year paid less than 10% of the total individual income tax bill. In 1942, individuals earning less than \$5,000 a year paid almost 50%. The "soak-the-poor" tax system is getting worse all the time.

Two New Bills In Senate To Halt Deportation Of Indonesians

Two bills were introduced in the Senate by the Workers Defense League on Feb. 26 in a move to halt the threatened deportations of Indonesians in this country to face possible imprisonment in Dutch concentration camps.

One measure, S.602, a duplicate of the Farrington bill which has been introduced in the House, provides that "the right to become a naturalized citizen . . . shall not be limited by race or national origin." It also stipulates that the bar against natives of certain Pacific islands be repealed and a quota system established for them.

The second bill, S.603, demands that the attorney general cancel deportation orders against 10 Indonesian residents recently arrested and that they "be considered as having been lawfully admitted for permanent residence as of the date of their last entry."

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant"...

An Appeal For Aid To Trinidad Strikers

We take this opportunity to inform you of a strike called by the British Empire Workers and Peasants Union...



A Telling Letter On Ohio Gas Shortage

I believe that the following letter which appeared in both the Cleveland Press and the Cleveland News will be of interest to readers of The Militant...

the radio commentators blasting the air with horrible denunciations? Is the press or the radio denouncing management's shortsightedness?

Oh, no, you see, this is different. Since this production stoppage is due to the management and short-sightedness of industrial leaders...

As far as the workers are concerned this episode points out another graphic lesson. The newspapers and radio tune their propaganda and regulate the volume according to who decides to stop production.

If management cannot operate industry efficiently on a profit basis then it is up to the workers to begin thinking in terms of operating industry for the common good.

By building our local unions, expanding and broadening the functions of the trade-union movement, then we can build up our trade-union movement into a Farmer and Labor political party with a program that will insure the full utilization of our great productive capacity...

B. K. Cleveland

Sir: As readers of your columns, our union members have found that a favorite tune of both management and your paper has always been the one about the time lost during strikes...

Tony Pirz, President Local 337, UAW-CIO

Replies To Letter By "P.M. Of Vermont"

I have just read the letter of "P.M. of Vermont" in the Feb. 15 Militant, and I don't quite see what is bothering him. All he has to do is to look about him and he will see that Marx, far from being refuted, is being vindicated every day in the week.

Didn't the profit system "cut the throat" of the capitalist in a way? Could the capitalist avoid the great depression of 1929? Has American capitalism been progressive since that date in an economic sense?

How does the capitalist increase his wealth when surplus value diminishes? Well, how about World War II? Wasn't that the road that the capitalist took? And where is his market now?

P.M. asks: "Is the revolution inevitable?" Is it possible that anything so decayed, so blood-stained, so insolvent, so insane as the capitalist system of today can endure very much longer?

Read their own newspapers! Listen to their own radio commentators! Read their own books! Out of their own mouths should they be judged!

Bell Montague Cambridge, Mass.

San Diego Is First West Coast Branch To Hit 100% In National Fund Campaign

By William F. Warde National Fund Campaign Director

San Diego is the first among the West Coast branches to reach 100% in the \$20,000 Emergency Fund Campaign for the Socialist Workers Party.

