

## 5,000 PROTEST AGAINST W.P.A. CUTS

### W.P.A. To Cut Rolls Another 100,000 in June

Will Bring Total Number of "Guinea Pigs" Sacrificed Since November to 850,000—No Jobs in Industry for Dismissed Workers

Another 100,000 W.P.A. workers are to be dropped, sent to beg for home relief if they can get it, with no hope of private employment! That is the cold-blooded decision of the Roosevelt W.P.A. Administration.

These 100,000 are to be dropped in June, bringing the total dropped since November to the staggering figure of 850,000.

In the words of Congressman Dudley A. White, the first cuts were "an experiment to see whether relief expenditures could not be cut down somewhat as economic recovery progressed." When you experiment with cutting up guinea pigs it doesn't matter much if the pigs die, you can get millions more cheap. But, presumably, the millions of unemployed and their families are not guinea pigs to experiment with, leave and die.

with it will go Roosevelt's popularity. The masses cannot eat his cannons. They want bread, and bread they will have, in spite of the War Deal. The workers who showed the world the great sit-down wave of unionization will not starve for Roosevelt or anybody else.

### LYNCH NEGRO WORKER IN MISSISSIPPI

**Worse Than Guinea Pigs**  
Yet in a laboratory experiment, once the desired result is achieved, the experiment is concluded, and no more guinea pigs are slaughtered. But in the case of the unemployed, the slaughter goes on even after it has been ascertained that "economic recovery" has not taken care of those dropped.

For, as reported in the last issue of the *Socialist Appeal*, the American Association of Social Workers established in a national survey two basic facts:

1. "At its peak, W.P.A. failed to absorb large groups of needy employable persons certified as eligible for such employment."  
2. New Deal claims that the sharp W.P.A. cuts since November were justified by increased possibilities for private employment were punctured by the survey figures. "From November 1938 to January 1939 W.P.A. wages declined sharply—by nearly 10 per cent in two months—while general (direct) relief rose even more sharply—by 19 per cent."

During that period 310,000 were laid off W.P.A. but in the same time the general relief rolls increased by more than 241,000 cases. The same phenomenon has continued since. In other words, those cut off W.P.A. jobs are not absorbed by private jobs, but go to home relief or starve.

Yet in the face of these facts—well known to the Administration of course—the Roosevelt War Deal officials brazenly continue chopping down the W.P.A. employment rolls.

**500,000 Face Dismissal**

Even in their present state of dismantling, the W.P.A. rolls include 500,000 more workers than are provided for in Roosevelt's relief budget message of April 27, proposing an average of only two million W.P.A. jobs for the coming year beginning July 1. These half million workers face dismissal shortly before or after July, if Roosevelt has his way. Sardonically enough, the Gallup poll has just completed a survey in which it asked a cross-section of people: "What do you think is the greatest accomplishment of the Roosevelt Administration during the six years it has been in office?" Voters in the lower income groups, who of course provide the decisive majority of the population, listed as the major accomplishment of the administration its relief and W.P.A. program.

But that was the Roosevelt New Deal. Now it is the Roosevelt War Deal. And to feed the voracious war machine, the entire relief and W.P.A. system is being abandoned. But

### Tortured with Hot Irons, Shot, for Refusing Pay Cut

(By Staff Writer)  
NEW YORK, June 2.—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today revealed the hot-iron torture lynching of Joe Rodgers, a Negro lumber worker, of Canton, Mississippi. Rodgers was shot, brutally cut, tortured by hot irons, and his body thrown into the Pearl River by the foreman of the mill at which he was employed.

Rodgers' crime was that he had refused to accept a weekly wage deduction of \$5.50 in payment for renting a company-owned cabin which he did not occupy.

**Official Silence**  
No one has been arrested for the crime, and the local papers have maintained a complete silence. Town officials have advised residents to refrain from discussing the crime.

According to the testimony of the investigator, Rodgers on May 8 refused to take a \$5.50 weekly cut, asking for full payment. His foreman struck him

### STALIN DECREE ON AGRICULTURE INDICATES SOVIET CONDITIONS

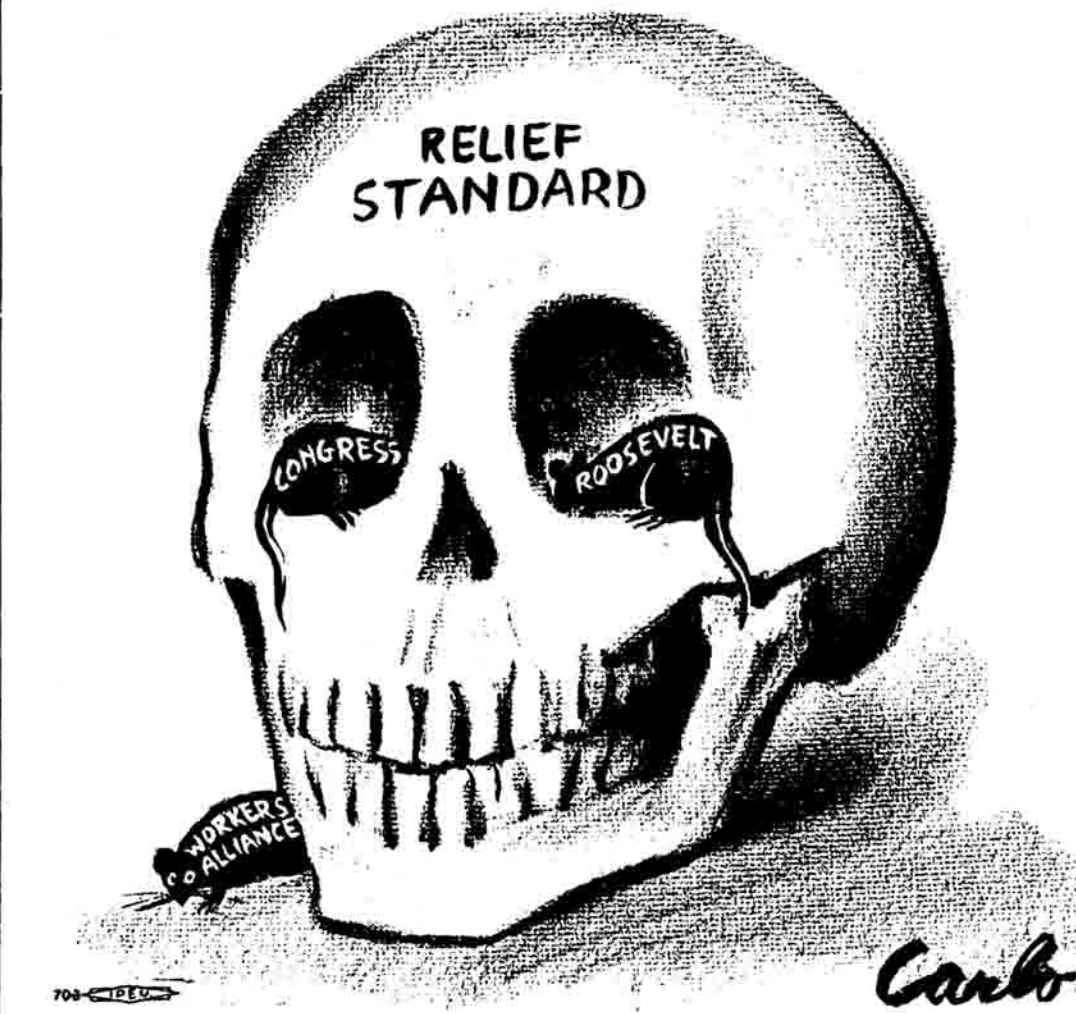
Increase in Number of "Landlord Peasants" Exposes Wide Crack in Soviet Economy

A drastic and sudden new decree on agriculture, signed by Stalin and Molotov and issued by the Kremlin on May 28, provides ten times more significant comment upon conditions within the Soviet Union than all the rhetoric about the triumph of socialism and the first stage of communism at Party congresses or all the faked statistics from the most recent census.

