

GPU Terrorist Drive Launched On Trotskyists

International Slander and Lynch-Incitation Campaign Is Aimed at All Militant Workers

By Joseph Keller

The Stalinist frameup and strikebreaking machine has launched a highly organized international slander campaign against all labor militants and, in particular, the Trotskyists, most conscious vanguard fighters everywhere for the working class. This GPU-inspired onslaught is beginning to reach frenzied heights both in the United States and England and coincides with the growing repressions against the labor movement and the increasing "democratic" persecutions of the Trotskyists by the Roosevelt and Churchill capitalist governments.

Signaled by the recent Stalinist public rejection of socialist objectives and open espousal of capitalism, the latest GPU incitations to frameup and terror against the Trotskyists is part of the Stalinist defense of capitalist reaction, which includes support of anti-labor legislation and decrees, acting as volunteer stool pigeons for the corporations and governments, and unabashed strikebreaking.

But the immediate and special object of this slanderous lynch drive is to reinforce and abet the government frameups of the 18 imprisoned Trotskyists in this country and the 4 indicted Trotskyist leaders of the British Revolutionary Communist Party, and to sabotage the rapidly growing labor defense campaign on their behalf. The Stalinists have been aroused to unprecedented fear and fury by the fact that hundreds of union organizations, representing over 1,250,000 members, have voted support for the Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners, and that so great has been the labor reaction against the frameup of the British Trotskyists that 8 labor Members of Parliament are heading the committee for their defense.

STALINIST DIATRIBES

The general tenor of the Stalinist diatribes is that the persecutions of the Trotskyists are not "labor cases." The Trotskyists deserve to be thrown into prison—and worse—because they are really "Hitler agents" who are "inciting strikes" for the express purpose of "sabotaging war production." These raving lies are merely the basis for scarcely veiled appeals to outright physical terrorism and mob action against Trotskyists and all militant workers whom the Stalinists label as "Trotskyites."

In this country, this latest GPU anti-Trotskyist drive was first launched on the West Coast, where hundreds of thousands of organized workers have voted support for the imprisoned 18, and was timed in an attempt to sabotage the highly successful mass meetings addressed by George Novack, National Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

On May 22, the People's World, official Stalinist West Coast gutter-sheet, published simultane-

ously two anti-Trotskyist attacks. The article claiming to give the "low-down" on the British Trotskyists finds that "the center of world Trotskyism at present is the Socialist Workers' Party in the United States." Because the British workers are more advanced politically, this article attempts to "argue" against the Trotskyist program by a series of bald-faced fabrications, such as "all the resolutions passed by the Fourth International . . . advocated that the followers of Trotsky should utilize the crisis created by the war in order to overthrow the Soviet government." "All the resolutions," as every informed person knows, make the keystone of the Trotskyist program "the unconditional defense of the Soviet Union from imperialist attack."

GIBBERISH

"Facts on Campaign of Minneapolis Trotskyites," which the People's World threatens is but the first of a series, descends almost to sheer gibberish, and is a tissue of fantastic inventions. It turns the Minneapolis Labor Case literally upside down, representing its origin as a conflict between "union bosses" (the Dunne brothers) and the "democratic" leadership of Daniel Tobin's gangster-ridden AFL Teamsters machine. Above all, it tries to show that the imprisonment of the Minneapolis Transport Workers Local 544-CIO leaders is not a "labor case." Among "the 17 or 18 convicted"—the People's World which claims to give the "facts" is vague even on the number imprisoned—"only a few were members of the Teamsters Union." Actually, 13 of the 18 were members and leaders. "Only a few hundred members" of AFL Local 544 endorsed affiliation with the CIO. Federal court testimony of government witnesses in the Minneapolis trial, as well as capitalist press accounts, affirm that over 4,000 members voted to affiliate with the CIO.

A PRELUDE

These People's World smears were just a prelude. On May 27, a capitalist newspaper, the San Pedro (California) News-Pilot, blossomed forth with a half-page advertisement, signed by the Communist (Stalinist) Club of

(Continued on page 6)

Union Leaders Call For Freedom Of The 18 At N. Y. Mass Meeting



George Novack, National Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, addressing the mass meeting in New York City on behalf of the Minneapolis Labor Case defendants. Seen on the speaker's platform are Thomas DeLorenzo, President of UAW-CIO Local 365, George Baldanzi, Executive Vice-President of the CIO Textile Workers, and Roger Baldwin, National Director of the American Civil Liberties Union. Others who spoke, but are not shown in this picture, were Henry Fruchter, National Educational Director, CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, Norman Thomas, Socialist Party leader, Daniel Bell, Editor of The New Leader and Albert Gates, Editor of Labor Action.

Badoglio Cabinet Collapses Under Italian Mass Pressure

By James Cowan

The shadow government of Italy, set up and kept in office by Allied bayonets in order to frustrate the will of the masses, has been reshuffled for the second time within a brief space of a few weeks.

Marshal Pietro Badoglio, fascist butcher of the Ethiopians and one of the staunchest backers of the former regime of Mussolini, has been replaced as Premier in a reconstructed cabinet by Ivanoe Bonomi, an ex-Social-Democrat who headed the Italian government for eight months in 1921-22, shortly before the advent of fascism.

The need for this new "democratic" face-lifting arose after the Allied occupation of Rome. Badoglio and his cabinet colleagues—Stalinists, Social Democrats, Christian democrats and liberals—scurried to the Eternal City to see what chores were required of them by the Allied Military Government. Prince Umberto, the fascist bootlicker who has succeeded King Victor Emmanuel as titular head of the regime, went with them.

They arrived, according to the Rome correspondent of the N. Y. Times, to find "a hot situation, almost a threatening crisis, on their hands." The heat was emphasized when Umberto appeared on the balcony of the Quirinal Palace to acknowledge the greetings of a monarchist demonstra-

tion. Revolver shots rang out. The Italian masses have long memories!

HOT CLIMATE

It was with these shots ringing in their ears that the members of the Badoglio "coalition" went into a huddle for the purpose of reconstructing the government, in the hope that it might be made more palatable to the Romans. The political climate of the Eternal City, capital of the country and close to the heavy industrial areas of Piedmont and Lombardy in the north, is even more tempestuous than in the predominantly rural south. Badoglio and his clique had found the south quite hot for their reactionary government, but in the north it was hotter still.

The Romans refused to tolerate Badoglio and so the Marshal had to go. As was to be expected, it was the Stalinist Palmiro Togliatti (Ercoli) who fought for the retention of Badoglio as premier in the cabinet-making session. This was reported by the N. Y. Times correspondent, who wrote: ". . . only the Communists (Stalinists) here are supporting the Premier, under the orders of Signor Togliatti." But even the strong arm of the Kremlin was not strong enough to hold the Marshal in office in face of the tremendous popular opposition.

BIG THREE

The Big Three have followed the Avery pattern in violating the union contract, refusing to adjust grievances, victimizing union militants, and generally discriminating against and hounding union members until the unbearable provocation of the corporations, erupting in a number of "unauthorized" strikes, has made the Detroit area the center of rank and file resistance against the open shop drive.

Another indication of the powerful forces behind the union-bust and open shop drive was the public announcement a few months ago of the "labor policy" of the U. S. Steel Corporation. Benjamin Fairless, president of U. S. Steel, speaking to some of his cronies at the annual dinner of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, gave a classic expression of the open shop program of Big

(Continued on page 3)

War Profits

America's corporations are raking in an average of \$1,000 net war profits a year on every worker employed, and their top executives "pull down the neat average sum of \$84,000 per annum," reports the June 3 CIO Economic Outlook. It also reveals that in spite of long hours of overtime the average worker ends up the week with exactly 35 cents left in his pocket.

A typical example of how much profits are drained from every worker was cited before the WLB by Emil Rieve, president of the CIO Textile Workers, who pointed out that the giant American Woolen Company made a 1943 profit of "more than \$1,380 on every worker on the payroll." The company is complaining that the union's demand for a 65 cent an hour minimum wage is "inflationary."

When commencing to form his cabinet, Bonomi issued a statement in which he declared that it would be "much more democratic" than the Badoglio regime. But in reality there is nothing democratic or representative about it. Its members are self-appointed and it is responsible, not to the people, but to the reactionary Italian ruling class and the AMG, which will supervise and determine its every move. The masses have had no say in its selection and have no control over its policies.

Subject to the AMG, control

(Continued on page 4)

Canada Stalinists For Money Control By Bank Oligarchs

An attempt by the Canadian Commonwealth Federation and the Social Credit members of the Canadian parliament to take away from the ten government-chartered banks their right to create credit and currency and restore it to parliament, was defeated recently by a vote of 107 to 20. All the capitalist parties, aided by the Stalinists, combined to kill the measure. Both Stalinist members of parliament, Fred Rose and Dorise Nielson, voted with the bankers' representatives.

Joseph Coldwell, leader of the CCF, amassed facts and figures proving that the Canadian people are at the mercy of an insignificant number of financial magnates. Of the ten chartered banks, four of them—just four!—control 70 per cent of all the bank assets of the country. Six insurance companies have control of more than 70 per cent of the insurance assets.

FINANCIAL OLIGARCHY

The four banks are: Royal, Montreal, Commerce and Nova Scotia. Ninety-four officers of these four banks hold 799 directorates in 484 corporations. The six insurance companies are right behind the bankers and have

(Continued on page 6)

ILGWU Boston Convention Unanimously Demands Pardon

CIO Speakers Denounce Stalinist Attempts to Sabotage Fight for Framed Trotskyists

BULLETIN

The Boston Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union unanimously went on record calling on President Roosevelt to pardon the 18 Minneapolis labor prisoners.

The reporter of the Resolutions Committee was greeted with applause when he said:

"The 17 men and one woman involved in the case—leaders of the Minneapolis Truck Drivers Local No. 544 and of the Socialist Workers Party—were prosecuted for publishing and distributing radical literature, for making radical speeches, and declarations, and for carrying on agitation along similar lines.

"The records of the case abundantly show that they were condemned simply and solely for the expression of opinion, no overt act of any sort being charged against them. They were convicted under the notorious Smith Sedition Act of 1940, the first statute since 1798 to make the mere expression of opinion a federal crime.

"Your Committee thoroughly disagrees with the philosophy, the objectives and the tactics of the Minneapolis prisoners. Nevertheless, we are deeply convinced that these convictions challenge the best traditions of civil liberty under the constitution. . .

"We are gratified to note that a number of leaders of our International have lent their support to the growing movement for an executive pardon to the 18 Minneapolis prisoners.

"Entirely in the interests of civil liberty, your Committee heartily recommends concurrence with the intent of the resolutions before us (Nos. 38, 131, 205, 260) to join in the appeal to the President of the United States to grant such pardon.

By Art Preis

NEW YORK CITY, June 8. — In an inspiring demonstration of working class solidarity with the 18 imprisoned Trotskyist and Minneapolis Transport Workers Local 544-CIO leaders, approximately 800 workers jammed the Civil Rights Defense Committee mass meeting at the Hotel Diplomat Crystal Ballroom here tonight. They enthusiastically endorsed the appeal of nationally prominent trade union and civil liberties leaders who unitedly issued a call for American labor to rally behind the fight to free the 18 and repeal the Smith "Gag" Act under which they were convicted. The speakers joined in urging organized labor to resist the growing

offensive of Big Business and the government against labor's democratic rights.

Among the outstanding figures who addressed the meeting were George Novack, CRDC National Secretary; George Baldanzi, Executive Vice-President of the CIO Textile Workers Union; Henry Fruchter, National Educational Director of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees; Thomas De Lorenzo, President of the CIO United Automobile Workers Brewster Aeronautical Local 365; Roger Baldwin, National Director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Norman Thomas, Socialist Party leader; Daniel Bell, Associate Editor of The New Leader and Albert Gates, Editor of Labor Action.

