

U. S. Capitalism Heads Into New Depression

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Stalinist Press Still Silent On Trotsky Murder

"Worker" Article Suppresses All Mention Of Budenz's Evidence That Stalin Is Guilty

By Evelyn Atwood

After a total silence of more than two weeks, the March 23 *Worker* finally takes note of the book *This Is My Story*, written by its former editor and Communist Party national committee member, Louis F. Budenz. Its evasive treatment of the Budenz confession is even more damning than its previous silence.

The article does not have a single word to say about the evidence presented by Budenz that Leon Trotsky's murder was prepared in New York City by GPU agents, assisted by prominent leaders of the American CP.

The *Worker* says nothing about Budenz's admissions that he himself was drawn into this plot. It does not even attempt to refute his charges that Earl Browder, Jack Stachel and other CP leaders had a hand in the plot. Not a word about Budenz's detailed account showing how the assassin "Frank Jackson" was selected and groomed for the job, which blows up the Stalinist falsehood that "Jackson" was a disillusioned Trotskyist. Budenz makes it quite plain that "Jackson" was a GPU agent, provided with a false Canadian passport, who utilized Sylvia Agoloff to gain access to Trotsky's home. This sensational confirmation of Stalin's guilt in Trotsky's murder was first released to the public in the March 8 *Militant* and then headlined in the daily press in New York City and throughout the country. But the *Worker* remained silent.

It maintained silence even after March 17 when District Attorney Frank J. Hogan was urged by a delegation of prominent citizens to summon a special grand jury to investigate the GPU murders hatched in New York. The delegation, headed by Socialist Party leader Norman Thomas, N. Y. City Councilman Louis P. Goldberg and novelist James T. Farrell, demanded "official examination and such judicial action as the facts may warrant" of "Earl Browder, Jack Stachel, Budenz himself and all other Communist Party leaders, past or present, who are known to have been involved in the activities of the Soviet Secret police in our community, or who are declared to have knowledge of such activities."

Now *The Worker* is trying to divert attention from Budenz's disclosures of GPU activities and crimes, by deliberately restricting its comment upon his book to the issue of Catholicism versus Stalinism. The article condemns Budenz for being a "hy-pocrite," whose "real conversion is from the cause of labor to the cause of labor's enemies." In truth, Budenz's switch from Stalinism to U.S. imperialism means that he has gone from the camp of labor's enemies inside the labor movement into the camp of their open enemies.

The reader of *The Worker* article is not given a single clue about the nature of Budenz's charges. There is simply a blanket statement that his sensational revelations are "lies." None of the facts about the crimes of the GPU that Budenz cites in his book are referred to—no attempt is made to refute them. For these facts are dynamite.

This silent treatment is in accord with the policy followed by the Stalinists in the past. Budenz himself cites the example of the case of Ignace Reiss, murdered in 1937 after he broke with Stalinism and joined the Fourth International. The Stalinist press in this country was forbidden to mention the case because it was "too hot to handle." Although Budenz does not give the reason, the fact is that the Swiss police caught the GPU red-handed in the crime.

Budenz also relates that when he was editor, he was instructed not to touch the case of Juliet Stuart Poyntz, who in 1937 "walked into nowhere one day on the streets of New York." Budenz says that a "Comrade H," a prominent CP national committee member, told him that Miss Poyntz had been "liquidated" by the GPU. Budenz was instructed not even to "allude to it in the press" because it was "hot cargo."

Obviously Budenz's revelations about the GPU, confirming Stalin's murder of Leon Trotsky, are even "hotter cargo."

Red-Baiting Disrupts Maritime Joint Action

The threat of renewed jurisdictional conflict on the waterfront was contained in a decision by AFL Seafarers International Union leaders last week rejecting any further joint meetings with CIO seafaring unions.

This decision came as an aftermath to the Washington conference of AFL, CIO and independent seafaring unions, reported in *The Militant* last week, which drew up a program of joint action against shipowner-government attacks. The pretext given for breaking off joint collaboration was the refusal of the CIO representatives to vote for an anti-communist resolution.

Joseph Curran, president of the CIO National Maritime Union, said he agreed "that members of the Communist Party were detrimental to our union," but added, that "the position of this question did not belong in the conference, as it was a matter of internal union policy for each union."

Although all participating unions agreed unanimously on other matters before the conference, the restrained objections to the demand for a "communist purge" were seized as an excuse to call off further meetings. The SIU officials' action has undoubtedly strengthened the Stalinist wing of the NMU. Stalinist policy has been to promote jurisdictional strife between AFL and CIO maritime unions. This policy, carried out through the recently dissolved Committee for Maritime Unity, became a major issue in the NMU's internal struggle.

To the fake unity line of the Stalinist-dominated CMU, the Curran group had counterposed joint action of all seafaring unions regardless of affiliation. The seamen had hoped that joint action after the Washington conference would lead to the long-dreamed "Brotherhood of the Sea." It now appears that once again, this striving for solidarity against a common enemy has received a serious setback.

Hits Michigan Ballot Restriction Bill

By Linda McCauley

LANSING, Mich., Mar. 20—Following vigorous protest by representatives of minority parties and trade unions at a public hearing last night before the State Senate Election Committee here, the Committee turned down the restrictive ballot bill previously passed unanimously by the State House of Representatives.

The House bill would require any new party, or any party not receiving one per cent of the vote cast for Secretary of State in the previous election, to obtain a minimum of 100 signers of nomination petitions in each of 42 counties in order to be placed on the ballot. Since there are 83 counties in Michigan and

over two-thirds of the population reside in just 14 counties, such a law would make it extremely difficult for new or minority parties to get on the ballot.

All minority parties, including the Socialist Workers Party, as well as union, civic and professional groups, were represented at last night's hearing. Spokesmen for all minority parties, except the SWP, fell in with the propaganda of the reactionary sponsors of the bill by red-baiting. Speakers of the Socialist Party, Socialist Labor Party, and Michigan Commonwealth Federation sought to win the "good will" of the Committee by denouncing "communists" and "communism."

The official representative of the Stalinists, Carl Winters, groveled before the labor-hating

Senators, assuring them that "the Communist Party is devoted to the constitution of the United States."

Sol Dollinger, Flint organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, wasted no breath pleading with the capitalist stooges. He accused them of attempting to establish a Big Business monopoly over the ballot.

"This is a vicious piece of class legislation," said Dollinger, "for the sole purpose of depriving all minority political parties of the opportunity to present their ideas, programs and candidates at election time."

"We in the Labor Party know that it's no accident this legislation is introduced precisely when the workers are beginning to organize their own party," Johnson stated. He told how many organizers the Labor Party Committee in Flint had and how many workers they represented.

"Whether you pass this bill or not, nothing can stop us. We can put 500 organizers out knocking on doors, because the Labor Party means to win."

Ernest Mazy, speaking for CIO Brigs auto Local 212 of Detroit, said the ballot bill was meant "to channelize the workers' political unrest into one or the other parties of the ruling class—the Democrats and Republicans."

Senate And House Vote To Knife Wage-Hour Law

Climaxing an employer-government conspiracy to swindle American workers out of billions in back wages, the Senate on March 21 voted 64 to 24 to dismember the Fair Labor Standards Act (Wage-Hour Law).

A Republican-Democratic coalition adopted a bill to outlaw pending workers' suits for six billion dollars in portal-to-portal claims and to drastically limit the workers' right to collect any back wages due.

If this bill becomes law, it will mean that the employers will be able to hold back wages owed the workers with little fear of suit for damages. It is an especially potent weapon for helping employers to cheat unorganized workers.

The Senate bill is considered a slight "compromise" over the similar measure previously passed by the House. It will now go to a joint Senate-House conference where the differences will be ironed out. It is almost certain of final passage.

Even the Senators who opposed the bill in its present drastic form expressed approval of provisions for outlawing portal and preparatory work-time pay demands.

To protect employers from liability for violation of the Wage-Hour Law, the Senate bill says that the employer is not required to pay for any work or activity of an employee which is not payable by contract or "by custom" in the employer's plant.

All an employer has to do to get out of paying overtime or other wages due a worker, is to claim it is not his "custom and practice."

MORE DIFFICULT

Under the Wage-Hour Law it was more difficult for an employer to coerce a worker into accepting less than the wages owed. The employer remained liable even if he forced a worker to agree to take less than the law allowed. The new Senate bill would allow an employer to force a worker into an out-of-court compromise settlement.

At the same time, this bill

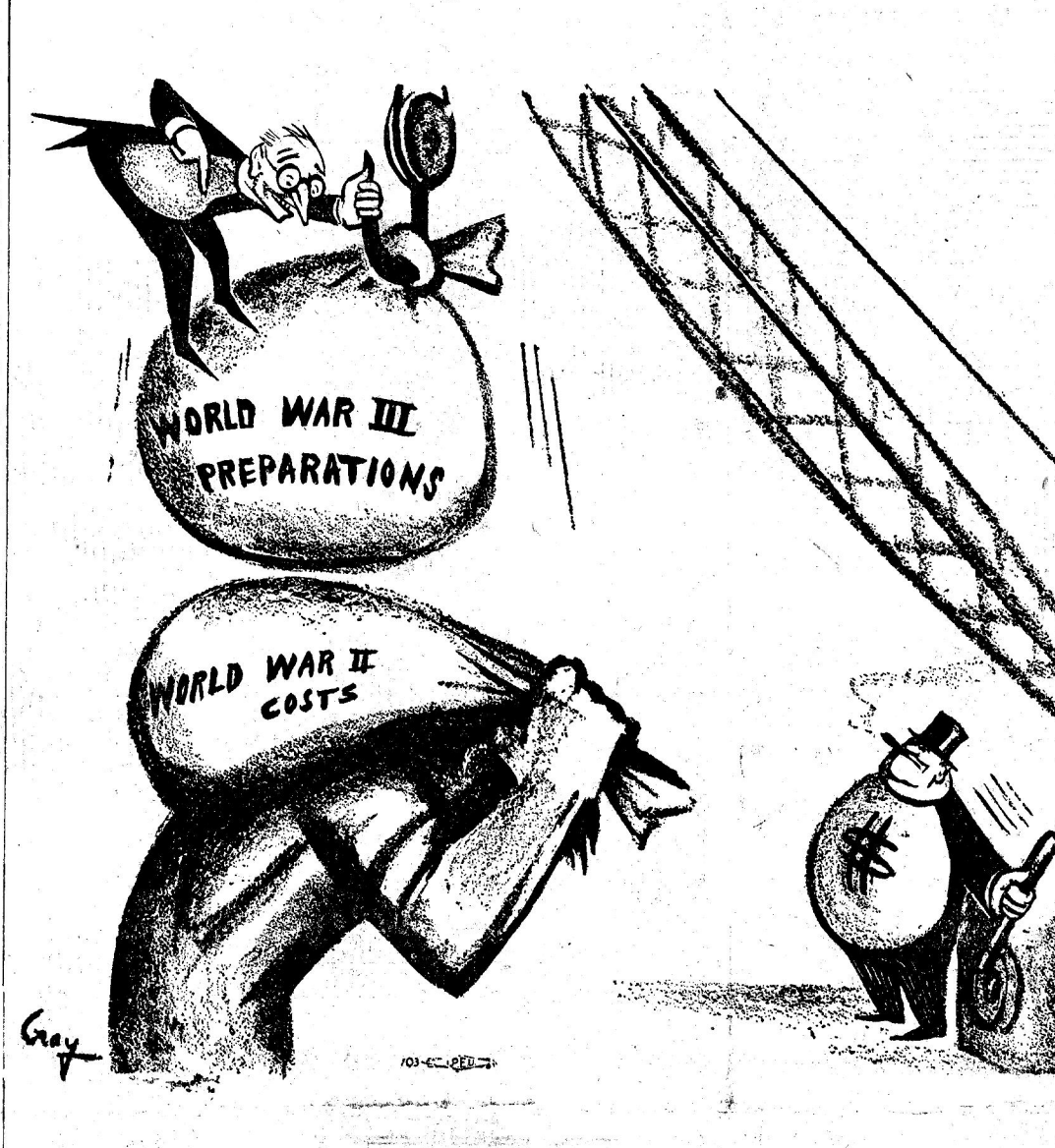
reduces to two years the time in which a worker may sue for any claim under the minimum wage laws.

This provision is especially outrageous. The standard time limitation for bringing suit is seven years. A corporation, for instance, could allege damage by a worker and sue him seven years later. But a worker, under the new Senate bill, has a special time limitation put on him when he wants to sue a corporation. This is naked class legislation.

The bill encourages employers to cheat workers because they know that under no circumstances will they be forced to pay more than what they originally owed the worker. It provides that if an employer violates any legal minimum wage and maximum hour provision "in good faith" he cannot be made to pay punitive damages.

As Senator Taylor of Idaho, one of the few opponents of the bill, said, "This act in effect says an employer may do as he pleases."

Piling On The Load



Senate And House Vote To Knife Wage-Hour Law

Workers Of The World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. XI — No. 13

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1947

401

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

NEW WAR MOVES BRING BLOWS AT CIVIL RIGHTS

Congress Worried By Lack Of Support For Truman Plan

By George Breitman

Congress opened hearings last week on Truman's demand for authority to use money and military forces in Greece and Turkey. But the members of Congress were only half-listening to the diplomatic double-talk of State Department officials; their attention was fastened above all on the reactions of the American people.