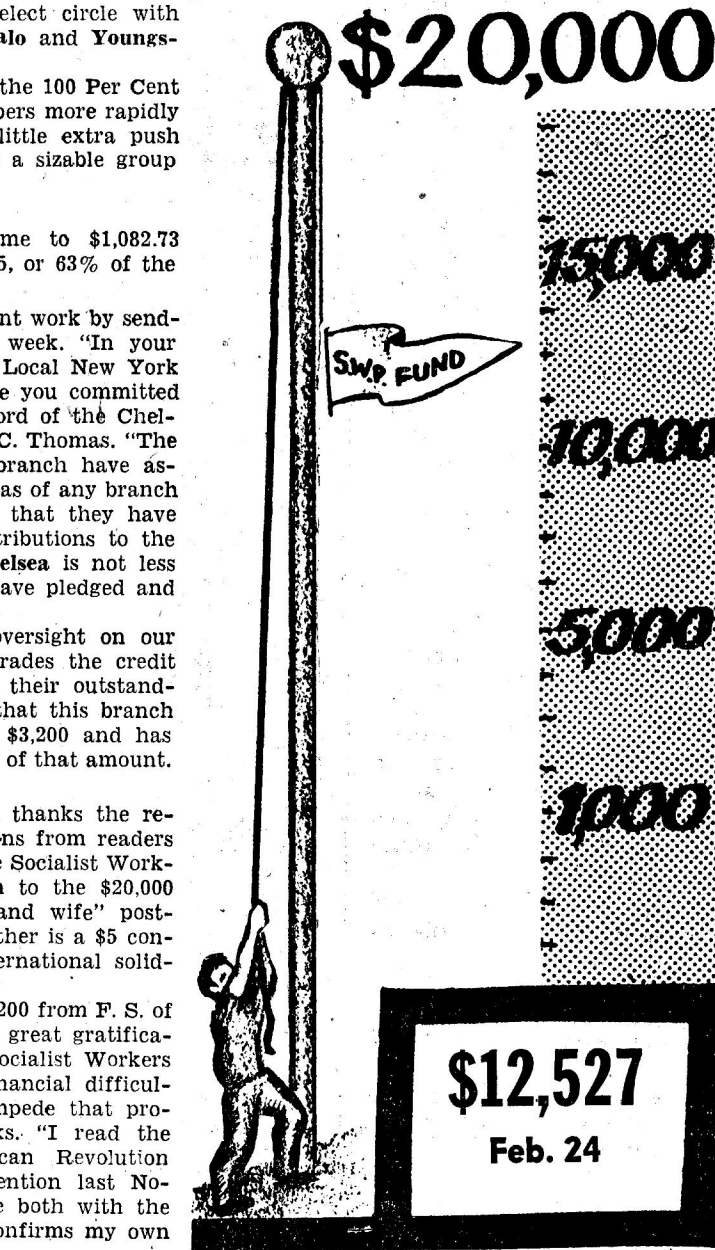
At this stage of the campaign the 100 Per Cent Club should be adding new members more rapidly than the scoreboards show.

Last week's contributions came to \$1,082.73 which makes a total of \$12,527.95, or 63% of the \$20,000 goal.

New York continued its excellent work by sending in \$355.85 during the past week. In your account of the achievements of Local New York in last week's Militant we believe you committed an injustice by omitting the record of the Chelsea branch.

We are glad to rectify this oversight on our part, and give the Chelsea comrades the credit that is certainly owed them for their outstanding efforts.

We want to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contributions from readers of The Militant and friends of the Socialist Workers Party.



SCOREBOARD

Table with columns: Branch, Quota, Paid, Percent. Lists contributions from various branches like St. Louis, Newark, Boston, Buffalo, San Diego, etc.

Youth Activities

AKRON - Socialist Youth Club meets Fridays, 7 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing, 8 South Howard St., 2nd floor.

MILWAUKEE, Cleveland and Seattle also mailed in pledges on their pledges this past week.

Event announcements for Milwaukee SWP Progress Party (Saturday, March 8) and Boston (March 7, 8 p.m. Workers Educational Center).

New York Marxist Labor School announcement: 'The Coming American Revolution' - Six Lectures, Fridays at 8 p.m.

Brooklyn Bedford-Stuyvesant Social Saturday, March 1, 635 Fulton St.

THE MILITANT ARMY

New Lynn SWP Branch Sets Record In Renewals



The comrades in Lynn, newly organized Massachusetts branch of the Socialist Workers Party, are hitting an all-time high in their renewal-subscription work.

subscribers obtained by the Connecticut comrades during the week: "Our drive is in the beginning of its last month. Bad weather has forced us to lag a little behind schedule, but we're putting on more steam during the closing weeks. We are confident of going over our goal of 300 subs.

Comrade Webster continues her report: "The city of Lynn enjoys the privilege of being highly centralized into one mass industry, which is the General Electric Plant. The majority of our 145 subscribers are G.E. workers."

The Philadelphia comrades obtained 14 subs during the week, 10 of which are renewals. "The comrades responsible for getting most of these subs," says Pauline Ryder, Literature Agent, were Comrades Garber, Cutler, Lennie, and Oliver, who went out last Sunday in spite of the extreme cold. The results speak for themselves.