The new decree attacks "abuses in collective farm practices." In 1935, in a concession to the peasantry, there was legally confirmed the right of peasants who were members of collective farms to till small plots of land as their own, and to use or sell the produce from these plots; and, similarly, the right of individual peasants to own and use a cow, pigs, chickens, etc.

It now turns out, according

### Down to the Bone



### Coughlin Hides a Boss Solution Behind Plea for Living Wages

By GRACE SAUNDERS

Father Coughlin, anti-labor radio priest, is now taking the stump for a "living annual wage." Every crooked politician says he favors a living annual wage. Words and crocodile tears for the worker and the unemployed are cheap.

What every worker wants to know is: how can I get that wage? Coughlin's answer to this vital question is the bosses' answer—the same proposals they have tried to cram down workers' throats ever since labor organized and refused to work under conditions of virtual slavery. To get an annual living wage, says Coughlin, you must destroy your trade unions and remove the threat of strikes. As simple as that. Kick out the "reds" (Coughlin means good union men), insult and attack the Jews, send the foreigners back where they come from, call off strikes—and rely on the goodness and benevolence of the bosses.

**Unions Must Go**  
If only we didn't have the unions, wails Coughlin, if only industry were "assured of an

end once and for all of the waste of time loss and the menace to morale in strikes," then the bosses "would probably be glad to pay an annual wage." Coughlin assures us that in the automobile industry (in which he seems particularly interested) this could be done, and the bosses would pay every employee an annual wage of \$2,500. Coughlin is certain about one

### PAROLE BOARD TO HEAR BEAL PARDON PLEA

Unionists Ask Freedom for Leader of Gastonia Strike

A hearing on a petition for pardon by Fred E. Beal, labor leader now serving a sentence of from 17 to 20 years in North Carolina, will be held at Raleigh, N. C., on Thursday, June 8, before the Board of Pardons. It was announced Monday by the Non-Partisan Committee for the Defense of Fred E. Beal.

Beal was convicted for the shooting of Chief of Police O. F. Aderholt in the celebrated Gastonia textile strike of 1929, of which he was the leader.

Under the North Carolina law, the governor of the state acts in petitions for clemency on recommendation of the State Board of Pardons.

**Unionists Ask Freedom**  
Beal's petition is backed by pleas for favorable action addressed to Governor Hoey of North Carolina by members of Congress, labor leaders, including President William Green of the A.F.L., noted churchmen, writers and educators.

Beal and six other leaders of the Gastonia strike were convicted at Charlotte, N. C., on October 21, 1929, before Judge Barnhill. They were released on bail, pending an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State. While out on bail, they were persuaded by their associates to visit Soviet Russia. Eventually

thing—that the unions must go. He's not so positive that even then the bosses would come through. He says they "probably" would be "glad to pay" a living annual wage. But suppose the bosses double-cross the workers? They have in the past! They will in the future. If the workers foolishly obeyed Coughlin, they would get in return for sacrificing their unions the "possibility" that the bosses would change their skins and be "glad" to pay them a living wage. Every intelligent worker knows such a "possibility" is nothing but a fraud.

Coughlin hides the facts. The unions have been strong in the automobile industry only since 1936. If the unions, especially the C.I.O., are the only thing that keeps the bosses from paying every worker \$2,500 a year, why did the bosses fail to pay that sum before the industry was organized? In 1935, before the C.I.O. had gained strength, a Detroit auto worker was lucky if he earned \$1,000 a year. A large percentage of the workers earned far less. Why weren't the bosses "glad" to pay \$2,500 a year at that time? Father Coughlin doesn't explain this, because it punctures his phony story.

**His "Solution"**

The bosses are "glad" to pay not \$2,500 a year but—starvation wages, and not a penny more, if unions don't force them to pay more. Without the trade unions, workers have been forced to slave twelve, fourteen, sixteen hours a day at coolie wages.

In a "free" that is non-union, market, the boss is "free" to get workers to bid against each other for ever lower salaries. In the non-union labor market, which Coughlin advocates, a worker making \$35 a week is asked to take a wage cut to \$30 or less. If he refuses or is hesitant, he is fired, and somebody else is hired in his stead at \$25 or \$20 a week. That is what always happens when the worker has no union to protect his wage and his job.

Coughlin's "solution" on how the workers can secure a living annual wage is a "solution" for the bosses and for nobody else. Coughlin thinks the workers are dopes. Sacrificing the right to strike, giving up the trade unions, means acceptance by the worker of the

### Minneapolis-St. Paul Demonstrators Press Demands on Governor

#### Persecution of French Labor Militants Continues

Fernand Vintriguer, managing director of "Le Libérateur", organ of the Anarchist Union of France, has been sentenced to one year in jail, and Pierre Le Mellour, a contributing writer, to fifteen months in jail, by the Daladier government.

Their "crime" was the writing and publication of an article, in the issue of December 22, 1938, on the lessons of the November 30 general strike.

The Daladier government has also suppressed the "SIA", organ of International Anti-fascist Solidarity in France, which took no part in internal politics, but which was active in rousing aid for the Spanish anti-fascist refugees.

Suzanne Charpy, Trotskyist youth leader, has lost her last appeal, and must go to jail, sentenced for anti-war activity.

In many cases, it is difficult to learn the circumstances of arrests, for among the infamous Daladier decree laws, it is a crime to make public the news of the arrest of persons seized for anti-military work.

#### Salem C.I.O. Votes Relief Investigation

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

LYNN, Mass.—The North Shore Industrial Union council, delegate body of the C.I.O., on May 19 voted to investigate the relief situation in Lynn, Salem and other cities and towns along the North Shore.

The action was taken after numerous complaints had been received from relief clients, concerning forced labor practices and chiseling on relief allotments.

In Salem, relief recipients are required to work a whole day along with city employees on street or other work, but only receive part of the day's wage paid regular city employees for working the same number of hours.

### CUBA INCIDENT DRAMATIZES PLIGHT OF JEWISH REFUGEES

After World-wide Criticism Batista 'Relents'—Opens Temporary Concentration Camp

A concentration camp on the Isle of Pines, and that only as a temporary arrangement until they can be re-embarked for another destination, was all that the 917 Jewish refugees aboard the liner St. Louis could secure from the Batista regime of Cuba.