They were worried because the great majority of the American masses were apprehensive about Truman's demands, or openly antagonistic to them. They hoped that somehow, some way the State Department spokesmen would help to still the doubts and neutralize the opposition. Congress, the administration and the Big Business press had reason to be upset. Never before in modern U.S. history had such a carefully prepared move by the White House failed so miserably as Truman's speech in winning mass support.

Truman publicly expressed satisfaction with the support his program had received from the capitalist press. But he could not say anything about the trend of White House mail.

"The White House received 1,200 messages and 3,000 letters in direct response to the speech," the Mar. 23 N. Y. Times reported. "At first the great majority were in agreement with the President; more recently there has been large proportion of criticism."

The Times discreetly neglected to report on the majority opinion of these 4,200 communications and of the mail received by Congress. All it would conclude was that the chief tone "has been one of inquiry. People, it seems, want more information in order to make up their minds."

This evasion only pointed up the fact: Despite the biggest propaganda mobilization and scare-campaign since the war, despite the worst red-baiting drive in 25 years, the American masses are still suspicious and reluctant to accept a program that they sense will lead only to a new war.

The mass lack of confidence in Truman's program is all the more significant because it is so far completely spontaneous. The entire leadership of the

Truman Edict Means New Witch-Hunts

By Art Preis

Truman's preparations for a war of "democracy against totalitarianism" find the first blow being struck against the liberties of the American people themselves.

Hard on the heels of his new foreign policy announcement, Truman has launched a sweeping "anti-red" witch-hunt to terrorize all persons and groups opposed to Wall Street's drive toward war on the Soviet Union.

The first stage of a vast assault on civil rights is outlined in Truman's March 24 order for an unprecedented "disloyalty" purge among 2,200,000 federal administrative employees.

This order sets the pattern and precedent for persecution and victimization that will extend into every walk of life and right down into the plants and workshops.

GO-AHEAD SIGNAL

Through his purge edict, Truman has given a go-ahead signal for drastic, anti-democratic laws to outlaw working class political parties and empower employers to fire workers they choose to label "communist" or "subversive." Truman's order was timed to immediately precede public hearings on "anti-Communist" bills being held this week before the notorious House Un-American Activities Committee.

Truman's blue-print for ferreting out alleged "disloyal" government employees includes methods always held abominable by the American people and associated in their minds with the practices of Hitler, Mussolini, Franco and Hirohito.

The order sets up a virtual Gestapo system responsible only to the administration and with almost unlimited powers to remove any civil service employee

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Korea--The Next Step

American imperialism's military pincers around the Soviet Union will be tightened in the Far East with a so-called "aid-to-Korea" program of five to six hundred million dollars, according to a report in the March 20 N. Y. *World-Telegram*, leading paper of the Scripps-Howard chain.

This move is designed to complement Truman's program for financial and military aid to the Greek and Turkish dictatorships, states the *World-Telegram*. It is part of a tremendous plan "for stopping Communist expansion"—that is, for war preparations against the Soviet Union.

The article revealed that "the administration's Korean aid program, said to involve at least \$500,000,000 and possibly \$600,000,000 in economic and military aid over a three-year period, reportedly was the subject of a top-level discussion last night."

APPROVED BY BRASS HATS

Heads of the State, War and Navy Departments participated in the discussion. "Secretary of State George C. Marshall approved the plan after reviewing it in Moscow," the *World-Telegram* says.

Korea, for forty years a colony of Japanese imperialism, is now divided into two sections under the military rule of foreign conquerors. Northern Korea is controlled by the Kremlin.

Southern Korea is under the boot of American military dictatorship.

Thus, all U. S. expenditures for Korea are clearly designed to entrench American military rule over this subject colony, to bar any struggle of the Korean people for their independence, and to point another loaded gun at the Soviet Union.

The strictly military and warlike character of the program for Korea is emphasized by the *World-Telegram's* disclosure that the plan is "said to have been worked out by Lt. Gen. John R. Hodge, Korean zonal commander here (in Washington) for conferences."

LINKED UP

The report adds that the Korean plan "will be submitted to Congress following the current debate on Near East aid." This directly links the Korean move with the Truman program for financial and military intervention in Greece and Turkey. It is a further long step down the road to war against the Soviet Union and suppression of all revolutionary struggles for freedom.

Since the plan is labeled an "Aid to Korea" program, the question is raised whether this means relief for the hunger and misery of the Koreans in the Kremlin-dominated northern zone. The *World-Telegram* says: "Whether the plan entails

aid to the northern zone of Korea now under Soviet control was not known and officials familiar with the details would not say."

But the article does say that "surplus arms from American stocks would constitute the military phase of the program." Who will get these "surplus arms"? They will undoubtedly be used to equip puppet military forces in the American-ruled zone and anti-Soviet guerillas in the northern zone.

CRUSH THE MASSES

Certainly, U. S. imperialism doesn't intend to supply arms to any Koreans who want to fight for their independence. American troops are being used right now to ruthlessly crush the Korean people. (See Bill Morgan's eye-witness report in *The Militant*, March 15.)

The "Truman Doctrine" as his new foreign policy has been labeled, has been advanced as a defense of "free peoples" from "armed minorities." American military forces constitute the "armed minority" dominating the people in southern Korea. The "Aid-to-Korea" plan is intended to reinforce this "armed minority."

Just as Truman's new foreign policy has been followed by a witch-hunt at home and new blows against American labor, so it is bringing a tighter imperialist grip on subjugated peoples like the Koreans.

Stalinist Press Leads Reactionary Attack Against Sliding Scale Contract Of CIO Oil Workers Union

Stalinist union leaders, despite the Communist Party's "left shift," have a sorry record in the struggle for higher wages. CIO unions under Stalinist control were the last to strike during the great strike wave in 1946 and generally made the poorest settlements.

It is not surprising then for the Communist Party to take the lead in opposing any far-reaching wage demand or policy that might call for real struggle by the workers. The demand the Stalinists are heaping most abuse on these days is the sliding scale of wages to meet rising prices, first advanced by the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyists).

Adam Lapin, is the latest Stalinist hack to take a stab at trying to show that an escalator clause in a union contract is "anti-marxist." He writes his distortions in the March 8 issue of *People's World*, West Coast Stalinist sheet.

STALINIST COMPLAINTS

Lapin states that the sliding scale of wages means "settling for temporary wage increases to be taken away when prices fall." He complains: "Leaders of the CIO Oil Workers have fallen for this line, and it is espoused by the Trotskyites in the labor movement who like to use radical-sounding phrases to conceal employer propaganda."

He adds: "Standard Oil and other powerful corporations have been sympathetic to this approach. For here the union abandons the struggle to improve the standard of living, to increase the paid labor time as against the unpaid, to expand the boundaries of labor's gains. Marxists never make this mistake." If the corporations are so "sympathetic to this approach" they certainly haven't shown it by the contracts they've signed. The sole exception is the Sinclair Oil Co. contract, and that contract is no argument for the Stalinist line.

We can best uncover the fraud of Lapin's article by examining what the Sinclair Oil workers have actually won since signing their sliding scale contract last November.

First, they've been enjoying another flat 18-cent basic wage increase since last Oct. 1. No Stalinist-controlled union can boast of even half that gain.

Next, this 18-cent increase has constituted a real wage gain, because it has been protected against rising living costs. In addition to the basic wage boost, the Sinclair workers get a one per cent increase for every increase in the Bureau of Labor Statistics price index, re-adjusted every three months.

Since Jan. 1, the Sinclair workers have enjoyed another seven cent boost under their sliding scale agreement. That makes a total wage increase of 25 cents an hour in six months. And that increase is expected to hold for the next three months.

But if prices should fall drastically, that doesn't mean the Sinclair workers would take an equivalent cut in wage rates. No

matter how far prices fall, the Sinclair workers continue to get their basic rate, including the 18-cent boost.

Lapin has therefore falsified the nature of the sliding scale contract. It does not tie basic wages to prices. But it does protect basic wages from the hidden cut of rising prices. If all unions had signed sliding scale contracts last year, their wage rates would now be 35% higher than last June.

Karl Marx, whom the anti-Marxist Lapin distorts, would certainly have been for the slogan of the sliding scale of wages, precisely because it protects the real wages of the workers.

We would like Lapin to explain how it happens that most of the Stalinist-controlled unions haven't won so much as a nickel more for the workers in the last period, while the CIO Oil Workers International Union has won wage increases for 40,000 workers of 20-25 cents an hour, with the Sinclair gains setting the pattern.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. And the pudding cooked up by the Stalinists tastes like a putrid wage policy spiced up with some fake "leftism."

Behind the CP's attack on the sliding scale of wages, is the Stalinists' general policy of trying to be a "left-cover" for the conservative policies of the union bureaucracy. During the war, the Stalinists were the loudest supporters of Wall Street imperialism — in the name of "Marxism." Now they are the loudest opponents of progressive wage policies — also in the name of "Marxism."

Police Against Picket



A couple of Cleveland mounted cops, District Vice President Joe Kres of the CIO United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers, from the picketline outside the Anderson Company, where the union is on strike for higher wages. A 200-man UE line has done a good job of preventing the cops from helping scabs cross the picketline.

Federated Pictures

J. A. Sullivan Deserts Stalinists In Canada

J. A. (Pat) Sullivan, a leading trade-union member of the Canadian Labor Progressive (Stalinist) Party for ten years, on March 15 quit his high post as president of the Stalinist-dominated Canadian Seamen's Union and went into hiding. Sullivan is also secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada (TLC).

Sullivan's break with the Stalinists in Canada follows essentially the same pattern as the desertion of Louis F. Budenz, former national committee member of the American Communist Party and editor of its *Daily Worker*, from the Stalinists in this country. Budenz, claiming a religious "conversion," fled for safety into the sanctuary of the Catholic Church. Sullivan, ostensibly suffering remorse at misleading Canadian trade unionists, vanished into hiding. Both are welcomed with joy by capitalist reaction.

Both issued public documents, naming outstanding CP leaders and exposing the inner schemes and intrigues of the Stalinist apparatus and its complete subservience to the master in the Kremlin. Budenz's confessionals is made in his just published book, *This Is My Story*. Sullivan asserts that his public statement was designed for his own "protection" and to escape an "unavoidable accident." By this he points the finger at the GPU murder machine. In the event of his death.

SUDDEN DISCOVERY

Sullivan's statement protests that the Stalinists have "full control" of the seamen's union — something he has known for many years, since he was one of the Stalinists who fastened that control on the membership. Only now does he discover that Stalinist policy hoodwinks and misleads the Canadian trade unionists. Last year, Sullivan states, a CP

fraction meeting was held in Montreal prior to the seamen's convention. Out of less than 100 delegates, there were 30 CP delegates present at this meeting. Among those present were J. B. Salsberg, Stalinist member of Provincial Parliament in Ontario, and Harry Binder, in charge of all Stalinist activities in Quebec.

Sullivan says he complained to this delegation that there was "too much party interference in the ranks" of the union, and that he was "fed up with people who were not seamen being brought into the union." For ten years this careerist followed the Stalinist shifts and turns, leading the workers into blind support of the Kremlin's foreign policy and of the imperialist war. Now he objects that "every month new people are being placed on the payroll" by the Stalinists "without consulting anyone" — meaning himself. So he suddenly finds that Stalinism means suppression of "individual thought."

The Toronto Evening Telegram compares Sullivan's sudden "display of patriotic sentiment" with the similar claim of Igor Gouzenko, Soviet embassy clerk who exposed the Canadian spy plot in September 1945.

Sullivan, like Budenz, is a product of the opportunist and treacherous school of the Stalinist bureaucrats in the Kremlin. These desertions show that the Stalinist apparatus is developing serious cracks under the impact of the imperialist drive to war against the Soviet Union. More and more Stalinist careerists are running for cover — and safer careers — into the arms of imperialist reaction.

Truman's War Moves Bring Attacks On Civil Liberties

(Continued from Page 1)

the administration desires to "get."

It provides for a vast network of spies and informers who may bring accusations without being required to confront the accused.

Persons may be arbitrarily fired and blacklisted on grounds close to the "dangerous thoughts" doctrine of the former Japanese military dictatorship.

An employe may be hounded out of his job when, in the minds of higher officials, there exists "reasonable grounds" to suspect "disloyalty" in thought, word or deed.

Appeal against such dismissal may be made only to a hand-picked administrative board and before an "administrative hearing" similar to a military court-martial.

The very definition of "disloyalty" is made so broad that it would be mere child's play to frame up anyone the higher administrative officials want to victimize.

All the government's resources and agencies are to be used in the purge. All sources of information are to be mobilized in this grand-scale "loyalty investigation"—from files of the FBI, military and naval intelligence and

all local police agencies, to school and college records, "former employers" and "any other appropriate source."

Among the investigating agencies is the notorious House Committee on Un-American Activities whose charges of "communism" and "subversion" have been hurled indiscriminately at anyone who is sympathetic to labor, supports democratic rights and opposes Negro-baiting and anti-Semitism.