"I believe you'll be interested," adds Comrade Ryder, "in the fact that we have been selling single copies of The Militant, more or less successfully. Recently several comrades covered a regional steel conference here. By offering the steel workers a fighting program for labor in 1947, Comrades Betty, Pierce and I sold 46 copies of The Militant in less than an hour and Comrades Herb and George sold 21 copies of 'Build a Labor Party Now' by George Clarke."

The comrades in Buffalo secured 7 subs during the week. "Each comrade," states Charles Carlson, "is doing his utmost in procuring more subs each week because we all realize the value of knowing that the thousands of working people who are reading The Militant are gaining knowledge that they wouldn't have otherwise."

The sub campaigns of Connecticut State and Flint are rolling up high scores despite freezing weather in both localities. The following report from James White accompanied 23

E. Brent forwarded 7 subs obtained by the Detroit comrades. Pittsburgh Branch has made plans for a sub campaign. According to Justine Lang, it will be a 6-week campaign beginning next Saturday. We're planning especially to concentrate on working class neighborhoods right near our headquarters in order to make as many people aware of our classes, open meetings, forums, etc. as is possible." The Milwaukee comrades are following up on the expired subscriptions in their area. Fred Martin sent in 6 renewal subs secured during the week.

Buy 'The Militant' Here:

- List of bookstores and addresses across various cities: Akron, Baltimore, Bayonne, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Hartford, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Newark, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Diego, Seattle, St. Louis, Tacoma, Toledo, Youngstown.

Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers At these Local Activities of The Socialist Workers Party

- AKRON - 2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m. BALTIMORE - For information write Box 415, Baltimore 3, Md. Monthly forums. BAYONNE - 62 W. 23rd St. Open house 2nd and 4th Saturdays. BOSTON - 30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. BUFFALO - Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone MADison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday. Public-speaking Class; Every Thurs. 8 p.m. Open house and current events discussion every Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Admission free. CHICAGO - 777 W. Adams (corner Halsted), Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore. CLEVELAND - Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Park Ave.). DETROIT - 6108 Linwood Ave., phone TY. 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m. FLINT - 215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m. LOS ANGELES - Militant Publishing Assn., 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644. Friday, 8 p.m. - Militant Workers Forum, 466 E. Vernon. SAN PEDRO, Militant Publishing Assn., - 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214. MILWAUKEE - Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St., open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. MINNEAPOLIS - 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Tel. Main 7781. Library, bookstore. SUNDAY Forums, 3:30 p.m. NEW HAVEN - Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open Mon., 7:30-9:15 p.m. Fridays, 8:15 p.m.; 1st and 3rd each month, open forum. 2nd and 4th, round table discussion. NEWARK - 423 Springfield Ave. Phone Bigelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m. Friday night forum, 8:30. NEW YORK - CITY HQ., 116 University Place. GR. 5-8149. HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St. Rm. 23. MO. 2-1866. Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m. BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101. Reading room open Mon. to Fri., 7 to 10 p.m. Discussion on the SWP Program every Wed. 8 p.m. BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433. CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434. OAKLAND, Cal. - Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351. PHILADELPHIA - 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily. Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820. PITTSBURGH - 1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor. Office hours: Wed. 7 to 9 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 2 to 10 p.m. Open forums Sun. 3 p.m. Tel. Court 6060. PORTLAND, Ore. - Write to Socialist Workers Party, c/o C. M. Hesser, P.O. Box 3711. SAN DIEGO - Headquarters 623 Sixth Ave., open 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday. SAN FRANCISCO - School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., cor. of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor open from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m., daily except Sunday, Phone EXbrook 1926. SEATTLE - 1919 1/2 Second Ave. Open Monday through Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Tel. SE-0543 Library, bookstore. Friday forum - 8 p.m. ST. LOUIS - 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642. ST. PAUL - 540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2, Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30. TACOMA, Wash. - Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Oddfellows Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079. TOLEDO - 108 Summit St., Toledo 4, O. Open daily, Phone MAIN 8919. YOUNGSTOWN - 35 1/2 South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

Not For Us!
By Theodore Kovalesky

Jimmy, Pete Rossi, Gus Miller and I stood at the bar in Emil's place talking and drinking beer. As usual we had come to cash our paychecks and relax a little after the shift.



