

## UNION FORCED TO CALL OFF STRIKE

### War Tension and Jim Crow Produce Anti-Negro Terror

#### Kelly Postal Begins Serving Five Year Term

Enters Prison After Frameup Conviction  
Is Upheld By Minnesota Supreme Court

The Minnesota Supreme Court upheld on June 18 the conviction of Kelly Postal, Secretary-Treasurer of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544-CIO, on a charge of alleged "embezzlement" of funds belonging to the Union. Postal, the victim of one of the most vicious frame-ups against a militant union leader in American labor history, has entered the State Penitentiary at Stillwater, Minn., to serve his five years sentence.

Postal's conviction is the third case in which he has figured as a result of the conflict over questions of trade union democracy between Local 544 and Daniel J. Tobin, President of the AFL Teamsters International, which culminated in 544's separation from the AFL and affiliation with the CIO. Postal was one of five defendants acquitted by the jury in December, 1941, in the famous Minneapolis trials of 28 members of Local 544-CIO and leaders of the Socialist Workers Party.

#### THE FIRST TRIAL

Having failed to obtain a federal conviction, Tobin then pressed the Hennepin County attorney to try Postal a second time upon an earlier indictment, together with President Miles Dunne and Organizer Moe Hork, on four different charges of grand larceny.

Postal's first trial for "embezzlement" ended in a directed verdict in his favor. In directing the jury to discharge the case, presiding Judge Hall declared on Feb. 11, 1942:

"By a resolution of the majority of the Local 544 membership, he (Postal) was directed to turn over all of the monies of the union to the Union Defense Committee. That this resolution, directing him to turn over the monies was open and avowed, cannot be disputed, as it was heard, according to State witnesses, through the loud-speaker system, even by those assembled outside the building. The membership of the union must have believed they had a right to transfer these monies by resolution, as they attempted to do. Postal, the defendant, was the agent and steward of the membership and turned over their money at their direction."

Despite this verdict, Postal was

#### Labor Martyr



KELLY POSTAL

again brought to trial on another indictment based on the same facts, which differed only in the amount of money Postal was alleged to have embezzled. Although the evidence was substantially the same, this time Postal was found guilty and given a five years sentence. Now that Postal's appeal for a new trial has been denied by the Minnesota Supreme Court, he is condemned to serve that sentence.

Kelly Postal is among the best known trade union leaders in the Northwest. For years he was Secretary-Treasurer of the powerful Teamsters Local 544 and served as a delegate to the Minneapolis Central Labor Union. He is a World War Veteran, a former member of the United Mine Workers, and a unionist of 30 years standing.

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#### Kelly Postal's Wire to CRDC

The following telegrams were exchanged between Kelly Postal and the Civil Rights Defense Committee, just before the framed-up Secretary-Treasurer of Local 544-CIO entered Stillwater State Penitentiary to serve his five-year sentence:

From the Civil Rights Defense Committee to Kelly Postal, June 18:

"We have just received the shocking news of your conviction. It is one of the grossest perversions of justice in American labor history, that a working class leader of thirty years standing, like yourself, should suffer up to five years imprisonment solely for his devotion to trade union democracy. The Civil Rights Defense Committee plans to take all possible steps to fight this act of injustice and secure your freedom. Please notify us immediately what material aid you and your family require."

From Kelly Postal to the Civil Rights Defense Committee, June 19:

"I cannot tell you how much I appreciated the generous spirit of the telegram from the Civil Rights Defense Committee. Without the aid of your Committee it would have been impossible for 544-CIO to carry through the case. I believe that the principle of trade union democracy which was the chief issue in this case made it worth while to make the appeal. Even though we have lost the battle, we have not lost the war. Trade union friends all over the country to whom the Civil Rights Defense Committee brought the case have been aroused at what they know is a violation of trade union democracy. I am confident that they will support your Committee as it continues to fight for this principle. Since I am to enter Minnesota State Prison on Monday, this is my last chance to thank you and the Committee for what you have done and will continue to do for me and the union."

#### Heavy Toll Of Lives In Tragic Detroit Clashes

Nationwide Violence  
Reaches Scope of  
Outbreaks in 1919

By PHILLIP BLAKE

More violence against Negroes raged last week, taking a heavy toll of casualties in Detroit, Beaumont, Tex., Chester, Pa., and claiming a lynch victim in Marianna, Fla. The present crisis in race relations is already comparable to the one which developed on a national scale in 1919, and, if the recent clashes in Los Angeles, Newark, Mobile and Southern army camps are taken into account, involves a greater number of participants.

DETROIT. A Negro and white motorist got into a fight at Belle Isle park on Sunday night, rumors spread around and the fighting soon extended over a large part of the city. The original dispute was obviously accidental, but there is good reason for believing that Ku Klux Klan elements quickly intervened to aggravate the situation. Reports also make it clear that the city police did little to protect the Negro victims.

Two days later, when federal troops had been called in to end the fighting, at least 28 people were dead, more than 700 were injured, some of them very severely, and approximately 1300 people were under arrest. The great majority of the dead and wounded were Negroes, as were 85% of those arrested. Many homes and buildings were burned or looted; a number of cars and considerable property were wrecked; in these cases too most of the damage was done to Negroes.

Local and federal agencies were said to be investigating fifth columnists charged with inciting the fighting. A UP dispatch on June 22, reporting that police were investigating why so many Negroes had gathered at Belle Isle on Sunday, indicates a possible attempt to pin the blame for the whole tragic affair on the Negro people. Apparently the fact that it was a blistering hot day had nothing to do with it.

BEAUMONT. On June 16 a young white woman claimed that she had been raped by a Negro, the usual rallying cry for lynch ing bees in the South. Groups of whites left work and began beating all Negroes they met, burning down blocks of Negro homes and business. Negroes employed at the Pennsylvania shipyards had to be escorted home by guards, bus service was discontinued, the shipyard and stores were closed down. By the time martial law was declared, one Negro and one white were killed, scores injured and hundreds arrested.

The next day a physician who examined the young woman said there were no signs of rape on her body.

The fact that the police authorities had not stood idly by and had not joined in the anti-Negro attacks in Beaumont was so unusual for the South that it provoked nationwide comment.

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#### What The Miners Think Of The OPA

Claude B. Campbell, chairman of a delegation of mine workers who called at the White House on June 20, said that Presidential Secretary McIntyre "had discussed the price roll-back as a method of meeting the miners' cost of living problem."

"I told him that if the OPA works on this question in the future as it had in the past, it might as well tell the Potomac River to turn around and run in the other direction," he said. (N. Y. Times, June 21.)

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#### Many Whites Against Attacks On Negroes,

By M. WILLIAMS

DETROIT, June 21 — At 11:30 this morning I watched restless crowds milling about on Woodward Ave. and listened to the talk about the race riots. Groups of boys and young men aged between 15 and 20 were hurrying up and down Woodward and into the side streets. These gangs were looking for Negroes and when they found one, they would chase and stone him and try to capture and beat him.

Some of the gangs were in cars, and they were ranging freely with absolutely no police interference in and around Watson St., or a little along to the downtown area. On one side street, East Verner Highway, I saw an overturned truck. A bystander told me that one of these gangs had stopped the truck, dragged out its Negro driver and beaten him till he couldn't stand up.

At the City Hall two Negro boys pursued by these gangs, appealed to two policemen for protection. A crowd quickly formed and the two boys were taken away in a patrol wagon. Nothing was done to the white hoodlums who had molested them. One thing that I noticed particularly about these roving groups was that while they were mostly young poolroom kids in their twenties or even younger there was almost always an older man who seemed to be their leader, who directed their activities, who encouraged them and whom they looked to for orders.

Near Grand Circus Park a man about 50 years old came up to me and said in a low tone: "Tonight at eight, up on Woodward." So I figure that the thing didn't lack organization once it was started.

The white people on the streets were as a rule quiet and took no part in the attacks on Negroes. Many attempted to warn Negroes getting off buses to go home and not come downtown until the trouble was over. Several times I saw pedestrians direct Negroes into department stores when they were being chased by the vigilante bands.

One white woman was so infuriated by the hoodlums that she attacked some of them with her fists. Other women showed their disapproval of the hoodlums by shouting at them to "leave the Negroes alone and go to work."

#### ROOSEVELT PREVENTS GRANTING OF CONCESSIONS TO COAL MINERS

UMW Policy Committee Denounces War Labor Board Decision,  
Says It Will Never Sign Proposed "Yellow Dog Contract"

By E. R. Frank

The United Mine Workers Policy Committee announced on June 22 that it had called off the third general coal strike and instructed all of its members to return to work under the existing wage agreements until Oct. 31. "This arrangement," the Policy Committee statement read, "is predicated upon operation of the mines. . . by the United States government and will automatically terminate if governmental control is vacated prior to the above mentioned date."

This action of the union Policy Committee came a few hours after the War Labor Board had requested of Roosevelt "that all powers of the government necessary" be employed to put into effect the board decision in the mine case.

The WLB announced its final decision in the mine case on June 19, rejecting outright the union demand for portal-to-portal pay. The miners began leaving the pits as soon as they heard of the decision. By the time the strike truce expired on midnight of June 20, the bituminous and anthracite coal mines were shut down all over the country and the third general coal strike was on.

#### WHAT THE MINERS SHOWED

The miners proved again the kind of stuff they are made of. Threats did not deter them. Neither were they frightened by the might which the federal government was prepared to hurl against them. What an unexampled demonstration the miners have given of discipline, of unbreakable solidarity, of working class heroism! These men, whose whole lives are spent amidst danger of injury or death, cannot be intimidated very easily. They are inured to hardship and apparently contemptuous of death.

Roosevelt has bared his teeth against the miners. He is determined that they shall receive no concessions. Of course Roosevelt has been conducting a personal vendetta against Lewis and wants to destroy him as a power in the

labor movement. But that is a completely secondary consideration. First in importance comes the fact that Roosevelt is the head of American capitalism engaged in war. Billions are being spent every week, the government is piling up a terrific burden of debt, the industrialists and bankers are growing fat on "cost plus" contracts and they have determined that the burden of the war shall fall on the shoulders of the working class.