At the same time, the mass rally launched a drive against terrorism, slander and frameup within the labor movement by exposing and denouncing the Stalinists, who are violating the most elementary principles of labor solidarity, not merely by ignoring the case, as some in the labor movement have done, but by engaging in an active slander and

FINEST TRADITION

The presence of these leading spokesmen for different labor and liberal organizations on the same platform in order to jointly protest and organize against the outstanding violation of workers' civil rights during this war, was in the finest traditions of the working class movement. Reflecting the mounting nation-wide support for the CRDC campaign, this united meeting represented a significant step forward in advancing the fundamental principles of working class solidarity with all victims of capitalist class oppression and in mobilizing labor to fight against every encroachment on its hard-won democratic rights. The meeting struck a powerful blow for freedom of speech and press by denouncing the Roosevelt government's frame up of the 18 and wiring to the White House a demand for their immediate unconditional pardon.

(Continued on page 4)

Avery Heads Open Shop Drive Of Big Business

By R. Bell

Appearing before the Select Committee of the House of Representatives investigating the Montgomery Ward "seizure", Sewell Avery, head of the company, exploded the myth propounded by some labor leaders that he was "leading a one man rebellion" against the unions. Avery has made no secret of his deliberate intention to convert Montgomery Ward and Company into an open shop preserve. It has been the contention of *The Militant* that Avery was not acting as an isolated individual, that he was not some kind of a "freak" at variance with the so-called "responsible" corporation executives, but was acting as the spokesman and spearhead for powerful interests in an all-out drive to smash the unions and bring back the open shop. This contention was confirmed when, in reply to questioning by a member of the House Committee about the attitude of

the industrialists toward the unions, Avery stated:

"Do you think that Henry Ford likes unions? Do you think General Motors does? Oh, no, but they are under pressure." About the third unit of the Big Three in auto Avery had previously remarked: "I saw Walter Chrysler beaten down until he finally gave in under coercion. . . I am not going to let that happen to me." The "pressure" and "coercion" that forced the auto barons to sign contracts with the union was the militant struggle of the auto workers who stormed the open shop fortress maintained by Ford, General Motors and Chrysler, and forced the Big Three to recognize their union as the collective bargaining agency for the workers in the industry. The auto barons, as Avery correctly testifies, have never become reconciled to dealing with the union and, under cover of the war emergency have engaged in a series of provocative acts designed to undermine the authority of the unions and

restore open shop conditions in the industry.

BIG THREE

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Another indication of the powerful forces behind the union-bust and open shop drive was the public announcement a few months ago of the "labor policy" of the U. S. Steel Corporation. Benjamin Fairless, president of U. S. Steel, speaking to some of his cronies at the annual dinner of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, gave a classic expression of the open shop program of Big

(Continued on page 3)

War Profiteers Lobby To Lift Price Lid As Invasion Distracts Peoples' Attention

By C. Thomas

The Big Business lobby in the nation's capital has seized upon the moment of the invasion to jettison the already inadequate price restrictions embodied in the administration's Price Control Act which expires June 30. The Congress has already adopted a number of crippling amendments to the measure which serve to remove all effective control over prices, rents and profits. The Senate approved the Bankhead amendment which would place a premium on inefficiency and fraud by guaranteeing a "reasonable profit" on every item produced by the textile manufacturers based upon a cost-plus method of calculation. It is conservatively estimated that the Bankhead amendment would add \$350,000,000 a year to the consumer cost of cotton goods and clothing. This

huge sum would flow into the already swollen coffers of the textile manufacturers whose fabulous profits in 1943 were computed to be nine times the profits of the 1936-39 period. The sweatshoppers at the head of the textile industry have recently been shedding crocodile tears about their "inability" to grant their exploited workers a wage increase.

Other Senate amendments would so hamstring the enforcement of the Price Control Act that black market operators as well as run-of-the-mill violators would be free of all restraint in gouging the consumer. In addition to the Senate amendments, the political agents of the dollar patriots in the House have presented scores of amendments calculated to unloosen an orgy of war profiteering such as this country has never seen. One House amendment provides for the automatic increase of 35 cents a barrel in the price of oil. An-

other would require rent control officials to grant increases in rent "where landlords can show an increase in operating costs, upkeep or taxes since the date" when the rent ceiling was put into effect. So confident are the rent hogs, that in many parts of the country new tenants are required to sign leases embodying an "escalator clause" agreeing to an automatic ten percent increase when rent control is "relaxed."

CARRION CROW

The amendments quoted above are just a few of those already tacked on to the Price Control Act by large majorities of Democrats and Republicans. While labor is being called upon for additional sacrifices to "back the invasion," the rent hogs and price gougers swarm like a flock of carrion crow intent upon picking the bones of their victims clean, while their attention is distracted by the unfolding drama in Europe. This is confirmed by the

New York daily PM which says: "With invasion news crowding all other matters into the background, the special-interest lobbyists have had a uniquely favorable setting for their operations."

A few months ago, when the labor representatives on the War Labor Board requested an upward revision of the Little Steel formula, presenting statistics proving that the cost of living had increased 43.5 percent there was a furious howl from administration spokesmen, Congress and the dollar patriots that any such increase would cause a ruinous inflation spiral. Eric A. Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the darling of the Stalinists now being lavishly entertained in Moscow, submitted a brief on behalf of his organization stating: "Organized labor, by its renewed demands for increases in wages threatens to destroy the stabilization program. If or-

(Continued on page 5)

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

William Green, AFL head, recently renounced the political policy he and his craft union cronies have always followed. He rattled the bones of old Sam Compers, and plunked for the horse-and-buggy political philosophy of "reward your friends and punish your enemies" that has always left labor wide open for picking by the capitalist political sharks.

With typical smugness, he declaimed: "The American Federation of Labor now, as in the past, follows a strictly non-partisan political policy." What he means is that he is impartially ready to give a handout to the capitalist party which seems at the given moment more willing than the other to toss a few crumbs and favors to Green in return for selling labor down the river.

Green solemnly pontificated against those "in the ranks of labor who are anxious to get more actively involved in partisan politics." Green, of course, is anxious to keep a certain bargaining position between the two Big Business political machines. But he is strictly partisan when it comes to genuine independent labor political action—he's one with the CIO leadership in bitterly opposing a real party of labor.

The Dubinsky leadership of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union was successful at its Boston convention last week in whipping up a big demonstration for a fourth term for Roosevelt and pushing over—almost unanimously—a resolution urging labor to give a political blank check to one of the shrewdest capitalist politicians in American history.

One courageous delegate refused, however, to be a party to this reaffirmation of "company unionism in politics." Louis Nelson, Manager Secretary of Knitgoods Workers Local 155, New York City, recorded his vote against the Dubinsky resolution and for genuine independent labor politics.

There was some booing at Nelson's forthright stand. But he spoke for the progressive forces moving in the main-stream of labor's political development. The political consciousness of the American workers is rapidly deepening, and many of those who booed Nelson last week will be commending his stand in the not too distant future.

In typical Westbrook Pegler style, the Stalinist Daily Worker last week spat its venom at Worth Lowery, President of the CIO International Woodworkers of America, because he refused to play the role of strikebreaker against the thousands of CIO lumber workers who joined over 30,000 AFL lumber union members in the recent Pacific Northwest strike. Lowery instead turned his guns on the lumber barons and War Labor Board for provoking the strike by denying the lumber workers the wage increase they have been demanding since Pearl Harbor.

The International Woodworker, organ of the IWA-CIO, noted approvingly that "the number of local unions throughout the Northwest who had voted to 'go

fishing' continued to rise . . . the latest being the Weyerhaeuser and Long-Bell mills and woods operations at Longview, the two largest sawmills in the world."

The same issue of the Woodworker, May 31, publishes the resolution of the union's Executive Board, condemning the West Coast Stalinist sheet, People's World, which has been making scurrilous attacks on the militant lumber workers and other progressive sections of the labor movement. The resolution correctly charges that the Stalinist gutter-sheet is "detrimental to the interests of the Woodworkers and . . . designed to create dissension and disruption within the ranks of the IWA." Said "dissension and disruption" being nothing else than attempts to induce the CIO workers to outright scabbard and strikebreaking.

The Stalinists' squealing rises in crescendo in direct proportion to the decline of their influence among the West Coast workers, including the lumber workers.

How the "friend of labor" in the White House, the "impartial" government agencies and the no-strike policy have "protected" the interests of the workers is illustrated in the case of the Budd Manufacturing Company, known as the "Ford of Philadelphia" because of the vicious methods it has successfully employed thus far to prevent unionization.

CIO President Philip Murray himself recently charged before a Senate committee that the Budd company had fired within the last two months over 2,880 workers because of union activities. At the same time, the company has set up a new company union to replace one "disbanded" by a federal court order and a U. S. Supreme Court ruling.

The CIO United Automobile Workers has tried for years to organize the plant. Shortly after Pearl Harbor the local union went on strike, but was defeated through the combined efforts of the government and the company. Since then, the union leaders have been "fighting" the company with vain complaints to the various government agencies. The disastrous consequences of the no-strike policy and reliance on the Roosevelt government are completely revealed in the Budd case.

The CIO Aluminum Workers of America voted at its convention last week to end its independent existence and merge with the CIO Steel Workers. Negotiations for the merger had been in progress for a number of months. The steel union's convention recently approved the projected affiliation and authorized Philip Murray and the USWA leaders to conclude the merger.

At the recent Minneapolis meeting of the International Executive Board of the CIO United Automobile Workers, the Board condemned the NLRB for its decision in the American News Company case. This decision stated, in effect, that the workers have no right to strike for increases beyond the Little Steel formula.



Numerous and interesting incidents which have occurred in door-to-door canvassing for subscriptions are reported by our agents. Here are some of them:

Buffalo: "Last week one of the girls met a man who wasn't the least interested, wouldn't even let her show him The Militant. She sold a sub to his next-door neighbor and ten minutes later, when she was way down the street, he came running after her with a quarter in his hand. He said he'd seen his neighbor's copy and wanted to subscribe. So you see The Militant sells itself!"

Los Angeles: "During our house-to-house canvassing for special subs to The Militant a comrade went to one house which, in marked contrast to all the others he visited, greeted the idea of fighting for workers' rights with scorn. 'I think the workers are pretty well off,' the woman of the house said. When reminded that the unions were being attacked all the way down the line she exclaimed, 'I think that the workers should retreat, and I I absolutely don't believe in strikes.' As The Militant agent was leaving she remarked that she subscribed to the Peoples World

(West Coast Stalinist link sheet). Enough said!"

High regard and appreciation is expressed in the following letters.

Brooklyn: "You may start my subscription to The Militant with your Introductory Offer of 13 issues for 25c. I enclose 25c. coin. P.S. As you see I copied the wording on your coupon. I am saving the sample issue I received and therefore feel reluctant to damage it."

Coushatta, La.: "I received a copy of your paper some months ago and I want to subscribe for it."

Milwaukee: "Please send me two copies of The Militant containing the editorial entitled 'On Pacifism.' I am not in agreement with the editorial; however, I do wish to send copies of it to pacifists for their study."

New York: "At the end of a union meeting I had the particular pleasure to observe a Negro brother go out of his way to pick up The Militant from a chair, study it for a moment and then carefully fold it up and put it into his pocket."

