

CIO SEEKS 'SUBSTANTIAL' WAGE RAISES

ROOSEVELT PLAN SHELVES CIO-AFL UNIFICATION

An Editorial

President Roosevelt has countered John L. Lewis' unacceptable proposal for AFL-CIO unification with a plan that shelves the question of unity altogether.

The President's "substitute" for unification is the creation of a joint AFL-CIO committee to work with him in curbing inter-union "conflicts" and promoting labor "peace" during the war.

This plan shows complete disregard of the desire for unity so often and so unmistakably voiced by the overwhelming majority of workers in the CIO and AFL. These workers want unity because they realize that a single organization of 10,000,000 unionists will greatly increase their power to win better conditions and to organize the unorganized.

This is the kind of unity which the bosses fear. They fear it because, as A. H. Raskin pointed out in the Jan. 25 *New York Times*, "aligned under one banner, union workers would represent the largest organized bloc in the social, political and economic life of the nation. Such a unified movement could be expected to address itself more successfully to organizing the 40,000,000 workers still outside the fold of the labor movement."

But the workers don't want just any kind of unification. They want unification which will strengthen them in their fight against the employing class.

Lewis' "accomplishment" proposal met with disfavor among the militant workers not because it proposed unity, but because it threatened to sacrifice the interests of the industrial unions and lead to the kind of unification that would weaken the labor movement.

But that isn't why Roosevelt and the administration union leaders opposed Lewis' plan. They rejected it simply because they felt it represented a threat to their own influence in the unions. With it, they rejected the very idea of unification, demonstrating that they — like Lewis — are either unwilling or incapable of formulating a program of unification based on the best interests of the workers.

The Roosevelt plan was inspired primarily by fear of a powerful Lewis-Hutcheson anti-

administration bloc in a unified labor organization and by the desire to strengthen governmental influence over the union movement. It proposes "peace" without unity, in which the question of war production is posed as the main consideration.

What is the nature of this "peace"? Essentially, it means that the workers' independent struggles against the attacks of the employers are to be curbed. The joint committee is expected to implement the agreement whereby the union leaders seek to put the workers' right to strike in cold storage and to impose "voluntary" arbitration on the union ranks.

As to "peace" within the labor movement, the Roosevelt plan provides a means for curbing the CIO's struggle against craft unionism. Wherever the CIO attempts to bring organization to the unorganized, the AFL craft chiefs can claim "jurisdiction", hurry to Roosevelt and the new committee and demand "peace", that is, a cessation of CIO organization.

In this way, Roosevelt's plan will serve to impede the growth of industrial unionism. Thus, although it is intended at the present time to block unification on Lewis' basis, it paves the way in the long run for the same kind of unification Lewis now proposes, a unification in which the interests of the industrial union workers will be sacrificed.

The workers' interest in unity is based on the personal motivations and considerations of neither Roosevelt nor Lewis. The workers want unity because of their own needs.

That is why the workers must not permit the question of unification to be shelved by the union leaders at the behest of the administration, which formerly pressed for unification under any terms when it felt that its political interests would thereby be served, and now opposes unification for the same reason.

The workers must continue to demand unity. The sole condition they must attach to this demand is that it be unity in their own interests, a unity based on progressive union principles, foremost of which is the principle of industrial unionism.

Layoffs Mounting In Auto



A typical scene in one of the many branch offices of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission, besieged by auto workers laid off because of the lagging conversion of the auto industry to production of war equipment. Months will pass before they will be called back to the factories.

Wants More Pay To Meet Rising Cost Of Living

But CIO Board Fails to Tell Workers How They Can Compel Bosses to Come to Terms

NEW YORK, Jan. 27. — The National Executive Board of the CIO, meeting in this city yesterday, issued a call for the unions affiliated with the CIO to demand "substantial wage increases" to meet the rising cost of living and the increasing tax burden. The Executive Board also urged the unions to press for the inclusion of union shop or other union security clauses in future contracts to be signed with employers.

The resolution adopted by the Board pointed out that "living standards are being seriously threatened as a result of the spiraling of the cost of living and the inequitably increased taxes upon the low-income groups," at the same time that profits for the bosses continue to rise.

"Financial reports for 1941,"

U. M. W. Local Protests Trial

NEW HAVEN, January 24. — United Mine Workers, Local 12021 (New Haven Gas Light Co.) of District 50, last week passed a resolution condemning the convictions in the Minneapolis trial of 544-CIO members and Socialist Workers Party leaders, and protesting the "interference of the FBI in the democratic procedure of the labor movement."

Stating that the Smith Act is a weapon against labor sponsored by union-busting Representative Howard Smith, the resolution adds that the act "must be tested for constitutionality in this case."

the resolution adds, "show a tremendous increase in profits for employers, after all taxes, as compared to 1939, in such basic industries as steel, shipbuilding and electrical and machine manufacturing, with even greater profits to be anticipated in 1942, due to vastly increased production. These returns clearly permit employers to pay wage increases without involving price increases."

In a press conference following the adoption of the resolution, CIO President Philip Murray estimated that the cost of living, including individual taxes, would be 20 per cent higher by mid-March than it was at the beginning of 1941.

Murray declared that the CIO would continue its fight for contracts guaranteeing union security, in the form of the closed shop, maintenance-of-membership clauses, etc. He said the CIO will insist that the new War Labor Board act on all union security cases in which no direct agreement is reached between the unions and the employers.

OPPOSE DISCRIMINATORY TAXES ON WORKERS

The Executive Board also came out against general sales or wage taxes, the "most vicious kind of discrimination against the working people," and called on Congress to enact a tax program which will "stop war profiteering."

The stand of the Executive Board will be greeted with approval by the millions of CIO members who know from their own experiences in the last year that the rising cost of living has deeply slashed their real earnings and long ago wiped out the few meager wage gains they had been able to secure despite the bitter opposition of the employers.

But the question is not so much what to fight for as how to fight for it. On this, the resolution said nothing.

Merely citing the huge profits of the bosses and the reduced purchasing power of the workers through price rises, will not induce the employers to pay decent wages. The employers have never yielded to such "reasonable" persuasion in the past. It can be taken for granted they will fight with every means at their command to freeze wages.

EFFECT OF LEADERS' NO STRIKE POLICY
But in the past, the unions have been able to bring recalcitrant employers to terms by the use of their most decisive bargaining weapon, the strike. The CIO leaders, however, have agreed not to employ this weapon for the duration of the war.

There is little reason to believe that the War Labor Board, which is composed predominantly of pro-employer elements, will grant "substantial wage increases" to any extensive section of the workers.

But even if the Board should hand down a decision favorable to a union, it has no legal powers to compel acceptance of the decision by the employers. And without the use of the strike, the union would be unable to enforce such a favorable decision.

Naval Contractors Reap Stupendous War Profits

House Committee Cites Figures Which Confirm Findings of the Truman Report

"Excessive and unconscionable profits" are being made on naval contracts to private shipbuilding corporations, it was disclosed last week in a House Naval Affairs Committee report. The report contains further evidence of the all-out war profiteering revealed recently by the Truman Senate Investigating Committee.

Although the committee attempts to take the sting out of its findings by stating that "neither the industry as a whole nor the major part of industry should be criticized," the actual facts and figures in the report speak for themselves and give the lie to the committee's conclusions.

Profits on contracts held by the 15 big corporations which have obtained over 60 per cent of all contracts, averaged between 20 and 40 per cent, with some profits on individual contracts ranging as high as 211 and 247 per cent. The committee assumed seven per cent as a "fair" profit.

FULL STORY UNTOLD

The report adds that "profits to contractors are increasing and will continue to increase unless steps are taken to halt the trend."

Most of the figures on profits percentages were arrived at by a method intended to conceal the true extent of profits. Profits were calculated on the basis of the total amount of the contracts, which include both the cost to the contractor and his profit. If the rate of profit were figured on costs alone, the percentage of profit would appear much higher. And if the profits were figured on the basis of invested capital, they would then be seen in their true light.

One ship-building corporation has naval contracts netting profits eight times greater than the company's original total worth.

ANTI-LABOR ATTACK
While the committee tried to minimize the significance of its findings of corporation war profits, it interjected a statement on the unions — a statement having no relation to naval affairs — complaining of the fact that 117 separate AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhood unions, representing over 6,000,000 members, had assets, if combined, of \$82,594,959. Calling this an "astounding picture of concentration of wealth," the majority of the committee demanded that the unions be placed under government regulation and that they be taxed.

Seven members of the committee found this attack on labor so crude that they refused to approve this section of the report and turned in a minority dissent. It is obvious that unions are non-profit organizations, whose assets are voluntarily supplied by the members who continue to own and dispose of them. Moreover, the combined assets of all the unions in the country do not measure up to a twentieth of the assets of one corporation, controlled by a handful of owners, like General Motors.

