

# What the Bosses Are Doing for Unemployment Relief

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**R**ELIEF for the unemployed is completely breaking down in the United States. Not only are the unemployed going hungry, but more workers are being thrown out of the factories, shops and offices, wages are being reduced and more taxes are being piled on the shoulders of the workers and poor farmers.

Hoover wants to balance the budget. To do so, he proposes a month's furlough without pay for all government employees, except those receiving \$1,000 a year or less, five days a week with corresponding reduction in pay. The House Committee composed of democrats and republicans, proposed a straight cut of 11 per cent in pay except for the lowest paid workers. This would in addition mean the laying off of about 75,000 government workers. Hoover says nothing more about the government "building program," which was to "help over the depression." This means government outlay, and the government refuses to do anything either in work of relief for the unemployed.

All the governors have forgotten their "building programs," being compelled by Wall Street to "retrench." The mayors of the cities yielding to the dictates of Wall Street bankers, cut out building and cut down everything except their own salaries and the graft, which blooms as never before. In New York City the building program of \$213,000,000 was cut out at one stroke, because Walker, as a tool of Wall Street, accepted the bankers' decrees.

The governors say "there is no starvation" in their states. Certainly not in the state capitols! These governors LIE and think that by these statements of "confidence" they will be able to "improve the situation" and "set the country on the way to prosperity once more." With this bunk they will feed no hungry children—and they have no intention of doing so.

Let us look at some of the projects of these governors. Roosevelt refused to advocate unemployment insurance for all workers, or any kind of adequate relief. Instead, he had the state legislature put forward a bond issue of \$30,000,000 for relief—to be voted on in New Jersey. The six governors meeting in Albany propose unemployment insurance—to be introduced as a starvation measure only as propaganda for the election campaign. Ritchie, the Negro lynch-er, also approves unemployment insurance, although he insists that "no one is starving in this state (Maryland)."

But this does not help the situation. Refusing to provide unemployment relief, the various cities have turned to plundering the workers through "block aid," "block to block" schemes. What have the unemployed got out of these drives?

In New York City, which boasts of being the richest city in the world, and which has the highest number of unemployed, the amount spent for relief is near the lowest in the country, \$2 per head during a period of six months. "Thirty-three thousand family heads employed by the City Welfare Commission who were working three days a week at \$5 to \$5.50 a day, have been reduced to two days work. Immediate relief

amounts to \$2.67 per week per family, and now the plan is to "reduce it to \$2.03 per week, or 29 cents a day for food, rent, fuel and the other necessities of life," as the Welfare Council reports. Emergency work will be cut in half, which means that instead of earning \$10 a week, the family heads will be reduced to \$5 a week. The immediate outlook is that 8,000 of the 36,000 on the rolls of the Emergency Work Bureau will be fired immediately, with an uncertain fate for the remaining 28,000.

Facing this tragic situation, and determined not to do anything for the unemployed except club and pail them when they fight for bread, proposals are made in New York City for \$20,000,000, \$40,000,000 and \$60,000,000 plans as covers for the refusal to provide anything adequate for the more than 1,000,000 unemployed in the city. "Real programs" of relief are proposed but the only method of raising the money is to fleece the workers. Not a penny in taxes is suggested—for "business men are complaining about the impossible taxation." But an increase in subway fares is brought forward as a matter of course—for this will come out of the pockets of the workers.

Mayor Murphy, the murderer of the Ford workers, declares that he will veto the cut in pay of the teachers, but advises the city council to pass the bill over his veto!

Not able to stem the tide of discontent, the A. F. of L. bureaucrats and American Legion started their drive for 1,000,000 jobs. Up to date (April 23), they report 594,102 jobs procured. WE CHALLENGE THEM TO PROVE THAT THESE 594,000 ARE AT WORK. We declare that not even a fraction of these men are working, or if they are, they have merely taken the work away from other workers. When the figure had reached 220,000, the American Legion admitted that a like number had been fired, and many of these jobs were only TEMPORARY. The A. F. of L. officials and the American Legion, as allies of big business, are putting up the same bluff as the bosses themselves.

The Block Aid reports up to April 18 \$441,367 in cash collected and pledges of \$315,822. Most of this money came out of the pockets of workers in factories, stores, offices, for the workers of New York in the neighborhoods have given these highway robbers the proper answer: THEY HAVE SLAMMED THE DOOR IN THEIR FACES.

This will not suffice: The workers must organize into the Unemployed Councils and fight, for the bosses are resolved to let the workers starve rather than provide relief. Not only are they cutting wages systematically, but are reducing the level of relief so low, where they grant it, that a man and his family cannot live. And with the discrimination against particularly Negro workers, foreign born and single workers, it is obvious that the bosses are storing up DYNAMITE which will explode, for the workers will not go on starving for the next "five or six years" that Schwab predicts the crisis will last.

Against starvation and for unemployment relief and the Workers Unemployment Insurance Bill—that is the struggle of the unemployed and employed workers today!