And even this niggardly and cruel arrangement came only after world-wide attention forced Batista to propose it instead of the deportation he had already ordered.

The shipload of suffering men, women and children, pent up in Havana harbor for agonizing days of negotiations and pleas, dramatized as no single event since the German pogroms last October, the stark plight of the refugees.

Facts and figures about refugees have failed to awaken any overwhelming sympathy for them. But the terrible single picture of these hundreds, at last out of Germany, but discovering within sight of haven

### Tie-Up W.P.A. Projects For Day--Marchers Ask More Jobs, No Firing

(Special to the Socialist Appeal)

MINNEAPOLIS, June 3—Pressing their demands for reinstatement of all discharged W.P.A. workers—for more W.P.A. jobs at union wages, and against competitive bidding for W.P.A. trucking, an army of 5,000 W.P.A. and relief workers descended yesterday on the State Capitol. A committee of sixteen, representing the demonstrators, presented the demands to Governor Harold Stassen.

Early Friday morning, Local 544's Federal Workers Section dispatched truckloads of W.P.A. workers to the various projects to close them down for the day. Virtually every project in Minneapolis was shut down. Hundreds of trucks driven by members of the Independent Truck Owners' Section of General Drivers' Local 544 carried the demonstrators through the loops of both Minneapolis and St. Paul to the State Capitol.

The Holiday was called in the name of a united front Joint Action Committee representing the Federal Workers Section and the Independent Truck Owners' Section of Local 544; the Workers Alliance of Minneapolis and St. Paul, and the Workers Benefit Association of St. Paul.

**Stalinists Dragged Along**  
Only the enthusiasm of the unemployed for the demonstration forced the Workers Alliance leaders to go along, and they dragged their feet all the way. On the Joint Action Committee they refused to accept such slogans as "All War Funds to the Unemployed," pointing out that the Workers Alliance nationally was supporting the Roosevelt war machine. On at least one project Friday a Workers Alliance steward was caught in the act of insisting that the project remain open during the day, over the objections of both the workers and the supervisor who wished to close it down. Only about 25 workers paraded under the banner of the Minneapolis Workers Alliance, and many women members of the W.A.A. who objected to the pro-Roosevelt line of the Stalinists, came over to ride in the trucks of the Federal Workers Section.

**WAA CONGRESS SHUNS NEEDS OF U.S. JOBLESS**  
The first session opened yesterday in the spacious Department of Labor auditorium, with an address by David Lasser, Stalinist flunkie and W.A.A. president, who stated that "the fact that we are here . . . indicates that our national Congress has somehow failed in its responsibilities." But not one word came from this traitor's lips that might show the delegates a way to fight for the "right to work" for the millions of unemployed.

This morning, the second day of the "Congress," the delegates were assigned to spend

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Serve Demands on W.P.A.

At 10:30 a.m. the motorized parade, several miles long, got under way. With horns honking and with thunderous boos, the parade roared past the district W.P.A. office on West Broadway, where a committee entered to press their demands.

From there the demonstrators circled the Minneapolis courthouse, in which the city Welfare Board was meeting. Each truck and car had colorful banners and signs: All War Funds to the Unemployed—Give Stassen a 403 in 1940—For a Special Session of the State Legislature—We Want Rat-Proof Houses for our Children—Abolish the Stassen Anti-Labor Act—Keep the Bull in the Stockyards, Stassen, We Want Jobs—Thirty Dollars for Thirty Hours—No W.P.A. Concentration Camps for Single Men—600 Truckmen Want Work—Maintain Relief Standards or We Fight—More N.Y.A. Jobs, etc.

At the St. Paul city limits, the parade was joined by a large contingent from the St. Paul Workers Benefit Association, and the motorized demonstration, strung out for miles along University Avenue, then circled the State Capitol, winding

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# APPEAL ARMY

## Labor Mobilizes Behind Eide in Mpls. Election

## Trade Union Committee Directs Campaign For Slate—Anti-Labor Law Main Issue

The following cities haven't been heard from at all: Oakland, Calif., Baltimore, Flint, University City, Mo., Youngstown, Columbus, Philadelphia, Seattle and Wisconsin. Where are they?

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LYNN, MASS.  
S.W.P., Lynn Labor Lyceum,  
127 Oxford St.

Sun's Corner, Olympia Square  
ROXBURY, MASS.  
Friendly Variety, Warren St. (Grover Hall)

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.  
Labor Book Store, 919 Marquette  
Shlinder's, Sixth & Hennepin

# BEAL PRESENTS PARDON PLEA

(Continued from Page 1)

ally Beal returned to the United States with the determination to seek vindication. On January 14, 1938, he was suddenly arrested and held in the stock

arrested at his brother's home in Lawrence, Mass., his birthplace and the scene of many of his earlier labor activities. He waived extradition, surrendering voluntarily on February 16, 1929, and going to New

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Chief of Police Aderholt was killed on the night of June

1929, during an attack on the headquarters of the National Textile Workers Union, which organized the Gastonia strike. This attack followed a similar assault on the headquarters of the union on April 18, 1929, when the headquarters were wrecked and the food supplies

of the strikers destroyed. In the shooting that accompanied the attack of June 7, Aderhold was killed and two police officers and one strike leader were wounded. It is the contention of Beal and his supporters that he did not take part in the

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## In the World of Labor

By Paul G. Stevens

### Southport Conference of B.L.P. Reverses Stand on Conscription

Despite the tremendous wave of opposition against conscription in its ranks, despite its repeated avowal of loyalty to the party's anti-conscription stand, despite its rebuffs to Leon Blum who came from France to urge them fraternally to drop that stand in the name of social patriotic common sense, and despite the fact that only two weeks ago such prominent leaders as Ernest Bevin of the Transport Workers Union and John Marchbanks of the National Union of Railwaymen insisted that "even assuming that we are in a minority, and no one can judge yet," they were "still satisfied it would be right to resist this effort (of conscription) to destroy our liberties"—despite all this the Labour Party's leadership last week foisted upon the annual conference at Southport a reversal of policy on this crucial issue.

To be sure, the resolution adopted on this question does not bluntly come out in favor of conscription. It merely states that the party will not resist conscriptive measures. The flunkies who run Transport House (the party headquarters) for British imperialism could not flaunt the rank and file sentiment too brazenly. But in taking the stand they did, they finally squared their position on conscription with their general "collective security" position, thus reassuring Chamberlain, making Blum and the French capitalists very happy and removing from their own path a very embarrassing inconsistency.

To make up for this change, so to speak, the Southport conference confirmed the expulsion of Sir Stafford Cripps and rejected the Popular Front line he espoused. From the point of view of their fundamental social patriotic position, the action against Cripps makes about as much sense as their previous opposition to conscription. Small wonder then, that a N. Y. Times correspondent from London reports that "the country tends to look upon the Churchill-Eden Tory combination, rather than upon the Labour Party, as the real opposition to Chamberlain."

More consistent is the reported decision of Transport House to make membership in the Militant Labor League incompatible with membership in the party. The M.L.L. has consistently opposed "collective security" and conscription and has recently been making considerable headway in local L.P. branches. It is attacked as "Trotskyist". The Militant, official organ of the League, announces in its last issue a campaign, centered around an organizing tour, to resist expulsion and to rally support in the local sections for revolutionary socialism.