That the Vinson Committee report gives only a glimmering of the true extent of naval contract profiteering is indicated by the fact that only 1228 companies sent replies out of the 5198 firms to which the committee sent its profits questionnaire.

BETHLEHEM WON'T TALK
The Committee had to report, for instance, that the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, a Bethlehem Steel subsidiary, and holder of the greatest number of government contracts, refused to supply information to the committee.

Information supplied by other companies failed "to present an accurate picture," according to the report. A check of the Navy audits disclosed that the Sperry Gyroscope Co., which reported profits of 15.53 per cent on the cost of its contracts, actually made 44.69 per cent. Another company, the B. G. Corporation, claimed profits of 12.28 per cent

which Navy audits showed to be 50.62 per cent.

Commenting on the refusal of the corporations to supply information to it, the report stated: "The committee does not at this time attempt to set forth the reasons motivating the companies in not making their replies promptly."

That doesn't mean the committee doesn't know the reasons, which are obvious. Full reports from the corporations would have disclosed such hair-raising profits that it might have aroused a nationwide stormy protest against war profiteering.

CIO Leader And City Councilman Ask Aid For 18

NEW YORK, Jan. 27. — The Civil Rights Defense Committee this week made public the text of letters from two important figures in the labor and political movement of the metropolitan area. One was from Irving Abramson, President of the New Jersey CIO Council, the other from Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, New York City Councilman from the Borough of Manhattan; both letters expressed support for the 18 members of the Socialist Workers Party and Local 544-CIO convicted in Minneapolis last December for violation of the 1940 Smith "Gag" Law.

The letter from Mr. Abramson, leader of the powerful CIO movement in New Jersey, notifies James T. Farrell, chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, of the favorable action by the CIO State Executive Board on a resolution supporting the 18 who were convicted. It reads as follows:

Jan. 23, 1942

Dear Mr. Farrell:
The prosecution and conviction of 18 officers and members of Local 544 CIO and leaders of the Socialist Workers Party in the Minneapolis labor case under the provisions of the Smith "Gag" Act sets a dangerous precedent which can be used against the labor movement.

The Smith Act which was sponsored by the same Poll Tax Representative Howard Smith of Virginia, who initiated the Slave Labor Bill, now under consideration by Congress, can be used to violate labor's rights.

Our Executive Board is on record as supporting the fight of these men against political persecution.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) IRVING ABRAMSON,
President New Jersey
CIO Council.

Dr. Powell is well-known na-

tionally as a militant leader of the people of Harlem and the first Negro to be elected to the City Council of New York. He has served as the leader of many fights for equal rights for the Negro people, and was prominent in the recent struggle to secure jobs for Negroes with the New York bus companies. He is also pastor of the powerful Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. His letter to George Novack, secretary of the C.R.D.C. says:

Jan. 21, 1942

My Dear Mr. Novack:
I am taking this opportunity of endorsing the work of the Civil Rights Defense Committee in reference to the members of the Socialist Workers Party in Minneapolis.

It has always been important, but in this hour of democracy's crisis it is doubly important that undemocratic leaders are not allowed to pervert justice to their own ends. Whether we agree or disagree on basic philosophies of life, or whether we be black or white, Jew or Gentile, Protestant or Catholic — we are Americans all. Whenever the Civil Liberties of any one American or any American group are threatened, then the Civil Liberties of all are in danger, and this is the issue in Minneapolis.

Sincerely,
DR. ADAM C. POWELL, Jr.,
Councilman, Borough of
Manhattan.

Partial Victory For U. S. Won At Rio Conference

A Compromise Resolution On Rupture With Axis Adopted by American Ministers

By C. CHARLES

As the Rio de Janeiro Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Americas draws to a close, the breaking off of diplomatic relations with the Axis powers by 19 of the 21 Latin American countries can be recorded as a partial victory for the United States. Ten of the 21 nations are at present at war against Japan, Germany and Italy.

The aim of the United States at the conference was first and above all to secure full control of the raw materials and food produced in Latin America and thus prevent the Axis powers from getting any of these vital exports. To a large extent, Sumner Welles, the United States' representative at Rio, was successful in this respect.

Two of the South American powers are still holding out against an immediate break with the Axis: Argentina and Chile. Argentina is the most adamant, while the exact action that Chile will take is still doubtful.

UNANIMOUS VOTE VELS DIFFERENCES

A unanimous vote was secured on a compromise resolution which declared:

"The American republics, in accordance with the procedure established by their own laws and within the position and circumstances of each country in the actual continental conflict, recommend the rupture of their diplomatic relations with Japan, Germany and Italy, since the first of these States has attacked and the other two have declared war on an American country."

This statement replaced one to which Argentina had raised violent objections because it said more categorically the American

of Argentina and Chile in such an event.

2. The desire to strike a better bargain economically in return for the support demanded by the Axis.

3. The wish of the ruling classes of these two countries to take advantage, while the industrial-dominant powers such as the U. S. are occupied in the war, of the opportunity to strengthen the position of Argentina — and Chilean-owned industry.

Before the war the Argentinean and Chilean capitalist classes could not hope to compete with

(Continued on page 2)

Court Of Appeals Turns Down Waller Petition

JAN. 26. — The Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia has denied the petition of Odell Waller, Negro sharecropper of Gretna, Va., for a writ of habeas corpus which his attorneys had requested on the grounds that the barring non-payers of poll taxes from jury service in Virginia made his indictment and conviction unconstitutional under federal and state laws.

Odell Waller is scheduled to be executed on March 20 for the self-defense slaying of his farmer landlord who had tried to cheat the Waller family on their crop shares.

John F. Finerty, defense counsel for Waller, today declared in a statement issued by the Workers Defense League that an appeal would be made to the United States Supreme Court, thus placing the issue of the constitutionality of the poll tax, which disfranchises ten million Americans,

squarely before the nation's highest court.

HOW POLL TAX WORKS
AGAINST SHARECROPPERS
The poll tax issue was raised because Waller was tried by a jury composed exclusively of payers of Virginia's \$1.50 cumulative poll tax. The petition for a writ of habeas corpus presented proof that non-payers of poll taxes were systematically barred from voting lists and from grand and petit juries in Pennsylvania County, Va., where the trial occurred, and that not a single non-payer was found on any jury list. Of the 30,000 eligible voters in the county, only 6000, about 20 per cent, paid their poll taxes in 1940.

Waller, a sharecropper with pitifully little income, was obviously denied a trial by his "peers" when other non-poll tax payers like himself were not permitted onto jury lists.

Trotsky's Book: 'Edited', Then Suppressed

Malamuth 'Edits' the Biography of Stalin To Suit Himself
And State Dept. Has Its Publication Held Up for the Duration

By Albert Goldman

When Harper and Brothers announced their decision to withdraw Trotsky's biography of Stalin from circulation, it was not difficult to detect the finger of Stalin behind that decision. At the present moment Stalin's influence with the government authorities is such that he would not have to exert great pressure to have them suggest to Harpers that it is not advisable under the circumstances to issue an objective biography of an ally of the United States. This is the time when the diplomatic prostitutes, serving the interests of American capitalism, will have the entire field to themselves in writing in praise of the great democratic leader in the Kremlin.

Not the objective biography of Stalin by Leon Trotsky is required by the State Department, but the mediocre and dishonest book of an American lawyer who, by virtue of his ability to marry a wealthy woman, obtained a position as American Ambassador to Moscow.

Motive of the State Department

That the decision of Harper and Brothers to withdraw Trotsky's Stalin from circulation was not taken on their own initiative can be taken for granted. The fact is that the manuscript was printed some months after Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union, and copies of the book were sent to reviewers only recently. It was only after this came to the attention of Mr. Litvinov, Stalin's agent in Washington, that the hint was passed on to the State Department, and in turn to Harpers, that in view of the present international situation the book should not be distributed. Furthermore, it is hardly conceivable that a publishing company, anxious to get back the money it invested in a book, would be swayed by motives of patriotism.

If the action of the State Department would have the ef-

fect of stopping permanently the sale of a book which the publishers had no right to publish in the manner that they did, we would be inclined to overlook its criminal character, for then it would have prevented the perpetration of a great fraud on the American public by Harpers and by the "editor" of Trotsky. Since, however, the motive of the State Department in putting an end to the circulation of the biography at the present time was to help Stalin and not to prevent a crime by the publisher and "editor", we can only say that the crime of the State Department is in addition to the one committed by the publisher and by Mr. Charles Malamuth, the "editor."