RUTHLESSLY FIRED

An accused person will be presented only with such specific charges as "in the discretion of the employing department or agency, security considerations permit." This means government employes may be fired without even being able to answer specific charges.

The order provides that the head of the employing department or agency "may suspend any officer of employe at any time pending a determination with respect to loyalty." After being laid off, an accused person will then have "the right to an administrative hearing before a loyalty board."

This hand-picked Loyalty Review Board is itself a specially-created body to ferret out persons "disloyal to the Government of the United States."

The Department of Justice is to give this board a list of all organizations and groups which the Attorney General "designates as totalitarian, Fascist, Communist or subversive." The Attorney General can label any person or group he dislikes in one or all of the above categories.

"Disloyalty" goes further. It

includes "advocating or approving" the idea of "overthrowing the government by force or violence" or even merely "seeking to alter the form of government of the United States by unconstitutional means." It's up to the Attorney General to define "unconstitutional means."

The Truman order further states that "the investigative agency may refuse to disclose the names of confidential informants" to an accused person. Spite denunciations, accusations by labor-hating employers against former unionists, or mere trumped-up charges from mythical "informants" may be used against selected victims.

Among the grounds that constitute cause for dismissal is mere "sympathetic association" with any group or "combination of persons" that the Attorney General says is "disloyal." A person accused of merely attending a meeting of any allegedly "subversive" group could be fired.

MOST REVEALING

The most revealing of the grounds for dismissal is "performing or attempting to perform his duties, or otherwise acting, so as to serve the interests of another government in preference to the interests of the United States."

Expressing opposition to Truman's foreign policy, particularly his war moves against the Soviet Union, will be termed "serving the interests of another government." This is the very heart of Truman's purge order.

It's unlikely that Truman expects to get a large haul of government employes, because they are already put through a fine-tooth comb investigation. There are already innumerable laws and administrative directives, including several issued by Roosevelt, which make it very difficult for "disloyal" persons to get a government job. Government intelligence agencies like the FBI have long been busy on this score.

This demonstrative purge order, following Truman's proposal for world-wide preparations for war on "communism," is intended to provide the pattern for a terror campaign against all opponents of Wall Street's anti-labor, pro-war drive.

The system of purges for "dangerous thoughts," anonymous denunciations, firing of workers for their political views, is being sanctioned by government decree. It is but one step to the same system in private industry. Employers are now preparing to use the same methods against union workers.

Park Drop Forge Men Continue Brave Fight

By Bob Kingsley

CLEVELAND, Mar. 18—The 5 to 1 vote of the Ohio Crankshaft Local 91, UAW-CIO to reject aid to the Park Drop Forge Local 776, UAW-CIO, constitutes a set-back to the Cleveland labor movement.

Local 776 has been out on strike 10 weeks against the joint owners of the two companies. Both locals have been under company fire for the past year.

The strike at Park Drop Forge was provoked when the company fired the local's Vice-President, Chester Zebrowski. The company demanded a 25% to 50% increase in production and refused to extend a 20 cent hourly wage increase already granted the Die Sinkers Conference, an independent union in the same shop.

STRIKE-BREAKING ACTION

Last week Ohio Crankshaft began machining forgings shipped in from other cities. This was a strike-breaking action, since such materials formerly came from Park Drop Forge.

Dave Smith, President of Local 776, asked the International Executive Board to take immediate action. The Board, however, refused to sanction a sympathy strike by the sister local at Crankshaft.

This policy played into the hands of pro-company forces in the Crankshaft local. At last Saturday's meeting they denounced the Park Drop workers for striking, and finally succeeded in tabling the motion to aid Local 776.

The strikers responded with a picket line around the Crankshaft plant on Monday. Most of the Crankshaft workers honor-

ed the picket line.

Today another mass meeting was held. A plea from Dave Smith for help was heard in a quiet that contrasted with Saturday's disorderly meeting. Many workers took the floor to point out the necessity of helping their sister local.

However, fear of strike action at this time led to the defeat of a motion to refuse to work outside forgings.

Despite this unfavorable vote, the strike at Park Drop Forge has brought the two locals together for the first time. Up to now, Regional Director Paul Miley has successfully prevented united action by the two locals. Today the progressive forces in both locals feel that increasing harmony can be established.

The Crankshaft workers are back at work, since the picket line has been lifted. But the dauntless Park Drop Forge workers are determined to continue the militant defense of their union against the company assault.

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NEW YORK MASS MEETING

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 - WILLIAM F. WARDE, SWP National Educational Director
 - GEORGE CLARKE, SWP Local New York Organizer
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210 East 5th St. (near Third Ave.)
Admission: N. Y. Local, Socialist Workers Party

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

The CIO Oil Workers International Union has shown the way to the labor movement by winning wage increases of 20-25 cents an hour for 40,000 workers. Their strongest bargaining point was the Sinclair Oil Co. contract, won last November, granting a basic boost of 18 cents plus an escalator clause. Since Jan. 1 the Sinclair workers have received an additional 7 cents to compensate for rising living costs. The March 10 CIO News reports that "it is expected that this Sinclair rate will extend into the second quarter."

Officials of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, whose convention is being held in Cleveland, last week bureaucratically barred at the door 14 elected delegates said to represent the program of the Consolidation Committee of Engineers. The CCE, a caucus of engineers, is fighting for the progressive program of amalgamating the dual and conflicting organizations of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

The Waterfront Fraction of the Communist Party (Stalinist) is very disturbed over the small number of maritime workers on its rolls who have registered as party members.

Joseph Stack, Stalinist whip and vice president of the CIO National Maritime Union, will face a trial committee to answer charges brought against him by NMU President Joseph Curran. Curran assailed Stack as a "consistent opportunist" who "when he considered it to be popular to be anti-Communist was one of the most vicious red-baiters in the Union, generally leading all red-baiting disruption. But after he became New York Port Agent, and he considered it forthright in attacking the Ford

meant job security and promotion for him, he joined the Communist Party, and is now its self-proclaimed spokesman on the waterfront."

Everything Curran says about Stack has been known for years. The NMU president saw fit to bring charges only after the conflict developed within the Stalinist-dominated top leadership of the NMU.

A coalition of reactionary red-baiters in the New York CIO unions formed a so-called "Trade Union Committee for Democracy." It is led by a bloc of the Social Democrats and Association of Catholic Trade Unionists. Its only program is to oust the Stalinists from the New York CIO Council and entrench its own machine in power. NMU President Curran, who is also president of the Greater New York CIO Council, promptly denounced and repudiated the anti-democratic "Trade Union Committee for Democracy." The CIO National Executive Committee last week ordered it disbanded.

The March 14 issue of *The Labor Leader*, national organ of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, endorsed the anti-labor decision of the U. S. Supreme Court against the AFL-United Mine Workers. "Since a majority of the Supreme Court agree," says Labor Leader, "we naturally feel it was a reasonable decision." The Court agreed with Wall Street, and the ACTU agrees with the Court.

Robert Lieberman, former editor of *Ford Facts*, weekly of CIO United Auto Workers Local 600, has been expelled from the Communist Party for following a "semi-Trotskyist and unprincipled 'left' adventurist line." He was previously removed from his editorial post for being too forthright in attacking the Ford Co.

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A sliding scale of wages — an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!
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Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
- Against all anti-labor laws and government strike-breaking!**
No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!
No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
- Build an independent labor party!**
- Tax the rich, not the poor!**
Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!
No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
- An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!**
- Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!**
End Jim-Crow! End Anti-Semitism!
- For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!**
- A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.**
Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!
Against capitalist conscription!
Abolish the officer caste system!
Full democratic rights in the armed forces!
Trade union wages for the armed forces!
Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
- Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!**
For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!
Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
- For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!**

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Three Main Obstacles To Wall Street's War Plans

By George Breitman

Washington's foreign policy, like Hitler's, is sugar-coated with all kinds of lofty and humanitarian explanations. Like Hitler's, its real objective is the subjugation and exploitation of the whole world.

The American capitalists are not and cannot be satisfied with their profits in this country. Unless they can find new markets and new fields for the investment of capital abroad, they face a crash at home even deeper and more costly than the one of 1929. That is the economic driving force behind the foreign policy expressed by Truman on March 12.

This foreign policy requires subservient governments in the rest of the world — governments that will toe the line when Wall Street cracks the whip, that will maintain capitalist law and order and prevent interference with American investments and profits.

To secure such "reliable" governments, Washington has at its disposal tremendous financial and material resources — loans, grants, food. Where necessary, it is ready to add guns and military advisors, as its plan for Greece and Turkey demonstrates. Should these too prove inadequate, American armies, navies and atom bombs will be put into action.

Wall Street's foreign policy is therefore aimed directly against the interests and welfare of the workers of the world. It intends to subject them to double exploitation. It proposes to deprive them of the

right to get rid of oppressive governments and to set up governments of their own free choice.

In all parts of the world, and in Europe and Asia particularly, capitalism is now floundering from one economic and political crisis to another. The workers, sick and weary of a system which brings them only hunger and war, are turning in the direction of socialism. Truman's speech constitutes a warning to them that the full might of American capital will be hurled against any attempt they make to end capitalism and replace it with a rational social order.

But neither Truman's program nor Congress' endorsement of it will be able to prevent millions of workers throughout the world from engaging in the fiercest opposition to its realization.

AIMED AT SOVIET UNION

A second obstacle to Wall Street's program for world domination is the existence of the Soviet Union. Created by a workers' revolution in 1917, the Soviet Union nationalized industry and established the basis for a planned economy, thus removing one-sixth of the world from the sphere of capitalist exploitation.

Industrially weak, culturally backward, isolated by the defeat of workers' revolutions in other parts of Europe, the workers' state fell into the grip of the privileged bureaucrats led by Stalin. Today the Soviet government is not, as it was under Lenin and Trotsky, an inspiration to the

extension of the workers' revolution throughout the world. The monstrous machine created under Stalin has been employed to discourage, discredit and suppress revolutionary ideas and action.

Despite this, planned economy has continued and the areas of the Soviet Union have remained closed to investment and exploitation by world imperialism. As a result of the war and cynical deals with Washington and London, a series of countries in Eastern Europe came under the control of the Kremlin and, although capitalism still remains there, these also have been blocked from penetration by the big capitalist powers.

In an effort to assure its world supremacy, to stabilize European capitalism, to open up a new field for the investment of U.S. capital, and to stave off a world economic crash, Wall Street's government is exerting tremendous pressure on the Soviet Union. In one hand it dangles the bait of a loan needed for reconstruction of the Soviet Union's devastated industrial plant; in the other, it brandishes the atom bomb. The purpose of this pressure is to open up Eastern Europe for American capitalism and to wrest economic concessions inside the Soviet Union itself.

This aim is rarely discussed in the Big Business press; it is never mentioned in such pronouncements as Truman's March 12 speech. Nevertheless, it is a fundamental factor in U.S. foreign policy in Europe.

Truman talks about fighting against totalitarianism. But that is a lie. It is not

Stalinist totalitarianism he objects to, but the planned economy in the Soviet Union which excludes U.S. capitalists. Truman seizes on totalitarianism as a pretext to justify his imperialist war policy before public opinion; Stalin's crimes against the workers inside and outside of the Soviet Union are just grist to Wall Street's propaganda mills.

IMPERIALIST HYPOCRISY

That Truman and his Wall Street cronies do not give a hoot about totalitarianism is proved by their friendship for the despots in Latin America and Greece and Turkey. They will no more bring democracy to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union than they have brought democracy to Greece. In fact, since the restoration of capitalism in Russia would be fiercely resisted by the Soviet masses, the result of an American imperialist victory in a war against the Soviet Union would be the establishment of a totalitarian capitalist state or states in that country.

Class-conscious workers everywhere have a real interest in preventing the restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union — whether that restoration is attempted through a deal between world capitalism and a section of the Stalinist bureaucracy, or through imperialist war against the Soviet Union.

Destruction of the nationalized economy, the remaining conquest of the Russian workers' revolution, would be a blow to the workers of the world because it would

strengthen world capitalism by opening new resources and markets to it. And conversely, the preservation and strengthening of planned economy under a resurgent workers democracy would serve as an impetus to the workers' struggles. Such a development would at the same time restrict the arena of world capitalist exploitation and hasten its death agonies.

The fight to preserve planned economy in the Soviet Union, which is necessary for its regeneration as a workers state capable of inspiring the revolutionary masses in all countries, goes side by side with the fight to defeat Wall Street's foreign policy.

This struggle against American imperialism does not entail or signify the slightest support of or confidence in Stalinism. On the contrary, it presupposes the most unrelenting war against the reactionary Stalinist bureaucracy, its agents and its policies.

For in the international labor movement this bureaucracy is the greatest obstacle to the overthrow of capitalism; and in the Soviet Union it blocks the way to the restoration of workers democracy, the mobilization of effective international working class defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

The job of finishing Stalinism is not one that the workers can farm out to the imperialists. A victorious capitalist war against the Soviet Union would mean not only the destruction of Stalinism but also the destruction of the planned economy

necessary for socialist construction. And the suppression of Stalinism by the capitalists in other countries can take place only by suppressing at the same time the democratic rights which the workers need to organize the movement for the establishment of socialism. Only the workers themselves can settle accounts with Stalinism in such a way as to advance the struggle for socialism.