### In France: New Blows against the Opponents of Imperialist War

While the Flandin-Bonnet gang of "Munichois" pacifists (sic) and the Reynaud-Mandel gang of "collective security" war mongers jockey for position, while Blum and Paul Faure temporarily compose their differences at the Socialist Party convention by agreeing finally to bury the Popular Front (breaking off all relations with the C.P.), their government strikes new blows against the real opponents of imperialist war. "Democracy" is reserved only for the social patriots and their capitalist masters.

During the month of April a wave of resistance to the government's order recalling for additional service reservists of the class of 1936 who had already served more than their two years, spread throughout a number of regiments along the Maginot Line. Reservists in Strassburg began a hunger strike and refused to drill. The strike soon extended to Metz, Morange, Arras, Bitche and other points along the line of frontier fortifications. The entire daily press—Fascist to Stalinist—greeted the revolt with a conspiracy of silence. The revolutionary soldiers who led the revolt were all summarily imprisoned and the movement thus beheaded.

Issues of papers of the minorities who gave the movement prominence—our own comrades' *Lutte Ouvriere*, Jun 36, the organ of the Socialist Workers and Peasants Party, the anarchist paper *Libertaire*, the syndicalist papers *Revolution Proletarienne* and *Combat Syndicaliste* and several others were confiscated and their responsible editors subjected to prosecution.

The headquarters of the Socialist Workers and Peasants Party (P.S.O.P.) were raided in Cherbourg and several other cities and the party threatened with dissolution.

In the colonies, the anti-imperialist allies of the French revolutionists face similar persecution. In Tunis, three leaders of the dissolved Liberal Constitutional Party have been arrested for reconstituting cells of that party (the reconstituted organization of the Larocque Fascists is, of course, allowed to proceed with impunity). In Algiers, Chabane Ali, the editor of *El Oumma*, the paper of the People's Party of Algeria, whose recent election victory we reported in these columns, has been held in prison incommunicado under a despicable charge that is becoming usual in these persecutions: "Connivance with foreign powers"....

## On the Line . . . with Bill Morgan

One afternoon while waiting for the mail to come in a group of us are talking about the coming war which we agree will be conducted in the name of humanity and democracy so that the U. S. Steel Corp. will not perish from the earth, when one guy tells us a story about a friend of his who did not feel like dying for dear old Standard Oil in 1917.

It seems this guy was a conscientious objector and tried to avoid the draft by ducking in a closet or pretending like he never was born, and so of course he was soon snatched up by the government goon squads which patrolled the streets and made sudden raids on homes in the middle of the night.

When he is marched into the training camp, this bird tells the Generals he is unwilling to fight against people he has never even heard of or even seen. They throw him in the jug to wait for a trial where he will be charged with treason and suspicion of being an enemy spy, which is a joke because he had been a Sunday School teacher and a Boy Scout leader for eleven years back home in Davenport, Iowa, before anybody ever thought that the German people were only itching to slaughter the entire world with their bare hands.

This guy sits around in the cooler for two weeks waiting to be tried before a military jury, and all the while he is thinking how can he present his case in such a way as to make the soldiers see his point of view, and he has just about given up when a knock comes on the door and he is told he is about to receive sentence and will be obliged by standing up and facing the judge.

### Gets Five Years

So they sentence him to five years of hard labor and assign him to a training camp for work but he is by this time of very little use to the army, because he is all the time running around picking up little pieces of paper and stuffing them in his pockets.

Every time he spots a discarded newspaper or an old cigarette package he rushes over to it and snatches it up like a demon and stows it away in his coat and soon all the soldiers make fun of him and deliberately litter up the grounds so as to make him run around all day collecting the papers, and everybody knows he is teched in the head and soon there develops a kinder attitude on the part of the soldiers and even some of the officers because it is a pitiful sight to see this poor fellow become so delirious over a mere scrap of old paper.

After this goes on for several months and they realize he is of no use to the army and has about as much future as a cake of ice, they call him in the office of the General and shoot a lot of questions at him which he either cannot answer or replies to so foolishly that they decide to discharge him, and tell him he can go home and forget all about the army.

Well, he thanks them and goes out. On his way across the big parade grounds there is a bunch of second lieutenants who have had great fun with our friend teasing the dickens out of him whenever they could and when they see him coming they throw a lot of scraps of paper all over the grounds and when he walks near they yell at him and say hey dumbbell, here is a nice new batch of papers to pick up but he pays no attention to them and proceeds

to walk right by without even so much as glancing at the papers.

This makes them a little peeved as you can imagine and they run after him and grab him by the arm and say what do you mean by not saluting the officers and what do you mean by not picking up all the papers when we tell you?

### The Paper He Was Waiting for

The guy just looks at them and says, first of all, my friends, I am no longer in the army and you have no right to yell at me, and if you do I will inform the President of the United States and secondly, my very good friends, I am no longer interested in picking up little pieces of paper because I have at last found the one I am looking for, and with this he shows them the discharge paper which the Generals have given him.

Well, some of the group thought this was a pretty smart trick and that this fellow should be given a medal for outsmarting the government, but it was agreed upon by several of us that there ain't going to be no such tricks as that allowed this time and if workers do not want to get sucked into a fight in which they have nothing to gain except six feet of nice brown earth or a pair of crutches they will have to be a lot smarter than the bird in the story.

This time the bosses are all prepared and anyone who hopes to be excused from service in the gang which is to divvy up the world for the sole benefit of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the Generals will be thrown into the jug pronto and then tried for treason, the penalty for which is death.

No, trying to hide under the bed or hoping that the bosses will allow you to remain at home just because you are a conscientious objector will not mean a thing, because one guy here and another one there will be easy pickings for the special squads and the F.B.I. to locate and arrest. But if the trade unions and the other workers' organizations resist and demand peace and fight, we'll get somewhere.

You can bet your last shirt that if the workers sit down in the steel mills, the coal mines, the railroads and the clothing shops, the Generals would have a tough time trying to drag the youth of the country off to the slaughter.

The bosses would be very happy to isolate all the individuals who are against war and shoot them one by one in dark basements, but it is a horse of a different color when tens of thousands of workers decide to stay on a sit-down strike instead of shooting their class brothers somewhere in Europe.

The bosses do not fear the lone conscientious objector because he can be spotted at once—what the bosses fear is the united action of the working class, because only such action can put a crimp into the war plans.

So if you know anybody who does not want to fight for the profits of the 60 Families, tip him off to this little idea, because otherwise he will be snatched before he has a chance to even make a statement. Tell him that his place is in the ranks of the working class and that there is a real job to be done if the war is to be stopped, and it can and will be stopped when the workers as a class decide to clamp down on the bosses and their stooges—the Generals. Peace will come about then and only then.

## 5,000 Protest W. P. A. Cuts In Minnesota

(Continued from Page 1)

ed its way through the loop to the State W.P.A. offices, and returned to the Capitol where the delegation entered Stassen's office.