At the time of his assassination Trotsky had completed seven chapters of the biography. There were left notes which constituted a very rough draft of an introduction and five additional chapters. By the last will and testament of Trotsky, recognized in the Mexican court, all of his property, including the draft of the last chapters of the Stalin biography, was left to Natalia Trotsky. The publishers had no claim on it whatever, legal or moral, even though they had advanced money to Trotsky for the writing of the book. What Trotsky agreed to furnish the publishers was a completed manuscript and not notes or a draft. The publishers had the right either to publish the seven chapters that were completed, or to return the manuscript and ask for a refund of the advancement.

Naturally, both the widow and the close political associates of Trotsky were anxious to see the Stalin biography published, including both the completed chapters and also the rough draft of the introduction and the additional chapters. The publishers were contacted and the president of the concern readily accepted the proposition of publishing the rough draft either as an appendix or as additional chapters.

It is here that Mr. Charles Malamuth enters upon the scene. He had been hired to translate the manuscript from the original Russian into English. I do not know his merits as a translator, but I shall assume they are high. Mr. Malamuth was an active participant in the arrangements for the translation of the draft. Those who spoke of him with reference to it will testify that at no time did he utter a single word which would indicate that he intended to promote himself from translator to "editor" — of course with the consent of Harpers. It was taken for granted by everybody that no one would dare tamper with Leon Trotsky's draft, except to insert a connecting phrase or sentence wherever necessary to make the meaning of the text clear. It was on the basis of that understanding that the notes were given to Harpers. There was, of course, no obligation on the part of Natalia Trotsky to give these notes to Harpers. They were her sole and exclusive property, and she could do anything she pleased with them.

A letter written by Mr. Malamuth after he had undertaken the job of translating the draft clearly indicates that he promised the representatives of Natalia Trotsky to keep the number of connecting sentences down to an absolute minimum.

Malamuth's Promotion

It was only after Mr. Malamuth completed his task and showed Trotsky's friends in New York a copy of the finished manuscript that we became aware of the fact that a change had taken place in his position, that he was no longer a translator, but an "editor." Mr. Malamuth must be a man who does not permit opportunities to pass by without taking advantage of them. The assassination of Trotsky afforded him an opportunity of a lifetime, and he seized it. It was irksome to be a mere translator with the knowledge that all of his translations would be carefully scrutinized. Stalin gave him the chance that he was looking for — to write and present his own ideas in a book bearing the name of Trotsky.

In an editor's note Mr. Malamuth offers his opinion that "... under the circumstances extensive interpolations by the editor were unavoidable but were, nevertheless, kept down to a

minimum consistent with achieving the maximum of clarity and fluency." (Page IX) The terms "clarity and fluency" are quite flexible and can, of course, be interpreted in accordance with one's desire. To show what a very sweeping interpretation Mr. Malamuth gives to these words, it is necessary only to point out that Chapter XI of the biography consists of 29 pages, with approximately one-half of that number of pages belonging not to the author, but to the "editor". Undoubtedly Trotsky would have developed those notes and perhaps the chapter would have been longer even than it is now, but if anything is certain, it is that Mr. Malamuth's additions do not add any clarity to the original notes.

How Engels Edited Marx

I presume that there have been quite a few cases where a work left unfinished by an author was edited after the author's death. One example that occurs to me is the editing of the second and third volumes of Marx's CAPITAL by Engels. But the difference in the situation of the editing of Marx by Engels and the editing of Trotsky by Malamuth is so great that no comparison is possible. One is simply left gasping at the colossal nerve of Malamuth to undertake to do for Trotsky that which Engels did for Marx. Only an individual completely innocent of his own limitations and bereft of any sense of decency could have done what Malamuth did. But perhaps we should be charitable and blame it on the boss, Harper and Brothers.

Engels assumed the task of editing Marx's unfinished manuscript because he was the closest co-worker of Marx, knew all his theories and agreed with them completely. The interpolations of Engels really explained those sections of Marx's draft which, because of their brevity, were not understandable. Malamuth was not interested in explaining Trotsky's ideas. He was interested, under the guise of an explanation, in putting forth his own ideas, which are directly contrary to those of Trotsky.

If the publishers and Malamuth had been interested in explaining certain sections of the notes, they certainly would have submitted the interpolations either to Natalia Trotsky or to the closest co-workers of Trotsky, but no such thing was done. Their failure to do so is conclusive proof that they were not interested in explaining anything, but in contradicting the whole theory propounded by Trotsky in the biography. It is not necessary to stress some factual errors made by Malamuth indicating that his knowledge of the history of the Bolshevik party is not as extensive as he would like people to believe, nor is it necessary to mention the fact that Malamuth had evidently read and re-read Souvarine's Stalin before editing the biography.

How Malamuth Distorts Trotsky

It would have been bad enough had Malamuth written unnecessary interpolations even if they were more or less correct. His crime consists in injecting, at times subtly and at times not so subtly, into his running commentary, the theory championed by so many intellectuals to the effect that Stalinism is a logical and inevitable product of Bolshevism, a thesis which the author of the biography took particular pains to disprove in the biography itself.

In many respects Malamuth's editing is nothing but a running polemic with the author of the book. Would Trotsky have spoken of the "vaunted democracy of the Soviets?" (Page 339). Would the author of the biography have made the statement that "the trend toward centralization, that sure precursor of totalitarianism, went on within the Bolshevik party itself?" (Page 339) Would Trotsky have considered that "the political administration Sverdlov headed was the precursor of the contemporary one-party-State?" (Page 340)

We are, of course, the last to deny Malamuth the right to present his theories, but we do deny his right to take advantage of the name of Trotsky for the purpose of doing so. Quite obviously Mr. Malamuth understood that a book presenting the theories of Mr. Malamuth and written by Mr. Malamuth would have a slight chance of being published, and if published, would hardly be a best seller, and so Mr. Malamuth, interested in presenting his ideas to the world, shrewdly chose to do so in the form of "editing" Trotsky's last notes on the biography of Stalin.

Our protests to Mr. Malamuth and to the representatives of Harper and Brothers were of no avail. The former feigned astonishment at our irritation and anger and asserted rather plaintively that he had nothing to do with the matter and that he had simply obeyed the orders of his boss. The president of Harpers, Mr. Canfield, was not so apologetic, but rather truculent. He had advanced money and was not only entitled to the draft, but to do anything he pleased with it.

The Case Is Still Pending

A suit to enjoin the publication and distribution of the Stalin book with the Malamuth interpolation was filed, but alas, to get an injunction it is necessary to file a bond, and those who filed the suit were in no position to do that, and so the publisher could and did go ahead with the printing of the manuscript which included the Malamuth interpolations. The case is still pending, and all that we can do is hope that the judge will make the decision of the State Department permanent and clear the way for the publishing of the biography without the benefit of the "clarity and fluency" added to it by Mr. Malamuth's editing.

Here it must be added that both Malamuth and the representatives of Harper and Brothers undoubtedly belong to the tribe composed of people who wax indignant at the "amoralism" of Bolshevism.

Same Dollar-A-Year Men Run New Nelson Set-Up

War Production "Czar" Just Changes A Few Titles; Picks Ford Man to Head Auto

By DON DORE

Ex-corporation executive Donald Nelson, so-called "Czar" of the government's latest war production set-up, merely changed a few titles and shifted the old agencies around a bit in his much-heralded "reorganization" last week.

The same crew of corporation dollar-a-year men will continue to run the show. Only now they will draw down government salaries and formally re-design their private business connections.

Stating that "any revolutionary changes would only bring delay," Nelson announced on Jan. 21 his plan to establish six major divisions under his War Production Board. These divisions are nothing more than the old agencies, with the same corporation men in charge. "Each of the six major divisions and most of the secondary groups are headed by executives who handled similar work in the OPM," observes the Jan. 22 New York Times.

These include most of the men exposed in the Truman Senate Investigating Committee report as having aided the big corporations in realizing enormous war profits and maintaining their monopoly advantages.

KNUDSEN RIDES AGAIN

OPM Director William Knudsen, a chief target of the Truman report, has been named the first civilian Lieutenant-General in American history. President Roosevelt assigned him in this capacity to take "complete charge" of the War Department's munitions program.

Although technically disqualified for a post on the WPB since he heads no specific WPB division or government department, Knudsen has been placed on the board by Nelson, who said that the former General Motors president would remain on the WPB "even if I have to ask to have the executive order reworded so that he will be eligible technically."

dent of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. Harrison is simply continuing his work as former director of the OPM's production division.

J. S. Knowlson, president of the Stewart-Warner Corporation, will transfer his big business talent from the Acting Directorship of the OPM's priorities division to chief of the Division of Industry Operation under the WPB.

The president of SKF Industries, Inc., William L. Batt, will continue to pursue his function as director of the OPM's materials division.

Leon Henderson, Price Administrator and director of the OPM's Division of Civilian Supply, will perform his old chores as head of the new Civilian Supply Division.