Outside the day was clear with only the smoke of the steel plant darkening the sky. Cars and trucks were hissing through the light scum of melted snow and flue dust on the turnpike. We looked out of the front window of Emil's place and talked.

Most of what we said I have forgotten. Most of it was of little importance... how the day's work had been, a show Pete had seen, a laugh and a flurry of horseplay between Gus and Pete. We spoke of the things men speak of who work side by side each day. We knew each other and were comfortable together drinking our beer.

But one thing was said that I do remember. It started when Jimmy looked through the dirty window at the cars passing by.

"If we get that back pay, I'm sure gonna get me one of them," he told us.

"A Ford?" Pete snorted. "They still got blood on them, coming off old Henry's assembly line. Blood and sweat. I think they stink."

"A Ford's a reliable car," Gus said seriously. "Hell," Jimmy said, "All those assembly lines are bad."

Pete said, "Yeah, I know, but I worked-for Ford once. Give me a Plymouth any day."

They talked about Chevvy's, about Oldsmobiles. They spoke reverently about the Buicks of past days. Gus and Pete talked about such things as rings and pistons and bearings. They contrasted one make against another, weighed the good points of this car and that one. They said things

I don't remember, used terms I didn't even fully understand, because I don't know much about cars and motors.

But then Gus said the thing I remember. He said it in an off-hand way as though he took it for granted, and it wasn't important. As though summing up the entire discussion the three of them had been carrying on about cars, he remarked, "Well, a Cadillac's real comfort and reliability. It's first class transportation." As the others nodded, he added, "But it's not for us," and emptied his beer glass.

Outside the cars continued to hiss by, their tires splattering the brown slush. "Not for us!" I thought, and my stomach turned cold the way it does when you suddenly get very angry. A crowded bus crawled past, its motor groaning with strain. Men who had waited perhaps half an hour were packed into it, men from the steel plant with mackinaws and lunch pails. When they got off many of them would have to walk for blocks in the snow and slush. That's for us, I thought. That's good enough for the workers. After eight killing hours, it's good enough to stand cramped and squeezed in a stuffy bus.

Over across the street beyond the wire fence with the barbed strands at the top loomed the great gray hulk of the open hearth, and through some of the openings in its sheet iron side I saw the yellow glare which meant they were pulling a heat of steel. Out of sight behind the open hearth stood the line of blast furnaces, and beyond them, the coke ovens.

Men had died suddenly in there behind the fence. Some had died suddenly, and many were dying slowly in the crushing heat of the summers and the chills of sweat-soaked winters. With their sweat and their lives they were making steel for the nation and the world and making immeasurable wealth for a handful of the rich. But for themselves? The good things of life were, they said, "not for us!"

"The Vitamin Craze"

By Grace Carlson

In a discussion of "diet in health and disease," Dr. Wallace Graham told the members of the American College of Surgeons last month of the dangers in the indiscriminate use of vitamin pills.



Excess dosages of synthetic vitamins have harmed many patients, said Dr. Graham, and have even caused the death of some.

"But on the whole, I think the worst of the vitamin craze is over," Dr. Graham concluded. "The public is beginning to think more intelligently about these food supplements."

Very anxious to prolong and intensify "the vitamin craze," the big drug monopolies are getting out reams of propaganda about the supposed value of vitamin pills. The other day, I came across one such propaganda booklet put out by McKesson and Robbins. Written for drugstore clerks, the handsomely-illustrated booklet was called, "How To Sell BEXEL Vitamin B Complex."

We find that the average family spends only \$1.96 a year for dentifrices; \$1.59, for toothbrushes; \$1.69 for laxatives; \$1.42 for headache remedies. BUT, "the average consumer of vitamin concentrates buys 12 packages a year—for a total expenditure of \$10.90!"

It follows from this, of course, that drug clerks

should try to make more people into vitamin pill users. "SIMPLE SELLING STRATEGY" will do the job. The clerk must make a study of "THE PEOPLE WHO MOST NEED BEXEL." And, in order to save the clerk from too much arduous research, McKesson and Robbins supply a list. Here it is:

- 1. Overworked people
2. Extremely active people
3. Those who sweat more than normally
4. Nervous people
5. People who sleep poorly
6. Convalescents
7. Older persons
8. Pregnant or nursing mothers
9. People with poor appetites
10. Those who are underweight
11. Those with faulty elimination
12. Growing children
13. Office workers
14. People who diet
15. Heavy drinkers.