NO ALTERNATIVE FOR  
ROOSEVELT

Roosevelt's war administration has rested heretofore on a coalition with the labor movement. Roosevelt's personal career depends upon his popularity and standing with the broad masses of labor. Roosevelt wishes to be President for a fourth term and play the leading role in the writing of the peace. Nevertheless he has no alternative but to push the capitalists' program of repression and hunger. He has no alternative but to drive the wages of labor down to coolie levels. He has no alternative but to attempt to throttle the labor movement. That is the war program of American capitalism and he is its spokesman and executor.

The miners would unquestionably have broken up the solid front of the coal operators and won significant concessions if they were fighting the coal barons alone. The determined fight that the miners waged would have had the operators howling for mercy if the struggle occurred on a more or less normal trade union basis. As a matter of fact, the UMW did succeed on two different occasions in breaking the operators' front and securing tentative wage agreements on portal-to-portal pay with the Illinois mine operators and the Pennsylvania commercial bituminous operators. But each time the government intervened and encouraged the coal barons to stand firm in their refusal of the miners' demands.

The WLB, Ickes, Byrnes are all appointees of Roosevelt. They are his agents and have no independent status of their own. They have no authority except that with which Roosevelt endows them. Acting through his various agents and underlings, Roosevelt was determined that the miners were to receive no basic concessions. He was determined to tell the working class in unmistakable terms: Forget all about wage increases; get used to the idea of having your wages slashed; the government will call out troops and send you back to work at the point of a gun, if you dare resist.

Although the WLB declared it had no jurisdiction to decide the issue of portal-to-portal pay and stated the matter should be handled by the Wage and Hour Administrator and the courts, it nevertheless did decide the issue against the miners. It went further and ruled that if the miners did succeed in winning a favorable decision from the Fair La-

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#### THE WLB DECISION

The WLB decision on the mine case is the most flagrant piece of union-busting to emanate from a Rooseveltian board. You can hear in its arguments the voice of the new arrogant Roosevelt of the second world war. In its own way this decision forms a perfect complement to the Smith-Connelly "slave-labor" bill. The WLB decision not only rejects the miners' demand for portal-to-portal pay allowance. It also undertakes to write a contract for the union.

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#### RANK AND FILE MINERS EXPLAIN WHY THEY ARE FIGHTING WAGE-FREEZE POLICY

By Art Preis

PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 21.—Today has been like a peaceful Sunday in the scores of coal mining towns of this area. It was hard to realize that in these quiet communities, set amidst sunny, rolling countryside marred only by the inevitable tipples and ugly slag heaps, one of the greatest and grimmest struggles in American labor history is in progress.

There was no outward sign of conflict as the third nation-wide wartime coal strike paralyzed the

hundreds of mines in this vital Western Pennsylvania region. The mine workers just remained at home—to a man. There were no pickets. None were needed. Early this morning at a few key pits sleepy-eyed cameramen and reporters lounged around the collieries. They looked dejected and lonely waiting in vain for even one scab whose picture might be plastered over front pages as a "back to work" movement.

Those whose ears have become accustomed to the daily noise and clatter around the mine works notice the silence. A big, burly miner, with whom I was walking

down the road in Library, Pa., site of one of the biggest mines of Mellon's Pittsburgh Coal Company, stopped once and cocked his ear over to one side. A smile both sly and wistful crossed his face. "At last we can hear the birds sing."

All the tumult and the shouting of this tremendous struggle are confined to the columns of the capitalist press, the halls of Congress, the corridors of federal buildings, and the hysterical strikebreakings, Stalinist sheets and meetings. Here in the mining towns the calm and quiet is a sign and a tribute to the unsurpassed solidarity and confident determination of every worker who goes down into the pits.

And there is something else in the mining towns today, in the

tone of the miners' voice and their brief words, something different from what I had noted in my previous visit to this area during the first strike in May. The miners are bitter and grim. They are full of a quiet wrath. Their minds and hearts are set for a finish fight. They mean business. "Three strikes is out," said one miner to me. "And we're out for keeps now until we get that damned contract."

EVEN SCABS ARE QUIET

Even the handful of isolated scabs who dared to enter the pits during the second strike early in June sense the difference in the temper of the union men now. Then the miners were a little

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#### Unions Must Come To Defense Of Negro People

An Editorial

The tragic clashes in Detroit threaten not only the lives and welfare of the Negro people but also the interests of the labor movement.

The Ku Klux Klan and similar groups have long been active in Michigan and their members have worked hand in glove with the superintending personnel of the auto barons to incite white workers against black. These tools of reaction have intervened in the present situation to whip up anti-Negro feeling among the whites, hurl one section of the working people against another, and thereby arouse fear and distrust among the Negroes against all whites.

The inevitable consequence of this racial antagonism will be to divide the working masses; to sap the strength of organized labor; and to weaken the unions.

The Negro workers of Michigan played a heroic role in building the industrial unions in the auto centers. In the great 1937 sit-down strikes, side by side with their white brothers, they fought the corporations and in splendid demonstrations of class solidarity on the picket lines and in the plants brought the auto barons to their knees.

The CIO unions from the very first have preached and practiced the fraternal solidarity of all workers, regardless of color, race, creed or political affiliation. This has been one of the prime sources of strength and support the CIO has received from the most oppressed and exploited sections of the masses. Now when these bonds of solidarity are being endangered it is necessary that they be drawn tighter than ever before.

The enemies of the workers, black and white, are the sole beneficiaries of racial conflicts, antagonisms, and prejudices. Every white worker should realize that the hoodlum gangs which are today being incited and thrown against the Negro minority are being trained for other reactionary actions. Tomorrow or the day after they can be unleashed against the striking workers as storm-troops and strikebreakers. In their own self-defense the unions in Detroit and elsewhere are today obliged to come to the defense of the Negro people and exert their power to end these lynch attacks and prevent their recurrence.

"Solidarity forever!" between white workers and colored must be the watchword of the hour.

# TRADE UNION NOTES

By E. R. Frank

The Murrys and Greens are dismayed by the scope and sweep of the government's union-busting campaign. The passage by Congress of the Smith-Connally bill has thrown these "labor statesmen" into a cold sweat. They can feel the hand of reaction on their own necks. They are also not unaware that the fever of discontent coursing through the labor movement, is reaching explosive proportions.

Note the unusually bitter tone, the strong language of the memorandum signed by Green, Murray and Robertson of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers calling on Roosevelt to veto the "slave-labor" bill. It reflects the white hot anger of the rank and file as well as the fright of the bureaucrats themselves.

"The 'War Labor Dispute Act' is a wicked, vicious bill. It is the worst anti-labor bill passed by Congress in the last hundred years. . . It is the very essence of fascism. It destroys the philosophy of voluntarism on which free trade unionism is founded. Its enactment follows the tactics of the fascist, who, as a forerunner to totalitarianism, first attacked and destroyed free trade unions in Germany and Italy. . ."

"Compulsion, civil damage and criminal penalties are the unholy trinity by which this act accomplishes its evil purpose. . . It reestablishes the reprehensible doctrine of conspiracy which employers and anti-labor judges used for fifty years. . . to curtail and prohibit labor unions in their efforts to organize and to obtain the right to bargain collectively. . ."

For the third time in the last three months, the bureaucrats threaten that they may resign from the War Labor Board. "We seriously question," the memorandum states, "whether AFL or CIO officials can remain on the board, since they could not participate in any case involving one of their affiliated organizations. . ."

But of course, even in the extremity of their present fright, the Murrys and Greens cannot forego their grovelling and begging. They pretend that "the bill expressly encourages strikes" and assure Roosevelt that the labor movement can be throttled much more effectively if it is left up to them.

The leaders of the American Labor Party of New York, the Labor League of New Jersey and the United Labor Committee of Pennsylvania joined in a telegram urging Roosevelt to veto the Connally-Smith bill. "The sponsors of the bill," the telegram states, "show their hand most flagrantly in the provision outlawing political contributions by trade unions. What has that to do with war production which is the ostensible pretext of the measure? How will a ban on political contributions stimulate production or eliminate strikes in war industry? The truth is that the purpose of the bill, as shown most crassly in this provision, is to stifle labor's spirit, crush its organizations and hamstring its legitimate political activities."

After six months of palavering before different government boards, tribunals and panels, the "Big Five" Railroad Brotherhoods are now arguing their demands for a 80% wage in-

crease before the National Railway Emergency Board meeting in New York.

Listen to a sampling of the remarks of Alexander F. Whitney, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, the largest of the Brotherhood unions, with a membership of almost 200,000 workers.

"As I pondered the texts of these laws and edicts and orders, page after page through the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 down to the final chapter written by Stabilization Director Byrnes on May 12, I could well imagine that they might have been designed as cynical devices of rhetoric to fool the people. . . I wonder if we have not been sitting frozen, hypnotized, watching for the seven rabbits of the President's economic program to be pulled out of silk hats of the war agency administration, while our purses were being sneaked from our pockets."

"The truth is that after almost two years we find in nearly every department of our government whether in Congress or in our war agencies, the principle of 'equality of sacrifice' distorted, corrupted and deserted."

Whitney charges that the attitude of the railroad corporations is "about as reasonable as a hungry alley cat with a hunk of raw meat." When the workers had asked for a raise in February, the operators answered that "it was the patriotic duty of the carrier to cooperate by refusing to grant any wage increase whatsoever." Yet Class I roads had an all time high net operating income of one billion 480 million dollars after all taxes in 1942. "I think you will agree with me that a reasonable fraction of this would be just as socially useful in the hands of the railroad employees."

Is staid, conservative Whitney going radical? No! His members want to take a strike vote. That is why the six month run-around the government has given the union is beginning to get under Whitney's skin.