A former purchasing director of the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Douglas MacKeachie, will hold down the chief post in the new Purchases Division, a job for which he received training as OPM Director of Purchases.

Last, but not least, in the OPM roll-call in the "reorganized" set-up, is Sidney Hillman, who gave the "labor" coloration to the OPM as its Associate Director General. Hillman did a conscientious job of defending the OPM's policies. He is expected to do equally well as head of the new Labor Division.

The Truman report showed that the war production program was being run by and for the big corporations.

Examination of Nelson's "reorganization" — in part, an attempt to offset the public reaction to the Truman disclosures — reveals that the capitalist domination of the war production agencies will continue. A new sign has been placed over the entrance, but it's the same old company, run by the same bosses, doing bigger business but still "business as usual."

Facts On Naval Contracts

Facts and figures about some of the war profiteering on naval contracts, as contained in the House Naval Affairs Committee report, are listed below:

General Motors expected profits of from 12 to 27 per cent on 15 reported contracts, ranging from \$1,000,000 to \$18,000,000.

"Profits range from \$850,000 to \$1,125,000 on individual contracts," reported the Bath Iron Works about 8 contracts netting profits of 8 to 29 per cent. The Bendix Aviation Corporation expects to make a 27 per cent profit, \$375,688, on one contract of \$1,378,445. It anticipates a 30.8 per cent profit, \$225,246, on another contract of \$730,620.

The Bridgeport Brass Co. has four contracts, each over \$500,000, with estimated profits of from 16 to 26 per cent. \$456,105, a 21 per cent profit, is expected on one contract of \$2,194,335. One contract involving \$2,931,285 will yield 21.6 per cent profit, and another of \$2,788,901 will bring in 21.2 per cent profit to the Todd Seattle Drydocks, Inc.

These swollen profits appear relatively slight in comparison to some of the following:

The Maryland Drydock Co. made a 44.5 per cent profit on a \$1,493,286 contract. The George Pollock Co. netted 44 per cent profit on one \$2,556,590 contract. A profit of \$320,745 — 149.9 per cent — on a \$534,574 contract was realized by the Eric Forge Co., which listed ten other contracts giving average profits of 140 per cent.

The Fairchild Aviation Corp. made 77 per cent profit on one contract of \$69,300.

Partial Victory For U.S. At Rio

(Continued from page 1)

the already entrenched foreign capitalists who dominated the South American markets with their exports. Argentina and Chile, although very important food and raw material producing regions, are the two most industrially developed countries south of the United States, and sections of their ruling classes are ambitious to become the dominant industrial powers.

The other countries in South America are nearly exclusively food and raw material producing and exporting countries. Their only markets at present are the Allies, who are in a position now to secure their support. On the other hand, the Axis powers cannot buy or sell to Latin-America because of Allied control of the seas.

The resistance of Argentina and Chile to United States pressure must necessarily be of the most limited and timid character.

First of all, the capitalists of these countries who export to the Allies will strive, in case of real difficulty, to mold the policy of the governments so as to have them come to an agreement with their chief customers.

Secondly, while certain other sections of the capitalist classes in these countries would like the chance to build their industries against the United States and British competition, the Allies still have control of maritime transport and supplies of machinery and certain raw industrial materials. These native capitalists will have to come to terms with the Allies.

DARE NOT ROUSE MASSES

Above all the ruling classes of Argentina and Chile dare not call forth a mass movement of the people in a struggle for real independence from foreign control of their industrial and political life. The ruling classes fear that the masses would not stop with the foreign capitalists but would continue their fight against their native exploiters as well. Fearful of arousing the masses, the capitalists are reduced to nearly futile gestures.

If the conference did nothing else, it exposed a lot of the current talk about a "war for dem-

San Francisco Hotel Strikers Holding Firm

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—

Picket lines are continuing in the strike at 27 hotels of the Hotel Employers' Association here, because the bosses refuse to accept union proposals to submit the issues to government arbitration. The strike was called on Aug. 30, 1941 by seven AFL locals. Early in December, the unions agreed to end the strike at once on the sole condition that the hotel owners agree to government arbitration.

It is clear that the Association aims at smashing the strike and locking out the striking workers. The owners are trying to use the war situation as a pretext for forcing the workers into complete surrender on the Association's own terms.

The hotel workers are demanding wages amounting to a little over \$4 a day, improved working conditions and the union shop. Under the conditions of the old 1937 contract which the bosses want to retain, the hotel workers were receiving the lowest pay in the city, \$1.50 to \$3.40 a day and no room or board.

Employees of 200 other hotels, whose owners are part of the Hotel Owners Association (not to be confused with the holdout Hotel Employers Association), last week received a wage-arbitration award increasing pay as high as 41 per cent. These workers have a closed shop agreement.

The A.F. of L. Hotel Worker, the bulletin issued by the strikers, reports in its Jan. 19 issue that the entire San Francisco union movement is supporting the strikers. The bulletin states that this dispute is regarded in all labor circles as a test case "to determine whether or not money-hungry, labor-hating employers shall use this war — as they did the World War I — to attack organized labor, and thereby the living standards of the American people."

The United States and British diplomats may be successful in convincing the ruling classes of Latin America of the benefits of support of the Allies. But they cannot convince the masses of Latin America who see little difference in being ruled by American and British-supported dictators (who now dominate Latin America) or Axis-supported dictators (who would like to dominate Latin America).

For the great majority of the masses, imperialism means hunger, want, ignorance, super-exploitation and lack of democratic rights.

This is why the present governments in this country and Brit-



During the past few weeks

some of our agents have been very active in the business of getting subscriptions. Contacts who have been receiving the paper through our mass distribution policy are now quite well acquainted with our press; at this juncture, each and every individual with whom you've had contact should be solicited. Subscriptions to THE MILITANT should be the logical conclusion to the mass distributions made by all agents during the last period.

Discuss with each solicitor his contacts and the possibility of getting a subscription from each. A subscription is the best means of assuring delivery of THE MILITANT each week, of keeping the contact in constant touch.

The special subscription offer will end with this issue of THE MILITANT. Those branches that are alive to every possibility, every opportunity, will follow-up

on the special subs they sent in and attempt to get regular subscriptions.

Next week we hope to make an announcement that will add further incentive to the securing of subs. Be sure to read the column for details.

LIBRARY FILES

We have just learned of an idea that we think is very good and therefore we pass it on to all our agents. Minneapolis writes that they have contacted the libraries and branches in their vicinity, asking if they would accept files of THE MILITANT. The libraries not only accepted the offer, but state they will bind the sets so that the paper and magazine will be available for permanent reference.

All agents who have back issues of the press might very well use them to advantage by following the example set by Minneapolis.

JUST OUT!

SOCIALISM ON TRIAL

by James P. Cannon

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The Negro Struggle
By Ernest Williams

Remember Sikeston, Missouri!

In the midst of the war which is proclaimed a crusade against intolerance, racial hatred, and all other forms of injustice, the newspapers again carry the headline, "Negro Lynched by Missouri Crowd".

Cleo Wright, a 30 year old Negro mill worker, already critically wounded by three bullets, was dragged from the city jail of Sikeston, Missouri, on Jan. 25. According to the Associated Press report, he "offered no resistance. He was stuffed into the trunk compartment of a motor car and taken to the Negro district, where he was dragged through the streets behind an automobile. Later the body was cut loose and gasoline applied. . .

"A city truck removed the Negro's body after it had been in the street several hours."

As usual in such cases, the charge against Wright was that he was "suspected of an attack on a white woman." Someone entered the home of an Army sergeant and stabbed his wife, inflicting a wound in her side. After a chase across town, an officer captured Wright, according to the reports, took away a knife, and put him in the back seat of his car. A struggle then ensued, during which the policeman drew his revolver and shot Wright three times.

What happened after the lynching was typical too. Apparently the so-called "law-and-order" enforcing agencies felt more concerned about preventing the Negro population from expressing their feelings than in capturing the members of the lynch mob. State Highway Patrolmen were stationed in the Negro section of Sikeston. American Legion members "guarded" streets leading into the area. "Negroes were ordered to remain indoors."

The Cause of Lynchings

The New York Times of Jan. 27 in a pious editorial discussion of the lynching entitled "Sikeston Disgraces Itself" tries to place the responsibility for this lynching solely on the people of Sikeston. In this way the Times editorial writer tries to absolve the whole damnable system of racial discrimination — approved and fostered by the government and the capitalist class — of any responsibility for the murder of Cleo Wright.

But in the final analysis the cause of lynchings is the system of Jim Crow. The Times and the other spokesmen of the capitalist class may object to a lynching, especially, as they point out when such "evidences of lawlessness" can be utilized for Nazi propaganda. But such objections and editorials are the worst kind of hypocrisy as long as their writers continue to support and cover up the source of the lynchings.