### Governor Tries to Duck

It seemed that the Governor was nowhere around, though he had promised an appointment to the delegation. After an hour's wait, during which the unemployed milled through the Capitol halls, Governor Stassen was located at the St. Paul Athletic Club. He returned to the Capitol and met with the delegation, refusing every one of the demands of the demonstrators. Later he came out on the Capitol stairs to address the demonstration. In a demagogic talk he told the throng that they had a right to disagree with him if they didn't like his Old Age Lien Law, his Labor Law, etc.

"Hell," said a number of demonstrators, "we know we've got a right to disagree with you, and we do, all the way down the line."

Stassen denied that the State relief appropriation had been cut, though it is a matter of record that his administration has slashed one-third off last year's appropriation. He assured the unemployed that no one would starve in Minnesota, and urged the unemployed organizations to send him the names of all families who were in need. He promised to send out state investigators in such cases.

**Demand Special Session**  
After he had ducked back in the Capitol, Max Goldman of the Federal Workers Section,

## LYNCH NEGRO IN MISSISSIPPI

(Continued from Page 1)

on the head with a shovel. Rodgers lifted another shovel to defend himself, whereupon he was set upon, tied hand and foot, tortured and tossed into the river from which his body was recovered three days later.

Mississippi's Democratic Governor has made no protest, much less ordered action. Nor has any word been uttered on the lynching from the head of the party to which the Governor belongs, President Roosevelt.

### Other Lynchings

The lynching of Rodgers is the fifth in these democratic states for 1939. It followed by only nine months the lynching in this same town of Claude Banks, on July 21, 1938.

Other known lynchings during 1939 are: Walter Lee Frazier, shot, Eldorado, Arkansas; Charley Williams, hanged, Woodcliff, Georgia; Miles W. Brown (white), shot, Panama City, Florida; Lee Snell, shot, Daytona Beach, Florida.

### Provocateur Exposed

Local San Francisco has expelled William de la Fuente, convicted and admitted thief of party funds, paid informer and provocateur.

**Description:** Age 24, height 5 feet-11 inches, weight 155, dark complexion, brown eyes, wears glasses, speaks with a slight stutter. Speaks Spanish fluently, apparently well educated, quick-witted, interesting conversationalist, interested in music, art, literature. Claims to be a journalist, has worked as clerical worker. Claims special knowledge of psychology. At time of exposure, May 20, 1939, had broken right arm in cast.

## ESCAPE FROM THE WORLD'S FAIR!

**BASEBALL** The Marxist Maulers in a Return Match with the Studs Lonigan A.C.

Captains James P. Cannon and James T. Farrell promise a rip-roaring game

**DANCING—REFRESHMENTS**

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## Coughlin Hides a Boss Solution Behind Plea for Living Wage

(Continued from Page 1)  
bosses' terms. It gives the boss a free hand in sweating the workers and slashing their salaries to boost his own unearned profits. Destruction of the trade unions is the usual fascist answer to decaying capitalism—preserve the profits of the bosses by reducing the living standards of the workers.

### Contemptuous of W.P.A.

To the unemployed, the radio priest offers no more than he does to the worker. He speaks contemptuously of the W.P.A. worker as a dolester and of the W.P.A. as the "industry of dolesters." Coughlin has no concrete program for putting the jobless to work. Coughlin doesn't believe "that the government should support the people" (*Social Justice*, Mar. 20, 1939). That means no W.P.A., no home relief. There are some 15,000,000 unemployed in this country. They are not being absorbed in private industry. Coughlin would kick them off relief and fire the lucky few who still retain their W.P.A. jobs. He'd probably draft them for forced labor at no salary. Again, Coughlin talks the language of the Du

Ponts and the Morgans—not the language of the jobless.

Coughlin is vague as to how he would solve the problems of the youth. He has plenty of crocodile tears for them—but no program. Tears won't enable the youth to build for the future, marry, or become self-respecting and self-supporting citizens.

### Vague on Plans

Coughlin is purposely vague in outlining his future plans. If he set down his real program in cold type, he would gain not one single adherent among the workers, employed or unemployed. His goal is the fascist state on the Italian style. Under this system, the worker has no rights, no hope, no future. He is tied to his job; must work the number of hours and at the kind of work he is told to work; in return he gets what the boss sees fit to pay him. He has no means of protest, but must accept in silence. Otherwise he goes to a concentration camp. Empty phrases, crocodile tears—but no constructive program. This is what Coughlin offers to the workers, the jobless and the youth.

In contrast, the Socialist Workers Party proposes a militant program of action. The S.W.P. says to the worker: You want a living annual wage. Good. You have a right to that wage, but no one is going to give it to you unless you fight for it. Your best weapon in that fight is your union. Build and defend your union. Strengthen the bonds of unity with all workers, regardless of creed, race, or nationality. Their problems are your problems. Together you can solve them. Disunited, you're licked before you start.

### For Workers Action

When the bosses say they can't afford to pay a living wage, then let the workers take over industry and run it themselves. Elect shop committees. Demand the right to inspect the company's books. Force the cutting of the \$50,000 and \$100,000 salaries of the bosses. Form defense guards to protect your unions and your right to strike.

To the unemployed, the S.W.P. says: Demand jobs, and organize into unions to enforce your demands. Insist that W.P.A. be expanded, not curtailed. Demand \$30 for 30 hours a week. Demand a cessation of the squandering of billions of dollars for the coming boss

war and the diversion of this money into productive channels. All war funds to the unemployed. If private industry cannot hire the jobless, and the government cannot provide sufficient jobs for them, then force the opening of idle factories under workers' control.

To the youth, the S.W.P. says: The interests of the 'locked out generation' are identical with those of the worker and the jobless. Your future depends on an expanding economy. If the present economy is so senile that it cannot find a place for your talents, then that economy must be changed. The first step in bringing about that change is expropriation of America's Sixty Families.

Workers are not accustomed to having favors handed them on silver platters. Whatever they've gotten in the past, they've won through their own militancy. More militancy, more determination, more militant trade unions—this is the way to fight the lengthening depression and safeguard your right to a decent living.

### East Side Branch Organizes Anti-Fascist Campaign

The Lower East Side Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, Local New York, is well on its way in the city-wide campaign to combat anti-semitism and fascism. Working from its local headquarters at 163 Norfolk Street, the branch has begun a series of open air meetings, held every Monday and Friday evening. The meetings are held at Norfolk and Delancey Streets, and Rivington and Clinton Streets.

Pointing out the menace of advancing fascism in the United States, the members of the branch are agitating among the workers of the East Side for the need of building a workers' defense guard as the only answer to the fascist threat.

In addition to the open air meetings, leaflets and literature distribution that the branch has planned, there will be regular meetings at the headquarters. All people who are interested in joining the campaign against anti-semitism and fascism are urged to get in touch with the local party headquarters.

## A Round of Applause for The Yipsel Drama Group

Last Saturday night the New York Division of the Young People's Socialist League provided an audience that filled the Cultural Center with a real thrill. Faced with innumerable obstacles, the Y.P.S.L. Drama Group nevertheless put over a moving and dramatic presentation of Irwin Shaw's anti-war play "Bury the Dead" which left every one in the audience more than pleased at having come.