THE AMERICAN WORKERS

A third, and probably the greatest, obstacle to the realization of Wall Street's program will come from the workers in the United States itself. They will be the ones called on to pay the costs of a new war through taxes, sweat, blood, loss of democratic rights and crippled or broken unions. Already there are signs of a growing mass opposition in this country.

But mere opposition is not enough. It is not enough to adopt resolutions and send letters to Congress. The capitalist class has the power to plunge the American people into an atomic world war, and it will not be deterred by mere verbal or written protests.

There is only one way to thwart Wall Street's war plans, and that is by removing Wall Street's government from power and ending the capitalist system that is the cause of imperialist war. To achieve this, the workers must create their own political party and a Workers and Farmers Government that will insure peace and security.

Hearings In Congress Open On Truman's Plan

Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson was supposed to ally public uneasiness over Truman's Greek-Turkish program when he appeared before Congressional hearings last week. But he was not very successful.

The use of troops: The plans for Greece and Turkey "do not include our sending troops," he said. "We have not been asked to do so. We do not foresee any need to do so. And we do not intend to do so." But, as it was easy to see, this was not a binding commitment against the sending of troops. Besides, everyone still recalls Roosevelt's promise in 1940 not to send American boys to die in foreign wars.

The danger of war: "I do not see how it (the Truman pro-

gram) could lead to war," said Acheson. But the masses have come to distrust carefully worded expressions of this kind. The whole world recognizes that the "broad implication" of the Truman program is war if necessary. No one will be taken in by Acheson's profession that he doesn't see this implication and danger.

NO WONDER

The so-called "emergency": Acheson preferred to be as brief as possible in repeating Truman's explanation about the emergency created by Britain's withdrawal of commitments in Greece after March 31. And no wonder. It is common knowledge that the State Department was informed about British intention to reduce aid to the Greek monarchy as long ago as last Octo-

ber. Besides, British foreign office sources stated on March 18, six days after Truman's speech that they are going to continue to maintain "military, economic, legal and police missions" in Greece after March 31.

By-passing the UN: This was one of the sorest points for the administration. Acheson tried to pass it off, and at the same time to open the way for a face-saving maneuver, by declaring: "This government cannot very well tell any international organization its intention until Congress decides final policy by supporting or rejecting the President's program." But it sounded as lame as it was.

ONLY BEGINNING

The total costs: Acheson refused to indicate what the full program of the administration would cost; although the papers report it will take a minimum of five billion dollars to even launch it. He did admit that Greece and Turkey were only the beginning, but he mentioned only the possibility of Korea in addition.

Acheson's testimony, it was ballyhooed in advance, would answer all the questions. But even though it took longer to deliver than Truman's speech, it was just as evasive and misleading, both in what it said and what it omitted.

The Congressional hearings were not expected to have any important effect on the members of Congress. They had acted noisy and querulous after Truman's speech, but that, like Acheson's testimony, was mainly for public consumption. They were trying to appease uneasy public opinion, but at the same time were ready to go along with Truman and Marshall.

Truman's public announcement of his policy was regarded by most of them as a half-accomplished fact. "Even to amend the proposals of the President, it is conceded, would amount to a policy of repudiation that few Congressmen are prepared to adopt," as James Reston put it in the March 20 N. Y. Times.

To clinch matters further, the top Republicans began to mobilize their followers. Vandenberg had already spoken for Truman's line; Taft let it leak out that he was getting ready a speech of approval; and Dewey too came out with an endorsement. Both parties were lined up. But not the American people.

Truman Doctrine Testimony



Under-Secretary of State Dean Acheson chats with Chairman Charles Eaton (R., N. J.) of the House Foreign Affairs Committee after indicating in his testimony that U. S. military intervention in Greece and Turkey is only the beginning. Federated Pictures

Wallace Sees Another War In Truman's Foreign Policy

By Joseph Hansen

The night following Truman's address to Congress, Henry Wallace, editor of the New Republic and leading spokesman of the New Deal Democrats, broadcast a sharp criticism of the military lend-lease program proposed by the President.

Truman asked "in effect," said Wallace, "that America police Russia's every border. There is no regime too reactionary for us provided it stands in Russia's expansionist path. There is no country too remote to serve as the scene of a contest which may widen until it becomes a world war."

The former Secretary of Commerce, who was booted out of office by Truman last September as the last Roosevelt appointee in the cabinet, made other telling observations about Truman's proposal. Wallace asked for example why the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration had been permitted to die "if aid to the people of the world is our objective."

NOT FOR RELIEF

He showed that the proposed loan of 400 million dollars to Greece and Turkey is largely for military purposes and not for relief of the famine-stricken Greek or Turkish people. He ridiculed the attempt to suggest that either the Greek or Turkish governments are democratic.

Wallace drafted his speech in accordance with the political line he advanced at the time of his ouster from the cabinet. He opposes Truman's foreign policy of saber-rattling and the mailed fist because he believes it "utterly futile."

He has no differences with Truman on the aims of American imperialism. He flatly stated "I certainly don't want to see communism spread." But he maintains that dollar diplomacy and armed force will not halt the development of communism. "I predict that Truman's policy will spread communism in Europe and Asia."

Wallace presents an alternative program which he holds will prove more effective in advancing the aims of American capitalism. He proposes utilizing

Withdraw The Occupation Troops! Manifesto Of The Austrian Trotskyists

To all sections of the Fourth International! To all sympathetic groups and organizations! To all workers of all lands!

More than a year and a half has elapsed since the collapse of the Nazi regime in Austria and Germany, but these two countries, especially Germany, continue to be occupied by the Allied powers. The main weight of this occupation falls upon the laboring masses and above all on the proletariat.

The International Communist League (IKA, Trotskyists), as before, carry on the struggle for the withdrawal of all the troops of occupation, not in a limited nationalist spirit, not in patriotic and chauvinist spirit adapted to their own bourgeoisie, as do the Socialist Party, and more hypocritically the Stalinist party.

On the contrary, the IKA has never ceased to demonstrate that the occupation can only reinforce the chauvinist and fascist tendencies. The IKA has always affirmed with insistence that the occupying soldiers are their brothers, that they are workers of the United States, of England, of France and of the Soviet Union. They have led, are leading and will lead the struggle for the withdrawal of the troops in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, of the united struggle against their exploiters and oppressors and against the degenerate Soviet bureaucracy.

Our struggle for the withdrawal of all the troops of occupation — like the struggle of the proletariat of other occupied countries and particularly that of the German proletariat, with which we feel fraternally united — is nothing but the struggle against the attacks upon the democratic right of self-determination of each nation, the struggle for effective utilization of the democratic rights by the oppressed masses against their own bourgeoisie, as a part of our struggle for the democratic rights of the masses, for the free development of the proletarian class struggle.

To lead this struggle in an internationalist spirit means, first of all, that the proletariat of the occupying countries has the task of raising its voice against its own oppressors in order to obtain the withdrawal of their troops of occupation. No people can be really free if it oppresses another people, if it does not prevent its own oppressors suppress-

sing other peoples. In consequence, the IKA addresses an urgent appeal to the proletariat of America, Britain and France to help the Austrian, and especially the German working class of which the Austrian proletariat will always be a part; to give effective support in the struggle for the withdrawal of the troops. It addresses its appeal first of all to the sections of the Fourth International that they should call the attention of the proletariat in these countries to the prolonged occupation and the need to struggle for the immediate withdrawal of the occupying troops; that the occupation violates the democratic right of self-determination, and that it prevents the free development of the proletarian class struggle.

The IKA is convinced that the Bolshevik-Leninists of the USSR and the Russian proletariat, to the degree that the conditions of

the bureaucratic dictatorship permit, will raise their voice in support of the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from occupied countries, as the only means of exposing the imperialist oppressors before the masses, to re-establish the general sympathy of the workers for the USSR. By this, the USSR would show the road for the end of occupation, permitting the free development of the proletarian struggle.

Finally, the IKA calls upon the workers of all countries to remain on the side of the Austrian and German proletariat, and of the proletariat of all occupied countries, in their struggle for self-determination, in the spirit of proletarian internationalism, in the spirit of the war cry of the Communist Manifesto:

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!
International Communist League of Austria, Section of the Fourth International, Mid-December, 1946.

French Stalinists Back War Against Indo-China

On March 22 the Stalinist Ministers in the Cabinet of French Premier Paul Ramadier voted for military credits for the armed forces in Indo-China. This treacherous act ensured continuation of the imperialist war of subjugation against the freedom-seeking Indo-Chinese people.

At the same time, attempting to escape political responsibility for this open support of colonial despotism, the Stalinist Deputies in the Assembly abstained from voting. They tried to palm off this fence-straddling as "opposition" to the imperialist slaughter in Indo-China, but their abstention guaranteed passage of an appropriation of \$285,000,000 to step up the imperialist assault on the Indo-Chinese masses. The abstention was a parliamentary maneuver designed to placate the rank and file of the Stalinist party who are uneasy over the brazen way their chiefs have been supporting butchery of the colonial peoples.

The Stalinists began their maneuver March 19 when the Central Committee of the French Communist (Stalinist) Party declared it would "not be possible to vote military credits for the pursuance of the war against Viet Nam."

This motion caused some surprise as the Stalinist Ministers had unanimously approved the dispatch of imperialist troops to subjugate Indo-China. Some commentators interpreted the Central Committee motion as a Stalinist reply to Truman's address on foreign policy. But they did not make clear whether they thought the Stalinists were trying to prove their indispensability to capitalist governments in putting down independence movements of the colonial peoples, or whether they were trying to frighten Truman with the possibility of a leftward shift in French politics.

Daniel Mayer, a top bureaucrat in the French Socialist Party, declared that up to the time of Truman's address the Stalinists were ready to vote for the military credits.

The motion passed by the Stalinist Central Committee declared that "The national interest demands the maintenance of the influence and position of France in the Far East." This is the same position held by the French imperialists who are conducting

the present war in Indo-China to achieve this aim.

The Stalinist resolution maintains however that "a policy of war" defeats this "national" aim. They advocate peaceful means of maintaining the position of imperialist France over the colonial peoples in the Far East and argue that this can be accomplished by a deal with Ho Chi Minh, one of the heads of the nationalist Viet Nam government.

Premier Ramadier responded to this move by demanding a vote of confidence on March 19. The Stalinist deputies abstained, but all the Stalinist Ministers toed the line, thereby retaining their posts in the Cabinet. The vote of confidence meant that they approved Ramadier's policy of shooting down the Indo-Chinese.

Ramadier followed up next day by demanding a vote on the \$285,000,000 war appropriation. Confronted with this decisive test on March 22, the Stalinist Ministers once again raised their hands for the policy of blood and iron while the rank and file deputies "abstained." Ramadier announced his satisfaction over this vote.

NEW YORK MARXIST LABOR SCHOOL

Change in schedule for series of lectures on THE COMING AMERICAN REVOLUTION

In order to assist in making a success of the affair scheduled for Friday, March 28 by the American Committee for European Workers Relief, the Marxist Labor School decided to postpone the remaining four lectures in the series for one week. The revised schedule follows:

FRIDAYS — at 8 p.m.

3—"BOOM AND BUST"—The Rise and Decline of American Capitalism

April 4 Speaker: John G. Wright

4—THE RISE OF AMERICAN LABOR—Trade Unions in the Epoch of Capitalist Decline

April 11 Speaker: Art Sharon

5—THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN THE U. S.—Role of the Socialist Workers Party

April 18 Speaker: George Clarke

6—AMERICA'S SOCIALIST FUTURE—What Socialism Will Mean for the American Workers

April 25 Speaker: Joseph Hansen
116 University Place at 13th St.

International Notes

Viet Nam Day (Jan. 23) was celebrated in Bombay by the Bolshevik-Leninist Party of India (Trotskyists) in the form of a demonstration before the French Consulate. As usual with all such demonstrations, it had been banned by the Congress Government and was dispersed by the police, who arrested two Trotskyists, Mandekar and Karikal. They were fined and dismissed after a summary trial during which they were denied the opportunity to present a political defense.

Citizens are now forbidden to marry foreigners in the Soviet Union, which was founded by men and women whose whole program could be summed up in the one word—internationalism.

Japan's hated Premier Yoshida last week pleaded with the U.S. to maintain troops in Japan even after a "peace" treaty is signed. "We are having our battles with the Communists, too," he said, "and we have a very dangerous enemy to the north."

The Dutch imperialists are again promising to sign a treaty with the Indonesian Republic, after consistently violating their truce. Last month U.S. authorities in Paris quietly gave the Dutch government an additional credit of ten million dollars for the purchase of American war surplus now on sale in Germany. This makes a total of 30 million dollars credit the Dutch have received for war supplies intended for use against Indonesian fighters for independence.

The new Belgian Cabinet, headed by Premier Spaak, includes the Catholic and Socialist parties and excludes the Stalinists. The Liberals, offered three posts, declined to join the cabinet.

Opponents of Chiang Kai-shek's dictatorship are being arrested in widespread police raids in all the big Chinese cities under the government's control. Efforts of Chiang to secure a "coalition government" by the adhesion of the Social Democratic Party have so far been unsuccessful. Despite Chiang's re-

cent military advances, the Social Democratic leaders are not at all sure he can inflict a decisive defeat on the Yen'an regime.