If drug clerks can be galvanized into selling vitamin pills to all of these people, McKesson and Robbins' already high profits will leap to astronomical heights! But we can hope that Dr. Graham is right and that "the worst of the vitamin craze is over." And we can help to end "the vitamin craze" by urging trade unions to fight for the kind of wage scale that will buy enough vitamin-rich foods—meat, milk, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Veterans' Problems

Make Wall Street Pay For Bonus

By Alvin Royce

Only one of the leading veterans organizations (the Veterans of Foreign Wars) has publicly come out in favor of a bonus for World War II veterans.



In fact, recent events have revealed the self-styled liberals to be the most vociferous opponents of the bonus. When a state bonus bill was passed in New York recently, Wall Street's mouthpiece, the N. Y. Times, registered disappointment. In a lead editorial it asked that the bonus be withdrawn and that the money go to state housing appropriations.

This editorial pleased the National Planning Committee of the American Veterans Committee so much that its members made it a special point on their agenda. Charles Bolte, national head of the AVC, wrote a special letter of commendation to the Times editorial staff. Bolte then went on to say, "The best that can be said for the bonus is that it allows the recipient a chance for a glorious Bender."

To the vast majority of the veterans, a bonus means bread and butter, some new clothes and maybe some badly needed pieces of furniture. Bolte, who served as an officer in

the British Army and has never worried about his next meal in his life, could of course use a bonus only to go on a glorious Bender.

In spite of the cowardly stand of the official leaders of the veterans organizations, the bonus issue is far from dead. There are four bonus bills before Congress. Many states have already passed legislation granting a veterans bonus and very few smart politicians will say point-blank that they are opposed to a bonus for the veterans.

Those politicians who favor a bonus do so because they feel the pressure of the mass of veterans. To the average veteran, who is among those hit hardest by low wages and high prices, the bonus is not a handout but a necessity. The approaching end of many of the allowances of the GI Bill of Rights is beginning to jar the explosive bonus issue. No organization that continues to oppose the bonus will enjoy any real support from the veterans for very long.

While veterans were tightening their belts and frantically hunting a place to live last year, the profits of the big corporations reached a new peak. Every ex-serviceman must raise the cry in his union and veterans organization: "Make the war profiteers, America's Sixty Families, pay for a veterans bonus, now!"

Notes From The News

Col. James A. Kilian, commander of the notorious Litchfield guardhouse who was held responsible for brutal beating and mistreatment of American GI's, has just been recommended for a promotion in rank by the Army.

East Bay AFL groups have launched a campaign to oust Charles W. Reel from office as California Federation of Labor president because he acted like "a strikebreaker and a tool of the employers" during the recent department store strike that led to the general strike in Oakland.

Students at Williams College, Mass., are supporting the college paper's fight against a local barber guilty of Jim Crow treatment of Negro students.

The CIO International Fishermen and Allied Workers, Local 36, indicted on "anti-trust" charges by a Grand Jury in Los Angeles, is attacking the jury system because "day laborers, members of labor unions, and Negroes were systematically and intentionally discriminated against and were excluded from the panel from which the jurors were chosen."

Alfred Giles, Negro victim of police brutality in San Pedro who was falsely found guilty of assault and battery, has had his sentence reduced to one year's probation as a result of

pressure from the NAACP, AVC, SWP and other groups. The cop who attacked him has been removed from the police force.

Sub-committees of the Socialist Party and Social Democratic Federation are still meeting to discuss unity. Joint resolutions will soon be submitted to members of both organizations for consideration and action.

Buffalo teachers aren't striking; the dignified term they use is "abstention from work."

The NAACP in Detroit is preparing to go before the U. S. Supreme Court in its fight against restrictive covenants barring Negroes from living in certain neighborhoods.

Columnist Drew Pearson recently got some bad publicity for his radio sponsor, Frank H. Lee, by sending John L. Lewis a Lee hat for guessing wrong on the length of the mine strike. Lewis sent it back because it had no union label. Lee is the nation's biggest non-union hat manufacturer.