Lynchings are not something peculiar to Sikeston, as the Times knows very well. They happen in every state in the South. And they are only more violent expressions of the economic lynchings that the Negro people suffer in the North. Negro and white workers who want to abolish the hellish practice of lynching must not be taken in by the Times and the other hypocrites. The only way to abolish lynching is to abolish all forms of racial discrimination, wherever they exist.

When the Army segregates Negroes in separate regiments, they are contributing to future lynchings.

When the Navy refuses to accept Negroes as anything but mess attendants, they are contributing to that "white superiority" psychology which culminates in lynchings.

When the big industrialists — and the big newspapers too — refuse to hire Negroes except as porters or cleaners of toilets, they too are partially responsible for the growth of hatred of minority groups and their hands too are stained with the blood of the Cleo Wrights.

When Congress and the administration pigeon-hole the many Anti-Lynch bills — limited and weak as these bills are — they too must be assigned their share of responsibility for what occurred in Sikeston.

The lynch mob of 300 who refused Cleo Wright the chance of a fair trial were guilty of murder and must be made to pay for their crime. But so too must the forces practicing and encouraging racial discrimination be made to pay for their responsibility. The lynch mob must be punished, but the system which makes it possible for them to commit such acts must be abolished.

And not until it is abolished will any talk about a "war for democracy" seem like anything but cheap hypocrisy intended for the consumption of the Negro people.

Again, the Question of Blood

The Red Cross has just been put on the spot. Its excuse for refusing Negro blood donors who volunteered to give their blood for wounded soldiers and sailors had been that it was acting on instructions from the Army and Navy.

But the U. S. Navy has just denied that it ever requested the American Red Cross to refuse the blood of Negro donors. A public statement to this effect was made by Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Surgeon General, in answer to an inquiry about the refusals made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

McIntire stated that all Negro applicants were told that their contributions would be accepted, and were referred to the Red Cross.

This puts the blame for this racial discrimination squarely on the American Red Cross. The NAACP immediately wrote to Norman Davis, president of the Red Cross, informing him of the Navy's statement, and asking for an explanation of the contradiction between this and the official excuse given by the Red Cross.

We don't know who is passing the buck to whom, but we do know that Negro blood is still not considered "good enough" by the authorities in charge of collecting blood.

Stalinists Open Up A New Slander Campaign Against the Trotskyists

In recent weeks the Stalinists have opened up a campaign of slander against the Trotskyists, denouncing them as "fifth columnists" and "agents of Hitler." These latest denunciations are part of the Stalinist drive to use the war, and the hysteria created in such a period of reaction, for the purpose of suppressing all working class opposition to Stalinist policies.

On Jan. 18, the Sunday Worker printed a story from Mexico, telling of the opening of a new drive by the Stalinists against Trotskyists and other non-Stalinist groups and figures in the labor movement there. Acting as the front for this lynch campaign are a small group of Mexican deputies, headed by the Stalinist, Carlos Zapata Vela.

Grandizo Munis, the only actual Trotskyist named by the Mexican Stalinists, was General Secretary of the Spanish Trotskyist movement, was arrested by the SIM (Spanish branch of the GPU) during the Spanish Civil War and held in prison for more than a year while the SIM tried unsuccessfully to obtain a false confession from him. Munis has

answered in the Mexican daily, El Universal, the slanders of the Stalinists. We reprint Munis' article below, and have nothing to add to its able analysis of the current GPU campaign.

Comrade Munis, showing how the GPU prepares the ideological groundwork for its murderous work, cites a case of an obvious GPU agent, "John Willes", who stated in a Washington dispatch to the Mexican daily, Excelsior: "The celebrated trial in Minneapolis against the leaders of the false Socialist Workers Party brought out the intimate connection that existed between them, headed by the successors of Leon Trotsky and earlier by the latter himself, and the agents of the German Gestapo."

DISPROVED BY INDICTMENT AND THE COURT RECORD

Every honest person who knows anything about the federal prosecution of the members of the So-

Their Own Statements Refute Their Latest Lies About Minneapolis Trial

cialist Workers Party and Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis, knows that "Willes'" statement is a lie. Not even the Daily Worker in this country has yet dared to make such an allegation, which is disproved by the records of the trial, which show that the Trotskyists were prosecuted solely because of their adherence to revolutionary Marxism.

But while the Stalinists in this country have not dared to make statements in their press like those of the Mexican Stalinists, there have been increasing reports in recent weeks of similar oral statements made by Stalinists on the floor of trade unions when representatives of the Civil Rights Defense Committee have appeared to ask the unions for their moral and financial support for the Minneapolis defendants.

One need only produce the official statements of the Stalinists in the Daily Worker before and after the trial to refute the lies

which Stalinists are uttering at these union meetings.

After the indictment of the Trotskyists in Minneapolis, the Daily Worker (Aug. 16, 1941), examining the text of the indictment, complained because the Trotskyists were being prosecuted not as fascist agents, but as revolutionists:

OUT OF THEIR OWN MOUTHS

"Were the indictment one which charged the discredited band of Trotskyites with the actual offenses committed and plotted against the American people, the entire labor movement and all liberty-loving Americans could not but unreservedly support it. But this is not the nature of the government indictment of the Trotskyites. . .

"...the Trotskyites are not being prosecuted for what they really are — agents of fascism, but instead as so-called 'revolu-

tionaries' . . ."

And after the trial, the Daily Worker (Dec. 19, 1941), reviewing the government's case, was still making the same complaint: "Their fifth column service to Hitlerism through spreading disunity in labor's ranks, trying to undermine and weaken the all-out defense effort, and viciously inciting against the Soviet Union received little attention (from the prosecutors at the trial). Instead, the 'radical' mask under which all this was carried on was taken at face value by the prosecution, and the Trotskyite pretense of being a militant working class organization was used to obtain the first conviction under the reactionary Smith Act. . ."

In a word, the Stalinists wanted the Minneapolis trial conducted as a Moscow trial and bitterly complained because the government insisted on prosecuting the Trotskyists as revolutionists. But now, in attempting to prevent the mobilization of the labor movement for an appeal to higher courts of the convictions in the trial, the Stalinists are pretending that the government gave them the Moscow trial they had vainly sought!

By GRANDIZO MUNIS

The GPU is on the move. Its press and kindred newspaper writers have initiated a serious slander campaign against the militant workers of revolutionary tendencies. The forward march order was given by Juan Comonera from the magazine of the Spanish Stalinists. Following this the non-party forces have been mobilized, commissioned with giving the campaign a non GPU appearance.

See, for example, the dispatches sent to Excelsior from Washington by one John Willes. Ostensibly he is just another correspondent. But the impudence with which this individual lies and slanders is unmistakably of GPU brand. He headlines his story of the 15th, "Joint Action Against the Spies." The miserable scribbler says the following:

"Since agents of German, Italian or Japanese origin are easily discovered by the police, the Gestapo favors the Falangist organizations and pseudo-revolutionaries in order to better mask its maneuvers. Blows against the Spanish Falange are being dealt plentifully in the United States as well as in other republics of our Continent, but those which attract more attention at this time are the ones dealt the false revolutionaries. The celebrated trial in Minneapolis against the leaders of the false Socialist Workers Party brought out the intimate connection that existed between them, headed by the successors of Leon Trotsky and

Grandizo Munis, Answering Charges Of Mexican CP, Warns Against GPU Moves

earlier by the latter himself, and the agents of the German Gestapo."

WHAT THE MINNEAPOLIS TRIAL DID SHOW

Observe that the object of this paragraph is not to intensify the struggle against the Spanish Falange and the fascists in general, but rather against the Trotskyist movement. With what proofs, or even suggestions of proofs? What the Minneapolis trial has shown is that the Trotskyist party in question, in the words of the federal indictment, "wanted to make a revolution in the United States like that led by Lenin and Trotsky in Russia in 1917."

The sentences pronounced on some of the leaders of that party are based on their revolutionary activities; a connection with the Gestapo never having been even spoken of during the trial. Let the GPU order its mercenary John Willes to publish the indictment against the Socialist Workers Party and the verdict of the jury! Under no conditions will it do that.

Corrupt Stalinism speaks of collusion between the Trotskyists and the Gestapo while in Paris the Gestapo shoots the Trotskyist Jean Meichler, and jails and sends others to the concentration camps; while the Vichy Government condemns the Spanish Trotskyist and POUM militants to

five, eight and ten years of hard labor; while German pressure forces the suppression of our organizations in Switzerland. And it says that — after everyone has seen Stalinism collaborate with Hitler up until the attack on the Soviet Union. Those who slander us are the same who approved, tacitly or explicitly, Molotov's words: "A strong Germany is indispensable for the establishment of a solid peace in Europe."