A heartening sign in Palestine last week was the solidarity between Arab and Jewish workers in their sit-down strike against the Iraq Petroleum Company in Haifa. Only 21 of the 1700 strikers were Jews, but both Jewish and Arab labor groups were supporting the strike.

Workers on the government-controlled National Railroad, the Seoul Electric Co. and the Seoul Telephone Co. staged a 24-hour strike in Korea last week. They demanded release of three union leaders recently arrested for calling an "unauthorized meeting," freedom of unions from police interference, progressive labor laws and an increase in food rations by about one third. Two days later the U. S. trained police arrested 120 labor officials as "fomenters" of the strike.

Less than half of the three million registered voters in the Philippine Islands participated in the plebiscite which amended the constitution to give special privileges to American capitalists. President Roxas two days later took the occasion of this electoral victory to sign a 99-year agreement for U.S. military and naval bases in the islands.

Yugoslavia, faced with a severe grain shortage described by an UNRRA official as "the worst crisis in the country since the Germans left a devastated land," early this month asked the U.S. and the International Emergency Food Council for help in securing 100,000 tons of grain. In a brutal note last week the U.S. State Department replied that Yugoslavia would get no relief from the 350 million dollar appropriation bill now before Congress and would not be permitted to get any grain from the U.S. either through UNRRA or through outright purchase. "Humanitarianism" is reserved for anti-Soviet governments from now on; all others can starve.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Vol. XI - No. 13 Saturday, March 29, 1947

Published Weekly by THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N at 115 University Place, New York 3, N. Y. Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8330 FARRRELL DOBBS, Editor

THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per year; 50c for 6 months. Foreign: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months. Single copies: 5 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in the United States; 4 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in all foreign countries.

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



"The unprecedented wave of sit-down strikes and the amazingly rapid growth of industrial unionism in the United States (the CIO) is the most indisputable expression of the instinctive striving of the American workers to raise themselves to the level of the tasks imposed on them by history."

Leon Trotsky

Ruth Fischer And The Stalinists

By James P. Cannon.

In the February 15 issue of *The Militant* appeared an editorial referring to Ruth Fischer and her testimony against the Stalinist GPU agent, Eisler, before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. The editorial was occasioned by the fact that the capitalist press, following the lead of the *Daily Worker*, had referred to her as a "Trotskyite." Since this is obviously not the case, the object of the editorial was to reject the false political identification of Ruth Fischer with the organized Trotskyist movement.

In the course of the editorial, Ruth Fischer was referred to, in passing, as an "informer." In view of the invidious connotation which is popularly attached to the word "informer," this was a most unfortunate and most inexcusable error. All the more inexcusable since we Trotskyists for many long years have been explaining the criminal character of Stalinism and its GPU murder machine, and have been denouncing it and "informing" against it, and alarming the workers of the world to its deadly menace. We have done this on every possible occasion and from every available forum, be it a public mass meeting, a Commission of Inquiry into the Moscow Trials, the capitalist press, parliamentary committees, or even capitalist courts. And we will gladly do the same again on any occasion where the opportunity presents itself.

In the long generations of the development of the world labor movement a well-recognized standard of ethics has made it a grave offense for representatives of rival parties, groups or factions within the labor movement to submit their quarrels to the adjudication of bourgeois tribunals or to "inform" against each other. Every class-conscious worker, and even every ordinary trade unionist, instinctively recoils against such practices. But the professional killers of the GPU-Comintern apparatus, with the blood of so many tens of thousands of the best flower of the proletariat on their hands, have no right whatsoever to claim the benefits of this labor ethic when anyone points the accusing finger at them at any time or from any tribunal.

Ruth Fischer was right to protest against such a possible implication, in a letter to the National Committee of the SWP, and we sincerely regret the unfortunate and inexcusable incident.

Political assassination, the dread weapon introduced into the labor movement by Stalinism, is a standing threat to the free functioning and even to the very existence of every activist. All factions, all tendencies, all people who hope and strive for a better world must unite to expose and denounce such assassinations, no matter whom the victim may be at the moment. We have always taken this position, and not only in the case of Trotskyists, who contributed more than one drop to the rivers of blood shed by the Stalinist Mafia.

We did all we could to expose the Moscow Trials and to defend the honor of its victims, including those who were not Trotskyists in doctrinal sense of the word. Our party held a protest-memorial meeting for the martyred Andres Nin, leader of the Spanish POUM, and spared no space in our press to accuse the Stalinist murder bund in the mysterious disappearance of the Socialist, Marc Rein, and the mysterious "suicide" of Krivitsky. And the columns of our press likewise remain always open to the Treaca Memorial Committee in its tireless efforts to keep alive his noble memory and track down his assassins.

There is no doubt whatever that Stalinism is the most formidable and dangerous enemy within the ranks of the labor movement and the greatest obstacle to the emancipation struggle of the workers. But who will defeat Stalinism, and what will take its place in those regions of the earth where it is consolidated in the form of state power? That is the question.

Ruth Fischer in the above-mentioned letter also protested against the reference in *The Militant* editorial to her "serving as a tool of American imperialism." If that is taken to signify any conscious and mercenary service to the American imperialist monster on the part of Ruth Fischer—as is the case with not

a few professional anti-Stalinists—then such an interpretation must be emphatically disavowed. We know very well the long and honorable record of Ruth Fischer in the international labor movement, and the difficult conditions under which she has had to work as an emigre in war-time in America, and we do not wish to impugn her personal integrity in any way or to any degree.

Stalinism must be overthrown. By whom? Stalinism must be replaced wherever it is consolidated into a state regime. By what? These are political and not personal questions.

To put the issue positively: Either, the independent movement of the working class will defeat Stalinism and capitalism with it, and proceed to the construction of the Socialist world order. Or, Stalinism, as represented by its state regime, will be overthrown by American imperialism in the course of its mad drive to reduce the people of the entire world to the status of colonial slaves. That is to say, those people who survive the atomic bombs, and the rockets, and the bacterial warfare, and the other harmless toys which the playful "democrats" at Washington are spending so many billion dollars to manufacture and prepare.

In our opinion, it is not enough to be an anti-Stalinist. One must also have a positive revolutionary program. In our opinion, those anti-Stalinists who do not unequivocally take the program of the independent movement of the workers, counterposing it to both Stalinism and capitalist imperialism, must inevitably fall into the service of the latter, regardless of what their subjective intentions may be. The question of Stalinism and how to fight it, and what to replace it with, is a problem of the greatest magnitude. It does not admit of any ambiguity.

This brief article has been written at the direction of the National Committee of the SWP to express its views. We hope to return to the question with much greater amplitude and detail in coming issues of *The Militant*.

Among other things, we want to explain why we make a distinction between the Stalinist workers and the unions led by the Stalinists, and the terrorist apparatus of the Comintern-GPU. We also want to show why we take flat issue with those "democrats" who, maddened by their hatred of Stalinism, would join the capitalist reaction in moves to suppress the Communist Party and deprive its members of their civil rights, thus preparing the destruction of the democratic rights of all workers' organizations and dissident groups.

Help German Workers

While the professional diplomats of the former allies haggle at Moscow over the prostrate body of Germany and cook up new secret deals in their preparations for an atomic war, no one seems to have a word to say in behalf of the German workers, not even the most blatant peddlers of the "Four Freedoms" and the Atlantic Charter during the war. Yet the fate of the German workers is the key to the fate of all Europe.

Among the highly developed capitalist powers, the workers of Germany were the first to surge toward a socialist reconstruction of society. Their mass parties were the most powerful in the world. Their trade unions were the pride of workers everywhere. They seemed destined to lead Europe out of capitalist barbarism into the enduring peace and plenty of planned economy.

But in the First World War, their Social Democratic leaders betrayed them, switching allegiance from the program of socialism to the program of the Kaiser. The flower of the German working class was cut down on the battlefields.

With the end of that war, the survivors sought to set up a Workers and Farmers Government. But again they were betrayed by the Social Democrats, who took office only to bolster up capitalism in Germany.

While the workers began turning toward the Third International of Lenin and Trotsky in search of revolutionary leadership, Wall Street pumped gold into Germany, strengthening the demoralized capitalist class to head off socialism in Germany.

The German capitalists in turn financed Hitler. As the Nazis moved toward power, the German workers put up a desperate opposition. Their leaders again betrayed them. The Third International had degenerated; Lenin was dead, Trotsky in exile, and Stalin rejected revolutionary struggle against Hitler's Brown Shirt gangs.

The German workers never accepted fascism. They were the principle victims of Hitler's terror. Hitler smashed their trade unions, outlawed their political parties, drove down their standard of living, and set up the Gestapo to liquidate opposition the moment it appeared anywhere. Then he dragged them into the armed forces.

Once again millions of German workers were mowed down on the imperialist battlefields.

What have the Allied powers brought this tragic people? Freedom? Democracy? The right to choose their own form of government?

The Allies have severed Germany from the rest of Europe. On top of this they have cut up Germany into four segments. Armies of occupation rule the German people with an iron hand.

Thus under the Allies the German workers are denied the right to freely organize trade unions or their own political parties. They are denied the right to set up the kind of government they want.

Does it take much foresight to see that Allied rule is paving the way for a rebirth of fascism in Germany?

It is in the interests of the American workers to demand the immediate withdrawal of all the armies of occupation from Germany. Let the German workers take power! An end to the policy of bolstering capitalist reaction in Germany!



"Of course you'll have to take a loyalty test, you know, before I can put you on steady!"

MOVIE REVIEW

THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES

Three discharged servicemen meet on a plane bound for Boone City, their home town. Homer, a sailor who has lost both his hands in the war and who now uses hooks in their place; Al, an infantry sergeant, and Fred, a captain of the Air Force. They become buddies during the trip and the film subsequently shows their relationship against the general background of their readjustment.

Homer's main problem is to get accepted as a "normal" person who is not looked upon with pity by his family and others. Fred who had been a soda jerk before entering the Army, has great difficulty landing a job. He is forced to become a soda jerk again and finally finds employment with a junking outfit.

Al, a banker, returns to a normal family life. He is made vice-president of his bank in charge of small loans. When he extends a loan to a former GI without securing collateral as "sound banking" would require, he is severely reprimanded. This leads him to protest against the cautious policy of the bank which he feels is an injustice to those Americans who risked their lives without asking for collateral.

Al has taken Fred home and Fred meets the banker's daughter. Although already married, Fred has trouble finding his wife. They finally meet again and live together a while but their marriage breaks up. At the end of the film Fred is engaged to the banker's daughter.

To some extent the film shows the tensions which the returning veteran suffers. There are some intensely moving scenes and the acting is very good. When compared to other Hollywood products it is an unusual

film, but it does not deserve the wide acclaim it has received. Its fundamental concern is not a truthful presentation of the problems of returning veterans. The major part of the film is devoted to showing the problems of readjustment in the sphere of family relationships.

In the case of Homer, the sailor, the difficulty lies not in whatever changes time and events may have wrought within himself or his family or his sweetheart but in the fact that he has lost both his hands and now must use hooks.

However, these problems, as indicated above, are confined to his physical disability. He has a very comfortable home, good parents, a fine girl friend and he himself appears free from psychological disturbances. Moreover, he receives a pension of \$200 a month. While the emotional struggle over whether his girl wants him out of love or pity, a false picture is given of how well the government takes care of its disabled veterans. The film attempts to reinforce the illusory belief that there is ultimate security in America.

The sergeant-banker returns to a luxurious apartment. There is nothing in the film indicating that he faces any problems of readjusting himself to his family. He and his family evidence the healthiest, that is, an ideal relationship. The returning captain's readjustment to his wife proves to be impossible—they divorce. But by choosing a superficial, pleasure-hungry doll as a wife, the producers have conveniently evaded the seriousness of the problem where it involves decent wives and their returning husbands. The impending marriage between Fred and Peggy, the banker's daughter, at the end of the film, resolves

Fred's readjustment problems through the assurance of ample financial resources and influential relatives.

Thus the film's major pre-occupation — that is, the problems of GI's readjusting themselves to their families — ends in evasion rather than clarification and understanding.

Further: the rise of the "soda jerk" to the rank of captain and his subsequent decline in status in becoming an unskilled civilian again is not shown in relation to the discontent this must produce in the individual. Nor does the film's action explain why a banker enlists as a private when the Army invariably offers commissions to men of his position. Obviously the producers intended to strengthen the common illusion that in America it is not unusual for a soda jerk to rise to captain, and for a banker to remain a sergeant.

One of the most important social factors involved in readjustment is the veteran's disillusionment. Close communal life in the Army and the sacrifice of the best years of their lives to what turns out to be phantoms cloaking a bottomless greed for profits, brought to many veterans upon their return a sharp and painful realization of the dog-eat-dog character of our society. The producers only gingerly touch upon this profound disillusionment. When they do, they choose the relatively innocuous issue of small loans. Then they make sure to have the vice-president of a bank voice whatever social criticism there is in the picture.

The film demonstrates the inability of Hollywood, because of its close ties to the reactionary sections of American society, to produce a picture of true cultural and social value.