The following telegram was sent to President Roosevelt by Local 16 of the Marine and Shipbuilding Workers Union, CIO: "We respectfully want to remind you that among the four freedoms of the Atlantic Charter are freedom from want and freedom from fear. If the mine workers were free from want they would never have struck the mines in wartime, no matter at whose urging or leadership. For the good of the nation at home and our country's prestige abroad we respectfully urge you to use your power to eliminate want among miners rather than attempt to crush their aspirations to a decent American standard of living by the rule of bayonet and the fear which you and Mr. Churchill outlawed in the Atlantic Charter."

The UAW International Executive Board voted at its meeting in Toronto last week continued opposition to the incentive pay plans. The board condemned Leo Lamotte for the charges he publicly made against Walter Reuther at the time of the Chrysler strike, but voted to approve the conduct of Lamotte in all other respects. The board ignored the demand of the Chrysler locals that Lamotte be removed as Chrysler director.

# Union Forced To End Strike

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bor Standards Administrator, the WLB still reserved the right to pass final judgment.

## THE UMW'S ANSWER

The UMW Policy Committee gave a fitting reply to this infamous decision in its statement released on June 20: "The 1943 coal negotiations have been marked by bad faith, collusive dealing, political maneuvering and private vengeance on the part of the coal operators and agencies of government. There has been a continuing conspiracy between the War Labor Board, as such, and its members as individuals with the coal operators of the Appalachian area. These coal operators have gladly followed policies and parliamentary maneuvers designed to hold the mine workers at bay until the War Labor Board, with its governmental powers and influences, could economically disembowel them."

"It may be noted that in the more than three months of intermittent negotiations since March 10, the Appalachian operators have not at any time, nor in any instance made a counter offer of any character to the wage proposals originally advanced by the United Mine Workers of America. . . The War Labor Board was not content to announce lack of jurisdiction. It added insult to injury by writing in meticulous form, in exact phrases, a form of contract for the United Mine Workers of America, with blank spaces to be filled in as to date and signature. . . No member and no officer of the United Mine Workers of America would be so destitute of principle and so devoid of honor as to sign or execute such an infamous yellow dog contract."

Why is it that the mine union, in spite of the exemplary solidarity displayed by its ranks, its militancy, its determination and ability to fight, despite the calling of three general strikes in the coal industry, has been unable to break the resistance of its opponents and win its basic demands?

The first weakness of the miners is their isolation from the rest of the labor movement. No other international union has repudiated the War Labor Board through its official leadership, has defended labor's inalienable right to strike, has given full, unstinted support to the miners and their fight. The main responsibility for this disgraceful state of affairs rests upon the AFL and CIO top officialdom.

## ROLE OF CIO-AFL LEADERS

These bureaucrats have betrayed the coal miners. They continued their support of the WLB while that corporation-dominated body was openly campaigning against the mine union. They repudiated the mine strike. They launched attacks on Lewis all through the period when he was engaged in fighting for the miners' rights. They bared their cowardly souls when the labor members on the WLB proposed that the miners be awarded 80 cents a day as portal-to-portal pay allowance after the Illinois operators had already agreed to payment of \$1.50 and the Pennsylvania commercial operators had agreed to \$1.30. And finally they lent their weight and authority in the attempt to foist the WLB's decision on the miners' union.

Here is the finking statement issued by Van Bittner, CIO representative on the WLB: "The labor members of the WLB, representing the overwhelming majority of organized labor in America, are just as firmly convinced that the no-strike pledge we made to the American people through the President of the United States must be carried out today as it was the day we made it. And further, since this decision has been rendered by a majority vote of the WLB, it is our position that it becomes the decision of the WLB and in this instance the decision of the Government of the United States." Tobin, President of the Teamsters International, went so far as to hail the WLB decision.

It was precisely this treacherous conduct of the labor bureaucracy, this sellout of the rights of the labor movement, this grovelling before the war administration, that gave the corporation lackeys in Congress the courage to pass the Smith-Connally "slave-labor" Act.

## MINERS' REAL ALLIES

Lewis tried to end the isolation of the mine union by his proposal to re-enter the AFL, Hutcheson, Woll, and the other bureaucrats of the Executive Council may be of aid to Lewis in the hatching of some intrigue inside the labor movement or on the political field. But they are not worth very much when one is seeking support in a militant fight against the barons of industry and the mailed fist of the government. Where were Hutcheson and Woll in the

hour of the miners' greatest need? What did they say, what did they do to aid the miners in the desperate struggle? The miners can achieve a worthwhile alliance of labor only with those union members and organizations who are ready to join them in struggle against the government program of freezing wages.

## QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP

The miners have been fighting not only the coal barons but also the government, which represents and acts on behalf of all the capitalists. Lewis and the Policy Committee fought stubbornly and courageously. They exhausted every opening. They took advantage of every loophole. They went as far in their fight as it is possible for an ordinary trade union leadership, thinking in terms of business unionism, to go.

This kind of leadership was quite adequate to secure economic gains for the workers in the situation that prevailed prior to the war. But the ordinary trade union leadership operating on a program of business unionism is inadequate today, is unable to cope with the complex problems brought into being by the war, is unable to gain economic improvements for the working class, or even to maintain the present standards.

## EFFECT OF THE FIGHT

The militant workers who make up the American labor movement will not be disheartened by the hard fight which the miners were forced to wage for their demands and the meager returns in the form of immediate economic concessions which they received. The militants in all the unions are fully aware that the mine struggle has immeasurably advanced labor's cause, in spite of the bitter pill which the mine workers are forced to swallow at the present time. By its challenge to the Roosevelt labor policy, the UMW has inaugurated the fight that will be taken up by union after union in the days ahead, and that will not cease until the dead hand of the Roosevelt administration has been removed from the labor movement. The labor movement stands today on far higher ground because of the miners' fight.

In pondering the lessons of the miners' struggle, the militants in the auto and rubber unions, as throughout the whole labor movement, will come to the conclusion that what is necessary today is to go beyond the Lewis type of trade union leadership. They will see the necessity for building a type of leadership which is aware of the irrepressible conflict that exists between labor and capital. This new leadership will not practice company unionism on the political field. It will break with Roosevelt and his program. It will break with the Democratic-Republican "friends of labor" and will strike out on the high road of an independent labor party. The miners' fight has aided in the development of such a leadership.

One of them, a large powerful built worker in his middle years, answered my question about the feelings of the men toward this latest strike. "As far as we're concerned, and the men from all the pits around here, we're out to stay this time until we get some real satisfaction. They've been stringing us along for months now, and they're all in cahoots together to break us — the operators, the papers, the War Labor Board."

"And Roosevelt?" I interrupted. "Yes, and Roosevelt. And I'm not afraid to tell you or anyone to his face—and Roosevelt! He was a hero to us back in '32, and I was for him in '36 and '40. But I'm against him now. He's on the side of the operators and the War Labor Board now. I thought John (John L. Lewis) was all wrong about Roosevelt in 1940, but I'm ready to admit now he was 100% right."

Just two months ago such forthright anti-Roosevelt ideas would have evoked a heated reply. But today there is no debate or argument. "Yes," another miner nodded, "Roosevelt hasn't been doing the right thing, fighting us the way he has."

You could see it was something the men didn't like to admit — it was another illusion shattered. But the rest nodded their heads in agreement. "And if Roosevelt don't veto the anti-strike bill," another added, "he'll be through, finished, washed out. He'll never get another God-damn vote from a coal miner."

We talked then of many things, of how their wives felt about the strike, of the feelings of their sons in the armed forces, about

# Stalinists Intensify Fink Activity In Mine Situation

By ANTHONY MASSINI

The infamous decision of the War Labor Board did nothing to reduce the strikebreaking activity of the Communist Party. On the contrary, having destroyed one of the chief arguments of the Stalinists, it drove them to increased and even more frenzied efforts to smash the miners' struggle.

All along — ever since the beginning of the negotiations and the announcement by the UMW leaders that they would not entrust their case in the hands of that court packed against labor, the War Labor Board — the Stalinists have been denouncing Lewis and defending the WLB with the assertion that this agency could be depended on to grant the justified demands of the miners.

But the WLB's decision has put an end to this false claim. Here is how the Stalinists reacted:

On June 18 the decision was handed down. On June 19 the Daily Worker appeared without any editorial comment on the decision confining its treatment of the mine situation to UP dispatches. This was almost the first time since last March that the Daily Worker had no editorials on the mine crisis. On June 20 and 21 it finally carried front page editorials, the gist of which was:

## BAREFACED SLANDERS

"Lewis and the coal operators are responsible for the War Labor Board decision."

"Why Lewis? Because he permitted four months to be consumed with maneuvers, strikes and a war of nerves which placed you miners in a bad light. He refused to place your case before the Board or permit you to be represented in the hearings. Had you miners not let Lewis get away with such shameful conduct, you would probably have won a better decision. . ."

Thus, according to the Stalinists, Lewis, who fought the anti-labor WLB, is responsible for its decision, while Roosevelt, who handed down the "hold-the-line" order to which the WLB simply adhered, is not responsible! If Lewis had bowed down before the WLB and let it kick the miners' demands around as it wished, the Stalinists claim, then the mine workers would have been better off today!

## THEIR PROGRAM

And what shall the miners do now? "The way is open to them," say the Daily Worker editors, "to win through for those adjustments they need, and they will help both their nation and themselves by

taking their case to the country as the WLB suggests. . ."

By "taking their case to the country" the Stalinists mean taking it to court. Previously they had urged the miners to deposit their demands in that graveyard of grievances, the WLB. Now that everyone can see what that would have meant, they suggest another burial place.

Besides making such appeals to the miners, who, fortunately meet them with the contempt they deserve, the Stalinists are concentrating on lining up the rest of the labor movement against the UMW. They keep on lying that Lewis wants the Smith-Connally bill passed and trying to persuade the unions to "fight" the bill by promising Roosevelt that the labor movement will support him in smashing the UMW.

## C.P. STRATEGY

On June 20 The Worker printed part of Earl Browder's "Lewis is the main enemy" speech made the week before to the National Committee of the Communist Party. In part he said:

## Where You Can Get THE MILITANT

Boston—Adelman's Newsstand, 284 Tremont St.