LIES ABOUT THE TROTSKYIST PROGRAM

Playing the trombone in the same orchestra, a few Mexican deputies, misled by the known Stalinist, Carlos Zapata Vela, accuse V. Serge, M. Pivert, J. Gorkin and myself of Fifth Columnism. The three aforementioned persons are not Trotskyist militants, but their company is much more honorable than that of any Stalinist; the accusations that are made against them are infamous and slanderous. The deputies' document, published fully in El Popular, gives as proof some words from a manifesto by the Fourth International in which it is proclaimed that the imperialist allies of the USSR are not our allies. The fact that the same document advises the German workers and soldiers to disorganize the Hitler rearguard and to go over to the Red Army with arms and equipment is deliberate-

ly omitted. In reality, this is merely a question of persecuting us for remaining loyal to the leading ideas of the Bolshevik revolution. After liquidating this revolution almost completely, Stalinism, like the Bonapartists of the French Revolution, wants to liquidate the representatives of the revolutionary ideas.

What is the object of all this campaign? We already know of a similar one against Trotsky. The Mexican "Communist" Party convoked a Congress against Trotskyism. From El Popular and the Stalinist press gushed forth the slanders: Trotsky is an agent of Yankee imperialism, of the petroleum companies; that was the overtone of the play. The campaign culminated in the assault of the 24th of May, 1940, the assassination of Sheldon Harte and of Trotsky himself. Some of the assailants personally participated in the preparatory campaign by means of articles and caricatures.

OBJECT OF THE GPU

The object of the GPU is the same now: the assassination of the slandered men — fomenting the political atmosphere beforehand in order to permit the assassins' escape afterward — or to urge some deceived Mexican youths to commit such murders. Among the Spanish Stalinists it is already being discussed public-

ly that we must be "liquidated." Let us remember that when Trotsky predicted that the campaign against him had as its object his assassination, the GPU stooges ironically accused him of even seeing the GPU in his soup. They will say the same thing now. And let us remember also that the GPU has murdered nine of Trotsky's secretaries, has murdered the Trotskyists Wolf, Moulin and others in Spain, Ignace Reiss in Switzerland, Klement in France and other honest worker militants such as Nin, Berneri, Barbieri, Landau. In Spain Stalinism took advantage of the influence flowing from control of the arms supply to assassinate its adversaries on the left. In Mexico it tries to do the same thing, taking advantage of the prestige from the victories heroically gained by the Soviet people in spite of Stalin.

For my part, I declare publicly that any "accident" or assassination that may befall me, should be attributed to the GPU and morally to the instigators of its infamous campaign. As to the accusation by the Messrs. Deputies, it is not even necessary to take it seriously; it destroys itself. The quoted paragraphs only prove that we are worker militants determined not to abandon class independence. If they will agree to renounce parliamentary immunity, we are disposed to demonstrate this before the courts.

Mexico, D. F.
January 17, 1942.

Typhus Spread Menaces All Armies and Peoples

300 Deaths A Day Reported In Warsaw; All Continental Europe Is Threatened

By EDITH KANE

Typhus outbreaks have been reported in Belgrade, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Rumania, North Africa, Finland and Spain. In Warsaw 300 deaths a day have been cited. A dispatch from London on January 21 speaks of a typhus epidemic "threatening all continental Europe." Once again epidemic threatens mankind. The armies and people of all Europe are menaced by the appearance of typhus anywhere.

Typhus is conveyed from man to man by the louse. It is a filth disease, flourishing in conditions of overcrowding, inadequate shelter and lack of sanitation. Its epidemic nature is further aided by anything that weakens body resistance to disease — poor food, sieges of other diseases, accumulated years of living in sub-standard conditions due to depression, famine, unemployment. Typhus epidemics accompany wars, famines and industrial depressions.

LICE AS TRANSMITTERS

The role of the louse as the transmitter of the typhus virus that has devastated cities, wiped out masses of people and transformed conquering armies into panic-stricken mobs was not known until 1909.

Since that time it has by no means been removed from modern society. It has been confined to those who live in poverty or under primitive conditions. The widespread use of bathtubs and modern sewage disposal system is comparatively recent and still has not been extended to wide areas of this country. All over the world great numbers of people still live as primitively as their ancestors did, as if plumb-

ing and sanitation were unknown. Wherever there is a lack of bathing facilities, soap, or a change of clothing, conditions for lice-breeding are present. And with them, the problem of typhus epidemic.

WAR AS MEDIUM

War presents the ideal culture medium for the nurturing and blossoming of typhus epidemics. Every requirement is present. Masses of men are crowded together in makeshift, unsanitary, inadequate living quarters. They may eat poorly or improperly, sleep irregularly and are exposed to cold and damp for which they are insufficiently clothed. Like the natives of cold climates, they are forced to live and sleep in their clothing. Lack of bathing facilities, clothing changes or laundries plus cold and fatigue soon reduce the soldier to the level of primitive man, so far as cleanliness is concerned.

If, in addition, these soldiers or those in contact with them have for years lived in poverty or even a reduced scale of living during a period of depression (when food and medical care are the first items cut) the stage is properly set. All that is needed is the presence of the typhus virus in the blood of just one

soldier on either side of the trench. The lice, no respecter of trench lines or nations, pass it on.

Sufferers of typhus who have recovered retain the virus in their blood. They may have another attack years later, but usually develop a resistance to the disease. Soldiers from countries where typhus is uncommon are more prone to epidemic than the natives of countries long infested with typhus.

SINCE WORLD WAR I

Although typhus scourged all Europe during the last war and post-war period, the German army escaped any real epidemic. Today, although they are acquainted with the most effective

methods of sanitation and the latest scientific treatment, typhus appears to be spreading among the German soldiers and in the German-controlled countries. Years of living in deprivation and misery have debilitated the German and other European people so as to make them easily susceptible to infection. Greater masses of people are involved and larger areas constitute the battle front than in the last war. Much more vigilance and more improved methods of thorough delousing are required. It is questionable whether there is any nation involved in the war today prepared to undertake to carry out a really thorough job of tackling typhus in the midst of war.

There was no typhus epidemic in the American or British armies during the last war. But there were lice a-plenty and a disease — trench fever — carried by lice.

When the draftees appeared for medical examinations last year the authorities expressed

great astonishment at the decline in the health of our people. The depression years during which these boys had reached maturity had left their imprint in stunted growth and weight, decayed teeth, lowered resistance, physical and mental defects. It was discovered that the whole country was eating improperly and a campaign commenced immediately to make us vitamin conscious.

The British people, in addition to their many years of sub-standard living, have had their health further undermined by two years of war and siege. The health and resistance to disease of both British and American soldiers was immeasurably greater at the beginning of the last war.

TYPHUS MAY BE DECISIVE FACTOR

And if so little can be said for the health of people who have lived in countries boasting the highest standards of living, one can imagine how little resistance to typhus epidemic can be offered by the great masses of Europe. They have existed under ever declining conditions since the end of the last war.

The operation of war is jeopardized by typhus. It is to the interests of those in charge of the war to prevent epidemic in order to bring the war to a successful conclusion. But despite the knowledge of the cause and cure of typhus, the task of combatting it looms tremendous, especially during active warfare. Unless the most drastic precautions are used, and scientific and medical facilities are available, typhus will again play a decisive role in this war as it has in all past wars.

(Next week: Typhus in past wars; how to fight typhus.)

The Burmese People And Their Struggle For Independence

By A. ROLAND

One Out of Every 218

The Burmese peasants would have liked nothing better than to have kept out of the war. Close to ninety percent of these people are growers of rice in the paddy fields of the valleys through which flow the three great Burmese rivers.

But the Burmese were hardly consulted in the matter of the war. Burma is itself of tremendous strategic importance in the war. It houses the great Indian Ocean port of Rangoon through which pass practically all the supplies for the Chinese, destined to pass over the famous Burma Road. The Japanese are interested not only in shutting off this road, but also in the seizure of the rich rice lands, the rubber plantations, and the oil fields, under the control of the Burma Oil Co. The English are most anxious to close this back door to India to the Japanese.

Some years ago H. G. Wells told of a conversation with the leaders of the Burmese nationalist movement. These leaders said to him: "We are the Irish of the East." What they meant was that the Burmese were as proud a race as the Irish, and would wage a continual struggle, like the Irish, to gain their independence from British domination. Burma has, in fact, been a land of continual "disorder."

If we go no further back than 1930, when the Ghandi non-cooperation movement was in full swing, we find the Burmese, who were then still in the Indian Empire as one province, unanimously supporting that movement. The time came, indeed, when one out of every 218 Burmese (there are 25 million people in Burma), was in jail. Britain was forced to isolate Burma from the rest of India and to grant her a separate constitution with limited democratic rights, but not with Dominion status. The new constitution set up two houses of parliament of which the House of Representatives was an elective body. The English hope that this would permit the Burmese a means of blowing off steam proved a vain one.