"Militant" Drive Nets 723 More Subs; Total Now Stands At 4357

In the tenth week of the Militant Subscription Campaign the branches obtained 723 NEW READERS to our paper, the highest number sold during any week of the campaign to date. Our goal of 3,000 NEW READERS was reached in the eighth week, but the branches continue to drive ahead, determined to take full advantage of this opportunity to introduce The Militant to as many workers as possible through the campaign offer of 13 issues for 25c.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WEEK

Buffalo continues to lead nationally with 490 percent.

Bayonne moved from seventeenth place on the scoreboard to fifth.

Los Angeles sold the most subs during the week — 232, New York Local sold 199, Bayonne sold 183.

Four more branches joined the 100 percenters: Bayonne, Los Angeles, Chicago, Milwaukee.

FROM OUR MAIL BAG

Los Angeles: "Beginning forced march to make up for lag in campaign. On our first Red Sunday we sold 200 subscriptions in three hours. Watch next Sunday."

Bayonne: "We intend to continue the sub drive until we become too busy with the follow-up of our sales."

Youngstown: "Please send us 50 sub cards. We are starting a house-to-house campaign and we expect to sell these and maybe more."

Minneapolis: "Last Thursday a group of comrades met at the headquarters before the meeting and went to close-by working-class neighborhoods with sub cards. The result was twelve more subs. We are planning on meeting again next Thursday."

San Francisco: "Enclosed are 34 trial sub cards. Of these 32 were secured yesterday in our work in Oakland. We plan to be out there for another three Sundays. Of the 32 subs secured, 19 were from white workers and 13 from Negroes. This was done in a total of 1½ hours' time with 4 couples participating."

Detroit: "This Sunday we are going to have a branch mobilization, and the following Sunday too. This last month will find the comrades really going after more subs."

Pittsburgh: "I think we may have more subs soon."

St. Paul: "We've ordered 85 cards and we certainly hope to sell them all. We may sell more, but we'd rather overshoot our mark than overaim to begin with."

Chicago: "In addition to the mobilizations, we now have a program by which the team captains see that members of their teams go out at least once a week, individually or in groups, to suit their convenience. Enthusiasm has reached a high point and we shall go well over our quota. We struck it rich in one of the housing projects, inhabited largely by Negroes and Italians."

New Haven: "Enclosed you will find a 25c sub. I have recently converted this individual to our point of view."

Buffalo: "We're going to try for 600 percent! We read every word in the Campaign Column avidly. It's a wonderful campaign and we're sure everyone will go way over the top."

We would like to hear from Toledo, Reading, and Philadelphia concerning their plans relative to the three-way challenge.

What are the plans of West Side Branch (New York Local), Chicago, and Minneapolis relative to their three-way challenge?

Three more weeks to go. We want to finish with every branch at least 100 percent!

WHY WE ARE IN PRISON

Farewell speeches of the defendants in the Minneapolis Labor Case. The vital words of people condemned to prison for their courageous defense of Socialist ideas.

"We were obliged to tell the truth. We saw the abomination of the imperialist war and we were under compulsion to tell the people the truth about it. We saw the vision of a socialist society and were under compulsion to fight for it at all costs and despite all hazards."

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SCOREBOARD

	Quota	Subs	Percent
Buffalo	50	245	490
Newark	80	241	301
New York	500	1388	276
Toledo	30	79	263
Bayonne	50	108	216
Reading	30	59	196
Texas	10	17	170
Philadelphia	30	50	166
Allentown	15	24	160
Detroit	300	464	154
Boston	100	145	145
San Francisco	150	209	132
Seattle	150	193	128
St. Paul	50	63	126
Los Angeles	400	461	115
Chicago	200	209	104
Milwaukee	15	15	100
Minneapolis	200	158	79
Youngstown	50	39	78
New Haven	25	18	72
Akron	40	27	67
Cleveland	50	26	52
St. Louis	20	9	45
Quakertown	10	4	40
San Diego	50	18	36
Members-at-Large, Friends	355	80	22
Flint	15	3	20
Pittsburgh	10	2	20
Rochester	15	3	15
TOTAL	3,000	4,357	145%

Letter From A Steel Worker To His Son In The Service

By Theodore Kovalesky

(At the 1944 convention of the United Steelworkers of America, President Philip Murray made this statement:

"Withdrawal of the no-strike pledge would be regarded as an insult to our armed forces and to the union-minded population of this country. . . . If you did withdraw the pledge, what sort of letter would you write to your boys overseas tomorrow to explain?")

Dear Joey,

I'm writing you an extra letter this week, because there are a lot of things on my mind that I'd like to talk about. In the first place, I'm writing this on Memorial Day, and I'm thinking back seven years to that Memorial Day when you and I were marching in the picket line at Republic Steel. There you were, just a young Chicago kid eighteen years old, working on your first job . . . and marching in your first picket line, singing "Solidarity Forever" along with the old hands like me. I remember the day we both went down to the SWOC hall and joined the union. The boys used to call us the "father and son team."

But that Memorial Day part of the story. . . . That's what I've been thinking about mostly, that and one other thing that I'll come to later. Back in 1937 on Memorial Day, there we were, you and me and all of the rest of the boys marching in front of the plant, not carrying anything more dangerous than picket signs, when all of a sudden those lousy cops began to shoot at us and charge us with clubs. I'll never forget that! Maybe you don't think so much about it now over there in the front lines with bullets coming at you every day, but, as far as I'm concerned, it was the most terrible thing I've ever been through, even including the time old Number Three Furnace broke out and almost caught me. I remember the way everybody was yelling and running, and the way that colored fellow went down right next to me with a bullet clean through him. I know you could have run a lot faster and got away sooner yourself, but you stayed there with your dad . . . though you never would admit it later.

STEEL CONVENTION

The other thing I've been thinking about, son, is the convention we had a couple of weeks ago. I guess I wrote and told you that the boys in our local elected me one of the delegates. It was a pretty punk convention, what with Murray and the rest of the big boys taking up most of the time filibustering, but there were a couple of high spots. The most important part came when a young fellow from Reading, Pa. raised the devil, because he had been appointed to the Resolutions Committee, and was not informed about it until too late. What seemed to make him especially sore was that the committee without him sent through a resolution to reaffirm the no-strike pledge. Brown proposed to rescind

the pledge. Well, we began to clap when he said that . . . but we lost the vote after Murray stood up and cried his eyes out about it. He should have been a movie actor.

But what I want to say is this. Murray asked what kind of a letter we'd write our boys if we rescinded the pledge. Now, Joey, I can't write that letter, of course, because Murray pushed the no-strike pledge through again. But I wanted to tell you how your



old man and a lot of the boys tried to rescind it, because I know you are a union man yourself and I know you're still with us.

As I said, I've been thinking back about a lot of things. When you went away you said (remember?), "Dad, I'm depending on you to keep the union going. I don't ever want to work in an open shop again. YOU will have to fight for ME when I'm gone." Well, Joey, that's just what I've been trying to do. Without the right to strike, the union movement is retreating fast. Some of the union big shots are kicking out men who go out on strike, and the bosses and the newspapers love that. But I promise you, son, I am not going to give up the fight. . . .

STILL FIGHTING

So, now with Memorial Day coming around again, and with me and you and the union one year older, I wanted to write and tell you these things that have been running through my mind, and to tell you that I'm still fighting the way you and I used to fight when you were still here. I wanted to write and tell you that I remember all these things like they happened yesterday, even though some of them happened seven years ago, on that day when we all ran from the cops' bullets and clubs, that is, all of us but the ten guys that were killed and the others that were badly hurt. I remember what you said after it was all over: "Dad, we'll make them pay for that!"

Well, Joey, we're still going to make them pay, and we're going to fight hard to have a strong union here when you get back to join us.

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IN MEMORIAM

The Detroit Branch of the SWP has suffered the loss of one of its most energetic and devoted comrades with the death of Comrade Richard McDonald on Friday, June 2nd.

Comrade McDonald's life from its earliest days was a life of struggle. Before he reached his first birthday, Dick fell victim to the dread disease of infantile paralysis, resulting in a crippling of his body from the waist down. During the next fifteen years of his life Dick endured numerous surgical operations in an effort to enable him to walk. Dick was finally able to get around with the aid of crutches.

Not content to sit around and mope about his personal misfortunes, Dick had taken advantage of his enforced leisure by doing extensive reading. That is how he first became attracted to the ideas of socialism. In 1938, ignoring his physical handicap, Dick hitch hiked west. He stopped for a while at the Commonwealth Labor College at Mena, Arkansas and it was there that he entered the organized radical movement by joining the Communist Party. After a short stay at the College, Dick continued westward finally settling in Sacramento, California. There he participated actively in the life of the C.P., writing and speaking at street meetings. It was during his stay in Sacramento that Comrade McDonald first became acquainted with the Trotskyist movement. When he learned the truth about Stalinism, Dick broke with the Communist Party and returned to Detroit in 1940. He immediately sought out the Trotskyists and after attending a series of discussions joined the party.

Despite his physical limitations, from the time of his entrance into the party up until the illness which resulted in his death, Dick was one of our most active comrades. For a period, Dick acted as literature agent for the branch. He was always present to cover meetings or for factory distributions of The Militant. His own trade union activity was limited to a brief period in the CIO Office Workers Union, but Dick was always available. He was always ready to assist the other comrades in the detail work connected with their trade union activity or with any other party work.

Dick was not only an activist. He also participated actively in the intellectual life of the Detroit branch. Drawn to the party by the greatness of its ideas, Dick constantly strived to raise his own level of understanding.

In the midst of his activity, Dick became stricken with illness in the fall of 1942. After an illness of a couple of months, Dick seemed to have recovered when he was again stricken. This time tuberculosis was discovered in his lungs and in March of 1943 Dick entered a Hospital where he remained until his death.

Dick entered this last battle armed only with a tremendous fighting spirit. His frail body racked with disease was ill prepared for the struggle with this terrible disease. From the beginning of his last confinement he knew that his chances of recovery were less than one in a thousand. Dick waged the battle nevertheless and only a few months ago seemed on the road to recovery. Just when the tuberculosis of his lungs seemed arrested, the disease found its way to his spine. The discovery of this just a very few weeks ago marked the beginning of the end. Dick realized he just did not possess the physical resources necessary to combat the latest attack. His wonderful fighting spirit was broken and his condition became rapidly worse until his death.

Just a few months ago, an act occurred highly typical of Dick which I think reveals the kind of comrade he was. Presented with a small sum of money by his comrades to meet his incidental expenses, Comrade Dick returned the money to the branch with a note urging that the money might better be used to aid our 18 imprisoned comrades or the party in its work.

This very fine friend and comrade met his death still a young man. He was only 29. His personal kindness, his loyalty and devotion to the working class and to our party, his wonderful spirit will always be remembered by those of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with Dick McDonald.

Dick was one of the pioneer fighters and organizers in the building of the Detroit branch of the Socialist Workers Party. We honor his bright untarnished name. We will carry on his work and keep his memory green.

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More Than 200 Organizations Back Campaign To Free The 18 Imprisoned Trotskyists, Novack Tells Mass Meeting

[Reprinted are sections of the address of George Novack, Secretary of the CRDC, delivered to the New York Mass Meeting at the Hotel Diplomat on June 8, 1944.]

Brother Chairman, friends of the Civil Rights Defense Committee, fellow fighters for civil liberties and labor's rights:

Almost three months ago I started out on a coast-to-coast tour to enlist labor and liberal support for the Civil Rights Defense Committee's campaign to secure presidential pardon for the eighteen CIO and Socialist Workers Party members railroaded to prison under the Smith "Gag" Act. During these past months I have addressed scores of audiences, representing the most progressive sections of American life—trade unions, Negro organizations, farm audiences, university audiences, civil liberties groups. I have personally discussed the Minneapolis labor case with scores of union officials and hundreds of workers in the industrial cities of this vast country; with Negro leaders, clergymen, lawyers, civil liberties leaders, and progressive individuals.