Chicago—Socialist Bookshop, Room 421, 160 N. Wells St.

Minneapolis—Shinder's News Agency, Hennepin Ave. and 6th St., Pioneer News Agency, 238 2nd Ave. South.

Newark (Downtown)—Newsstand, 11 Springfield Ave., near Court House.

New Haven—Nodelman's News Depot, 106 Church St., near Chapel.

New York (Harlem)—Newsstands north west corner of Lenox Ave. and 125th St. and at the northeast corner of Lenox Ave. and 135th St.

New York (Manhattan)—14th St., between 4th and 7th Aves.; Newsstands on 42nd St., between 4th and 5th Aves.

San Francisco—Duncans Smoke Shop, 1986 Sutter St., Ray's Smoke Shop, 1174 Sutter St.

MacDonald's Book Shop, 867 Mission St., Golden Gate News Agency, 81 Third St., Fitzgerald News Agency, 21 Fourth St.

# Why Coal Miners Oppose The Wage-Freeze Policy

(Continued from page 1)

easy-going, deciding to wait their time while the few scabs basked in the yellow limelight of the boss press and posed as "heroes." This time, the scabs are laying low. Nobody's told them anything — no threats. But there's something in the air here that even a scab can't miss.

Over in Fayette County, Charles Hartman, veteran scab who led a dozen or so into the Palmer mine of the H. C. Frick Coke Co. during the second strike, today made his timely announcement of retirement from the scabbery profession to take up the fitting post of policeman in a powder mill. Gabor Kish, over at Washington, Pa., who earned his brief hour of "fame" last June 5 when he led seven others back into the Lindley pit of the Pittsburgh Coal Co., isn't "sure what we're going to do this time." He's "waiting"—and so are the loyal union men.

"We ain't talking to reporters," was the hostile greeting I first received in Library. "You reporters are just a bunch of liars for the coal operators." Then I showed my credentials and a couple of the workers recognized me from my previous visit. "He's O.K. He gave us a good story. That's the paper that's for the working man and backing us."

So we sat around a table in the company store, near the soda fountain, had soft drinks all around and discussed the latest strike situation. Among the group were some of the leading members of Local 73, one of the largest United Mine Workers locals in the area. Their sentiments are certainly typical of miners throughout the country.

the strikebreaking efforts of the Stalinists and of the "government operation" of the mines.

## "GOVT. OPERATION"

During the first strike in May, I had seen the bright white signs posted all over the mine properties, with the challenging legend, "This is U. S. Property," and usually surmounted by a cardboard American flag in colors. Today I noticed these signs, dilapidated, torn, blurred and weather-beaten, streaked with the faded colors that had run down from the rain-washed cardboard flags. It was symbolic.

"The government running the mines? Hell, that's a joke. That don't mean nothing. All they did was tack up a sign. They're not fooling us. The operators are still running the show and hauling in the profits. They're all saying we're striking against the government. Is the government the operators? If it is then I say sure we're striking against the government."

The speaker went on indignantly. He was the middle-aged miner who had opened the conversation:

"But I don't care what they say. I've been in the mines twenty-seven years. I got six kids and I'm saying by Christ, I'm working harder than ever and I'm not making enough to live on. Everything keeps going up. The OPA comes in here and as soon as the investigators are gone the company jacks up the prices again. We're fed up. We got a right to live. The operators are getting theirs. I've got a boy in the Marines overseas right now. There isn't one family here that hasn't given one, two and even three sons

to the service. And our boys are in back of us. I'm sticking out. What the hell kind of life would they be coming back to if we didn't come out together like this?"

There was a hearty confirmation to this latter statement. Every man at the table had some close relative in service. Boys in uniform, on leave, were strolling outside with their girl friends.

"Listen, them kids of our aren't just 'dumb hunkies' like they used to call all us miners. They know what it's all about. They been through high school most of them. They know how to read and write. And they know what life in the mine is. They're behind us—and I don't care what the papers say."

## NEGRO-WHITE SOLIDARITY

While we were talking, I noticed how Negro workers and their families came in, sat at the tables, felt at ease, mingled in friendly fashion with the white workers: It was just one sample of the harmony and union fellowship that exists between all races and nationalities of workers in the mines.

Asking about the attitude of the white workers toward the Negro workers I was pleasantly surprised to learn that the Negroes are highly regarded and respected among the miners, and that they are always included on the executive posts of the local. The vice-president and secretary-treasurer of Local 63 are Negro workers, and they share an equal number of posts with the white workers on the scale and mine committees.

## STALINISTS DISCREDITED

One question that I saved for last was about the influence of the Stalinists in this area. When I mentioned the Stalinists, every nose wrinkled up in an expression of outright disgust. "Yeh, they used to have quite a hold around now."

"We are one of the most effective influences in this country preventing certain struggles in order to have a greater unity for the big struggle. . . These certain struggles he referred to were of course the struggles of the militant working class."

Browder went on to state that the C.P. had named a list of the "main enemies at home" today, with Lewis at the head of the list, and said:

"We don't want to add too many names to the list of John L. Lewis. We want to help take away from the names associated with Lewis."

"We have already begun that process and have had some successes. Many more must be registered, because our task is to isolate John L. Lewis in America and in the labor movement and to make him so unpopular that nobody will dare have their names associated with him."

Thus Browder bares the strategy of the Stalinists in the labor movement: To isolate Lewis because the organization which he leads is today in the vanguard of the union movement; to beat Lewis down and make such an object lesson of him that workers in other industries will hesitate to conduct militant struggles in defense of their living standards.

The answer of the miners and all other militant workers therefore must be intensified support for the UMW struggle and a thoroughgoing exposure and condemnation of the Strikebreakers International operating in the interests and under the orders of the Stalin bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

## Dobbs' Tour Dates

The dates of the remainder of the Dobbs' tour follow:

DATE	PLACE
June 28—Toledo	
June 29, July 1—Cleveland	
July 2, 4—Akron	
July 5, 7—Youngstown	
July 8, 10—Buffalo	
July 11, 12—Rochester	
July 14, 15—Boston	
July 16, 17—New Haven	
July 18—New York	

Dates have not yet been announced for meetings in Newark, Philadelphia, Reading and Bayonne.

## In Detroit, Mich.

You can get THE MILITANT at the FAMILY THEATRE NEWSSTAND opposite the theatre

# Dobbs Speaks In Chicago

CHICAGO, June 18 — Comrade Farrell Dobbs spoke to a well-attended audience on "The Prospects for a Labor Party" at a meeting of the Chicago Branch of the Socialist Workers Party held on Thursday, June 17. Many of those present were non-party members. Also present was a comrade who had joined the party at the Tuesday branch meeting at which Comrade Dobbs spoke.

Comrade Dobbs pointed out that the correctness of the Labor Party slogan of the SWP is being confirmed by events, and particularly by the current assault on the labor movement by the bosses and their government. The contrast between the coddling of the monopolists and the crack-down against labor was portrayed by the speaker in its grim reality.

"Not one voice in governmental and legislative bodies has been raised in defense of labor," Dobbs stated. "Where are the 'friends of labor'?" he asked. Manifestations in the labor movement of trends toward independent political action were chronicled by the speaker, who explained that in the process of the formation of a labor party, a section of the workers would raise demands for a far-reaching program of social change.

The audience was inspired by the prospects of a great resurgence of the labor movement through independent political action.

The sum of \$250.63 was contributed and pledged at the meeting to the Labor Party Campaign Fund of the S.W.P.

# Chicago S. W. P. Protests Against Davies' Movie

The Chicago premiere at the Roosevelt Theatre of the Davies whitewash film, "Mission to Moscow," was greeted by a protest demonstration arranged by the Chicago Branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

More than 1000 copies of the tabloid, "The Truth About 'Mission to Moscow' and the Moscow Trials," were distributed, while pickets bearing placards denouncing the film marched under the marquee. Theatre-goers and passers-by evinced considerable interest in the Trotskyist views of the movie and the GPU frame-ups.

Several Stalinists appeared on the scene and tried to disrupt. One Stalinist hit a woman distributor. But apart from this incident, the demonstration was orderly and completely successful.

The demonstration had to be arranged at very short notice, inasmuch as the theatre management had refused to divulge in advance the opening date, making this news public only twenty-four hours prior to the actual showing of the film.

or heard about the Stalinist strikebreaking policy? I asked. They had read about it in the daily papers. They didn't have much information, "but," said one, "let them come around here and try to tell us to go back and scab. We'd like to meet up with some of those fellows."

It was getting late and I wanted to meet some workers from another town, so we finally broke it up. The parting word from them was, "Don't forget. This isn't John L. Lewis' strike or anybody else's. This is our strike. And we're fed up with all the horsing around we been getting from the WLB, the operators and the government. We're out to stay until we get something this time."

Later, I received a further confirmation of the solidity, determination and fighting spirit of the miners, at Vesta No. 5 Mine, in Vestaburg, near California, Pa. This is a Jones & Laughlin steel corporation captive mine. Here, up to a few weeks ago, was one of the last remaining strongholds of the Stalinists in the coal mines.

After the last truce, some of the leading Stalinists, including the vice-president of the local, Mike Eagle, spurred on by the Communist Party's open strikebreaking appeals, became bold enough to expose their hand. Last Saturday at the local elections a fitting answer was given the Stalinists when their slate was defeated by a three-to-one vote and Eagle was kicked out of office. As one of the local officials told me, "Those birds are finished here now!"

Today Vesta No. 5 was shut down solid and the miserable Stalinist scabs didn't dare to show their faces.

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# The Negro Struggle

By DAVID RANSOM

## March-On-Washington Movement Meets

A wave of violence against colored minorities sweeps across the country, appearing to arise out of trivial disputes but actually springing from deep-rooted economic and social conflicts. In Washington Congress passes anti-labor laws and delays action on the anti-poll tax bill. Roosevelt sits mum while his agencies like the Fair Employment Practices Committee approve segregation in war plants and thus feed fuel to the flames of anti-Negro violence. Feeling that the war is well on the way to being won, the capitalists and their agents are taking the offensive against labor and the restless minority groups, hoping to smash the unions and to terrorize the Negroes into submission.