U. Saw Is Not the First

Burma became a separate colony in 1937. The first premier of the new native government (the royal governor was, of course, the real power) was Ba Maw. He proceeded to use the forum of the parliament to continue the struggle for freedom. He was at once arrested and thrown into prison. Thus it is no precedent for the English to imprison a Burmese prime minister. The charge against the present premier, U. Saw, is one of conspiring with the Japanese. We have no way of knowing the truth of this charge; but such amalgams have been so common in history, particularly recent history, that we may take the charge with a large grain of salt.

Skepticism is all the more in order when we know that U. Saw had just visited England for the purpose of presenting the case of his country for independence. Evidently the Churchill government feared his return to Burma at this critical time. The persistent demands of the Burmese for freedom are also the reason why the English never raised a Burmese army out of the big population of that land, and are now forced to call on the Chinese for quick aid. The comment of the American correspondent, Cecil Brown, with regard to the Malaysians and the failure of the English to train a Malayan army, applies equally to Burma.

Upton Close, writer on Far Eastern affairs, asked a very pertinent question in one of his broadcasts. Why do not the Allies issue a Pacific Charter to correspond to the Atlantic Charter? But even with respect to the Atlantic Charter, Churchill hastened to allay any doubts by stating that the Atlantic Charter did not apply to India. "Implied in the query of Upton Close is a criticism of this policy. Evidently he wishes to have the Allies enlist the support of all the native races of Asia by giving them something to fight for other than the domination of their present masters. But to ask for any policy of renunciation of colonial domination on the part of the great powers, is to look for Utopia.

Common Aim of the Colonial Peoples

The Japanese have tried to use the propaganda of uniting the Asiatic peoples to throw off the yoke of the white man. But the utterly brutal and wanton outrages of the Japanese armies in their invasion of China and their attempt to force China into colonial status, long ago exposed this false propaganda. The Burmese certainly have no cause for looking to Japan to aid them in the struggle for freedom. Nor do they look to any such program as that followed by the Japanese in the Tanaka Memorial to the Japanese Emperor.

The task of a real Pacific Charter remains the task of the colonial peoples themselves, aided by the workers of all lands. India, Burma and all the British colonies will not get freedom by looking for a grant of rights from Britain. Such freedom they will gain ultimately mainly through their own efforts and struggle. Certainly they cannot gain it by the slightest reliance on Japan. A real union of Asiatic peoples for freedom is surely necessary to advance humanity along the path of civilization. We have no doubt that such a union will ultimately be achieved against all the forces tending to divide these peoples from each other, tending to set one off against the other. The Asiatic peoples learn painfully that all forms of imperialism have as their aim the old Roman maxim of Divide and Rule. Let this lesson be absorbed into the very marrow of the bones of the vast masses of Eastern peoples, Chinese, Hindus, Moslems, Burmese, Malaysians, Mongolians — all have common strivings and a common struggle.

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Behind The Vinson Attack On Unions

The chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, which gave a report last week on naval contracts profiteering, is Representative Vinson, Georgia poll-tax Democrat and author of one of the most vicious anti-labor bills now pending in Congress. Most of his colleagues on the committee are men of the same reactionary stripe.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the majority of the committee sought to soften the implications of their findings about the corporation war profiteers and to dig up some pretext for directing their main attack on the trade unions.

The committee majority leaped on the fact that 117 national unions in March, 1941 had assets, when taken together, of some \$82,000,000. The committee brandished this fact in the air as an example of "an astounding picture of concentration of wealth" and forthwith demanded taxing the union treasuries and imposing government regulation on unions.

The report also attempted to make much of the fact that the \$82,000,000 in union assets — not "concentrated", but divided among 117 different organizations — is \$10,679,294 more than in Oct. 1939. The report "overlooks" the great increase in union membership between Oct. 1939 and March 1941, and the fact that this figure represents an increase of less than \$2 a member during this 18 month period.

Of course, the committee knows it is engaging in plain skullduggery. It knows that union assets are not employed for the purpose of making profits, or obtaining financial control of the productive facilities of this country. It understands that union assets come from the voluntary contributions of the workers, and that they remain the collective property of the workers.

There are scores of corporations whose individual assets run into hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars. These assets have not been produced by the handful of owners and bosses, who nevertheless control and use them for the sole purpose of gaining profits. These assets come from the labor of the workers.

Three auto corporations, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, last year made \$430,000,000 net profits. Their combined assets are over 8 billion dollars. In one year alone, these three corporations, the property of a few individuals, make profits four times as great as the entire assets — properties and cash — of the whole union movement of over 10,000,000 workers.

The fact that the committee had to lump together the assets of 117 separate unions in order to obtain a figure that would appear remotely to justify its charge of "concentration of wealth" is sufficient to show how desperate the committee was to make some sort of case against the labor movement.

What is afoot here is quite clear. This fakery about the unions' "concentration of wealth" is simply a dodge to weaken the unions by the fabrication of arguments to justify the imposition of a government dictatorship over the unions in the interests of the real controllers of concentrated wealth. It is an attempt to protect and whitewash the real war profiteers and monopolists, the industrialists and bankers of America's Sixty Families, and their few thousand satellites, who own and control most of the productive wealth of the country.

'Price-Control' Bill

Friends as well as foes of the price-control bill passed by the Senate last Tuesday admit they expect no substantial good to come of it.

Even Price Administrator Leon Henderson had to confess last week that the measure would fail to prevent further price rises.

At most, all that the Administration hopes to accomplish through the price-control set-up is to prevent an increase in the rate of acceleration of price inflation to keep prices from going up so rapidly as to result in total economic chaos.

Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold has stated it is the monopoly corporations and the speculators in every basic industry who have set off the price spiral and keep boosting it upward.

But Congress, composed as it is of pro-capitalist elements, cannot be expected to take effective measures against the owning class it represents. Rising prices mean rising profits, and profits are the very breath of life for the bosses.

The workers only immediate means of protection against price rises is to get back in the form of higher wages some of the profits extorted thru price boosting.

The CIO workers are aware of that fact. The CIO National Executive Board this week expressed this awareness when it drafted a call to all its affiliated unions to raise demands for "substantial wage increases."

No honest person can dispute the justice of such demands. As CIO President Philip Murray has pointed out, the cost of living will have increased 20 per cent by this March, not only wiping out all 1941 wage gains, but inflicting an additional 10 per cent cut in real wages.

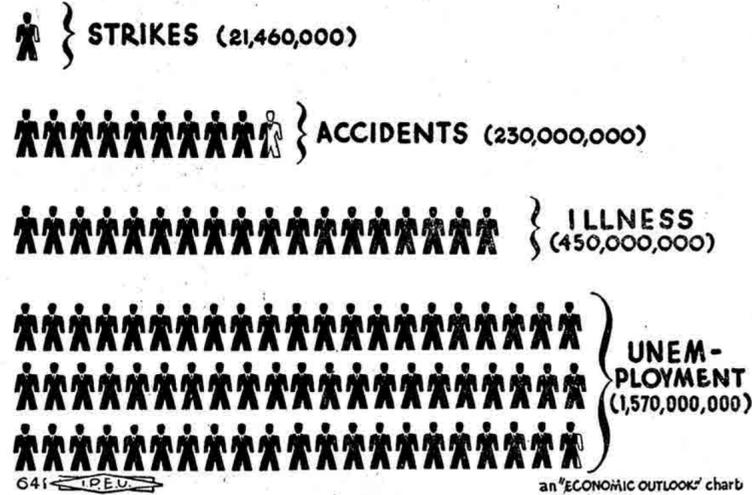
A single limited wage increase, however, will not suffice. Prices will continue to soar, and any fixed wage gains will be wiped out in short order.

The CIO must therefore extend its demand. In addition to immediate substantial increases, the CIO must seek the incorporation into its contracts of the principle of the rising scale of wages adjusted to meet rising prices. When every boost in living costs automatically brings an equal rise in wages, the bosses will not feel so free to resort to war-profiteering price gouging.

What Holds Production Back?

PRODUCTION LOSSES

(FIRST 10 MONTHS 1941) = 25,000,000 MAN DAYS



This chart, from the December, 1941 issue of "Economic Outlook", published by the CIO, shows very graphically the comparison between time lost by workers through strikes and time lost through illness, accidents and unemployment. The figures show how hypocritical the bosses are when they attack the unions for "holding back production" and try to pass anti-labor legislation on this pretext.

How Lenin's Death Was Commemorated In Moscow

Stalin Was Silent, But His C. P. Underling Revealed, By What He Left Unsaid, Stalinist Betrayal of Leninism

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

The eighteenth anniversary of Lenin's death was commemorated in Moscow at a gathering of the Kremlin bureaucrats. Stalin, the General Secretary of the Party, was present, received a ten minute ovation, but preferred to keep mum. The speech was delivered by an underling, one Scherbakov, secretary of the Moscow Party. What Scherbakov left unsaid in his speech is much more significant than what he did say.