The first group of workers I had occasion to speak to were railroad men, belonging to the Railroad Council in Rochester, New York. I even went out into the round-house and discussed with a number of them the Minneapolis case while they were working on the engines. And the latest was a meeting called by General Motors Local 216 of the United Auto Workers at their hall in Los Angeles . . . and now, this important meeting in New York, where progressive leaders of labor have tonight expressed their solidarity with our work in the CRDC.

I intend tonight to discuss not the facts and issues involved in the Minneapolis labor case, as I did elsewhere. The previous speakers have already touched on the main issues and the principal facts, and you can read about them in the abundant literature published about this case.

I propose to report to you certain events connected with my national tour — my visit to the 14 prisoners in Sandstone Penitentiary in Minnesota, and, in general, about the impact and repercussions of this important labor and civil liberties case upon the organized labor movement throughout the country, as I observed it.

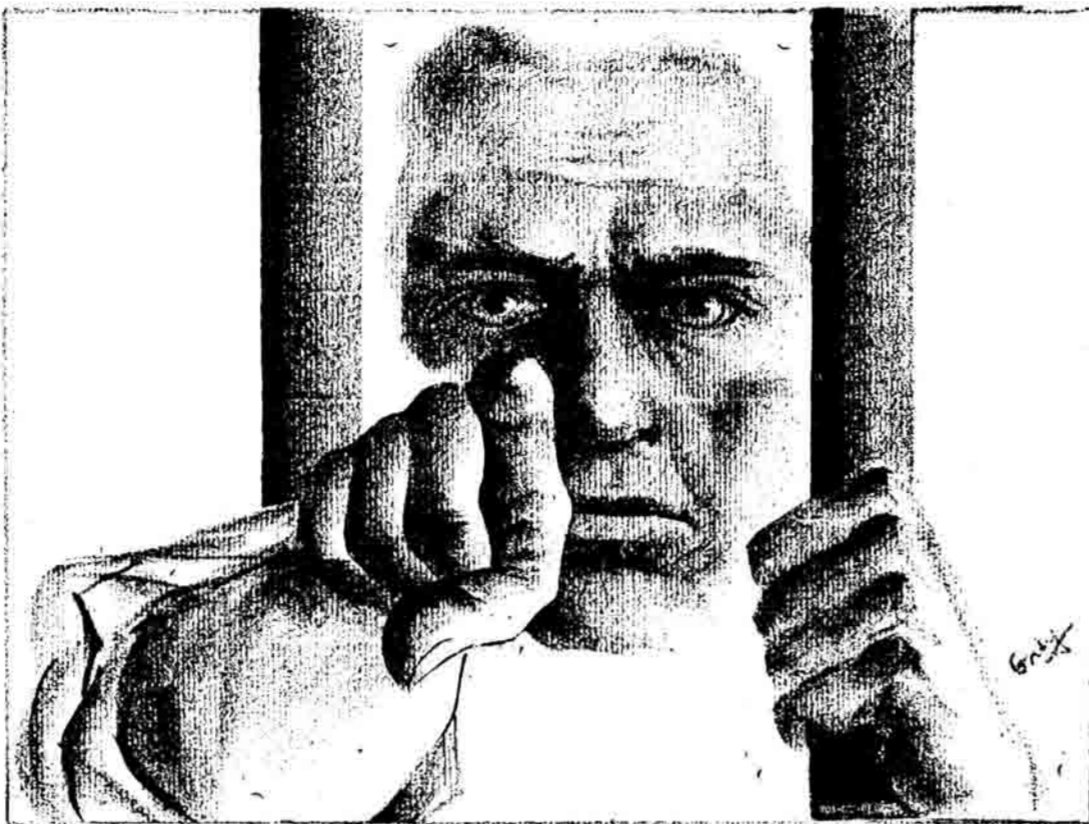
GROWING SUPPORT GIVEN TO CASE

The first feature I want to note is the reader response and more extensive support accorded our appeal than was the case three years, or even a year, ago. This fact is attested to by the growing list of labor and other organizations which have come to the support of our Committee and its national campaign to free the 18. You can see a partial list of them on this circular. They now total well over two hundred, and I expect before many weeks are over we shall reach the 300 mark, and more are coming in every week.

There are, I believe, three main reasons to account for this shift in our favor. First of all, the trend of events during the past three years has impressed upon the minds of the most conscious American workers and those people who follow the civil liberties struggle in this country, the truth of what we have contended from the very beginning of this prosecution — that this action against the Minneapolis Truck Drivers and Trotskyist leaders, under the Smith "Gag" Act, is, as Brother DeLorenzo has already noted, not an exceptional nor an isolated incident. This prosecution was one of the first beachheads established by the enemies of labor in their offensive, which they began under cover of preparations for the World War, against the labor movement and against the democratic rights of the American people. We also said that unless this first assault was countered and beaten back by the united efforts of the labor and liberal forces of this country, it would be followed by further repressive legislation and by more frame-ups of militant union leaders. The workers of this country have since learned these bitter truths. I am sorry to say, the hard way. The Smith "Gag" Act has helped pave the way for the Smith-Connelly Anti-Strike law, and that, in turn, has prepared the atmosphere for the proposal of new vicious anti-labor legislation. Brother DeLorenzo, in an indictment, reminds us that the same federal frame-up system that put the 18 behind bars is in active operation. If they get away with the DeLorenzo frame-up as they did with the 18, they will proceed against other union leaders who have the courage to stand up and defend workers' rights.

Thus the experience of life itself in this war period has come to a certain degree to our assistance in fighting this Minneapolis frame-up, in enlightening liberal and labor opinion about its real meaning. More and more workers, more and more progressive-

FREE THE 18!



minded people are beginning to see the connection between this case and their own day-to-day struggles to safeguard their most cherished rights.

WE WANT FREEDOM FOR THE 18

In the second place, the 18 convicted CIO truckdrivers and Socialist Workers Party leaders are now in prison. They have already had to serve over five months' of their sentences. I saw 14 of them behind the bars at Sandstone prison — and I didn't like the sight of honest people unjustly deprived of their liberty for nothing but exercising the democratic right of free speech. And there are hundreds of thousands who feel the same way about this case.

Many people believed that this frameup would not be carried through to this point. When the prisoners were first indicted, they stated that they would not actually be tried, that the indictment would be dropped by the administration as soon as the labor struggle in Minneapolis had been cleared up and the favor to Daniel J. Tobin had been erased. Then, after the trial began, these people said, no one would be convicted, the charges are so preposterous, the frameup so flimsy, so fantastic. And then they said, if a hand-picked blue-ribbon jury would convict the 18 under pressure of the Government prosecutors, then the convictions would be thrown out by the Circuit Court of Appeals.

Finally, like Custer, they made a last stand. They said the justices in Washington, the Roosevelt-rejuvenated Supreme Court sworn to uphold the Constitution would hand down justice in so important a case, under a law that was so clearly contrary to the Bill of Rights. And yet the justices remained deaf to our appeals, and three times refused to even hear the case.

Now we are taking the case to the President of the United States, and demanding that he, who played a part in instigating this prosecution, redress our grievances. Roosevelt has made a lot of promises about freedom of speech. What we are asking is that he make a down-payment here and now on that promissory note by pardoning the 18 who have been deprived of their rights of free speech through the Smith "Gag" Act.

Now another, and by no means the least influential factor in altering the most progressive sections of public opinion about this case, has been the work of our Civil Rights Defense Committee and its collaborators, the American Civil Liberties Union, all the labor papers, labor educators, unions and other organizations that have worked with us in trying to publicize the issues and facts in this case. We have done a good job with the means and forces at our

disposal in breaking through the official conspiracy of silence by which the Big Business press has tried to smother the news of this frameup. Thanks to our tireless agitation and propaganda, the foremost leaders of opinion in labor and liberal circles — yes, in Washington too, as Roger Baldwin and others will testify — know all about this case and they know its significance. And that is primarily due to the work of the members, friends and collaborators of the Civil Rights Defense Committee.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CRDC

I observed, as I went through the country, that the Civil Rights Defense Committee has won a place for itself as an authoritative and respected organization defending the rights of the American labor movement. The development of the Minneapolis labor case in this respect parallels that of many other labor defense cases. Many of the famous labor defense cases did not immediately become national issues, counting in their ranks of supporters tens of thousands of individuals. Even the most prominent cases were taken up at first by small bands of resolute partisans and only after prolonged efforts, did these causes become celebrated. That happened in the Dreyfus case in France, the Sacco-Vanzetti case, the case of the Scottsboro boys, and the Mooney-Billings case.

In San Francisco I had the honor of speaking at two meetings together with Warren Billings, who was framed up and sent to jail during the first world war because he was a militant labor leader. We discussed this very problem and I was extremely interested in what Warren Billings told me about the difficulties they had in securing support. Billings said: "We had a hell of a time to get the labor movement to consider ours a labor case, at first. We were accused of using dynamite and killing people at a Preparedness Parade in San Francisco. In California at that time Mooney and I were called 'trouble makers' and 'radicals' just like the men and one woman in this case. In fact, that's why the organized employers and their police tools set out to railroad us to jail."

And so it has been with the Minneapolis case, which Billings, in his speeches, compared with his own. Our pioneer work has laid a strong foundation for the broad and growing defense movement for the liberation of the 18 and for the abolition of the Smith "Gag" Act. The movement is already national in scope. It is not going to decrease, but to increase in numbers and power. . .

In Akron I spoke to the officials of several rubber union locals. Goodrich Local 5 has since passed a resolution in support of the case. In Detroit, in addition to the prominent speakers on the platform with me and the very sizable labor crowd at the meeting, I noticed the presidents of several progressive locals of the Auto Workers in the audience, and many many leading stewards of the CIO movement.

In Flint I spoke at the YWCA, and when I finished, a union brother got up and said, "Why hasn't this come up before the CIO Council here yet?" He stated that 3 or 4 members of the council were present. "Let's see whether we can't get this passed at a coming meeting." When I returned here, I was informed that the Flint CIO Council had passed a resolution in support of the 18.

In Chicago I saw Willard Townsend, head of the CIO Transport Employees Union. He pledged his support to the case. At its recent convention, this CIO International passed an excellent resolution in support of the Minneapolis Labor prisoners. I spoke to a number of CIO and AFL officials there and found a sympathetic response.

Even in Minneapolis, when I arrived there, there was a noticeable change in the atmosphere, in the sentiment towards the 18, even in AFL circles. I have been told that Tobin poured almost a million dollars into Minneapolis to crush the progressive leadership of Local 544. You know it would cost a teamster his job simply to be seen talking with anyone belonging to the CIO Teamsters Union there up in Minneapolis. But when I was there they told me that a request to have a CRDC spokesman at the AFL business agents meeting had been discussed and although it was not passed by a majority, nevertheless, the fact that some of the more prominent AFL leaders there supported such a proposal showed that there are many labor leaders there who don't like this frame-up and who are beginning to feel very uneasy about it. Nevertheless, I addressed a wonderful series of meetings in the Twin Cities. . .

I VISITED WITH THE PRISONERS AT SANDSTONE

While I was in Minneapolis I took the occasion to visit the 14 prisoners in Sandstone Penitentiary. They were extremely glad to see me and to hear what I had to tell them about the defense movement on their behalf. They almost leaped forward to hear what I had to tell them. . .