This is the picture which will confront every delegate to the national conference of the March-On-Washington Movement to be held from June 30 to July 4 in Chicago. Every delegate going to the convention knows that unless a militant fight is put up now by the Negro people, they are sure to be confronted with even worse conditions in the future. This is a moment of crisis for the Negro people and for any organization such as the March-On-Washington Movement which was born out of the need for rallying the masses for struggle against Jim Crow. The moment for such a struggle has arrived. The Negro masses are ready and willing to fight. Whether the fight will be successful remains a question of program and leadership. Either the MOWM will hammer out an effective program of action at this conference or else it will dwindle away to nothing.

From the very beginning, in the spring of 1941 when the summons for a march on Washington was issued by a group of prominent Negroes, the great merit of the movement resided in its avowed aim of organizing the masses for militant action. It pointed out the inadequacies of the legalistic approach of the NAACP leadership and adopted such methods of mass action as the picket line, the demonstration and the march. The whole concept of mass action was summed up by A. Phillip Randolph when he said, "Power and pressure do not reside in the few, the intelligentsia, they lie and flow from the masses. Evidently the regular, normal and respectable method of conference and petitions, while proper and ought to be continued as conditions warrant, certainly don't do the work."

And the experiences of the MOWM in the past two years prove this point more than adequately. For it must be truthfully said that in that period Randolph, as head of the movement, did spend a good deal of precious time futilely seeking a conference with Roosevelt.

A lesson which the delegates to the conference must not forget as they map a program of action is that conferences with Roosevelt, whether granted or not, are hardly the solution to the problems of the Negro people.

The Negro masses must be mobilized for more than winning a hearing or extremely limited and inadequate concessions from the government that represents the capitalist class.

Such moves as Randolph's cancellation of the march in 1941 resulted in a demoralization of the MOWM. The masses understood very well how little the establishment of the Fair Em-

ployment Practices committee would help them. Side by side with the fight to gain concessions from the ruling class the struggle must go on to put into power a government that represents the toiling masses, Negro and white, worker and farmer. It is from this point of view that any action, whether it be a march on Washington itself or a protest demonstration against Jim Crow laws, must be viewed. Once the Negro workers learn that they can win equality by acting together with the white workers to create a government which they can call their own—a great and necessary step forward will have been taken.

The most militant sections of the union movement have learned this lesson and are beginning to act. At every step in the struggle to better their conditions they run up against government intervention in favor of the bosses. Every issue effecting the union movement, from the high cost of living to the right to strike, involves some government agency or bureau. And the workers have seen the politicians of the two capitalist parties betray them into the hands of the employers.

That is why the Wayne County Labor's Non-Partisan League, representing some 200,000 CIO workers, called at its annual convention in Detroit last week for the immediate formation of an Independent Labor Party. We quote from the resolution: "The Republican and Democratic parties have demonstrated their growing inability and unwillingness to solve the basic social problems of the workers of the nation."

Yes, the white workers too are preparing for their own kind of march on Washington. They are marching for the same basic reasons which impelled the Negro people to create a March-On-Washington Movement. For workers, whether white or Negro, have the same enemy—the capitalist class. To quote from the Labor's Non-Partisan League resolution again: "Labor is now and will be from now on, engaged in a life and death struggle with employers and other sinister influences whose aim is to establish the dictatorship of the few over the divided and disorganized workers."

This question which the CIO workers of Detroit faced and answered with this inspiring resolution and call for action now faces the delegates of the March-On-Washington Movement. Every delegate knows that in the working class the Negro people have a powerful and natural ally. The resolution also calls upon independent Negro organizations to support this move for a labor party. At a moment when reactionary forces are striving to foment disunity in the ranks of the working class, a call from the March-On-Washington Movement for the creation of an Independent Labor Party would come like a flash of lightning to clear the atmosphere.

It is time to implement words by deeds. Through a party of their own Negro and white workers together can march on Washington and install a Workers' and Farmers' Government. Yes, that Randolph said two years ago is as true today as it was then. Power and pressure do not reside in the few, the intelligentsia, they lie in and flow from the masses. And today a labor party is the material shape and expression of that power and that pressure of the masses.

# Anaconda Gets A Way with Murder Standard Oil Almost Does Same

## Fine Is Even Less Than Profits Made From War Fraud

The Marion Ind., plant of the Anaconda Wire and Cable Company and its officials were fined a total of \$31,100 in the war fraud trial held in Fort Wayne two weeks ago, and prison sentences on the officials were ordered suspended by the court. Yet the company's lawyers admitted at the trial that the profits made from the sale of defective wire and cable to the armed forces of the United States and its allies were at least \$46,000!

Trying to minimize the crimes of Anaconda, defense attorney Phil McNaghy asserted: "The rumor has been assiduously circulated throughout the country that Anaconda has made millions of dollars from the Marion mill through cheating, by means of test avoidances. Actually the profits shown were \$26,000 on field wire and \$20,000 on assault wire, which together represented 1.8% of the company's profit." (Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, June 11).

After naming the ridiculously light fines for crimes which endangered the lives of servicemen in this country and the Soviet Union, "Judge Slick suggested that the company might pay those of the executives." (Journal-Gazette, June 13). Even after paying those fines, the company still had a tidy margin on the profits it admitted making from its criminal practices.

Strange as it may seem, Anaconda has developed a touching (though belated) concern not to "impede the war effort."

When the indicted company officials escaped jury trial by pleading nolo contendere, Federal Judge Slick asked: "Why plead nolo contendere which in this case is equivalent to a plea of guilty if as you say the defendants had no knowledge of any of the acts and therefore could not be guilty under your statement?"

One of the defense attorneys answered: "Because there were tremendous influences which prompted this plea. These men are conscious of no wrong doing, yet there are powerful reasons that impelled this plea. We are in the midst of war; we are faced with a jury trial that would have impeded the war effort." (Journal-Gazette, June 11).

"EXPERIENCE" In defending the company McNaghy also said:

"This is not a mushroom company organized for the purpose of making war profits. Anaconda opened its mills, including the one at Marion, to the inspection of competitors that they might profit from experience."

ANACONDA'S FRIENDS Continuing, McNaghy pointed to the excellent relations between the company and the procurement departments of the armed forces as another sign in behalf of Anaconda: "The customers who were so grossly defrauded, namely the army and navy, have given the Anaconda company nearly \$4,000,000 in business since the whole matter at the Marion plant came to light." It

was shown also that Secretary Knox had awarded a Navy "E" to the Marion plant shortly before it was indicted.

Judge Slick denounced Anaconda's practices as "revolting"—although he was not too revolted to suspend prison sentences on the company officials. Government lawyers called it the "most grievous" and "most obnoxious" fraud case in American history. Attorney General Biddle expressed regret that the officials had been let off so easy.

But there were apparently some figures in the government who did not regard Anaconda's crimes in too severe a light. In the June 20 P.M. I. F. Stone, who had gone to Fort Wayne to check the record of the trial, reported that Rear Admiral H. L. Brinser, head of the Office of the Inspector of Navy Material in New York, had written a letter on May 10 of this year commending Anaconda for its "good workmanship." Anaconda was indicted five months before that.

Stone also found that on May 8 of this year the office of the Inspector of Navy Material in Cincinnati had written the company to inform it that it was being considered for another "E" award.

Meanwhile the Pawtucket, R. I., plant of Anaconda is awaiting trial under a fraud indictment similar to the one under which the Marion plant was sentenced.

## Oil Reserve Grab Called Off After Protests Begin

What promised to be one of the most profitable corporation steals in the war was suddenly called off last week as unfavorable publicity and demands for Congressional investigations resulted in the cancellation by Secretary Knox of the Navy's contract with the Standard Oil Company of California for the development of the Elk Hills Naval Oil Reserve, the richest in the country.

In announcing the cancellation on June 17, while the House Committee on Public Lands was initiating an investigation of the contract signed last November, Knox tried to minimize the significance of the contract and his own role in it.

He said he was cancelling the contract because of a Department of Justice ruling that he had exceeded his legal authority. He added that "no improprieties had been employed by either party (the Navy and Standard Oil). The acting attorney general has asked me to say that the Department of Justice wishes to join in the latter statement and concurs fully and emphatically."

Needless to say, the president

of Standard Oil also concurred heartily, adding that the contract was "fair to both parties and in the public interest."

### CONTRARY VIEWS

Knox insists there were no "improprieties," but many other people acquainted with the contract held a contrary view. Assistant Attorney General Littell testified that the contract was "illegal and invalid." California Representative A. J. Elliott said the Navy deal "has some of the inkings of the Teapot Dome case of a few years ago," in which the Elk Hills reserve was also involved. Representative Jerry Voorhis said that under the contract "Standard Oil is guaranteed all cost of production and gains a monopoly of this valuable field without any risk, financial or otherwise."

Standard Oil owns 8,000 of the 43,000 acres in the Elk Hills reserve, most of them "overrun with salt water" and consequently less valuable than the Navy land, according to Senator Langer of North Dakota. Nevertheless under the contract both properties were to be developed as a unit, with Standard receiving all the oil for the first five years and two-thirds thereafter, and with the government paying all the costs.

No wonder Standard officials thought the contract was "fair!"

# War Tension, Jim Crow Result In 'Race Riots'

(Continued from page 1)

MARIANNA. Cellon Harrison, a Negro awaiting trial on June 21 on the charge of killing a white man, was dragged from the Jackson County, Fla., jail on June 16 and beaten to death. The papers did not report any resistance by the police authorities to the lynching.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People points out that Harrison's conviction on this charge had twice been reversed by the Florida courts. NAACP attorneys say "that the authorities and mob in Florida knew that Harrison could not again be tried for the murder. . . . The Supreme Court of Florida ruled that without the confession there was no evidence to involve Harrison, and since the confession was procured illegally it could not be used. At the trial there would be no evidence on which to base a case."