A few yards of drapery, a plank, and a corner of the Cultural Center were all they had for stage and set. Yet, they managed to convey the realism and horror of trench life. All but one or two had never before appeared in a stage. Yet, they made real and poignant the story of dead men risen against the horror of war. They were imperfectly rehearsed (they were able to sandwich in

only one or two rehearsals between other Yipsel activities), muffled lines here or there, were obviously nervous at their first attempt, yet they performed commendably.

Every member of the cast deserves a round of applause: Abe Hart, Stanley Jobs, Joe Brady, Henry Addis, Manny Wein, Martin Harvey, Arty Fox, Edith Shorr, Earl Coleman, Arlene Montauk, Saul Silverman, Sylvia Schwartz, Bert Bender, Connie Hammett. And an extra round of applause for the director, Martin Eden, and the technical staff, Bert Gerold and Bob Chester.

It is to be hoped that the Drama Group will now plan a series of performances in various parts of the city, and that they will be allowed more time to prepare the presentation of this and other plans. The Group has a great future before it.

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Associate Editors: HAROLD ROBERTS, FELIX MORROW  
Staff Members: EMANUEL GARRETT, JOSEPH HANSEN  
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## FIGHT WITH THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY FOR:

1. A job and a decent living for every worker.
2. Open the idle factories—operate them under workers' control.
3. A Twenty-Billion dollar Federal public works and housing program.
4. Thirty-thirty! \$30-weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs.
5. Thirty dollar weekly old-age and disability pension.
6. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
7. All war funds to the unemployed.
8. A people's referendum on any and all wars.
9. No secret diplomacy.
10. An Independent Labor Party.
11. Workers' Defense Guards against vigilante and Fascist attacks.

## Minnesota Acts

Labor in Minneapolis, and in its Twin City sister, St. Paul, has set the pace more than once for the working class movement of this country. This is especially true of the teaming crafts, who have blazed a trail for labor progress throughout the Northwest.

True to this tradition was the militant demonstration of 5,000 workers in the Twin Cities which took place last week and is reported elsewhere in this issue. The workers manifested their determination not to lie down quietly while the cynical ruling class and its legislative agents continue to cut the relief scale to the bone and to throw additional thousands off the rolls every month.

The unemployed—the millions of them who continue to suffer after almost ten years of the crisis—have no way out of their increasing misery save by fighting aggressively in an organized manner. They are faced literally with a fight for life. Passivity, crawling, whining, begging for favors, hoping for miracles—those will only result in reducing them to ever lower levels.

It's organized, militant struggle—or starvation.

If the Stassens and Roosevelts, the Republicans or Democrats, do not encounter stormy resistance from the unemployed, they will just continue to cut and cut and cut, so that capitalist profits and the war machine may grow and grow and grow. Nothing can be expected from the rival relief-cutters.

The workers—employed and unemployed—must take things into their own hands. No one will save them from wretchedness but themselves. Let them mobilize their invincible strength to:

- Open the idle factories!
- All war funds to the unemployed!
- A Twenty-Billion Dollar Public Works and Housing program!
- A job and a decent living for every worker!
- Expropriate the 60 Families!

## Refugees in Cuba

There are few more harrowing stories of anguish and persecution than that of more than 900 Jewish refugees from Germany—men, women and children—who are kept in the purgatory of the liner *Saint Louis* in Atlantic waters, between the inferno of fascist Germany, from which they were driven, and what they hoped was the paradise of Cuba, which has refused to admit them.

From the Nazi swine, the Jewish victims of the "Aryan supermen" expected nothing but what they got. But they did look forward to the government of Cuba to provide them with a haven. They thought that Cuba, unlike Germany, was a "modern democracy" where racial discrimination and anti-Semitism were not tolerated. Instead they found a regime which repulsed them with the same brutality with which they were driven from Nazi Germany.

The *Daily Worker* feels rather embarrassed by the whole incident. Not so much for the sake of the refugees, but because it puts the new Stalinist hero, Col. Fulgencio Batista, military dictator of the "Cuban democracy," in a dastardly light. All they find it possible to say about the Cuban regime is this—referring to the anti-Semitic campaign of the reactionary

Havana press: "Under this pressure, Cuban officials unfortunately weakened and rescinded the original order of admission."

They unfortunately weakened—these brave, tough military heroes of democracy! They weren't weak when they murdered scores of revolutionary workers and students. They weren't weak when their machine-guns, pistols and sabres mowed down their radical opponents. But "unfortunately" they were weak when the anti-Semitic jackals began to howl.

Do not think for a moment that the Stalinists will therefore weaken in their love and admiration for Batista. Not at all. They'll continue to burn incense before him. They'll continue to send hacks like Mike Gold to write drunken paeans of publicity about the delights and charms of Batista's rule.

Why? Because Batista is one of Roosevelt's good boys. Why? Because Roosevelt is for a new War for Democracy and so are the Stalinists.

And what, in the face of the Interests of Democracy, does the fate of a few hundred miserable refugees amount to?

## Mooney and Beal

Tom Mooney spent some of the best years of his life in a California penitentiary. He was railroaded to prison by the reactionary "open shop" interests on the West Coast in one of the most abominable frame-ups known to modern history. He was set free when the protesting voices of the workers in this country and elsewhere could no longer be ignored.

A few thousand miles from Mooney's old prison cell, clear across the country, sits another victim of frame-up justice. He is the courageous, militant textile worker, Fred E. Beal. He was one of the fearless pioneers who sought to bring unionism to the bitterly exploited workers of the South. He led that magnificent strike struggle of the North Carolina textile slaves in Gastonia about ten years ago. The Bourbons determined to get him; and they did. Like Mooney, Fred Beal was railroaded to prison on a trumped-up charge.

The difference between the Mooney and Beal cases lies in the fact that Beal is being kept in jail not only by the textile barons, but with the connivance of the Communist party and its dirty hirelings. The Stalinists cannot forgive him for having expressed himself so frankly and critically about conditions in the Soviet Union which he was able to observe while he lived and worked there. They have been engaged in actively sabotaging any effort to obtain Beal's release. They have cynically trampled underfoot the most elementary principles of labor solidarity.

Mooney now is free. Fred Beal is not. We would like to see Tom Mooney, the most renowned class-war prisoner of our time in this country, raise his voice in a call to all labor to fight for Beal's freedom.

The War Department announces the award of a contract calling for 814 army trucks, to cost over \$1,000,000. This is the largest single contract for motor vehicles made in a number of years. The one and one-half ton trucks will be used by National Guard units all over the country for quick mobilization and rapid transportation in any emergency. That is, whenever the workers get the idea of striking for better working conditions.

## "Good Neighbors"

Speaking at a dinner for 1,500 prominent business men at the World's Fair, Secretary of Commerce Harry L. Hopkins clarified for their benefit what President Roosevelt means by his "good neighbor" policy in Latin America. He described in detail the lucrative fields of investment south of the Rio Grande, and the need for increasing economic penetration of those fields.

But the United States must recognize the rights and the feelings of the inhabitants of these countries to make their own laws and control their economic development. Hence the "good neighbor" policy: greater domestic management of foreign-financed enterprises in Latin America, a domestic management which will welcome the "participation" of United States imperialism.