I also went to see Kelly Postal at Stillwater State Penitentiary to discuss the details of his parole which was scheduled to come up. I went with the lawyer retained by our Committee. Out on the West Coast I had a talk with the Secretary of the Oregon CIO Council. He told me he had spoken with Governor Thye of Minnesota about the imprisonment of Kelly Postal. He said to Governor Thye — you know, when I and other CIO leaders left the AFL and went over and joined the CIO, we took our union funds along the same way Kelly Postal did. Did you think we ought to go to prison for embezzlement? Although Thye said he didn't have anything to do with this imprisonment of Kelly Postal, I told him he ought to free Kelly Postal.

Well, we were very pleased to hear — I heard it on the West Coast — that Kelly Postal has been paroled and has gone to Oregon. Of course, he should have been pardoned. The parole is due in large measure to the work of our Committee and to those in the labor

AVERY HEADS WALL STREET DRIVE FOR THE OPEN SHOP

(Continued from page 1)

Business when he said: "Gentlemen, our conviction is as firm today as it ever was that the right to work should not be dependent upon membership or non-membership in any organization."

Fairless revealed that U.S. Steel Corporation, like Montgomery Ward, had accepted the maintenance-of-membership clause in the last union contract, under protest. "For the period of the contract," the corporation statement to Roosevelt read, "this company bows to your decision and accepts that which it considers unnecessary, undesirable and subversive of the workers' individual will." The U.S. Steel Corporation, like Montgomery Ward and General Motors Corporation are controlled by J. P. Morgan and Company. The Chicago Daily News points out: "It is generally recognized that Avery is the choice of the J. P.

Morgan interests at Ward's." When the Montgomery Ward strike broke out, George Whitney, president of J. P. Morgan and Co., rushed to Chicago where he entered into conference with Sewell Avery. Whitney is a director of Montgomery Ward as well as General Motors; Avery is a director of U. S. Steel. Through this medium of interlocking directorates the House of Morgan controls a vast industrial empire. Together with other gangs of Wall Street freebooters with whom they are closely associated, they dominate the economic and political life of the nation. It is these powerful financial interests who are behind Sewell Avery and are pressing forward a general attack on the labor movement.

MISLEADING

Under these circumstances, it is dangerous and misleading to declare, as James B. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the CIO aid before the House Investigating Committee, that Avery was "leading a one-man rebellion."

What the labor movement is confronted with is a full-blown attack by the "economic royalists" and their political agents in Washington. It is necessary to warn the workers of this fact so that they will not be lulled into a false sense of security based on the erroneous conception that it is only Avery who is carrying on a "private war against labor."

In the midst of the hearings on the Montgomery Ward "seizure" conducted by the House Investigating Committee, the WLB by a vote of 8 to 1, again directed the company to extend the terms and conditions of the expired union contract with the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America. CIO, Sewell Avery thereupon again reiterated his defiance of the WLB and his refusal to comply with the order.

In contrast to the treatment accorded workers who dare to "defy" the WLB, there was no outcry by the press, no threat by

the WLB to impose drastic sanctions, no frantic waving of the flag by the brass hats, no thunderous denunciation by Roosevelt, no hue and cry in Congress for legislation to curb the arrogance of the employers.

The WLB directive places the union back where it started from when the contract expired last December. Roosevelt's farcical "seizure" of the plant succeeded only in breaking the strike, herding the workers back to their jobs and then turning the plant back to the Avery-Morgan management. Additional time will elapse before the WLB goes through its ponderous procedure of getting the case certified again to President Roosevelt. If past experience is any criterion, Roosevelt will sit on the case until the patience of the workers becomes exhausted and they are forced to strike to defend the existence of their union. In which event Roosevelt may "seize" the plant again to break the strike in order to return it to Avery after its "productive efficiency has been restored."

But workers are learning the meaning of government "seizures." It will probably be much more difficult to get them back to their jobs without a union contract. The dollar patriots are counting heavily on the hysteria whipped up in connection with the invasion to club the workers into line. They have accepted in the past 2 years the maintenance of membership provision "under protest." Today, they feel the time is ripe to attempt other assaults on the unions. The lessons of the past Roosevelt "seizures" teach the workers that they can depend only on their own strength and solidarity to halt the open shop drive. When that lesson has been fully absorbed, the labor movement will, by its own independent action, put a crimp in the "defiance" of the Avers and compel compliance with the demand of the workers for union shop conditions under a union contract.

and liberal movement of this country who have helped our fight to win freedom for Kelly Postal.

Now I could go on through all the cities, ranging out to the West Coast, but I do not have the time in this brief report. I want only to take up a point which has been previously noted by other speakers, because I believe it to be of great importance, not only in connection with this case, but in the entire struggle for civil liberties and labor's rights in this country. We have obtained support from hundreds of labor organizations and many political groups in the labor movement. But there is within the labor movement one organization which is not simply indifferent to this case, but which is exerting its influence in order to sabotage our efforts to free the 18. They are the followers and members of the ex-Communist, ex-Party. When I was in Seattle they made attempts to get labor speakers scheduled to speak at our meeting, to cancel their appearance. They threatened them with reprisals, and the assistant secretary-treasurer of the AFL Boilermakers Union announced that fact from the platform when he got up to speak.

THE STALINISTS ARE AGAIN DOING FINK WORK

They tried to prevent me from speaking to students and faculty members at the University of California. In Minneapolis, at a forum, one of them got up and said, "Where do you get your money from?" implying that we had secret sources of income that could not be revealed. And then, when I got out on the West Coast, I read a series of articles in the Peoples World, the Stalinist paper, that attempted to smear, slander and vilify the 18 prisoners in the Minneapolis case. This Tuesday the Daily Worker had the infamy to attack this meeting and the speakers on this program and to call these 18 heroic fighters "snakes". Speaking of snakes, on the West Coast a good fighter for civil liberties, leader of Roger Baldwin's own organization, told me that these people, these Stalinists, are the worst kind of rattle snakes. He said, you know out here we have a special kind of rattlesnake, the side-winder. The ordinary rattlesnake strikes straight at you from in front so you know it is attacking. But the side-winder comes along on the flank, coils himself when you are not looking, then lunges from the side and darts its poisonous venom upon you. That is exactly the kind of venom the Stalinist side-winders, the Daily Worker, the Peoples World and the Stalinist machine in the union movement have been spreading against the Minneapolis Labor case.

Now the issues in this case are absolutely clear to any individual with the least concern for labor's rights and democracy. These 18 have been put behind bars because of their labor activities and their socialist political opinions. It is the duty of every progressive-minded person to repel this assault upon the Bill of Rights and to fight for the freedom of the 18. This fight is in the best traditions of the International and the American labor movement. . . An injury to one in this respect is an injury to all. But the infamous Stalinists have forgotten the meaning of this elementary principle of labor solidarity. The treacherous action of the Stalinists in this case is the most dastardly thing that I know of in the labor defense movement of this country. These 18 are in jail and are not able to answer. But they have plenty of defenders throughout this country.

MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE

Anybody who participates in any way in aiding and abetting this frame-up of the 18 is going to have to account to the progressive and labor movement of this country. We for one are going to take the responsibility of seeing to it that they are called to account for their crimes.

We have many supporters and we are going to win many more as this struggle progresses. So far we have done our work well, but much remains to be done. We have numerous enemies. We have a great deal yet to accomplish. We have got to mobilize ever more powerful forces behind our national campaign to make the President pardon the 18 and to prepare the way for the repeal of the Smith "Gag" Act.

Mexico's Sinarquistas -- The Advance Guards Of Clerical-Landlord Reaction

By A. Roland

Sinarquism in Mexico has become a mass movement which aims to erase the progressive reforms brought about by the bourgeois democratic revolution started in 1910. It is a movement directly fostered by the Catholic Church along the lines of Father Coughlin's Social Justice. Sinarquism or Mexican fascism deserves careful study because it has developed into a mass movement with close to three quarters of a million members. It deserves attention too because of its tie-up with American imperialism which it demagogically pretends to attack in the same way that Hitler attacked the bankers before he came to power.

The movement was founded in 1937 in Leon, Guanajuato by five Jesuit-trained intellectuals, two of whom had been closely connected with the Spanish Falange. Sinarquism's official literature states that its aim is to "rebuild Mexico destroying liberalism, perverse democracy and anarchy; our purpose is to restore in our country the Christian social order which is the very essence of our being." Mexican history throws a lurid light on "the essence of being" of the Catholic Church.

HISTORIC PROBLEM

The great historic social problem of Mexico, a country with a large percentage of mountain and desert, has been the land question. The first deep-going movement of the land-hungry peons of Mexico dates back to the revolt led by the Zapotec Indian Juarez in 1854. The Catholic Church then had its own "order," for it owned a great part of all urban property, controlled or owned much of the rural land, had an annual income

greater than that of the national government. Nor did it hesitate to act as the unofficial banker-usurer for the masses. When in 1859 Juarez nationalized the property of the Church, excluding actual churches, monasteries, etc., he confiscated one hundred and twenty-five million dollars worth of property. No wonder the Church looks back with longing at this golden age of its history! The Ley Juarez (Law of Juarez) also disestablished the Church as the state religion.

GAINS DISSIPATED

The gains achieved by the Indian peons under Juarez were dissipated and lost in the period that followed. The place of the Church was taken by the big landowners who concentrated the land into tremendous haciendas or estates, some of them as large as six million acres. This was accomplished under the dictator Diaz who permitted the vital tillage lands of the ejidos (communal Indian village lands) to be expropriated by force and fraud, just as had been done much earlier in England and on the continent of Europe. By 1910 this process had reduced 97% of the rural heads of families to complete and hopeless poverty. Ten million Indians or three fifths of the entire population had fallen into a state of serfdom.

The landowners meantime were in a close alliance with the Catholic Church which tried to keep the Indians in the proper state of submission. But again an Indian leader arose to lead the peons in revolt against their unbearable state. Zapata was not satisfied with a mere change in regime. He raised the slogan of all revolutionary agrarian movements: "Land and Liberty!"

Zapata was murdered in the end, but the bourgeoisie was forced to carry out the partial restoration of communal lands to the ejidos, and a half-hearted division of some land of the big estates among the landless peons.

The seizure of lands on the part of the national government led to a conflict with the imperialists. The imperialists—American and British—owned large ranches and petroleum bearing lands, a good portion of which they obtained by bribery and corruption. In 1925 Calles, in accordance with the Constitution of 1917 (the result of the agrarian movement) had passed two laws which met imperialist opposition. The first placed limits on alien land-ownership. The second declared that all minerals and oil below the surface of the land belonged to the nation. Tension immediately arose in the relations between the governments of the United States and Mexico.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

While the U. S. government was applying diplomatic pressure on Mexico, the Mexican Catholic Church suddenly (in January 1926) took a sharp stand against the old laws concerning disestablishment and the right to conduct Catholic schools. The Church is bitterly opposed to the state educational system which is not under its control.

There can be no doubt that then (as now) the Church was egged on by the big financial and petroleum interests in the United States. Calles insisted in 1926 that the Church obey the law and that all church property be registered as such with the government. The priests refused to comply and quit the churches in

a body. There began the bloody riots and revolts of the Cristeros (the forerunner of the Sinarquistas) with their cry of "Faith and country! Long live Christ the King!" But the attempt at incitement to overthrow the government failed. Finally Pascual Diaz, later Archbishop, concluded an agreement with the new president Portes Gil in 1929 which ended the conflict. But Diaz was denounced by his fellow priests for coming to terms.