CHESTER. Beginning over a comparatively trivial dispute between a guard and a worker, shooting broke out in Yard Number 4 of the Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company on June 16, resulting in the shooting of five Negro workers. Both a Navy board of investigation and a county inquiry are under way. The company rigidly segregates all its Negro and white workers.

Some people—local authorities, a few liberals, the Stalinists—have suggested that at the bottom of these tragic disturbances will be found the hand of the Axis fifth column. That Axis agents are pleased by such anti-Negro violence can be taken for granted; it makes good propaganda material for them especially in the Far East. But to talk as though the Axis was responsible for the basic cause of these outbreaks is to divert attention from it and to make its elimination more difficult.

For as everyone knows, anti-Negro attacks of this kind have been going on long before there even was such a thing as the Axis, long before this war, long before the first world war. Most of the white workers who participated in the Detroit and other fighting are misguided victims of prejudice and race hatred, but

ter in the de-luxe restaurants and hotels. It is reported that, owing to the roll-back on the price of butter, millions of pounds are being withheld from the market. In their insistence to maintain their superprofits the big producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers are holding back their produce, putting pressure upon the government to keep hands off their profiteering operations. Senator Lucas of Illinois has estimated that 900 million bushels of corn are being kept off the market for higher prices.

Meanwhile warnings pour in from all sides of impending food shortages, owing to smaller crops. Senator Aiken of Vermont predicts that food production in 1943 will be from 15% to 30% less than last year. Scarcity of essential foods will become most acute between the next spring plowing and harvesting of crops.

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they are no less patriotic than the editors of the Daily Worker. "Race riots" are the result not of incitement by foreign fascists but of the Jim Crow system in this country which teaches whites to look down on Negroes as inferiors and to take vigilante action against Negroes who try or are accused of trying to obtain equal rights.

Under such a system antagonisms are aggravated and tension is heightened. In a period of social crisis it takes only a spark to set off the powder keg.

The way to prevent "race riots" is by putting an end to this Jim Crow system, by teaching the white workers that they have the same basic interests and problems as their Negro brothers, by clamping down on and combating the bias and miseducation which press, radio and schools are pumping into white people, by strengthening the labor movement which, even with its defects and shortcomings, is the true ally of the Negro people and the strongest defender of their rights.

If the government is really in-

terested in doing something about this dangerous situation, it might begin by examining some of its own policies which have contributed in no small measure to the present tension.

It might do something about passage of anti-lynch legislation to discourage mob killings. It might do something about the segregationist setup in the armed forces, so often pointed to by backward white workers as justification for their own reactionary moves.

It might do something about the recent joint approval by the Maritime Commission, Navy, War Manpower Commission and the Fair Employment Practices Committee of segregation in Mobile shipyards, which will inevitably inspire demands for similar segregation of Negroes in other war plants.

Until it does, militant Negroes will have little confidence that the government is able or willing to protect them against Jim Crow and Judge Lynch, and they will continue to rely on their own organized strength and the labor movement.

## N. Y. CENTRAL BRANCH ENDS SUCCESSFUL SUB CAMPAIGN

A successful campaign for subscriptions to The Militant and Fourth International was concluded this week by the Central Branch of Local New York, Socialist Workers Party. In the four weeks of the campaign 52 subs, amounting to \$93, were brought in.

Six competing teams participated in the campaign, with the winning team, "The Activists," bringing in 25 subs for a total of \$40.

The campaign wound up on Sunday, June 20, with a party in honor of the winning team. A special prize was awarded to Comrade Clare Hopkins who turned in the highest number of subs—eleven, amounting to \$18. Comrade Hopkins sold in addition two copies of Leon Trotsky's "In Defense of Marxism" and other party literature.

Much enthusiasm was aroused by the campaign. The comrades reported that The Militant, is very well received by contacts. The consensus of all reports is that once a worker reads our paper he is willing to take a subscription. This has also been the experience of other branches throughout the country. As many comrades have reported, "All you have to do to get subs is to go after them."

In view of the postal authorities' blows against The Militant by revocation of its second-class mailing privileges, it is necessary now more than ever before to build the paper's circulation. Moreover, in this way the support of more and more workers can be enlisted in the fight against the Post Office order.

The present ferment in the labor movement acts to make broader and broader sections of

the working class more receptive to The Militant and, especially its program for independent labor action. The paper must be gotten into the hands of these workers.

The comrades of Central Branch feel gratified with the results of their campaign. They feel they have aided in the accomplishment of important political tasks.

The Answer to Jim Crow:

## The Struggle for Negro Equality

a new pamphlet by John Saunders and Albert Parker

32 pages Five cents

Pioneer Publishers 116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

# Effect Of C.I. Dissolution On Stalinist Militants

By M. Morrison

What effect will the dissolution of the Communist International have upon the membership of the Stalinist parties?

As far as the bureaucrats are concerned, it was a foregone conclusion that they would accept the decision with great acclaim. They constitute as cynical a group of opportunists as ever existed. With the exception of a few stupid ones, it is doubtful that any of the leading bureaucrats believe in the line. They accept it primarily because they do not have the backbone to break, in their old age, with an organization that offers them a semblance of security.

It is quite probable that the leading bureaucrats, knowing Stalin as they do, take the dissolution with more than a grain of salt. They may be of the opinion that the same setup continues to exist, with the Presidium acting secretly. Or that the C. I. was actually dissolved with a new secret setup established. But no matter what their private opinion is, they are sure to go along and do what they are told to do.

As far as the rank and file of the Stalinist parties is concerned, there probably is a great deal of bewilderment, some questioning and a few dissident remarks. The regime in these parties does not permit any kind of a real discussion. An "enlightenment campaign" was started as soon as the order of dissolution became public and from then on it was simply a matter of the bureaucrats reshaping the arguments presented in the Moscow announcement. The members were merely present at the meeting.

Any kind of an organized opposition in the Stalinist parties on any issue is out of the question. Here and there on an issue involving the working class activities of many members, it is possible to expect quite a group to oppose the policies of the leadership and leave the party. But an organized opposition, in the sense of a factional group, based on a fundamental issue and agitating within the party for its viewpoint may arise but cannot exist in any Stalinist party.

This does not mean that the dissolution of the Comintern will be without any effect on the ranks of the Stalinist parties. For the first time since Stalin obtained control of the C. I. he has made a turn which cannot be supported by isolated quotations from Lenin. While the Stalinist bureaucrats hesitate at no falsification and distortion it is hardly likely that they will find anything in the writings of the founder of the Comintern to justify its dissolution.

To defend the theories of socialism in one country, social-fascism, the popular front and even support of the imperialist war as one for national liberation, the Stalinist bureaucrats could go to Lenin's writings and tear phrases and sentences out of their context. But it is not so easy to do the same thing in the case of the dissolution of the C. I. That section of the Stalinist parties which is composed of elements seriously believing that they are followers of Lenin will have very serious doubts about the dissolution of the C. I.

If we take the American Stalinist party we can safely surmise that it is composed of two main layers. One consists of those who want to be revolutionists and who have joined the party on the assumption that it represents revolutionary and international ideas. Another layer consists of those who joined because of the present policies and tactics and are not at all under the delusion that the party has anything to do with revolutionary internationalism. The first layer, composed largely of workers and youth, excuses the present policies as a maneuver to deceive the capitalist; the second layer, composed largely of middle-class elements, accepts the present policies without any attempt to justify them as a maneuver.

It is safe to say that the dissolution of the C. I. is not at all to the liking of the revolutionary elements of the C. P. They accept it, but uneasily. Generally they are not of the articulate type and have not been taught to think independently. All that can be expected is that a few of them will grumble and perhaps ask questions indicating their doubts and dissatisfaction. Some will be labelled Trotskyists and will either be expelled or leave in disgust. Most will remain in the party consoling themselves with the idea that here is another maneuver to deceive the capitalists.

There is some likelihood that the dissolution of the C. I. will lead to the growth of a certain degree of independence among the revolutionary rank and file. The

local bureaucrats have depended a great deal on the enormous authority of the C. I. to satisfy the rank and file with the sudden shifts of policy. With the C. I. eliminated, the authority of the local bureaucrats may not be sufficient to prevent questioning and even some criticism.

A further strengthening of the tendency for the militant elements in the Stalinist parties to become critical and leave them will come as a result of the amalgamation of the Stalinists with avowedly conservative socialist and labor parties. In Costa Rica the Communist Party has already held a national conference where the name "Communist" was dropped and the name "Peoples Vanguard" was assumed. It then issued an appeal to the Catholic Church for an alliance against totalitarianism. In Switzerland the Communist Party applied for affiliation with the Swiss Socialist Federation. The action of these small parties indicate what the larger parties will do in the near future.

The militants will feel less at home in the new parties than they do now in the Communist parties. We can look forward with great confidence that their days in the Stalinist movement are numbered.

It must be recognized however that the primary factor to push the militants away from the Stalinist parties will be the openly hostile attitude which these parties must necessarily assume towards the struggles of the workers. The militants may not be able to understand the significance of a policy which does not directly line them up against the workers but they will surely understand a policy that makes strikebreakers out of them.

A few fanatical Stalinist miners may be found to brave the hostility of the miners towards all who oppose their struggle for higher wages but it is a safe conclusion that a great many Stalinist miners feel terribly bitter towards a party that so brazenly champions the side of Roosevelt against the miners.

The miners and all other workers will soon learn the truth of the Trotskyist contention that opportunism in theory and general policy must inevitably lead to betrayal in action. The idea that all of the opportunistic and reactionary policies are maneuvers to deceive the capitalists will not hold for long. The reactionary role of the Stalinists will become clear to all militants and those who will not be disheartened and will want to continue the struggle for the social revolution will have nowhere to go except into the ranks of the Trotskyists.

