

# LABOR CAMPS STEP IN MILITARIZING JOBLESS

## Roosevelt Program Provides Billions for War But No Unemployment Insurance

By I. AMTER

**F**ORCED LABOR in preparations for war—this is Roosevelt's program. This is his program against the working class and in feverish mobilization of the forces of the country for imperialist war. The illusions that Roosevelt created by his promises during the election campaign, and by the energy that he displayed since his inauguration in "getting things done" are now being dispelled. The legislation which he has put through with the help of a willing congress is beginning to break the illusions and put Roosevelt in the proper light before the workers—as the enemy of the working class and as the war president.

### ARMY OF FORCED LABOR

The "relief" program just adopted by congress is nothing less than army forced labor. That is, recruit-

Roosevelt's record since inauguration. It is a program of army slave labor and war.

**F**RANCES PERKINS, Roosevelt's "liberal" secretary of labor defends this program. William Green objected and upon his recommendation many parts of the forced labor bill were rewritten. Now a member of the A. F. L. officialdom, Robert Fechner, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists is national head of the forced labor camps. Just as in 1917 the trade union bureaucracy was mobilized by President Wilson, so in 1933 they are mobilized by President Roosevelt to carry out the capitalist program in effect.

What is the forced labor program now being elaborated in many cities? In New York, a building project is suggested on the basis of a



ing by the army stations; transportation by army trucks; "preliminary training" by army officers; army discipline for one year's time—the period of recruitment, pay, food and lodging and \$30 a month. The \$30 will not go to the worker, but for the upkeep of his family, thereby taking the responsibility of relief away from present relief agencies.

Not only 250,000 "free" American workers will be militarized. Already such camps are in existence in many states now. Roosevelt has called a conference of governors and mayors for the purpose of extending the scheme over the entire country—to put millions of American workers into army camps in preparation for imperialist war.

This is also Glassford's program for the homeless youth, to place them in military camps such as, are already being established in all parts of the country—California, Florida, New York.

### BUILDING BIG NAVY

But this is not all: Secretary of the Navy, Swanson proposes a billion dollar navy. To bring up the standard of the U. S. navy to the London quota. This, he says, is also to "provide work for the unemployed." The navy department suddenly discovers that 85 per cent of the cost of naval vessels goes to labor. Such liberals, such interest in the unemployed, such big heartedness. Why it is not for war that he wants a bigger navy—it is all in the "interest of the worker."

The "economy program" of federal wage slashes, the forced labor program, farmers "relief"—this is

loan from the R. F. C. An eight million dollar project which will afford building trades workers a "yearly wage of \$800." Well, Mr. Green and building trades leaders, where are the 8, 10, and 12-dollar a day pay agreements with the contractors? This is not "free" labor—it is FORCED labor. But "free" labor will take the jobs—union men will be told to forget about wage agreements. Do you expect, Messrs. Green, Woll, Hutcherson, Hillman and Co., that the workers will believe your fine phrases about the "enslavement of labor" and the "uprisings" in which you will lead them?

### WORKERS MUST

#### REPLY

But workers must not think that Roosevelt's signing of the forced labor bill means that the workers must accept it. The following measures outlined by the Unemployed Councils in a statement in the Daily Worker should be made the basis of struggle. These are: Demonstrations at the army recruiting stations where the men are being recruited! Prevent the degradation of the American workers through forced labor! This is in preparation for war, which comes nearer each day. Demand adequate relief at home for all workers! Fight for unemployment insurance at the expense of the bosses and the government! Show up the position of the labor bureaucrats who are working with Roosevelt and the Wall Street bankers in preparing for a new imperialist slaughter. Roosevelt's "energy" must be met with energetic united struggle on the part of the workers.