WALL STREET SUPPORT

The Cristeros movement was supported by American Catholics who supplied funds donated by the oil magnates. Similarly the Sinarquist movement has the hearty support of the American oil interests. They want the progressive measures of the Mexican Revolution swept away by reaction. The liaison officer between the Mexican and the American Catholics is William F. Buckley of New York, President of Pantepec Oil Co. He requested half a million dollars from Nicholas Brady, another New York magnate. Buckley is assisted in the gathering of funds for the Sinarquistas by Dr. Malone, president of Holy Name Society. Big donations have been made by Cardinal Hayes and others.

Part of the money raised here for support of Mexican fascism is devoted to propaganda to present the Sinarquist movement in a favorable light to the American public. It is presented as an innocent movement for Indian colonization and uplift. But its aims and methods make it an authentic fascist movement which seeks to establish a totalitarian state under the complete domination of the Catholic Church.

Union Leaders Issue Call For Freedom Of The Eighteen At N. Y. Mass Meeting

(Continued from page 1)
disruption campaign to further the frameup of the 18 and sabotage their defense.

This scabby campaign was climaxed yesterday, just prior to tonight's meeting, when the *Daily Worker* published a column throwing typical Stalinist filth at the imprisoned Trotskyists, conjuring up a link between them and the Hitlerism of which they have been the most consistent and uncompromising opponents, and slandering the labor speakers scheduled to participate in the mass meeting as "tools" being "used" by the Trotskyist "Hitler agents."

REAFFIRM SUPPORT

Far from being intimidated by this attempted smear, the speakers demonstratively reaffirmed their unconditional support for the imprisoned Trotskyists as working class victims of capitalist injustice. They publicly nailed the slanders of the Stalinists, branding them as the most reactionary force in the labor movement and warning of their treacherous, strikebreaking role.

George Baldanzi, a member of the National Committee of the CRDC and chairman of the meeting, speaking as an official representative of hundreds of thousands of CIO textile workers, expressed the attitude of the most progressive sectors of the labor movement toward the case and the Stalinist sabotage campaign. Asking the permission of the audience to make a special public declaration, he took up the Stalinist slander campaign and flung the lie back. He said:

"In the *Daily Worker* of yesterday, there appeared in a column an article which stated that Baldanzi is being 'used' by the Trotskyists. I want to make it clear for the record that I am being 'used' by no one. I come to speak here with full knowledge of the issues in this case on behalf of labor victims of an unfair law. I did the same thing when Congress attempted to pass a law to deport Harry Bridges, and God knows I don't agree with Harry Bridges."

"With their (Stalinist) endorsement of the Baruch plan, with their reemphasis that they have always been for capitalism and with their pronouncement of a no-strike pledge after the war, as far as I am concerned, that group

have already endorsed the campaign and contributed financial backing. 'We expect,' he added, 'that before many weeks have passed the number is going to go over 300.'

The reason for this growing united support, he stated, was the increasing awareness of ever larger groups of American workers that the Minneapolis Labor Case is not an exceptional attack by reaction, but "one of the beachheads established by the enemies of labor and of the democratic rights of the American people in their all-out offensive upon workers and civil rights." While the workers have been making instruments of warfare for the foreign fronts, "their foes at



Thomas De Lorenzo, President of Brewster Aeronautical Local 365, UAW-CIO, addressing the CRDC mass meeting.

home in Washington and Wall Street have been forging legal weapons for use in their class fight against the rights and interests of organized labor." He pointed to the recent federal indictment of Thomas De Lorenzo, one of the labor speakers, as a reminder that "the same federal frameup system that put the 18 behind bars is in active operation."

ILLUSION DISPELLED

Many people, he stated, had been under the illusion that the government would not go through with the frameup. The imprisonment of the 18 and the three-time refusal of the "Roosevelt-rejuvenated" Supreme Court to review the convictions have largely dispelled this illusion. "Now we're taking the case to the President and demanding that he who

Speech of De Lorenzo

[The following speech, excerpts of which are reprinted here were delivered by Thomas De Lorenzo, President of Brewster Local 365 UAW-CIO at CRDC Mass Meeting at the Hotel Diplomat, June 8, 1944.]

Mr. Chairman, Brothers and Sisters:

The Minneapolis case to my way of thinking is not an isolated case. I believe that all over the country, in various forms, government officials are taking reprisals against the organizations and groups who have the courage to speak for what they believe.

I could perhaps best illustrate my thought on this matter by giving you some of the highlights of the Brewster situation. We had the first union shop in the aircraft industry and we have been a target not only of the manufacturers in the aircraft industry, but of the government, because of this particular union shop provision that we had in our contract.

Approximately two years ago the Navy Department seized the Brewster plant by presidential order. It has been the only plant that was ever seized, of the seventeen taken on presidential order, where there were no labor disputes pending at that time. It is true there have been plenty of labor disputes since that time, and for a very good reason.

Before the navy or government returned the plant to private ownership, they made the principal stockholders in that corporation put up their stock in escrow with the Navy Department, while the Navy selected the people to run the plant. The plant was returned in thirty days; there was a great hullabaloo raised when the plant was seized but not a word when it was returned.

We have had one continuous fight with the management that represented the Navy. This management was trying to run the plant and the union at the same time, and to break the union. I want to tell you that the prime objective of that plant management was not production; the management did not give a damn about production. They were only interested in breaking the union. . .

It seems to me that anyone who has had the courage to fight for those things which he believes in has to suffer in some form or another, and I am not the target. In spite of the fact that I have been indicted, it is not I. It is the union contract which exists in that plant which the Navy Department doesn't like. In order to make sure that the union contract is going to be wiped out in one form or another, they cancelled the contract for that entire plant. . .

In view of the fact that they have started on us and will probably continue on other labor organizations and unions in the country, now is the time that we must be prepared and organized, and organized well, in order to prevent this same sort of thing from happening all over the country. . .

I would like to say in conclusion that we are in entire sympathy and support of these eighteen brothers and that we will support them and that we will take every opportunity to aid these eighteen brothers who are at the present time incarcerated. Thank you.

Mass Meeting Telegram

The following telegram was sent to President Roosevelt on June 8 by unanimous vote of the mass meeting:

The Civil Rights Defense Committee Mass Meeting comprising 800 Workers and Defenders of Civil Liberties Assembled Here Tonight at the Hotel Diplomat, 108 W. 43rd St., New York City. Unanimously Urges That You Pardon the 18 Minneapolis Truckdriver Local 544-CIO and Socialist Workers Party Leaders Now in Prison. Victims of the Infamous Smith "Gag" Act.

UAW LEADER BACKS FIGHT

The interference of governmental agencies into the internal problems of unions as exemplified by the use of the Smith "Gag" Act to eliminate the eighteen trade unionists is a dangerous precedent. I join with you in your appeal to the President to free the eighteen.

HARRY SILVERMAN

International Representative, UAW-CIO

Nelson Backs Fight to Free the 18

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

I am sorry that I cannot attend your Mass Meeting on June 8th since I will be at the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Convention in Boston.

Our Local Union has adopted a resolution that our Convention goes on record demanding the immediate pardon of the 18 Minneapolis labor leaders. You may be assured that our local union will do everything possible to make its contribution for the liberation of these labor leaders.

LOUIS NELSON, Manager Secretary
Knitgoods Workers' Union Local 155, ILGWU-AFL

lutionary movement when they are once more free. He also visited Kelly Postal before the former secretary-treasurer of Local 544 was released on parole, after serving many months of a prison sentence at Stillwater for the "crime" of transferring his local's funds, at the direction of the membership, from the AFL to its CIO affiliation. It was the work of the CRDC in arousing widespread labor protest, Novack said, that had led to Postal's release.

STALINIST SLANDERS
Novack assailed the growing sinister campaign of the Stalinists, the "members and followers of the ex-Communist ex-Party" who everywhere tried to sabotage his meetings with slander and outright lynch incitation. He likened the Stalinist press campaign against the 18 to "Westbrook Pegler's recent attack on De Lorenzo."

Others have ignored the Minneapolis Labor Case, he pointed out, but the Stalinists alone are trying to stab the 18 class-war prisoners in the back when they are in prison and unable to answer their slanders. Not content that the FBI put the 18 in prison, "these Stalinist snakes are now trying to continue to pile up the frameup." But, he added, "I am glad to say these rascals are not

representative of the main stream of progressive labor today."

Henry Fruchter spoke as the representative of the CIO Retail and Wholesale Workers Union and also as the personal representative of Samuel Wolchok, URWDE-CIO President. Wolchok sent his regrets that he was unable to participate in person because he was compelled to be out of town in connection with his testimony against Sewell L. Avery's policies, at a Congressional hearing on the Montgomery Ward Case.

The URWDE National Education Director expressed the support of his union for the CRDC campaign. "Please be assured," he emphasized, "we are with you in every respect. We have such powerful enemies on the right—I was going to say also on the left (Stalinists), but no longer on the left—that I don't want to emphasize differences. I just want to assure you we are behind you 100 per cent." To back up his assurance with concrete actions, Fruchter contributed \$50 from his union to the Minneapolis prisoners' relief fund, declaring that this was merely a "token payment."

AN OVATION

An ovation was accorded Thomas De Lorenzo when he was introduced. This was an expression of solidarity with his union, which recently conducted a militant "sit-in" demonstration to fight a mass lay-off, and a pledge of support for his defense in the government's projected frameup against him as the leader of one of the most progressive union locals in the country.

De Lorenzo declared that both the Minneapolis case and his own persecution are part of the general drive against labor. "The Minneapolis case to my way of thinking is not isolated. I believe that all over the country the government officials are taking reprisals against the organizations and groups who have the courage to speak for what they believe."

He illustrated his point with the example of the union-busting drive conducted by the Navy Department against his own union and the effort of the government to silence him with the threat of prison. "In view of the fact that these persecutions of labor have started with us, we must organize a powerful movement in our own defense. My union is in entire sympathy with these 18 brothers, and we hope we will have the opportunity to do some good work on their behalf."

DANIEL BELL
Daniel Bell, who is a member of the National Committee of the CRDC, spoke as editor of *The New Leader*, organ of the Social Democratic Federation. He declared that "it was the talent of the left-wing movement to seize upon cases of injustice and organize to oppose them, that built the labor movement we have today."

Bell warned that "the reactionary elements are massing their forces preparing to crack down on labor. If we lose in the Minneapolis case, others will follow. Remember, he who gives a small finger to the Devil, has lost an arm." He added a sharp denunciation of the Stalinists whom he charged "have sought to sabotage in various unions the efforts to free these imprisoned men."

Roger Baldwin, who has given invaluable aid to the defense of the 18, declared: "The ACLU has been with the CRDC from the very inception of the case and will be with you until the last man is out of prison." He stated that his "No. 1 Deplore" was the "refusal of the Supreme Court three times to review these convictions" which involved a "most flagrant violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution."

He charged that this was a "political case growing out of the perversion of powers of government by a trade union leader, Daniel Tobin. A political debt was paid. The chief professed claim of the administration is its desire to spread freedom of speech, which is denied at home by persecuting these 18."

Baldwin, who has defended the Stalinists from persecution scores of times, flayed them for their treacherous aid to the government frameup, charging that "the Communist Party has approved this persecution under the Smith 'Gag' Act. Yet this law was passed originally against the Communist Party itself."

NORMAN THOMAS
Norman Thomas, who was recently nominated as the Socialist Party candidate for U. S. President, declared that "as long as these 18 are in prison there is no guarantee that any man can say what is in his heart if he is sharply critical of the government and the war." He charged the Supreme Court with "cowardice" for failure to review the case. "This New Deal, this liberal Supreme Court evaded the issue."