## Kelly Postal Begins Serving Five Year Term

(Continued from page 1)

The Supreme Court's confirmation of the decision against Kelly Postal sets an extremely dangerous legal precedent which can be used to deprive other unions of their democratic right to decide for themselves the disposition of their union funds. Postal was never accused of misusing the union's funds personally. As Secretary-Treasurer of the Local, he merely obeyed the unanimous vote of the union membership at a regular union meeting, to take \$44's funds with them out of the AFL and into the CIO. He is no more guilty of embezzlement than the officers of the CIO who took their union funds along with them when they left the AFL.

The decision against Postal could be effectively used to prevent any union from quitting one International and joining another. It could prohibit a local union from changing its affiliation as a united body, even though most of its members had so voted, and would thus enable a few individuals to overrule the democratic decisions of the majority. If so much as a fountain pen or typewriter were taken with them into the new union status, each individual member could be found guilty of "embezzling" union property or funds, even though they themselves had originally paid for these things.

The importance of the issues involved in Postal's case has been widely recognized by the trade union movement. Over 100 unions have already contributed to his defense or passed resolutions condemning his conviction.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, which has been conducting Postal's defense, has announced that it will fight this gross violation of trade union democracy and take all possible steps to secure Kelly Postal's freedom.

# Capitalists Are Opposed To Curbs On Price Profiteering

By WILLIAM F. WARDE

The food situation goes from bad to worse. The administration's attempts to check rising prices produce one failure upon another. The OPA, bankrupt, wobbles about on its last legs.

A. F. Whitney, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen asserted at a hearing before the National Railway Panel on June 18, that the OPA had made no serious attempt to control rising living costs or to curb inflation since the spring of 1942. He said that in his opinion the OPA technique has been to depreciate the worker's dollar, penny by penny, rather than to stabilize its value.

1. That no salaries be paid OPA employees who "direct" or "authorize" establishment of subsidies. 2. That no funds be used to establish grade labeling or brand standardization on food, clothing, or other civilian commodities. 3. That all policy-making executives of the OPA have at least five years' experience in the business field over which they have authority.

According to OPA Administrator Brown his plan to subsidize producers of meat, butter, coffee and other rationed items would cost the government from one and a half to three billion dollars. This subsidy plan, upon which the CIO-AFL leaders pin all their hopes, would actually afford little relief for the mass of consumers. It would force large quantities of the subsidized commodities into the subterranean channels of the black market. It would help make food more scarce, not more plentiful. It would not stop price rises.

And, in the end, what little the consumers would seem to be saving on lower retail prices would be taken from them by the government in higher taxes to pay the costs of the subsidies.

Nevertheless, the big capitalist farm producers and food processors, the packers, millers, chain-stores, oppose subsidies because they can't tolerate even a slight check upon their operations. While subsidies mean direct payments to them from the federal treasury, they don't want to give any government agency the right to investigate their prices and superprofits or regulate their speculations.

### GROWING SHORTAGES

Meanwhile, food prices continue to mount and food shortages grow worse. New York City is suffering this week from a meat famine. Butter has begun to disappear from many groceries, although there is no scarcity of but-

# THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

VOL. VII—No. 26 Saturday, June 26, 1943

Published Weekly by

THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N  
at 116 University Place, New York, 3, N. Y.

Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8547  
Editor: GEORGE BREITMAN

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

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months. Foreign: \$3.00 per year, \$1.50 for 6 months. Bundle orders: 3 cents per copy in the United States; 4 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 5 cents.



To defend the USSR as the main fortress of the world proletariat, against all assaults of world imperialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of every class-conscious worker.

— LEON TROTSKY

## JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
2. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
3. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces and the war industries—Down with Jim Crowism everywhere.
4. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
5. A rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
6. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.
9. The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

## A Plan For The Coal Industry

By whom and for whose benefit shall the coal mines be operated? This important question is brought to the fore by the declaration of the UMW Policy Committee to Ickes last Sunday that they were prepared to work for the government.

The operators do not like the present arrangement under which Ickes is custodian of the mines, although they themselves continue to operate them. But if it will help the fight against the mine workers, they are willing to continue under the present status whereby Roosevelt's custodian guarantees their profits and leaves them in real, even if not nominal, control.

But why should the mine workers who produce the coal be satisfied with any such set up? Why should they toil in the mine pits while a rapacious gang of millionaire operators and absentee owners continue to coin huge profits from their labor, bleed the industry, and run the mines with so little regard for the workers' welfare that 75,000 were injured or killed this past year?

Why should the government act as custodian for the coal barons? Why doesn't it act as custodian for the coal miners? If the government's primary concern is with the production of coal, and not with maintaining the profits and property interests of the coal corporations, why don't the mine leaders propose that the government actually nationalize the mines and permit them to be operated under the control of the mine workers?

Once the grip of the profiteers upon the coal industry is broken, there is no reason why the miners cannot be guaranteed a living wage. The elected representatives of the miners will see that each worker gets a fair and square deal.

Who will conduct the technical supervision of the mines? The same technicians who do the work today will do it then. But they will be accountable to the working people and not the profiteers.

Expropriate the coal profiteers! Nationalize the coal mines! Operate them under control of committees elected by the workers and responsible to them!

## Growing Sentiment For A Labor Party

The war has widened the gap between the 13 million members of the American trade union movement and the top officialdom.

The workers find that their wages and jobs have been frozen, their standard of living lowered, their democratic rights menaced. In contrast, the labor bureaucrats have been guaranteed recognition as the official labor leadership by means of "maintenance of membership" provisions. In return, the labor bureaucrats have sold the independence of the labor movement for a couple of second-rate jobs in the war agencies that permit them to bask in the reflected glory of the American war machine.

This growing cleavage between the labor rank and file and the bureaucrats was first evidenced at the Chicago UAW convention in August, 1942, when the convention delegates roared their disapproval of the fraudulent "equality of sacrifice" program that the leadership was trying to jam down the convention's throat.

It was more clearly exhibited during the coal strike, when the rank and file of the UAW supported the strike over the heated opposition of the top union officials. It was dramatized in the Detroit and Akron strikes that broke out in defiance of the top leadership and their "no-strike pledge."

Today the cleavage has become a fact on the political field. Despite the union-busting campaign of Congress, despite Roosevelt's program of freezing wages but not prices, the Murrays and Greens continue to cling to the coat-tails of the administration. They want to back Roosevelt for a fourth term. They want to continue to elect to office Democratic-Republican scoundrels who call themselves "friends of labor." James Lucas, President of the Pontiac UAW, has correctly written that many of these labor bureaucrats "are just as much interested in crushing the legitimate aspirations of the workers as the corporations themselves."

But the workers are ready right now to take a different road. They are getting wise to this "hard-cop, soft-cop" shell game. In New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan they have said clearly and decisively that they want to put an end to "company unionism" on the political field.

In New York the American Labor Party under the leadership of Dubinsky and Hillman, has thus far frustrated the full will of the membership by continuing to horse-trade with the two capitalist parties and trying to convert the Labor Party into a kite of Roosevelt's political career. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania the bureaucrats have managed to delay the actual launching of genuine labor parties.

But the tide of labor resentment is rising and will not be held back for long. The Detroit auto workers have ignored the pusillanimous pleas of the pussyfooting CIO officials and have pushed for the immediate formation of a genuine labor party. That is the way the independent party of labor will be built! Not by back-door deals with cynical capitalist politicians, but by galvanizing the ranks of labor into militant and purposeful action.

## How We Fight 'Mission To Moscow'

Last week the Boston City Council voted to recommend the banning of the film, "Mission To Moscow," on the ground that it constituted "out-right Communist propaganda." This move was obviously inspired by the Catholic hierarchy which exercises close censorship over all films.

This is but one of many different voices which have been raised in opposition to "Mission To Moscow." The Republican National Committee has likewise denounced the picture. So have the Social-Democrats and other liberal supporters of American capitalism.

We are opposed to "Mission To Moscow" for totally different reasons than all these other groups. We do not condemn the film because it spreads Communist propaganda, for it does nothing of the sort. It spreads Stalinist propaganda which has nothing in common with the genuine Communism of Lenin and Trotsky. It glorifies the most reactionary acts and aspects of the Stalinist regime and thus aids the enemies and misleads the working class friends and defenders of the Soviet Union. It justifies the Moscow frameup trials, Stalin's murder of the Old Bolsheviks, the Red Army staff and Trotsky. The film does not serve the cause of Communism nor the defense of the Soviet Union. It injures them.

In all our demonstrations against the film, we have made it clear that we do not urge, as does the Boston City Council, the banning of the film. We are opposed to such censorship and suppression because it places a dangerous weapon in the hands of reaction.

We try to reach the workers and to teach them by democratic means and in open public discussion the falsehoods and frameups upon which "Mission To Moscow" is based. The capitalist and clerical reactionaries, like the Stalinists, cannot tolerate such genuine democracy and honest confrontation of opposing opinions before the working class. Their aim is to smear the Russian Revolution and defend decaying capitalism. We aim to tell the truth about the Russian Revolution and thereby advance the fight for world socialism.

## It Is Time to Build An Independent Labor Party

# British Labor Party To Remain In Coalition

The labor bureaucrats had their own way at the forty-second annual convention of the British Labor Party, held in London last week. The gathering was attended by more than 900 delegates representing two and a half million trade unionists and other members, but the wishes and aspirations of the rank and file workers were given little attention at the convention.

The key question facing the convention was the party's attitude toward the electoral truce with the Tories and participation with them in the coalition government. There has been a growing sentiment in the party's ranks, weakly reflected in the wing of the party led by Aneurin Bevan, for a break with the Tories, the holding of new elections and a fight for a labor government.

But the Clement Attlee-Herbert Morrison-Ernest Bevin leadership of the party, defending the truce on the ground of "national unity," succeeded on the first day of the convention in upholding the truce by a vote of six to one, 2,243,000 to 374,000. Thus it was determined that the Labor Party would remain a captive and flunkey of the British capitalists and landlords for at least another year.