The agreement signed recently by Roosevelt and Dictator Somoza of Nicaragua exemplifies the general policy described by Hopkins.

Instead of subduing the Latin American people by armed force imposed from the outside in the shape of battleships and marines as has been only too frequently the procedure in the past, local murderers like Somoza—bloody violent dictators thirsty for Uncle Sam's patronage—will be furnished with arms and financial support to reduce their country to the status of a company town dominated by United States imperialism. This is the long-range program described by Hopkins.

When Roosevelt says "good neighbors" he means good colonies.

## Stalin's Decree on Agriculture Is Indication of Conditions in USSR

Pointing to the Growth of "Landlord Peasants" at the Expense of the Collectives, the Decree Exposes an Omnipotent and Widening Crack in Stalinized Soviet Economy

(Continued from Page 1)  
A certain farm the shortage of labor caused by the members engaged in individual enterprise had resulted in failure to build the necessary farm structures, in allowing mown hay to rot in the fields and in necessitating a cost of 12,000 rubles for cattle feed. As a result the great bulk of honest collective farm members received only 90 rubles each for a year's work while one "pseudo collective farmer" earned more than that by a day's work repairing somebody's porch." (Repairing whose porch, by the way? Certainly not the honest collective farmers, who hadn't earned enough to pay for the repairs.)

## THE REAL EXTENT OF COLLECTIVIZATION

How deep and widespread the individualized farming has become is even more strikingly shown by the proposals in the decree for correction. A minimum number of work days to be spent on the collective farm, as against days on individual holdings, is set. Presumably this minimum is well over the number now being spent, else there would be no point to the decree. In most sections, according to the *Times* report, the minimum is eighty days; sixty days in the northern and central districts; and a hundred in the cotton growing regions.

These figures are in the highest degree remarkable. Leaving aside the farms which are not yet collectivized even in name, they mean that even

if the norm of the decree is fulfilled, the allegedly collectivized agriculture of the Soviet Union, the great "triumph of Stalinist realism," would be in actuality only a fourth or a fifth collectivized. There is no other way to interpret the figures. Whatever the legal forms employed, if the agricultural population spends only a fourth or a fifth of its working time (evidently much less, in fact) at collectivist production and the rest at individual production, then agriculture is only to that extent collective.

This seems a curious state of affairs for a country where socialism has already, we are told, been definitely achieved and where there are no classes. It seems, also, a rather negative result to have achieved after the wiping out of five or ten million peasants in order to complete the Stalinist program of collectivization.

## TERROR NO SUBSTITUTE FOR MACHINERY

As a penalty for violation of the decree, expulsion is provided. "This decree will fit in with the program that the government has already launched for transporting peasants to sparsely populated regions, especially the Volga and the Far East." Once more the terrible fate of being driven to the wastelands by the whips of the G.P.U. hangs over the peasants who come into the disfavor of the bureaucracy.

Two considerations come at once to mind after reflection upon this new decree. In the

first place, it proves once again—that, in truth, needs no more proof—that the agricultural problem cannot be solved bureaucratically. Not all the decrees of the Kremlin nor all the guns and isolators of the G.P.U. can in the long run get anywhere. The peasants return to their individual plots not, as the *Times* correspondent imagines, because of "the age-old instinct for private profit," but because of the frightful mismanagement of the collectives by the central and local bureaucracy, because of the failure to provide sufficient of the machinery upon which large-scale agriculture depends, and because of the entire failure to give the peasants an adequate return in manufactured goods. It is the disproportion and breakdown in Soviet economy and polity generally that brings about the reversion in agriculture to more primitive forms.

At the same time, the conditions indicated by the decree indicate a widening and ominous crack in the Soviet economy. The more successful of the individually operating peasants (above all, the "landlord peasants" so casually referred to in the decree) are members of a class, a class alien to the proletariat and capable in a time of open crisis of becoming the backbone of a revisionist movement. The centrifugal forces in Soviet life, present in any case from the nature of the country and its isolation but fostered and advanced by Stalinism, strain ever closer to violent explosion.

## Letters Show How Spain's Cause Was Sacrificed and for What

That Stalin was directly responsible for the suicidal policy imposed on the Spanish workers and peasants is now proven by letters laying down that policy and signed by Stalin himself, sent to the then Premier Caballero and now released by Caballero's associate, Luis Araquistain.

Published in facsimile in the *New York Times*, June 4, Stalin's letters reveal that the policy of keeping Azana and other traitors in power, appeasing the Chamberlain and Daladier governments, giving the factories and land back to the treacherous capitalists and landowners and thus crushing the revolutionary enthusiasm of the masses, was dictated to the Loyalist government by Stalin, under threat of cutting off the skimpy Russian supplies if Stalin's orders were not obeyed.

The most important letter was written December 21, 1936, at a time when the revolutionary struggle against Franco was still strong. The factories were then in the hands of the workers' committees, the land had been seized and was being tilled by the peasants' collectives and councils, the workers' militias were still the backbone of the armed forces, and even though they formally sat in the government, no real power was being wielded by the bourgeois Azanas and Barrios who had facilitated Franco's rising and who were ready to yield to him.

Stalin's letter demanded a reversal of all these revolutionary measures against Franco: DESTROY REVOLUTION, WAS STALIN'S DEMAND

"It is above all necessary that the government should be assured of the continuance of Azana and his group in power, doing everything possible to help them overcome their hesitation. This is necessary in order to prevent the enemies of Spain from considering her as a Communist republic, and to forestall thus their open intervention, which constitutes the greatest danger for republican Spain."

Thus ordered Stalin. He was obeyed. With the result that Azana's group used their governmental power to betray the cause of Loyalist Spain, finally going openly over to surrendering to Franco. The same Azana-Stalinist combination accepted the "non-intervention" fraud which directly facilitated the intervention of Germany and Italy.

Stalin ordered the factories and land returned to the Spanish and foreign bourgeoisie. The only decrees specifically proposed by Stalin for the peasantry, significantly, refer to "the question of taxes"—in

other words, instead of giving them the land, the peasants were to get the usual bourgeois panacea of "more equitable" taxes.

As for the factories, Stalin declared:

"It would be necessary to attract to the side of the government the small and middle bourgeoisie or, in any event, to give them the possibility of taking a neutral position, favorable to the government, protecting them against attempts at confiscation and guaranteeing them, within possible limits, freedom of trade. Otherwise these groups will become fascists."

The "middle bourgeoisie"—i.e., the native industrial overlords—were already fascist, and returning them to their economic power enabled them to sabotage Loyalist struggle against Franco. And to enforce this policy, Stalin's agents crushed and assassinated and imprisoned the flower of the Spanish proletariat.

## STALIN'S "THEORY" TO JUSTIFY COUNTER-REVOLUTION

In advancing this counter-revolutionary program, Stalin embellished it by a "theoretical" introduction: that "the Spanish revolution plots its course, different from many viewpoints from the course followed by Russia. This is determined by the difference in social, historical and geographical conditions and by the needs of the international situation, different from those the Russian revolution had to contend with." Just precisely what are these differences? Stalin does not

say. His ponderous generalization merely provides the peg to conclude that "the parliamentary way"—i.e., bourgeois road—is best for Spain.