"Basically, in terms of our recognized rights, we are worse off than in the first World War," Thomas stated. "Our constitution at liberties have been more seriously breached in this war." The Minneapolis case, he said, should be "like a flame of fire to kindle men's hearts." The role of the Stalinists in the Minneapolis case, he said, has never had its shameful like in the whole history of the labor movement.

Albert Gates, Editor of *Labor Action*, stated that the case sets a dangerous precedent, and is especially important because it is directed against a revolutionary organization of the working class. He warned of further repressions to follow, and declared "this case requires the utmost vigilance of the working class, especially on the part of its most militant and conscious elements."

Following an appeal by George Novack, the audience gave a material demonstration of their support for the defense of the 18 and the fight for labor's rights, by contributing over \$400 in a collection to provide relief for the prisoners' families.

MESSAGE FROM JAMES T. FARRELL
The following message from James T. Farrell, famous novelist, was read at the mass meeting held on June 8 in New York City to demand pardon for the 18 Minneapolis prisoners:

"Allow me to send my best wishes to the meeting. I wish once again to express my solidarity with you in the effort to free the 18 Minneapolis defendants. Now, less than ever, can anyone afford to be an indifferent witness when the destruction of labor's rights and civil liberties is involved."

Italian Partisan Action



The workers in north Italy are continuing to struggle heroically against the Nazi oppressors. The Nazi caption on this photograph, which comes from Lisbon, Portugal, says it was taken in a north Italian town where German police units were "attacked" by a group of partisans who took possession of the town after besieging the German fort for ten days.

Cabinet of Badoglio Thrown into Discard

(Continued from page 1)

of the armed forces is held firmly by reaction through an old-line monarchist noble, Count Alessandro Casati, who was given the Ministry of War and Aviation. Bonomi, in addition to the premiership, holds the foreign and interior ministries. The Stalinist Togliatti continues as a minister of state without portfolio, while the Stalinist Fausto Gullo remains minister of agriculture.

The new government is not a typical coalition democratic government. It is a pitiful caricature of a democratic coalition which but thinly hides the real relationship—a police military dictatorship propped up by foreign bayonets. Like the Badoglio government it will rule by decree. Like the Badoglio government its only power is that which the Allied conquerors choose to give it. Like the Badoglio government, it will rely on the small reconstituted Italian army under the leadership of the monarchy and the "King's men." Like the Badoglio government, it has accepted and must live up to the terms of the draconic Armistice terms of the Allies. Nothing essential has changed.

The real power of course remains with the AMG—the Allied Military Government of the imperialists. While giving them support against the masses, Roosevelt and Churchill continue treating their Italian tools as representatives of a humiliated, conquered nation. One of the first acts of the AMG chief in Rome, Brig-Gen. Edgar E. Hume, was to appoint a new mayor of the city virtually over the head of the puppet Italian government.

NOBLE PRINCE

Whom did Hume select—an anti-fascist, anti-monarchist representative of the people? By no means! The man chosen was Prince Filippo Pamphili, described as the "scion of one of the oldest noble families in Rome." To emphasize the political continuity symbolized by the appointment, the fact that there is to be no break with the monarchist-capitalist past if the Allies can possibly prevent it, the appointment was described by the N. Y. Times as one which "follows an ancient custom of naming a Roman prince as Mayor."

That the imperialists are maintaining the tightest possible control over the Italian situation, and

are worried by the mass turbulence which necessitated the cabinet shift, was also indicated by the action of Roosevelt in ordering Myron C. Taylor, his representative at the Vatican, to proceed post-haste to Rome from Washington in order to confer with the Pope.

The Papal Church is one of the most important arms of the reaction. It stands in with the police-military dictatorship, with the monarchy, and with the Allied authorities as a bulwark against social revolution. Because of the continuing opposition of the Italian masses to the monarchy and all other forms of reaction, and because of the growing revolutionary ferment caused by hunger and oppression, the Allied imperialists entertain merely the meager hope that the government of Bonomi "may last" until the Nazis have been driven from northern Italy.

Events will prove that it possesses no more stability than the Badoglio government. If the opposition of the masses in the rural south was sufficient to cause the ouster of King Victor Emmanuel, and if the expulsion of the Nazis from Rome could cause the Badoglio cabinet to topple, what is likely to happen when Allied "liberation" comes to the industrial areas of northern Italy?

LONG TRADITION

In Milan, Turin and Genoa the workers have a long tradition of revolutionary struggle. For months they have been battling with epic courage and heroism against the Nazis, on one occasion paralyzing these cities with a great general strike. Will they watch the Nazis go, giving them a hefty boot to send them on their way, only in order to submit themselves to a new oppression under Prince Umberto and the Bonomi cabinet and the AMG?

The question itself suggests the answer. Bonomi and his "much more democratic" cabinet will disappear into limbo as did the cabinet of Badoglio. No trick or device can save it from being swamped in the great tide of the Italian revolution.

Who is Bonomi? His political biography is extremely revealing. In June, 1921 he was asked by King Victor Emmanuel to form a cabinet in succession to that of Giolitti. Italy was in the midst of a tense revolutionary

situation engendered by the post-war crisis. Cabinets were constructed only to collapse after a few weeks or months in office. Their instability reflected the instability of class relations. The workers had shortly before seized the factories. Mussolini, in the service of big capital, was marshalling and drilling his fascist blackshirts in preparation for his crushing of the labor movement and establishing the Fascist Dictatorship.

"The history of the Bonomi Cabinet of June 1921 to February 1922," writes Count Carlo Sforza in his recent book *Contemporary Italy*, "could only be the history of the conflict of Fascism with the social order and the authority of the State. . ."

And what happened? Under his premiership the forces of fascism grew and were permitted to terrorize the whole country, to attack and destroy trade union headquarters, break up workers' demonstrations, kill working-class militants.

As Sforza goes on to relate, the fascists had given an open challenge. "The Fascist Party should have been dissolved. . . But the Government dared not accept the challenge." It passed from the scene and only one more "democratic" cabinet was to appear before Mussolini staged his march on Rome.

OPPOSE REGIME

The masses of Italy want peace and bread and liberty. Nine months of "liberation" a la Roosevelt and Churchill have plunged them deeper into the bloody morass of war and they have neither bread nor liberty—only hunger and enslavement under a police-military dictatorship, crowned by the rotten monarchy and held up by Allied bayonets.

The workers and their allies, the farmers and the city poor, will unquestionably oppose the regime of Bonomi as they did the regime of Badoglio. They will struggle to establish workers' committees, Soviets, elected on the basis of popular representation, to repel every advance of reaction and to prepare the establishment of their own government, which will fight for bread and peace and proceed towards the building of a socialist society.

BAYONNE

CRDC

MEETING

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

8 P. M.

Speakers:

GEORGE NOVACK

National Secretary, CRDC

PETER CAPITANO

President,

Local 160-ILGWU-AFL

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MESSAGES FROM THE PRISONERS

George Novack, National Secretary of the CRDC, read the following messages from the Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners to the mass meeting at the Hotel Diplomat, New York, on June 8.

From Farrell Dobbs: "It is difficult to convey to one on the outside how much it means to a prisoner to have a little money to buy tobacco, fruit, candy and a few other extras obtainable at the prison commissary and to be able to subscribe to a newspaper." (This comment was made on the relief provided by the CRDC to the prisoners and their families.)

"The most important news was that the CRDC had acted promptly in providing financial assistance to my family. Nothing can be more cruel in prison than the mental torture of a helpless prisoner who is torn by anxiety for his loved ones."

From Albert Goldman: "Ours is a small amount but it makes a big difference in the life of a prisoner. We are fortunate in that we have an organization behind us constantly to agitate for our release and to help make our lives in prison a little more bearable. The progress the CRDC is making in enlisting support for us is great encouragement."

From Grace Carlson: "It is a great satisfaction to know how much our CRDC friends will do for us. When the prison bars close around one, it becomes terribly clear that 'no force on earth is weaker than the feeble strength of one.'"

From James P. Cannon, Vincent Dunne, and others: "Thank the CRDC—thank the CRDC. . ."

has forfeited any right to speak for the workers of America."

BACK CRDC

He added: "Speaking for the Textile Union of America, I wish to state that our national council has endorsed this movement of the CRDC and we intend to continue our support."

George Novack, who had just returned from a three month's coast-to-coast tour addressing union and civil rights groups in all the principal cities, was then introduced as the main speaker of the evening.

Novack described the warm response he had received everywhere to his appeal on behalf of the 18 from "many different groups representing the most progressive forces in America: trade unions, Negro organizations, farm bodies, university audiences, civil liberties organizations." He spoke before railroad, auto, steel, rubber, shipyard and other workers in leading industries.

TREMENDOUS INCREASE

He emphasized the tremendous increase in support for the CRDC campaign in recent months, noting that over 200 union bodies

participated in initiating this prosecution redress our grievances by pardoning the 18. He's made a lot of promises. We want a down payment here and now on that promissory note he gave for freedom of speech—the first of the four freedoms."

He acknowledged the tireless work of the CRDC and the aid given by the American Civil Liberties Union, Workers Defense League, and other organizations which have broken through the Big Business and government conspiracy of silence on this case. He pointed out that all of the famous class-war prisoner cases, Mooney and Billings, Sacco and Vanzetti, etc., became national and world issues only after they were made celebrated causes by "small resolute bands."

Novack stated that his visit with 14 of the prisoners at Sandstone Penitentiary was a high-point of his tour. He described the work and activities of these union and socialist leaders behind prison bars. They are eager for books and are devoting themselves to intensive study in order to fit themselves for more effective participation in the revo-

Crosswaith Sends Message of Solidarity

My spirit will be with you at the meeting and I wish for you and your colleagues the fullest measure of success in your efforts to aid the workers involved in that case in particular and the cause of labor in general.

FRANK R. CROSSWAITH

Chairman, Negro Labor Committee, ILGWU-AFL

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The Negro Struggle

By Charles Jackson

Segregation in Industry

The forced separation of industrial workers into different plants or parts of a plant purely on a racial basis is one of the most vicious methods used by management to undermine the unity of the labor movement. This is especially true when workers are doing the identical job and thereby can be more easily forced into acute economic competition with each other.

In some shops it has been easy for the employers to sell this reactionary idea of separatism to the workers. Especially gullible were the misinformed southern whites who had been indoctrinated with a groundless superiority complex based on skin color. The boss also had the assistance of "race leaders" who admonished: "If they don't want to work with us we should not try to work with them."

In such preachments the segregationists were loud and wrong. Their policy only accentuated racial prejudices, created disunity in the ranks of the working people and kept their attention diverted away from the low wages and bad working conditions common to both groups of workers. The boss always had a stock explanation for this policy that is serving him so well: "The white won't work with the colored; the colored don't want to work with the white. It is of their own choosing so there is nothing I can do about it."

The consequences, however, of plant segregation as opposed to complete integration, are now being daily laid bare before the eyes of Negro and white workers alike. We had a negative example with the recent rumors of riots in the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company in Mobile. One year ago Roosevelt's FEPC introduced widespread segregation here under the guise of "more opportunity" for Negro workers. They were confined to Ways 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the north yard while whites worked ways 5 to 12 in the south yard, with the exception, of course, of enough Negroes to do the dirtiest part of all the jobs.

THREATENED RIOTS

Reportedly, the white workers threatened riots against the colored workers because the latter finished building a ship too fast. Obviously such a condition is management-inspired. Such a rumor or such a riot would be calculated to bring only disrepute to the labor movement. To show that an anti-Negro lynch campaign is being planned whereby the white workers will be blamed in the eyes of the public for terrorism actually perpetrated by the company's henchmen, I quote the following from the *Chicago Defender* of June 10: "When interviewed about the riot rumor, G. E. Floyd, assistant general manager, stated that the company was ready for any emergency, and would meet force with force if trouble should break. He revealed that soldiers would be called in from Brooklyn field, that State highway patrolmen were in a state of readiness, that city and

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Johnston Speech Annoys Browder Gang

By Art Preis

Stalin's American stooges were thrown into a dither last week by the press reports, passed straight through the Kremlin censors, of Eric Johnston's speech before 100 Soviet trade and government officials in Moscow. The head of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, one of Wall Street's principal agents, was the luncheon guest of leading Stalinist bureaucrats.