On the second day Morrison was defeated as party treasurer by Arthur Greenwood. Morrison, one of the Labor Party members of the War Cabinet, has lost considerable prestige in the last year because of his association with the Cabinet's shelving of the Beveridge plan, while Greenwood had been partially responsible for Beveridge's drafting of the plan. But actually there is no important difference in policy between

the two. This was shown when, in discussion on a resolution expressing "profound distrust" of the government for its handling of the Beveridge plan, Greenwood defended the three Labor Party members of the Cabinet, including Morrison, who had helped Churchill to shelve the plan. The resolution was defeated by a two to one vote.

### STALINIST ISSUE

The Communist Party's application for affiliation with the Labor Party took up most of the third day of the proceedings. With Morrison speaking for the leadership, the convention voted down the Stalinist application by a vote of 1,951,000 to 712,000. But the arguments used by Morrison show that the labor bureaucrats are incapable of conducting a progressive struggle against Stalinism. He said the Stalinists "still believe in revolution by violence."

As a matter of fact, and Morrison knows this too, the Stalinists don't believe in revolution by any means. They are the most ardent defenders of the coalition with the Tories, the most vicious opponents of genuine social revolutionary movements. When Morrison and Co. denounce them as revolutionists, they help only to confuse the masses as to the real nature of Stalinism and to strengthen the prestige of the Communist Party.

On the fourth day the leadership put over a resolution on Germany which must have warmed the hearts of Hitler and Goebbels. It identified the "overwhelming mass" of the German people with the Nazi policy, declaring that the opposition to Hitlerism in Germany compromises a small minor-

ity, and laying the basis for a policy of revenge against the whole German people.

By ignoring the fact that Hitler was able to come to power and hold it only by destroying the democratic rights and organizations of the great majority of the German people, the Labor Party bureaucrats enable the Nazis to argue to the German masses that they too will suffer from a Nazi defeat, thus weakening the revolutionary developments within Germany.

This resolution, adopted by 1,803,000 to 720,000 votes, was so rank and such a violation of the most elementary principles of socialist solidarity, that a number of dissenting delegates, summoned by Aneurin Bevan, held a meeting after the convention session to announce that it did not represent the views of the party members.

The final day of the convention saw the unanimous adoption of a resolution calling for a special British colonial charter to embody the principles of the Atlantic Charter and demanding that "all forms of political and economic imperialism shall be rapidly liquidated."

How little this resolution meant to the leaders of the party, who in action follow subserviently in the path of Churchill and other die-hard imperialists was demonstrated shortly thereafter when they tabled two other resolutions on India which dealt specifically with the questions raised in the resolution already passed.

The British workers, who have moved far to the left since 1939, still have the task of creating a leadership which will express their revolutionary sentiments.

# Fear Of Revolt Keynote In Pope Pius' Speech

The Pope got down to brass tacks in his speech. He had to. The European working class is past the days when it can be influenced or swayed merely by quotations from the Bible.

"The church," he said, "asserting and defending courageously the rights of the working class... We need above all a great righteousness of will and perfect loyalty of purpose... We need a spirit of true concord and brotherhood animating all: superiors and subjects, employers and workers..."

The Pope then exoriated "that propaganda of anti-religious inspiration circulating among the people, and especially among the working classes, that the Pope wished the war, that the Pope supports the war... that the Pope does nothing for peace." He denounced this as a "calumny" and insisted that he has always pleaded for "peace."

### WHAT HE FEARS

"Such friends of the people you have heard in the public streets, in clubs, in Congress. You recognized their promises on handbills. You hear them in their songs and anthems... Such false prophets would have us believe that salvation must come from a revolution... the social revolution claims to raise the working class to power."

But the Pope predicted calamity if the workers staged a revolution. "Salvation and justice," according to him, "are not to be found in revolution but in evolution through concord." A practical example of such "evolution through concord" is undoubtedly to be found in the Franco government of Spain. This clerical fascist regime of hunger and slavery is supported by the Pope and one of its main internal props is the Catholic Church.

correctly estimated its role as protector of the status quo.

Every sentence of the Pope's speech, its warnings and denunciations as well as the fears it displayed, shows that the Catholic Church is only too well aware that revolution is brewing on the continent, that the workers are actively desirous of taking their destinies into their own hands and of wiping the imperialists, the exploiters and their agents off the face of the earth.

The speech casts light on the negotiations of Myron C. Taylor — Roosevelt's personal representative — with the Vatican, and the negotiations now being conducted by Archbishop Spellman. It is becoming clearer that the Catholic Church has become the active ally and agent for Anglo-American imperialism and is attempting at the present moment to confuse and divide the working class of Europe, to discourage its independent action, as groundwork preparation for the Vatican's program to impose clerical fascist regimes, on the model of Spain, all over the continent.

### THE VATICAN'S ROLE

This speech, taken in connection with the latest reports of conditions in Italy, makes clear that revolutionary agitation is very widespread and open, that it has penetrated into wide ranks of the population and that the working class is seriously preparing for the overthrow of Mussolini's fascist regime.

The Pope's anxiety to clear his own name and that of the church of responsibility for the present war and the conditions of starvation and dictatorship that exist in Italy is proof that there exists widespread agitation against the church and that the workers have

secret agreements with the Vatican, the State Department's support of the fascist Giraud, of Franco, the building up of the Habsburgs of Austria, the second front. The Anglo-American capitalists propose nothing less than the thrusting of Europe into an era of clerical reaction and totalitarianism. Such is the real post-war plan of the capitalist crusaders for "democracy."

## Tobin Threatens And Slanders Negro Group

Is A. Philip Randolph, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleepingcar Porters, going to be indicted for "sedition" by the Department of Justice? Is the March-On-Washington Movement which Randolph heads due for an FBI investigation? We ask these questions after reading a vicious attack on Randolph and the MOWM in the June issue of Daniel J. Tobin's magazine, International Teamster. Written by one of Tobin's flunkies, Lester M. Hunt, the article flouts the slanderous heading: "Negro Leader Stirs Race Hate — Randolph Circulates Axis Propaganda."

Hunt, supposedly reviewing the MOWM pamphlet, "The War's Greatest Scandal — Jim Crow in Uniform," charges the pamphlet and its publishers with sowing "the seed of insurrection by inflaming the black race against the white." This is Hunt's deliberately distorted account of the struggle for Negro equality; this is his way of answering the March-On-Washington Movement's call for the struggle against Jim Crow.

Hunt even goes to the extent of pretending that the demand for equality of treatment for Negroes is a demand for special privileges. No other proof is needed than this article to show that Tobin is not interested in exposing and stamping out racial prejudice. What interests him — enough to divert him for the time being from his attacks on the United Mine Workers and the Trotskyists — is stamping out militancy among the workers and oppressed minorities by any means, including the threat of federal prosecution.

The article ends with this note of threat: "And let Randolph remember the warning given him by President Tobin at the American Federation of Labor Convention in Toronto last fall. President Tobin told him his actions were undermining the future progress of the Negro race. He said his remarks were an abuse of free speech. 'Sooner or later this kind of stuff will have to be stopped,' Tobin warned."

It was at Tobin's behest that the Department of Justice two years ago indicted the leaders of the Teamsters Local 544 in Minneapolis and members of the Socialist Workers Party. Like the MOWM they had committed the crime of carrying on the struggle for the interests and rights of the working class. To Roosevelt, Tobin, Hunt and Co., this is "sedition."

At that time we warned the labor movement and the Negro people that this was only the first move in an attempt by Roosevelt and his labor henchman to crush all progressive forces inside the labor movement. Is this latest article the forerunner of such a move against the MOWM and Randolph? It seems to us we've heard this song before.

## Profits Are 18% Higher This Year Than in 1942

Corporation profits in 1942 were higher than the "high level" of profits in 1941, despite tax increases, and they were even bigger in the first quarter of 1943 than they were in 1942, according to a report issued by the conservative Department of Commerce on June 20.

"During the first quarter of 1943," said the report, "corporate profits before taxes increased 19% over the same quarter of last year. On the basis of present corporate tax rates, profits after taxes for the first quarter of 1943 amounted to \$1,821,000,000 approximately 18% above the first quarter of 1942."

## Odell Waller, Roosevelt And the Poll Tax Fight

July 2 marks the first anniversary of the legal lynching of Negro sharecropper Odell Waller, who was tried for the self-defense killing of his landlord by a jury from which his peers were excluded by the poll tax. This anniversary serves to recall that the poll tax system, which keeps ten million white and Negro Odell Wallers in subjection, is as alive, vigorous and vicious as ever.

Last week President Roosevelt—who like the United States Supreme Court and Virginia's Governor refused to intervene to save the life of Waller—permitted some Negro bishops to call on him in the White House. They reported later that Roosevelt had implied to them that he will be glad to sign the anti-poll tax bill when it is placed on his desk.

Some people, remembering Roosevelt's past record on the poll tax—notably his cynical disavowal of any information or opinion on the anti-poll tax bill last November while it was being filibustered to death by leaders of the Southern wing of his own party—may dismiss this half-promise as an attempt to line up Negro support for the fourth term.

But suppose we grant that Roosevelt will really sign the anti-poll tax bill if it is ever passed by Congress. Having done that, we can only say: What of it? What good is that?

Roosevelt knows, as every other informed person in the country does, that the real obstacle to the passage of the anti-poll tax bill, which has already hurdled the House of Representatives, is the U. S. Senate, controlled by Roosevelt's Southern comrades and conservative Republicans. He knows very well that the poll tax Senators aren't the least bit influenced by what he tells a few Negro bishops. He knows that they will continue to oppose the abolition of the poll tax until powerful pressure is directed against them.

Roosevelt wants the votes and support of the millions of Negro and white workers who are mortal enemies of the poll tax. But he also wants the votes and support of the Southern ruling class and its politicians whose strength derives in great part from the maintenance of the poll tax. That is why he whispers a few sympathetic words to the first group and says nothing to the second.

But such a course can fool no one in the long run. The bill is now before a Senate committee and its fate will soon be determined. In this case the old saying will apply with full force: Who is not with us is against us.

*Now On the Press*

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By James P. Cannon

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