— Eugene Shays

Congressmen At Work

Truman Doctrine Means War

The most eloquent response in Congress to Truman's demand to bolster reaction in Greece and Turkey with GIs and funds from the U.S. Public Treasury came from Sen. Millard E. Tydings (D., Md.) on March 18.

Truman's address, he said "revealed with complete and unmistakable clarity the impotence of the United Nations . . . to deal effectively with international affairs." The Senator said this "not in criticism, but simply to present a hard, cold, realistic circumstance."

Tydings brushed aside the argument that the UN could have done something had it money and "an adequate police force." So long as "any one nation or group of nations can array a larger and stronger force," the UN is doomed to remain a "hollow shell."

Citing the failure of the League of Nations as a "peace-keeping body," Tydings declared that "the United Nations, though now 2 years of age, is doomed to similar failure" if the present course continues.

The present course is an "arms race." Tydings asks: "Since Germany and Japan are not to be permitted to re-arm, why do the five great allies maintain a combined navy 1,000 times greater than the remainder of the world, a combined air force a thousand times greater than all others added together, and a combined army 10,000 times greater than all such existing forces in the remainder of the



world?"

The answer, he says, "is as plain as the nose on one's face." The "great armed forces of our own country are being maintained principally for possible use against Russia, Britain, France, or China . . ."

The arms race points straight to an atomic war among the Allies of the Second World War. Tydings describes the opening scenes: "Men, women and children in the great cities will be recklessly slaughtered by the tens of millions. The work of 20 centuries of building and progress will be undone in a single day . . . Such a war would wreck the earth itself!"

The Senator believes it is futile to attempt to outlaw the atomic bomb. "Every realist knows that immediately upon the outbreak of World War III, the treaties governing . . . the atomic bomb will be set at naught . . . All the work of the United Nations to outlaw the use of the atomic bomb will then

be undone in a fraction of a second . . ."

And this is not all. The eloquent political spokesman of the capitalist class calls attention to a striking fact: "The threatening terror of an atomic bomb war has arrested our thinking in other directions. We seem oblivious to the merciless slaughter and wide devastation of the last war, even without the atomic bomb . . . We seem to have forgotten the possible use of bacteriological warfare which if employed . . . can start scourges and plagues which will slay millions from pole to pole. Likewise we fail to remember the death-dealing possibilities of the new poison gases . . ."

In Tydings' opinion these horrors can be avoided only if the Allies voluntarily agree to disarm. But a disarmament conference would most likely "be a failure."

And so Tydings draws the conclusion appropriate to a political representative of Wall Street. While waiting for disarmament, "We must have the biggest army and navy and air force in the world . . . We must have more atomic bombs . . . We must pay the crushing taxes. We must have universal military training. We must reduce our scale of living . . . We must submit to unbelievable regimentation . . . We must be prepared in a world that is armed to the teeth."

About time, we think, to take the war-making powers away from Wall Street's Congress!

Chiang Massacres Formosan People

Three weeks ago the Chiang Kai-shek dictatorship began a wholesale bloody massacre of unarmed workers and peasants in Formosa, through General Chen Yi, governor of the island. Brutal suppression and a continuing reign of terror is Chiang's reply to the demands of the Formosan people for self-government and relief from the strangling rule of foreign monopolists, their corrupt government officials, and military despotism.

The massacre began on March 8. Some 4,000 people were killed. Large-scale arrests of Formosan leaders swept the island, many of whom were executed. Those arrested included public leaders, publishers and members of the National Assembly, which was to have convened on March 15 to present the demands of the people. This monstrous crime was committed by Chiang in the name of "preserving order" and wiping out "Communist inclinations."

On March 10 a two-man Formosan delegation arrived in Nanking, Chinese nationalist capital, to condemn the massacre and demand the dismissal of Governor Chen Yi. They were kept under strict guard, bundled aboard a plane the next day, and flown back to Formosa without having seen the dictator. Instead, martial law was clamped down on the island. A decree was issued ordering dissolution of "illegal organizations," and banning all meetings.

Chiang sent General Liu Yu-ching to Formosa in his personal plane. By ship he dispatched Liu's 21st Division with seven additional brigades from Shanghai, to augment the more than 30,000 troops already on the island. The National Defense Minister and a number of other Kuomintang and military officials were also ordered to Formosa to aid Governor Chen Yi.

For three days Chiang's troops indulged in a murderous orgy, indiscriminately machine-gunning anyone seen on the streets. "There was at no time any organized armed resistance," states a Nanking report to the N. Y. Times on March 22. "Foreigners saw truckloads of Formosans going through the streets with their hands tied behind their backs, later heard reports of wholesale executions at Keelung and saw large numbers of bodies floating in the harbor . . . Of those (leaders) whom Governor Chen had invited to negotiate with him in early March, some were executed, including the chairman of the Tai-wan Tea Association."

The "sullen, bitter resentment" of the masses is so deep that on March 22 a resolution demanding the dismissal of Governor Chen Yi was adopted by an overwhelming majority of the Kuomintang's Central Executive Committee. Although such committee resolutions are usually mandatory on the government, Chiang has as yet taken no action to dismiss the bloody butcher who is carrying out his orders in Formosa.

Stalin's Policies Aid Soviet Union's Enemies

American imperialism, whose aim is to destroy the Soviet Union and subjugate the world, seeks to conceal its robber aims by posing as the champion of economic rehabilitation and democratic rights for defeated and occupied countries.

Wall Street and its London junior partner are aided in their masquerade above all by the policies of the Kremlin.

Stalin supported the war of Allied imperialism against German imperialism as a "progressive war of national liberation." He agreed at Yalta and Potsdam to an imperialist peace providing for dismemberment and despoliation of Germany. Now he is haggling over the terms of that "peace" at the Moscow Conference, where Molotov has put forth the most rapacious demands.

The Kremlin's spokesman calls for monstrous reparations of 20 billion dollars to be drained from the starving German workers and shattered German economy. Half of this sum the Kremlin demands for itself.

Wall Street's diplomats exclaim in pious horror over the Kremlin's brutal terms. They are able to pose as "generous" by rejecting Stalin's reparations demands and insisting on squeezing "only" three or four billion dollars from ruined Germany.

The Kremlin is also the most insistent on dismemberment and annexations. It supports French imperialist claims for annexation of the Saar, one of Germany's two richest coal and iron regions. It defends Poland's annexation of East Prussia and Silesia.

American and British imperialism—chief props of capitalist dictatorships in Europe and ruthless oppressors of colonial peoples—hypocritically pose as defenders of the German people against such dismemberment and annexations. Their real game, of course, is to bolster German capitalism as an aid to the future conquest of the Soviet Union.

Nevertheless, the imperialist powers are able to cover up their own sordid policies and even represent them as benevolent and altruistic compared with the Kremlin's merciless demands on the conquered and crushed German people.

Every action of the Kremlin bureaucracy in the occupied countries of Europe thus provides grist for the anti-Soviet propaganda mill of U. S.-British imperialism. It arouses hostility against the Soviet Union itself and lends substance to the hypocritical claims of the capitalist powers that they seek to defend "democracy against totalitarianism."

Stalin's policies in peace, as in war, violate everything for which Lenin stood. Throughout the first imperialist world war, Lenin opposed all the capitalist powers and called for their overthrow by the revolutionary socialist working class. He insisted, as he stated in the manifesto of the First Zimmerwald Conference in 1915, that "the task is to take up the fight for peace—for a peace without annexations or war indemnities."

On Nov. 8, 1917, the day after the Russian Bolsheviks conquered power, they issued an "Appeal for the Support of the New Soviet Government." This appeal pointed out that the Russian workers "demand immediate suspension of hostilities, immediate peace negotiations which will lead toward an honest peace without annexations and indemnities on the basis of the right of nations to self-determination."

Because the young workers state fought for this policy, it won the support of hundreds of millions and was able to frustrate the imperialist designs against the Soviet Union.

Now Stalin plots and haggles with the imperialists to impose a crushing peace upon the German masses. He thereby discredits the Soviet Union and gives an additional propaganda weapon to the capitalist powers.

WORKERS' FORUM

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

Wants Mexican Gov't To Extradite Budenz

Editor:
Now that the treacherous and slimy Budenz in his new book has seen fit to tell about the Stalinist conspiracy in the murder of Trotsky, it would seem to me that the attention of the Mexican authorities should be turned to him, if that has not been done already.



BUDENZ

His new role in the church on the side of Big Business, should not be allowed to afford him immunity for his part. Though the actual assassin, Jackson, used the pick-axe, Budenz was a link in the GPU conspiracy. Even capitalist justice puts all those involved in a conspiracy on trial.

Let the Mexican government extradite and try Budenz to determine his guilt!
Eventually the arch-conspirator Stalin will also be brought to justice by the international revolutionary tribunal. In the meantime, let us not permit Budenz and his capitalist masters to don the cloak of respectability in connection with the crime against Trotsky!

R. Oliver Philadelphia

Stopped By Sentence Budenz Review

Editor:
In the otherwise excellent review by Art Preis in the March 22 Militant on Budenz's autobiography, This Is My Story, the following statement appears: "He (Budenz) is as he shows himself in this book, a classic example of the Jesuit boast: 'Give us your child until he is eight years old, and it does not matter who has him thereafter!'"
The way this is put, it implies that once a Catholic always a Catholic and that it is impossible for anyone to overcome the religious indoctrination he receives as a child. Was this your intention?

F. C. New York

Explanation R- Art Preis

Editor:
I am indebted to F. C. for bringing this point to my attention. It was furthest from my mind to imply in any way that early religious indoctrination, even of the boasted Jesuit variety, can never be overcome.
My reference applied solely to Budenz. I am confident that the decline of capitalism and de-

NEWARK
APRIL FOOL DANCE
Saturday, March 29
423 Springfield Ave.
Food Refreshments

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

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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.
100 Years of Marxism 1947-1947, Thursday nights, 8 p.m.
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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., 316½ 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.
LYNN, Mass., 44 Central Square, Room 11, Discussion every 2nd and 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.
MILWAUKEE—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St., open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
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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 3-3574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.
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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
Discussion on the SWP Program every Wed. 8 p.m.
BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.
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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 9:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. 3 to 9 p.m. Open forums Sun. 3 p.m. Tel. Court 6060.
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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.
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TOLEDO—108 Summit St., Toledo 4, O. Open daily, Phone MAIN 8919.
YOUNGSTOWN — 35½ South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, Phone 3-1355.

U. S. Capitalism Heading Toward New Crisis Which Cannot Be Averted, Says Economist

By Paul Schapiro

One of the leading press associations some months ago polled the most distinguished economists of the country on their opinions whether there will be a depression, when it will come and how intense it will be. This reflected a deep-going fear of the masses which the capitalist-controlled press is forced to recognize. Fritz Sternberg, a German economist influenced by Marxism, now points out that for the first time in history millions of people look forward with dread to an economic catastrophe long before its arrival. (THE COMING CRISIS by Fritz Sternberg, John Day Company, 1947, 280 pp., \$3.50.)

This is an indication that capitalism has entered a new stage in its development. In its period of expansion each depression was succeeded by a higher level of production. But the world depression of 1929 was different. The drop in production was seven times as great as in the worst previous depression. Unlike all other depressions in the history of capitalism, production for peacetime needs did not rise above pre-depression levels a few years after the depths of the depression had been reached.

The 1929-1939 period was a crisis in the fever-chart of capitalism whose memory the masses still feel. This crisis was suppressed by the Second World War, but it must break out with new intensity in the not too distant future. On the outcome of this crisis depends the fate of mankind.

PREDICTS ITS COURSE

Sternberg does not merely present an arbitrary diagnosis. Making use of the theories and methods of the great Marxists and the empirical data of governmental and academic economists and statisticians, he analyzes the origin and nature of the death-sickness of the capitalist system and shows why it must take the course he predicts.

Periodic depressions, he demonstrates, are inherent in capitalism. When the capitalists cannot sell their products at a profit for lack of a sufficient market, lay-offs and a depression result. The depression is overcome after some of the capitalists go bankrupt, putting part of the productive forces out of operation, and the remainder conquer new markets and more thoroughly exploit the old ones.

However, there is a tendency for depressions to become more and more severe. Competition forces the capitalists to invest more and more money in improving their plants. This means that a continually greater proportion of their expenditures goes to the purchase of machinery as against the payment of wages. There is thus a permanent and growing tendency within capitalism for the machine to displace the worker.

The growth of unemployment exerts a pressure on the labor market which causes real wages to fall, making the working class, the mass of consumers, less than ever a market for capitalist commodities. This law mani-



fested itself in the highly developed capitalist countries in the first half of the nineteenth century, when the growth of industrialism caused a drop in real wages and a series of ever-worsening crises.

This tendency, according to Sternberg, was mitigated by the expansion of the world boundaries of the capitalist system during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Capitalism found the markets it needed in its colonies and semi-colonies, where it drove the independent craftsmen out of production and built railway networks for the transportation of its products. The colonial market enabled the productive forces of the capitalist centers to increase tremendously without causing the system to break down. Moreover, the continued extension of the frontier in the U.S. enabled this country to absorb tens of millions of immigrants during periods of depression in Europe and act as a field of investment and a market for industrial products.