Nathaniel J. L. Pieper, who used to work for the FBI, now is doing "public relations" work for the union-busting Waterfront Employers in California.

Supporters of the Georgia "white primary" are afraid that it may lead to a split in the Democratic Party in that state.

White Terrorists Fire Bullets At Negro Home

By Robert L. Birchman

CHICAGO, Feb. 22 — Anti-Negro terrorism recurred at the Airport Homes Housing project here when four shots were fired last Saturday at 2 a.m. into the second floor apartment of John Fort, one of two Negro veterans who reside with their families in the project. Previously violent attempts had been made to prevent them from moving into the project.



HOMER LEWIS

"This is another of numerous examples that prove that the reactionary labor-hating police cannot be depended upon to protect the Negro people. Only defense guards based on the unions and veterans organizations in cooperation with all anti-fascist forces could and would provide adequate and timely protection to threatened Negro families."

The bullets, fired through the front window by unknown persons, narrowly missed Fort's wife, Millie, and their six-week-old daughter. One bullet shattered a glass lamp that fell into the baby's crib, from which the infant had been lifted by its mother only a few moments before. Another bullet imbedded itself in the living room wall, just a few feet above Mrs. Fort's bed.

Mrs. Fort ran to a neighbor and called police. She later said that the 10-man police detail, assigned to the project following the threats against the two Negro families when they moved in, was nowhere in sight. Captain Charles O'Regan of the Chicago Lawn police, in whose precinct the housing project is located, claimed: "The police were on duty at the project — but it is a big place — they may have been some distance specifically to protect the only two Negro families living in the project and should have been on the scene."

Detroit Teachers Vote Strike



High school teacher in Detroit casting her ballot when the Detroit Federation of Teachers, AFL voted 4,108 to 1,717 for strike action "in the event everything else fails." Federated Pictures

DEFENSE GUARD NEEDED Thomas Wright, director of the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations, said: "The commission has made it clear that the violence that has occurred at the project is the result of organized activity."

Homer Lewis, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Alderman in the Third Ward, stated after the latest terrorist outrage that "the recurrence of violence at the Airport Homes project once more emphasizes the need for the building of a defense organization to protect the Negro people from vigilante attacks by fascist elements."

GM Fleetwood Workers Victimized By Company

DETROIT, Feb. 22 — General Motor's drive to victimize CIO United Auto Workers militants has been climaxed with the firing of 13 cushion builders and the imposing of two-week penalty layoffs on 122 other members of Fleetwood Fisher Body Local 15.

The pretext for these harsh penalties was the brief stoppage of 138 cushion builders on Feb. 12 provoked by the corporation through a long period of threats and intimidation to force a speed-up. Grievances signed by the workers had been systematically ignored.

The spontaneous walkout occurred in the absence of the committeeman. It happened just three days after the installation of a new progressive administration in Local 15. John W. Anderson, newly-elected Local 15 president, on learning of the walkout left his job, met the men in the Union Hall and advised them to return to work pending a further attempt to settle their grievances. They agreed on condition that no penalties would be imposed.

Representatives of other GM locals in the area attended the meeting to get first-hand information on the Fleetwood situation. A widespread movement may soon be under way to halt GM's attacks on the union.

Mahoning Valley Vets Demand Low-Rent Homes

By Harry Braverman

YOUNGSTOWN, Feb. 19 — A demand for \$6,000,000 for veterans' low-rental housing projects was initiated here tonight by the Mahoning Valley Veterans Housing Committee at its regular meeting.

The resolution passed by the meeting demands an allotment of state funds for veterans' housing, and names \$6,000,000 as the minimum amount required immediately in Mahoning County.

The Committee, which is a general housing body having on it representatives from veterans, labor and civic organizations, reacted enthusiastically when Marvin Weinstock, secretary of the Committee and representative from the CIO, presented the resolution for the officers. Many veterans expressed their willingness to spread the demand throughout the Valley by bringing it to organizations and veterans for their support. It was decided to bring the demand to city and county officials and ask their support, and next to take it to the State Legislature.