Not "the needs of the international situation" were served by this vicious travesty of Marxism, but the needs of Stalin's Bonapartist clique, who fear nothing in the world so much as the fresh breath which would flow into Russia from a successful proletarian revolution elsewhere.

In presenting Stalin's letter Araquistain seeks to absolve Caballero from responsibility for collaborating in this foul policy. The truth is very different. Stalin's letters were sent to Caballero when, as Premier of Loyalist Spain, he was working hand in glove with the Stalinists, when the Stalinist press was proclaiming Caballero internationally as the "Spanish Lenin" and he in turn had delivered into Stalinist hands the control of the Spanish Socialist Youth, the U.G.T. (General Workers Union), the key positions in the armed forces, etc. Only by recalling the identity between Caballero and his associates and the Stalinists at that time can one understand the frankness with which Stalin transmitted his "advice" signed by his own hand.

The rats are falling out among themselves. They are telling the truth about each other. The terrible defeat in Spain is a warning: free yourselves from the stranglehold of Stalinism, workers, or you will share the fate of the Spanish people.

## Their Government

By James Burnham

On June 1 the Administration completed a very shrewd partisan maneuver by forcing a record vote in the House of Representatives on the Townsend Plan. There are probably less than a dozen Congressmen who really favor the Townsend Plan. However, in many sections of the country, especially in New England and the Middle West, the Republicans found it convenient and even necessary to make an opportunistic bid last autumn for the support of Townsend's followers. During the election campaign, Republican candidates pledged themselves, openly or by implication, to the Plan.

The expectation of the Republicans was doubtless that a day of reckoning on the pledge could be indefinitely postponed. The Plan could, in accordance with a usual custom, be buried in Committee. Or, at worst, if it came to the floor, the cowardly method of avoiding a record vote, now common in the House, could be employed.

But here was an opportunity made to order for all sections of the Democratic Party, constituting a majority. The Republicans have been trying to make big propaganda on the issue of "economy". They are also, many of them, pledged to the huge "extravagance" of the Townsend Plan. Very well. Force a record vote on the Plan. Then the Republicans are in a perfect dilemma: if they vote against the Plan, they have broken their pledges and lose the Townsendite support; if they vote for it, they explode their own economy issue.

The parliamentary jockeying went on for weeks. The record vote was forced; and, since the dilemma was genuine, there is no doubt that by it the Republicans were thrown for a loss.

## The Times Is Morally Indignant

The Plan received 97 affirmative votes, including one-third of the Republican votes in the House. The *New York Times* the next morning devoted its lead editorial to the outcome. "The Townsend Plan Bill," the *Times* begins, "has been defeated in the House by a vote of 302 to 97, and the country is doubtless expected to breathe easier." The *Times* dismisses the Plan itself with an economic flourish: "The Townsend Plan is utterly fantastic. It would call for an astronomical expenditure by the Federal Government in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000,000 a year. If any attempt were made to raise such a sum by taxation it would lead to economic chaos."

But this economic argument is, as often, not decisive for the *Times*. It is to a moral argument against the Plan that the *Times* makes its final appeal. The point is well worth pondering:

"Even if the plan were workable it would impose a monstrously unfair distribution of income. It would place crushing taxes on our population with its average per capita income of about \$550 a year in order that less than one-tenth of that population should receive per capita incomes of \$2,400 a year."

The injustice of such income arrangements is, apparently, self-evident to the editors of the *Times*.

## Let Not the Right Hand . . .

But the editors of the *Times* failed, perhaps, to read carefully the contents of their own paper that morning. If they had turned to a page preceding that on which their editorial appeared, they would have found an instructive news report dealing with incomes for the year 1937.

There they would have discovered that for the year 1937 forty-nine individuals in the United States reported to the Treasury Department net incomes in excess of one million dollars. When it is recalled that the net income figure is arrived at after a hundred and one deductions for taxes, contributions, exemptions, credits, pseudo-losses and all the other devices thought up by high-priced lawyers, the excess over one million dollars must be very considerable indeed. One individual, even with all deductions, reported a net income of over five million dollars for that year.

Now, if we apply the very same reasoning that the *Times* used in proving the Townsend Plan unjust, we seem to be led inexorably to a remarkable conclusion.

The million-dollar-plus incomes are admittedly possible because of capitalism, or what the *Times* sometimes calls the "system of free enterprise". So, using the argument of the editorial, we are compelled to say: "Even if capitalism were workable it would impose a monstrously unfair distribution of income. It would place crushing burdens on our population with its average per capita income of about \$550 a year in order that less than .00004% of that population should receive per capita incomes of \$1,000,000 plus a year."

## And As for Economics

So much for the moral argument. But the economic argument which the *Times* uses against the Townsend Plan applies no less fully against the system which the *Times* so solicitously defends. Could any system be more "utterly fantastic" than one which destroys food which people need to eat, throws millions who want to work out of jobs, shuts factories while goods are everywhere needed, suppresses inventions and new techniques, plunges all mankind into wars from which no one but a handful of super-financiers benefits?

The *Times* estimates that the Townsend Plan would cost the Federal Government \$20,000,000,000 a year. But according to the government's own figures, capitalism costs the people at least five times this, at least \$100,000,000,000 a year: this figure being the difference between the actual output of goods and services and that which the productive plant of the country is immediately capable of.

The editors of the *Times* had better be more careful of the arguments they use. They might suggest ideas that would be most awkward for, among others, the editors themselves.

Billy Rose, the Broadway impresario, meets the problem of feeding an elephant by giving him candy bars before the regular meal. He found this cut down the beast's appetite considerably. We may expect the Relief Administration to look into this matter shortly.

The number of men involved in the newly instituted British conscription plan was estimated at about 310,000 annually, not counting reductions due to exemptions, i.e., of cripples, imbeciles, and those sons whose parents are too well heeled to have their kids risk their skins.

## WORKERS' FORUM

## THIS IRISHMAN STOOD HIS GROUND

Editor:

I went down to Washington and Essex Streets with three other comrades and started to sell Appeals. Along comes a big Irish cop and tells me to move on because I can't sell there since I'm "disturbing the people going by and yelling too much." I answer him by stating that I have the right to sell because I had a permit to sell on the streets. He answers that he doesn't care if I have a permit. Then he went further and said that no Irishman can sell the *Socialist Appeal* from Moscow (!) and (me being an Irishman) I'd better move on or he'd pull me in. I came back at him with the Bill of Rights and the Constitution and said I'd have him investigated. Then I pulled out a pencil and paper and asked for his name

and number. A crowd had gathered and were with me against the cop. A few workers yelled out that if it was Social Justice or the American it would be o. k. He asked for my permit and started looking it over. Then he called another cop for a brain trust session.

About 100 people were crowding around and the cops asked me to please stop talking loud as I was attracting too much attention. During all this I was selling the *Appeal* and shouting our slogans against Fascism and how to fight it with Workers Defense Guards. Finally, the two cops came out of their huddle and told me it was o.k. to sell.

Then they went away and many workers commended me for my stand against the cops. Many of the workers bought Appeals.

Comradely,  
Boston J. T.