NEEDS VASTER MARKET

This period ended with the First World War. Whereas the growth of the capitalist centers had made necessary a market vastly greater than before, the expansion of the market did not even begin to approach the rate before the war. Since the imperialist countries limited industrialization of the colonies and semi-colonies for fear of competition, the living standards of the natives could not rise. Once the market formerly served by the natives could not rise, the market formerly served by the natives could not rise. Once the market formerly served by the natives could not rise, the market formerly served by the natives could not rise.

The United States, now the greatest industrial country in the world and no longer possessing a frontier, had become an exporter of capital and industrial products and could no longer receive Europe's unemployed millions. And the Soviet Union, pro-

ceeding with its own industrialization and protected the state monopoly of foreign trade, was no longer the market for industrial products that Czarist Russia had been.

PRELUDE TO 1929

After a few years of rebuilding the partially destroyed productive forces following the First World War, this situation caused a unique phenomenon: in a period of prosperity, the great European industrial countries had more unemployment than ever before. The U.S., although its production rose far more than that of the old capitalist countries, did not have an increase in the number of workers employed. This was a sharp deviation from a generation-long trend. It was the prelude to the crisis of 1929 whose like capitalism had never known, a crisis only temporarily resolved by the Second World War.

As a result of its favored position in the war, the U.S. increased production 50% while the industries of Europe and Asia were being devastated. Unable for ten years before the war to find a market for all the country was capable of producing (there were 9 million unemployed in 1940), it now must find a market for the products of this tremendously increased capacity. For a time, war-accumulated consumption demands and demands for machinery for peace-time goods will supply a market, but these factors can only be temporary. The great increase in the productivity of labor has widened the gap between what can be produced and what the masses can buy.

NO ANSWER

Nor do foreign markets offer an answer for the U.S. capitalists. Thanks to imperialism, the colonial areas are too poor to provide that market. For example, if U.S. exports to China were to increase ten times as much as they were during the best years of pre-war prosperity, this trade would rise to a figure of one billion dollars. But the United States can now turn out from 40 to 50 billion dollars more goods than it did before the Second World War. To assume that the corrupt government of Chiang Kai-shek can solve its economic problems sufficiently to be able to import even this comparatively negligible amount is stretching the utmost bounds of optimism.

Similarly, in the case of devastated Europe. The most optimistic estimates of what Europe will be able to import — for it must eventually pay for its imports by exports or services, although it first receives them as grants or loans — do not reach a total at all comparable to the increased productive capacity of the U.S. On the other hand, the drive of the U.S. for foreign markets must aggravate the economic difficulties of other capitalist countries like England.

IN A BLIND ALLEY

American capitalism is therefore heading into a blind alley. Those of its spokesmen who preach the necessity for the government to finance great projects during critical periods in order to maintain full employment, demonstrate their awareness that capitalism can no longer automatically rise out of its period of crisis. However, state investment on a scale sufficient to be of any value cannot merely supplement private investment; it must disorganize it. Thus the only way out for the American capitalists to maintain their profits is through preparation for a totalitarian war.

This conclusion of Sternberg's is irrefutable. One may disagree with some of his observations, particularly his political ones. He is against militarization, but says that "left-wing and progressive elements" must support "armament production of such magnitude as to make any idea of an attack on the United States sheer military lunacy" — a policy which plays into the hands of the war-mongers. He also turns aside from the revolutionary struggle of the workers for socialist power which alone can eliminate the threats of wars and depressions.

But there is no disputing the validity of Sternberg's general analysis of the coming breakdown of U.S. capitalism. His book is a richly detailed corroboration of the main economic conclusions in the Thesis on the Coming American Revolution adopted by the Socialist Workers Party at its November, 1946 Convention.

NEW YORK
Militant Chorus Rehearsals for May Day Meeting Begin Sat. Mar. 29, 4:30 p.m. 116 University Place "Militant" Readers Invited

THE MILITANT ARMY

Connecticut Winds Up With Banners Flying



Connecticut State Branch of the Socialist Workers Party wound up its outstanding subscription campaign with 317 new Militant readers. "Our original quota was 300 subs," explains James White, Literature Agent. "We over-subscribed it by 17 subs. Surprisingly enough, the most gratifying fact of the entire campaign isn't the realization of our goal, but is the fact that the subs are still pouring in at an even faster pace since the campaign is over. This is doubly inspiring because it's the newer comrades who are setting the pace. They simply refuse to quit. . . . Getting 317 subs in three months was no easy task for a branch of our size. Every comrade had to do his share and then some. They came through with red banners flying."

Comrade James continues: "The Connecticut State Branch wishes to thank its friends and sympathizers, whose contributions helped to make this campaign such a tremendous success. "This campaign taught us one thing: 'Getting subs is a matter of luck, but he who has the most luck is he who plugs the hardest!'"

Milwaukee Branch launched its subscription campaign with a successful Red Sunday, according to Fred Martin, Militant Manager. "This last Sunday, we got started on our long-delayed local Militant Drive. We got off to a very good start with 8 comrades getting 23 subscriptions for the morning's work. We have planned the campaign for 6 weeks with 100 subs as the goal. The drive will be ended the 1st of May and the awards and recognition will be given to the winning team and the highest individual at the May Day Celebration that we are planning. The branch is evenly divided into four teams. We are giving a prize to each member of the winning team and a \$3 to \$4 prize to the highest subscriber in the branch. Comrade Gregory is tops so far. She got five subs last Sunday morning. Jack O'Connell is following with four subs."

The subscription campaign in Flint is bringing in scores of new Militant readers. This week El Snyder, Militant Director, sent in 27 subscriptions with the following enthusiastic report: "All I have to report today is that our campaign, a little over the half-way mark, is progressing successfully. It is indeed inspiring to see how the comrades respond to the 'call-to-

arms' in organizing a Trotskyist Party here in Flint. When a Militant mobilization is called, every comrade seems to take it upon himself to see that he or she is at the appointed place to obtain subscriptions. Again, I say, it is inspiring and encouraging to know that we have party loyalty and party discipline which is upholding the traditions of true Trotskyism."

Letters from Literature Agents in the Boston and Lynn branches report good results during the second week of their subscription campaigns.

Rena Breshi, Boston, says: "We went out on our second week of the sub campaign and we got 14 subs. Next week we are going to try a different neighborhood, as this present one doesn't seem too successful. My partner and I received 5 subs and two people told us to come back Tuesday because they had no change. The other crews didn't do so well though, so they are determined to try harder next time. I am sending in 17 subs."

Hilda Webster, Lynn: "Last Sunday was our second mobilization out here in Lynn. The comrades got a total of 11 new subs. It means that we have to plug harder if we are to attain our goal of 100 new subscriptions in 6 weeks. But I'm sure the comrades will make every effort to reach our goal."

The comrades in Philadelphia obtained 10 subscriptions to The Militant during the week.

The Pittsburgh Branch ordered 20 additional copies of the March 15 issue of The Militant. "We're planning a trip down to the mine fields on Saturday," explains Justine Lang, "and want to use this issue of the paper."

Paul Shell, Literature Agent for St. Paul, writes: "Enclosed are a batch of subs to The Militant and F. I. which with the subs we sent in Wednesday gives us our quota for The Militant this month. The Militant subs were all obtained in the drive that we put on from Sunday until the branch meeting tonight."

Sam Taylor of Madison, Wis. sent in three more subs to The Militant.

Another Militant booster, Manuel Sunshine of Los Angeles, renewed his own sub for six months and sent in a six-month sub for a friend.

Late Contributions Augment Total Of SWP Fund Campaign

The following contributions to the \$20,000 Emergency Fund for the Socialist Workers Party have been received since the completion of the campaign last week.

Tacoma has sent in \$12.50, which completes the quota for that branch. Detroit has mailed

in \$42, which brings the amount collected by that branch up to \$616, or 62%. Toledo dispatched \$20.50, which makes two-thirds of its \$300 quota.

A contribution of \$10 has also been received from E. H. in California.

The total collected in the campaign to date now stands at \$19,528.17.

NEWARK
MILITANT LABOR FORUM
Fridays at 8:30 P.M.
April 4 to May 16
AMERICA'S SOCIALIST FUTURE
WORLD EMPIRE: WALL ST.'S GOAL—Foreign Policy of U. S. Imperialism
APRIL 4 CHARLES CORNELL
OUT OF THE PAST—America's Revolutionary Traditions
APRIL 11 WM. F. WARDE
"BOOM AND BUST"—Rise and Decline of U. S. Capitalism
APRIL 18 JOHN G. WRIGHT
THE RISE OF AMERICAN LABOR—Unions in the Epoch of Capitalist Decay
APRIL 25 ART SHARON
NEGROES AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT—The Struggle Against Jim Crow
MAY 2 JOE MAGDELNO
THE REVOLUTIONARY PLANET—Role of Socialist Workers Party
MAY 9 GEORGE CLARKE
AMERICA'S SOCIALIST FUTURE—What Socialism Will Mean for U. S. Workers
MAY 16 JOSEPH HANSEN
423 Springfield Ave.
\$1 for series 20c per lecture

Youth Activities
AKRON. — Socialist Youth Club meets Fridays, 7 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing, 8 South Howard St., 2nd floor.
CHICAGO. — Youth meeting Fridays at 8 p.m. Discussion on pamphlet Socialism On Trial, Games and refreshments, 777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.
LOS ANGELES. — Socialist Youth Club meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Educational sessions after every meeting. Refreshments served.
NEW YORK. — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3. Open Forum: Every Friday, 8 p.m., 116 University Pl., Dancing, refreshments.
Saturday Nite House Parties: call GR 5-8149 for information.
For information about Queens Youth Group, write M. Kevin, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3.
PHILADELPHIA. — For information call ST. 4-5820, from noon to 6 p.m.

Speaking Of Operations

By Theodore Kovalesky

They say middle-aged women love to talk about their operations. Well, sometimes we talk about them too... like the day before yesterday when Paul Strack, the larryman on our gang, was up on the furnace floor for a shutdown. Paul had just come back to work after an operation, and we were talking about operations in general.

Finally Jimmy said, "That's nothing next to what I read in a magazine once. It told about a fellow that had headaches all the time. He went to a doctor about it, and it turned out he had a tumor."

Pete Rossi whistled, "A brain tumor! That's bad." "Sure is," Jimmy went on. "The doctor told him he had to have an operation or else he'd die in a couple of months. So he had the operation, and they took out a third of his brain."

"A third!" Slim was incredulous. "How did he ever pull through?" "Oh, he lived, all right," Jimmy said. "But, you know one thing? He began to get them headaches again before long. You see, it was one of them what they call malignant tumors, and the doctor didn't get all of it, so he had to go back for another operation."

"Well, they took out another third of his brain, and —" "Hey, wait a minute, Jimmy," Pete interrupted. "I think you're coming out with some more of that baloney of yours."

"Honest, Pete," Jimmy was all sincerity. "I read this in a magazine. I'll bring it out here and show it to you." "Hell," Pete snorted, "no man could live with two-thirds of his brain gone..." "Well, he did, and then after a while he began to get these awful headaches all over again, and he went back to see the doctor —"

"And then they took out the last third of his brain!" howled Both Slim and Pete in unison. "Look," Jimmy said reproachfully, "I'm only telling you what I read in a magazine. They said it was one case in a million."

"I guess it was," Pete said with heavy sarcasm. "I suppose the guy's still living without any brain?" "That's right," Jimmy said. "He's doing fine now."

"What's he doing now?" Slim asked. "How does he make a living without any brain?" Jimmy finally broke into the long-delayed grin. "He's in Congress, on the Labor Committee!"

I groaned. "Jimmy," I said, "How can you remember such an old story?" A couple of minutes later when we had stopped kidding, Pete suddenly said, "You know, that story of Jimmy's is all wrong!"

I grinned. "Yeah?" "Sure! Those Congressmen ain't so dumb! They've got all kinds of connections with Big Business, and they've got plenty of money. They're not so dumb when it comes to socking it into the workingman. They know what they're doing!" "Yeah," we said.

The Negro Struggle

Marshall Defines Democracy

By William E. Bohannon

This spring the thoughts of politicians preparing for war seem to be turning to definitions of democracy. Last week this column discussed President Truman's remarks on the subject in his March 12 speech demanding funds and military personnel to be used in Greece and Turkey.

This week we want to discuss Secretary of State Marshall's definition of the subject, made in connection with the discussions on Germany's future at the Moscow "Peace" Conference.

Among the basic democratic rights, says Marshall, is "the right of every individual to develop his mind and his soul in the ways of his own choice, free of fear and coercion — provided only that he does not interfere with the rights of others."

But how about Isaac Woodard? He was a Negro soldier, on his way home after overseas service — what happened to his right to develop according to his own choice, free of terror and coercion? Why wasn't the South Carolina cop who gouged out his eyes ever mildly punished? "To us," Marshall continued, "a society is not democratic if men who respect the rights of their fellow men are not free to express their own beliefs and convictions without fear that they may be snatched away from their home or family."

In that case, what kind of society do we have

in Mississippi where Negroes cannot freely express their beliefs, even in the Democratic Party primaries, without fear that they will be beaten or lynched? Not a democratic society, according to this definition.