He had nothing whatever to say about the "irrevocable triumph of socialism." This is the first time under Stalin that a Lenin Memorial has been held without any mention of this ritualistic Stalinist boast.

Equally noteworthy is the absence of all reference to the current foreign policy of the Kremlin. Last November, on the occasion of the twenty-fourth anniversary of the October Revolution, Stalin boasted: "We now have allies forming a united front with us against the German invaders!" (Daily Worker, Nov. 16, 1941). Scherbakov did not breathe a word either about the "united front" or Churchill or Roosevelt.

THE "SECOND FRONT"

Stalin had promised the Soviet masses last November that his foreign policy would assure not only material aid, but also a "second front." Said Stalin: "But neither can there be any doubt that the appearance of a second front on the continent of Europe — and it must appear in the nearest future — will render substantially easier the position of the Red Army to the detriment of the German Army." (Daily Worker, Nov. 9, 1941). As is well known, a second

Teachings of Lenin Discussed At N. Y. Meeting

NEW YORK, Jan. 26. — Two hundred members and sympathizers of the Trotskyist movement last night heard Art Preis speak on "Lenin's Views on Imperialism" at the Lenin Memorial Meeting conducted by Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party.

Comrade Preis discussed Lenin's analysis of imperialism and imperialist war and showed how the Bolshevik Party in Russia by applying Lenin's teachings was able to lead the oppressed masses out of the war and toward the establishment of the first workers state.

The speaker told how Lenin's memory was being invoked by the Stalinists today, but he showed, they had long ago trampled on his principles. One of the most interesting parts of his talk dealt with the question of how Lenin would have characterized the second World War which he had predicted would inevitably take place if capitalism were not replaced by Workers' and Farmers' Governments.

The program of the evening also included the showing of the documentary motion picture, "From Czar to Lenin", showing pictures of the leading figures and events of the Russian Revolution led by Lenin. In addition to admissions, a collection of \$58 was taken.

front has indeed opened up in the war — not on the continent of Europe but in the Pacific. Japan is threatening the Far Eastern frontiers of the USSR. But Scherbakov had nothing to say about Japan, or material aid, or the "second front" on the European continent.

The only reference to foreign policy in Scherbakov's speech is in relation to the Stalin-Hitler pact which preceded the invasion. The orator did not dare call it by its name, but spoke instead of the "peace policy."

"Our country did not want war. . . In its foreign policy, the Soviet Government unflinchingly pursued a peace policy, tirelessly exposing the aggressive plots of the Nazi imperialists." — Daily Worker, Jan. 27, 1942.

EFFECTS OF STALIN'S ALLIANCES

The latest lies of Stalinism serve to expose all their previous lies, especially the fraud and treachery of Stalin's foreign policy. What good is the alliance with the "democratic" powers if the Soviet Union has no other perspective than that of an isolated struggle against great odds? Why then should the workers suspend the struggle for socialism? Why doesn't the Kremlin call upon the workers in the occupied countries and above all in Germany to overthrow Hitler and unite with the USSR in establishing the Socialist United States of Europe?

This was Lenin's program during the last war, before and after the establishment of the first workers' state in the territories of the former Czarist empire. This is precisely the most important thing left unsaid in Scherbakov's speech, because Stalin, together with all his Scherbakovs, betrayed Lenin and Leninism many years ago.

James P. Cannon Chief Speaker At L. A. Lenin Memorial Rally

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 25. — One hundred workers participated in the Lenin Memorial Meeting here tonight under the auspices of the local branch of the Socialist Workers Party. They heard James P. Cannon, the party's National Secretary, speak on Lenin's life and his tremendous contributions to the cause of world socialist emancipation.

The speaker stressed that Lenin's greatest achievement was the building of a workers party capable of taking power. The audience gave an enthusiastic reception to Comrade Cannon's speech.

This was the first public SWP meeting here since the entry of America into the war, and was one of the most successful the party has held in this city.

Join the Socialist Workers Party

The People's Front And The Coming Elections In Chile

By WILLIAM F. WARDE

The Coming Elections In Chile

Chile is one of the few South American countries in which popular elections are still held or have any real significance. At the same time the political equilibrium in Chile is extremely unstable; the nation is torn by deep-rooted class conflicts arising out of the hopeless economic situation of this semi-colonial country dominated by native and foreign finance capital. For some time Chile has been pregnant with civil war.

The impact of the world war has pushed these conflicts to the point of imminent crisis. Therefore the presidential election scheduled for February 1 assumes great importance. There are two chief candidates for the office. One, General Ibanez, is the stalking horse for the most reactionary capitalist and openly fascist elements. He is suspected of dictatorial ambitions and has been accused of conspiring to overthrow the republic and rule after the fashion of President Vargas of Brazil.

The other, Juan Antonio Rios, is the candidate of the Popular Front. The Popular Front with many of its celebrated supporters from Europe, ekes out a feeble existence in South American exile. Like the recently deceased President Cerda, Rios belongs to the Radical Party, the Chilean equivalent of the former French Radical Socialist Party or the Spanish Republican Left Party, now wiped out by the Fascists. He is a rich capitalist, President of Chile's mortgage bank, the Caja Hipotecaria.

Friendly Rivals for Office

Rios is supported by the Socialist and Communist Parties on the assumption that he is willing and able to defend Chilean democracy against the anticipated coup d'etat from the extreme Right. According to a cabled interview from Santiago published in the New York Times of Jan. 20, 1942, "Senior Rios' partisans have been insisting that the victory of General Ibanez would mean a Fascist dictatorship, but Senior Rios was mild in his comments on his opponent, who, he said, is a personal friend. He insisted that there was no danger of a coup by General Ibanez should he lose the election, because, if for no other reason, he himself has many friends in the army and in the gendarmerie."

"On the other hand, Senior Rios insisted, should there be a coup, the dictatorship would not last a week, because of the strength of organized labor and of public opinion generally in Chile. This mildness of Senior Rios has been matched by a corresponding politeness by General Ibanez toward Senior Rios."

What cynical confessions! The Popular Front "protector of the Republic" is an avowed intimate associate of the potential dictator planning its overthrow. He helps screen the machinations of the Fascists by absolving them of any conspiratorial activities. He goes further in covering up their crimes. By declaring that even in the event of a coup d'etat, it would fall within a week, he thereby lulls the masses and lends aid to the Fascists in their preparations for the insurrection.

Here the division of labor between the reactionary and liberal wings of the bourgeoisie in preparing the way for fascism is openly disclosed. While the head of the Popular Front blindfolds and binds the workers and peasants, his capitalist blood-brother gets ready to crush them and their organizations by armed force and to abolish all remaining democratic institutions. This outright treachery is aided and approved by the Socialist and Communist Parties in the name of defending "democracy against fascism." Such is the crime and the folly of Popular Front policies.

The Lesson of Spain

Six years ago in February, 1936, the Spanish Republic held similar elections in which the Popular Front was victorious. Azana, head of the Popular Front government, shielded Franco and the other generals who were planning their military coup, because he, too, was friendly with them and it was unthinkable to him that they would proceed against the republic. He denied that a Fascist plot was afoot, not only before the uprising, but even after it had broken out in July! Azana then tried to arrive at an understanding with the Fascist officers and hand the country over to them.

The direct revolutionary action of the workers prevented Azana from completely consummating his treachery. Undecided and alarmed by the Fascist uprising, the workers broke through the shackles of the Popular Front and proceeded to arm themselves and smash the Fascist garrisons in the city. They became for the time being masters of Republican Spain. The workers and peasants met defeat only after their official leaders diverted them from the revolutionary road toward the complete overthrow of capitalism by reimposing Popular Front policies upon them.

Is the tragic experience of Spain to be repeated in Chile? The Fourth Internationalists of Chile are working to avert this catastrophe. They alone, among the workers' parties, have refused support to the Popular Front program and candidate. Instead of relying upon the empty promises of the capitalist-labor coalition candidate, they call upon the workers to forge a united proletarian front of struggle against the fascist threat and its Popular Front accomplice as a necessary step toward the creation of a Workers and Peasants Republic.

A CORRECTION

An editorial mistake in last week's MILITANT credited William F. Warde with the authorship of the article, "Davies' Book and the Elimination of the 'Fifth Column'." Actually, the article was written by Anthony Massini.

AVAILABLE NOW

Round volumes of THE MILITANT for 1941 are now available at the price of \$3.00. Since the supply is limited, we urge that all orders be sent in at once to the business office of the Militant Publishing Association, 116 University Place, New York City.