Other delegates deplored the division created by the unprincipled factionalism of the Stalinists and Reutherites and offered numerous constructive proposals to build up the campaign in preparation for the April 7 balloting.

The conference elected a steering committee of five to coordinate the proposals and tasks outlined during the discussion and to call another meeting of all Detroit East Side Local FEPC committees before the April 7 referendum.

Socialist Workers Party Backs Seven Labor Candidates In L.A.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Feb. 20 — In keeping with a policy of supporting independent political action by labor and minority groups, Myra Tanner Weiss, Los Angeles organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, this week withdrew from the race for Board of Education Office No. 5 in favor of Walter J. Turner, labor candidate for the post.

At the same time she announced the formal endorsement by the Socialist Workers Party of another candidate for Board of Education, four for City Council, and one for the Santa Monica City Council.

Those endorsed were H. Claude Hudson, Board of Education Office No. 7; Russell L. McKnight, District 2; Harry C. Brown, District 6; Jonathan L. Caston, District 7; Louis Kisner, District 15; and Welford P. Carter for the Santa Monica City Council.

Both Myra Tanner Weiss and Louis Kisner had filed their petitions with 1,000 signatures each and qualified for the ballot. "Despite the bitter opposition of the Stalinists and some other labor bureaucrats to any labor party development or even the policy of running independent labor candidates in the coming municipal election, the anti-labor offensive and the pressure of the ranks have forced labor candidates to emerge," Comrade Weiss pointed out.

Walter J. Turner is an official of the Printing Pressmen's union, the chairman of the AFL strike co-ordinating committee which has felt the brunt of the Merchants and Manufacturers union-busting drive, and one of the spokesmen for the general strike sentiment in the AFL a few months ago.

Russell L. McKnight, another AFL unionist, was put forth by the studio unions which have felt all the weight of police violence and legal viciousness in the past two years.

Harry C. Brown, CIO rubber worker was nominated by his union and succeeded in securing the endorsement of the CIO Council. John Despot, supported by the CIO steel workers, was strongly opposed by the Stalinists, who preferred to endorse a capitalist liberal for District 9, and withdrew from the race.

In supporting Caston, Carter, and Hudson the SWP supports the movement for representation of the Negro people in local government. In District 7, the heart of the Negro community, the Stalinists suffered a real setback when they were unable to push their choice down the throats of either the leading Negro unionists or the community at large, and were forced to withdraw him in favor of Caston.

Both Caston for city council and Hudson for Board of Education had been endorsed by the Citizens Emergency Committee

conference which had been called to hear the four Negro candidates in the race and to select one as the community candidate.

An error is being committed by the Workers Party, whose organizer, Harold Draper, is running in opposition to the Negro community candidate in District 7. The WP's refusal to support an organized struggle for Negro representation when it develops concretely, flows from a failure to recognize the progressive significance of the independent political development in the Negro community.

"The best answer to the reactionary anti-labor offensive today is a political answer," Comrade Weiss stated. "That means to build a labor party now, starting with the running of independent labor candidates and representatives of minority groups."

POLITICAL ANSWER "For that reason the Socialist Workers Party has endorsed the labor candidates and representatives of the Negro people named above, and, in District 15, Comrade Kisner, the only workingman's candidate in the Harbor Area. And it is for that reason that I have withdrawn in favor of Turner."

Detroit East Side Delegates Plan Drive For State FEPC

DETROIT, Feb. 23 — Forty delegates, representing 13 Detroit East Side local committees for a Michigan Fair Employment Practices Commission, met last week for a report on the campaign to win enactment of a state FEPC bill and to plan further action. The conference was held in the hall of CIO United Auto Workers Briggs Local 212.

Ernest Mazey, of Local 212, reported on the two separate conferences for FEPC held in Lansing, the state capital, by the rival Stalinist and Reutherite factions in the UAW. He bluntly charged these factions with using the FEPC issue as a "political football."

Despite the fact that both groups have weak and ineffectual programs for getting an FEPC bill passed, Mazey said, they refuse to unite the pro-FEPC forces for a vigorous, militant campaign.

BURIED BILL As a result, the state legislature buried the FEPC bill in committee. But because of the nearly 200,000 signatures signed to a petition for the bill, it must be placed on the April state election ballot for a referendum vote.