"To us," Marshall went on, "a society is not free if law-abiding citizens live in fear of being denied the right to work or deprived of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

If that is true, then what kind of society exists in the United States where law-abiding Negro citizens are constantly denied the right to work at jobs for which they are qualified? What kind of society is it where the government refuses to adopt legislation to end such job discrimination? Or that refuses to protect life and liberty by adopting legislation against lynching and the poll tax?

Certainly not a free society, according to Marshall's definition.

But why is this matter even brought up by a dyed-in-the-wool brass hat, who has never tolerated the slightest suspicion of democracy in his own field, the army? As my mother says, even the devil will quote Scripture. Marshall is not interested in protecting democracy; he is just using it as propaganda against the Stalinist bureaucrats in the Soviet government. His aim is not to get democracy for the Germans or the Russians or for anyone else; it is just to prepare the political ground for another war, when the brass hats will be able to take over not merely part of the government, but all of it.

Number One Killer

By Grace Carlson

Among all of the "Weeks" which are celebrated throughout the year — "Be Kind To Your Dog Week," "Own Your Own Home Week," etc., "National Heart Week" (Feb. 9 to 14) certainly has the greatest value. It is the National Heart Association which sets aside this week in order to acquaint the public about heart disease and to raise funds for additional research in this field.

Heart disease is the nation's number one killer. During World War II, the battle deaths among the armed forces approximated 325,000, but during this same period, more than two million men, women and children on the "home front" were killed by diseases of the heart and blood vessels. Heart disease takes a greater toll than the five other leading causes of death combined — three times as many deaths as cancer; six times as many as accidents; seven times as many as pneumonia and ten times as many as tuberculosis.

After the age of 45, one out of every two deaths is caused by heart disease, but it is not simply an affliction of old age. Heart disease causes more deaths among children between the ages of 10 and 15 than any other disease. It is rheumatic heart disease which strikes down young children, especially the "ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed" children of the poor.

Heart disease is due to three main causes —

congenital conditions, infections and degenerative processes. A great deal of attention has been given recently to the new surgical techniques for correcting the congenital condition found in "blue babies." But such congenital conditions account for only about 5% of the heart disease among children. The remaining 95% comes from the highly infectious rheumatic fever, which damages the valves of the young heart and causes early death or permanent disability.

As to the specific causes for degenerative heart disease very little is known, but they are probably related to advancing years. Overwork and shorten lives by 10, 15 or 20 years. The main problem for this type of cardiac patient is to find a way to eliminate the twin evils — overwork and overwool. But how to do this in a cut-throat capitalist world? Physicians who have a fine understanding of the physical, emotional and social maladjustments of the cardiac cripple cannot tell him how to end overwork and overwool.

In his book, "What You Can Do For Angina Pectoris and Coronary Occlusion," Dr. Peter Steincrohn has this not-so-awfully-consoling advice for heart patients: "These are the successful failures. They are the ones who accomplish much for their generation, but, like the busy bees, they die off sooner than the rest of the hive. They pay for that inward satisfaction of accomplishment with the priceless coin of shortened years."

Notes From The News

Herman Talmadge, ousted pretender to the post of Governor in Georgia, is going to tour the South in a series of lectures with the fascist demagogue, Gerald L. K. Smith, in preparation for next year's elections.

The Socialist Workers Party is working for the defeat of the Larson-Wagner-Dickinson bill, now before the Minnesota Legislature. Directed at the Communist Party, the bill menaces civil liberties by violating the rights of a minority group to place candidates on the state ballot.

Nation-wide indignation has forced the Senate to grant a press gallery card to Negro newspaperman Louis Lautier.

Members of the Los Angeles CIO Newspaper Guild voted unanimously last week to stay away from films until the current studio dispute is ended. (California law prevents the calling of a boycott.)

James Burnham's new book, *The Struggle for the World*, which calls for atomic war against the USSR, is getting a big build-up in the capitalist press. Life will carry a long conden-

sation of it and several magazines are printing chapters.

A secretary employed by the UN was found on the verge of tears after Truman's speech. She said she had left a good job to come to the UN, but now it seemed a "sad mistake."

The Texas Company, whose oil interests in the Middle East are being protected by Truman's program for Greece and Turkey, last week announced that in 1946 it enjoyed a consolidated net profit, excluding European subsidiaries, of over 71 million dollars after taxes and reserves for depreciation, etc.

Put Campbell Soups on your unfair list. It broke off negotiations with the CIO after its contract lapsed this week.

The CIO Executive Board has instructed officials of affiliated internationals and industrial union councils to build the CIO-PAC and not to identify themselves with either the PCA or ADA.

There were over 600,000 industrial injuries in California last year, of which 180,000 were serious. The state's manufacturing industries employ 705,800 workers.

Flint Progressives Win In Chevrolet Elections

Unionization Firm In Panama Canal



Some of the 20,000 CIO United Public Workers in the Panama Canal Zone who paraded recently to prove the union was there to stay. This demonstration refuted the prediction of local officials and brass hats who predicted six months ago that unionization of the workers would not last. —Federated Pictures

Bartell Hits War Plans In Address Over Radio

The concluding remarks in a speech delivered by Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor of Chicago, over Station WJJD on Mar. 23:

I want to state the position of the Socialist Workers Party on the Truman Doctrine clearly and unambiguously. We are entirely and unconditionally against this doctrine.

We are categorically opposed to intervention in Greece, Turkey or anywhere else. We demand withdrawal of all American troops and military missions from foreign soil.

We are for the complete independence of the colonial peoples. We are against the new imperialist war that is now in preparation. We call upon all those who wish to stop a new atomic war to fight against it before it is too late.

Even before terms of the "peace" treaties closing World War II are agreed upon, World War III is being planned. Three wars in one generation — what a damning indictment of the capitalist order! We must find a way to stop these madmen before they lead all of humanity to destruction. The only real answer to Truman's doctrine of unbridled American imperialism is to abolish the decadent capitalist system.

War is as much a part of the capitalist system as profits and wages. As long as capitalism continues, wars are inevitable. Only a world socialist society can eliminate exploitation and national hatreds, and insure peace and plenty for all mankind.



M. BARTELL

New Jersey SWP Runs Candidates For Convention

NEWARK, Mar. 25 — Nominating petitions are now being circulated to place three Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot as delegates for the forthcoming New Jersey Constitutional Convention. Alan Kohlman, William E. Bohannon and George Breitman will represent the SWP in Essex County in the special election to be held June 3.

The present State Constitution, written in 1844, is considered outmoded by all political tendencies, including the Republican and Democratic parties. In his inaugural address in January, Republican Governor Driscoll called for revision, and the State Legislature adopted a bill calling for a special election to decide on the question of revision and to elect delegates for a convention.

An analysis of the issues involved in the revision of the constitution as well as reports on the election activities of the SWP will be printed in *The Militant*.

SWP Calls For Labor Unity Against Red-Baiting In L.A.

LOS ANGELES, March 22 — The Socialist Workers Party here has appealed to all local unions and working class political parties to join in protest against the City Council's unanimous resolution endorsing Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach's proposal to outlaw the Communist Party (Stalinist).

Myra Tanner Weiss, Los Angeles SWP organizer, and Louis Kinsner, SWP candidate for City Council in District 15, charged in a telegram to the Council that Schwelienbach's scheme "is a travesty on the democratic and constitutional rights of the American workers."

"Each of you by your vote has earned the condemnation of the entire labor movement. We demand an immediate reversal of the Council's stand and a cessa-

By Sol Dollinger

FLINT, Mar. 22 — Continuing their sweep in the large UAW Chevrolet Local 659, the Progress and Action Caucus, headed by Don Chapman for president, carried all positions in the local union elections by a large majority. Over 3,500 members cast their votes in recording this solid victory.

This was the hardest fought election in the history of the local and perhaps any local for its size in the UAW International. It must be noted that all three groups campaigned for office on programmatic issues.

However, it remained for Progress and Action to carry the fight on all questions facing the workers today. It did this from beginning to end. In the last week of the runoff, the three groups issued a dozen leaflets throughout the Chevrolet plants. They covered all the issues in the campaign.

JOHNSON ELECTED

Among the candidates elected were Kermit Johnson, Recording Secretary, and Harrison Johnson, the first Negro in Chevrolet ever elected to a union office. He polled the top vote out of six candidates for Executive Board at Large.

In the course of the campaign, Progress and Action smoked out Tex Owens, incumbent president, and his position on the proposed city property tax increase. Progress and Action hit heavily on this issue in the latter part of the drive. It proposed to tax the rich instead of the already overburdened auto workers.

On March 16 the Chevrolet Labor Party Committee repudiated Tex Owens' stand which favored a property tax increase on small homeowners, the vast majority of auto workers. The Committee, as reported in the last issue of *The Militant*, solidly condemned any increase.

It called upon the auto workers to vote against the tax increase and recommended that all GM workers support Carl Johnson, Lawrence Jones, Chairman of the Labor Party Committee and a veteran, and Jack Palmer, elected Vice-President of 659, for the office of Flint Board of Education. All three workers are members of the Chevrolet local.

OWENS REPUDIATED

It is to the credit of the Chevrolet militants that, while engaged in a hot local union election, they still found time to handle the pressing broad problems of taxation. In less than a week, petitions for the three candidates were signed and this

Local 659's New President Issues Statement On Policy

FLINT, Mar. 22 — The following statement for the press was issued here by Don Chapman, newly elected president of UAW-CIO Chevrolet Local 659, and head of the Progress and Action Caucus:

"The Progress and Action Caucus and I, as its successful candidate for president of Chevrolet Local 659, have won a sweeping victory. We represent precisely what our name implies — progress and action.

"Despite the fact we have been forced to vote with Reuther in the past on some union issues, we support neither of the two power caucuses in the International Union. The Thomas and Reuther groups, like Nero, are fiddling while Rome burns.

"We will give our wholehearted support to either or both groups whenever they present the auto workers with a militant, aggressive, fighting program.

"Their present bickering over posts and offices provokes nothing less than bitter disappointment in every worker anxiously watching their antics.

"As elected officers we will exert every effort to get the International officers out of their

morning submitted to the city clerk.

"I am in favor of school improvements and a wage increase for all school employees." Lawrence Jones asserted to the press.

"It is my belief that all taxation should be levied on the principle of ability to pay. That means we must tax the rich who can afford it and refrain from any other taxes on small homeowners — who are groaning under present onerous taxation.

"Every man, woman, and child in this state is paying an average of \$460 in taxes each year. Forty per cent of an auto worker's income goes to maintain the state and national institutions. This is too much!

"I believe, as an auto worker and a veteran, that any further taxation must be levied against General Motors and the other corporations in Flint. That is the answer to the tax problem."

Tex Owens, whose position was decisively repudiated in the Labor Party Committee and now by the local union, issued a lame-duck statement to the CIO Council paper attempting to pour a wet blanket on the progressive developments towards independent political action. Owens claimed the Labor Party was

Merger Of Relief Committees Will Aid Needy Europeans

NEW YORK, Mar. 22 — The American Committee For European Workers Relief announced last week that Labor Action European Relief Service has discontinued its separate activities and fused with the ACEWR.

Supporters of the LAERS will join ACEWR chapters in their vicinities and help form new chapters where none exist. The lists of working-class families helped by each organization have been merged. Needless to say, this will be of immediate benefit to anti-fascists in Europe who depend upon international solidarity for nourishing food and warm clothing.

The ACEWR has just completed a shipment of medicines to Europe, including \$100 worth of streptomycin which was requested by the French committee, Solidarite Internationale Ouvriere. The medicine will be used to treat an anti-fascist worker suffering from a serious kidney ailment that only this drug — unobtainable in France — can cure.

Donations of this type are made possible by such ACEWR chapters as Philadelphia, which always has on display a donation-can specifically for medicines. Also the Boston chapter, which so far during the month of March sent in over \$350 raised through their Italian Night Dinner Party.

The New York ACEWR Chapter is showing Joris Ivens' fam-

present factional rut and on the high road to a clear cut fight to defend the auto workers' sorely depressed standard of living.

"We believe this can only be accomplished through a serious struggle for the following:

"1. United conferences of all labor, AFL, CIO, and independent unions on a city, state, and built up to a national scale. This is part of the answer to Congress' attempt to legislate labor out of existence.

"2. The immediate formation of a national Labor Party, based solidly on the union movement. This is also part of our answer to Congress.

"3. An escalator clause in every union contract whereby a sliding scale of wage increases will be granted for every percentage increase in prices. This is our answer to employer created inflation.

"Around this program we intend to unite the GM workers in Flint."

"doomed" because it voted against tax increases. The Chevrolet workers have given their answer by voting Owens out of office.

CLEAR UNDERSTANDING

The newly elected officers have shown every indication that they understand the clear mandate of the membership. They intend to aggressively carry through their campaign obligations and build a Labor Party by a full scale activity around the School Board elections. This includes approaching the leadership and rank-and-file of the other locals for support.

Local 659, situated in the second largest auto building city in the country and the heart of the GM empire, is in a position to exert real influence among the auto workers. By steadfast, persistent and conscientious work, it can play an important part in showing UAW members the way out of the present blind alley the union is in. Every auto worker should study the developments and program of the Chevrolet workers and apply them in his own local.