What agitated the American Stalinists was not the fact that this Big Business agent was being wined and dined at the expense of the Soviet workers and peasants, who have starved and died defending the first workers' state against the capitalist imperialism for which Johnston speaks.

Nor did these servile tools of the Kremlin find cause for criticism in Johnston's ultra-capitalist utterances, and his attacks on socialism and the heavy acclaim with which his reactionary remarks were received by the well-fed bureaucrats who applauded and laughed at Johnston's every "witty" sally.

No, what cut the American Stalinists to the quick was Johnston's uncomplimentary remarks about the American Stalinists and the big laugh the assembled Kremlin yes-men got out of his "frank" and "candid" description of Earl Browder and his crew.

"Our American Communists (Stalinists) . . . lack originality and realism. They still follow and imitate what they think is your current policy," Johnston asserted. "If you take pepper, they sneeze. If you have indigestion, they belch. They annoy our trade unions more than they annoy our employers."

GALES OF MIRTH

These remarks were enjoyed no end by Johnston's audience, who hold their tools outside of the Soviet Union in a contempt so complete they do not bother to conceal it. As the United Press reported in its Moscow dispatch, "they burst into gales of mirth at his sallies at American Communists and Marxists."

It would not do for the Stalinist rank and file here to get a "wrong impression" about the real attitude of the Kremlin towards its hirelings and tools. Nor would it help the Stalinists any to let pass this gibe at the well-known relations between Stalin and his border agents. So the *Daily Worker* "answered" Johnston and put him "straight" about the "American Communist Political Association."

With the greatest of tact and delicacy, after buttering Johnston up about his "wholesome thoughts" in condescending to visit the Soviet Union and arrange profitable trade relations and after commending his capitalist utterances, the *Daily Worker* then begs leave to differ with Mr. Johnston on his appraisal of the American Stalinists. Mr. Johnston was sadly mistaken, states the 13th Street version of the *Wall Street Journal*, if he thinks the Soviet officials were laughing at Browder and Company. No, they were laughing, if Johnston only knew, at his own unfortunate "misconceptions."

PASSED BY CENSOR

Aside from the fact that the accounts of the incident came directly from Moscow and were passed by the very vigilant Soviet censorship, which permits nothing to get through that does not convey the exact impression intended by the Kremlin, this plaintive bleating overlooks the long-established record of contemptuous handling

PROFITEERS LIFT PRICE LID; INVASION DIVERTS ATTENTION

(Continued from page 1)

ganized labor is successful, inflation would be unrestrained." Johnston urged that there be no relaxation of Roosevelt's wage freezing "hold-the-line" order. Fred M. Vinson, Roosevelt's "economic stabilizer" supported the Chamber of Commerce by saying: "Any general increase in wage rates at this time would inevitably force the price level to a higher plateau."

STARVATION LEVELS

In commenting on the administration's "stabilization program" Representative Compton of Connecticut remarked: "The hold-the-line order, as followed by Administration leaders has stabilized the wages of millions at starvation levels and stabilized prices of thousands of commodities at the highest levels in recent history. The program has created millions of paupers among the people." Compton was referring to the Price Control Act and its enforcement BEFORE the recent Senate and House amendments were attached to it. Under a capitalist administration, be it Democrat or

Republican, dominated by the profiteering pirates who rule the roost in Wall Street and Washington, control of prices and profits can only be a hideous mockery.

The workers' fight against inflation must be carried out under their own slogans and organizations. They cannot depend upon the political agents of the plunderers to protect their interests. A minimum program must include: A Rising Scale of Wages to Meet the Rising Cost of Living. For every boost in prices which increases the cost-of-living, a corresponding increase in wages. Instead of depending on the OPA which is controlled by ex-Big Business men the workers must counterpose: Mass Committees of Trade Unions, Housewives, Working Farmers and Small Business Men Who Do Not Employ Labor. These committees will oppose the Big Business lobby in its greedy assault upon the living standards of the masses; wage war against the "black market" operators; curb the rent-hogs and price-gougers and work for the interests of the people who are the victims of the predatory gang of plunderers.

A Good Joke On Earl Browder



Stalin has accorded his bootlicking agents in other countries.

The American workers have not forgotten, the *Daily Worker's* indignant disclaimers to the contrary, the numerous shifts, turns and flip-flops of the Stalinists with every slight or sharp switch in Stalin's foreign policies. There was the turn from the phony revolutionary, ultra-left line in 1935 to support of the "democracies" and collective security. There was the even more rapid turn about when Stalin signed his pact with Hitler. And then, there was the even more spectacular somersault back into the laps of the "democratic" imperialists when Hitler invaded the Soviet Union. And all this was capped by the most contemptuous act of all — Stalin's out of hand dissolution of the Third International, of which the member parties were informed by the capitalist press.

UNGRATEFUL ATTITUDE

If the Stalinists have any cause for complaint about Johnston's remarks, it is his ungrateful attitude to his own rank and file back home. Today, the Stalinists are avowedly the best friends of Wall Street and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Indeed, several Stalinist-dominated unions in San Pedro, California, took the unprecedented step of joining the Chamber of Commerce. How could he have the heartlessness to put his own colleagues up to scorn!

What a commentary the visit of Johnston to the Soviet Union is upon the stellar distances that separate the policies of Stalinism from that of Lenin and Trotsky and the Bolshevik party under their leadership. In their day, no agents of American imperialism were invited to spread their insults and lies about the revolutionary movement amid the approving guffaws of counter-revolutionary flunkies. To the Soviet Union in those days came trade unionist and revolutionary workers, who were the honored guests of the Soviet government. They were accorded the privilege and opportunity of observing the social benefits of the Bolshevik revolution, learning the program and methods of Marxism-Leninism and gaining inspiration for their own revolutionary socialist struggle against world capitalist reaction. Thus, the Soviet Union was the center of working class internationalism.

Today, however, Browder and his gang are none too anxious themselves to visit the Soviet Union. Since Stalin came to power, many of his cast-aside tools and hirelings have had the unpleasant experience of a summons on a one-way trip to Moscow. Browder is quite content to let the Eric Johnston monopoly the tourist rounds in the Soviet Union.

The very invitation extended Johnston was a mark of the contempt Stalin has for the revolutionary Marxist movement, the world working class and its aspirations for emancipation from capitalist exploitation and wars.

And when the Kremlin not only tolerates but broadcasts approvingly through its press dispatches the reactionary words and slanders of a Johnston, it strikes a blow at the world labor and socialist movement at which Johnston is really aiming his poisoned darts.

SHOP-TALKS ON SOCIALISM

By V. Grey

"I suppose all the dopes in this shop are going to elect their foremen when they have Socialism," sneers Scissorsbill Sam. "They're going to vote for their best friends of course, or for the guys who'll let everybody go to sleep on the job." We are used to hearing cracks like that from the bosses' man. But there are many good union men too, who have a fear that things really might go that way under socialism. They've often seen elections for stewards turn into "popularity contests" and they reason, "Why mightn't it be the same in electing a foreman?"

Well, maybe it would be the same in some cases, just at the beginning—especially in isolated unorganized shops that hadn't been through any fights, where the fellows hadn't gone through the mill. But take your own shop — if it's organized. Sometimes when the boys elect a steward it's a popularity contest, sure. But how is it when there's a crisis? How is it when the steward has a real job ahead of him? And he knows it and everybody knows it? Is it a popularity contest then? You're darned right it isn't. The best man wins. And if he isn't the best man he has to step down pretty quick in favor of the man who is.

True, this process takes place only when things are humming, and the rank and file are on their toes. When they are quick to see where their interests are affected. When they see that what hurts one really does hurt all. But after they have once been through an experience like this and a strike or two, this attitude begins to stay with them. Life and struggle soon teach them it is to their interest to put the right man in the right job.

NEW CONDITIONS

Now suppose as a result of tremendous strikes and political struggles, you and your fellow workers have taken over the shop. (In reality the workers as a whole will take over all the shops as a whole, but you will have to run your own.) What was your aim in an ordinary strike? Why, to get better conditions, higher pay, fairer treatment. And you had to fight the management every step of the way. Now you are the management. Now you can decide whether to put in more windows or a better heating and cooling system, and so on. When you are running the plant, if you decide to increase production you know your pay will increase, unlike the old way where you got an extra bone — maybe. You will now want to elect a foreman who knows how to get good production without driving the men, a man with ideas, not a whip. A man who is safety minded, who understands stresses and strains, the man who is interested in good working conditions and knows how to improve them.

Because, of course, Scissorsbill Sam (the bosses' man) is right in one respect. You wouldn't choose a foreman on the basis of his ability to push the men. You'd choose a man who puts human interests first. A foreman would be different under Socialism. Not a watchdog for the company, but a servant of the working men. Someone to explain to the engineers how a job can be made easier, safer — more productive with less sweat — the man with the most experience, not the most "drag."

NO FEAR

Are you afraid you wouldn't recognize such a man? Look around you! There's a man who's worked beside you for five years, and started here when you were in knee pants. Remember how he warned the foreman against using that cable, and the bull-headed fool sent another man to the hospital? See how easily he works, yet accomplishes more than many a youngster half his age. Wouldn't he be a grand teacher? Then there's the fellow who used to think up gadgets for increasing production. He thought he'd get a company job out of it, until the super's brother-in-law edged him out. He's pretty sour right now. But the whole shop knows he's good.

And once in a while you'll even find among the present foreman, some that the fellows would want to keep on. They're not all 100 percent Company. Look what's happening in Detroit where they're organizing a foreman's union. The boys in Detroit won't have too much trouble deciding who are the good ones. Right here, out in the maintenance shop, perhaps there is a foreman you trust a good deal, and trust completely once you eliminated the parasitic owners.

So it won't be so hard to elect a foreman after all. If it's a popularity contest at first, you and a few other fellows will criticize this as you have learned to do in the case of stewards. During the first election campaign, you got up in a meeting and explained what union representatives were for, what their qualifications should be. And the fellows listened. Some modest men even declined the nomination after you explained this. You were in a minority at first, but your idea was so clearly for the good of the majority, that your point carried. Sometimes a fight is necessary, but it carries in the end.

You will have the same and greater success in your fight for the right kind of foreman under Socialism (if a fight should be necessary) because all eyes are on the foreman. Because his ability on the job clearly affects everybody. The whole shop will soon see that you are right. They can't help it.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

JUNE 16, 1934

PITTSBURGH—Delegates from locals of the steel workers' organization, at that time part of the American Federation of Labor, were meeting in convention to plan their battle against the steel corporations. The corporations, determined to preserve company unions under the protection of the NRA (National Recovery Act), were "rushing preparations to meet a strike situation," reported *The Militant*.

"Grandmother" Mike Tighe, senile, cowardly head of the AFL steel union, sought to avert the impending battle. The militant rank and file unionists went over his head and sent delegates to present their case to Roosevelt. Informed that Roosevelt was "away on a cruise," they wrote him a letter which showed that even in 1934, during the high point of the NRA program, many workers were beginning to see through the sham of Roosevelt's "impartial arbitration." The letter of the steel insurgents said in part:

"We understand that you have left for a week-end cruise . . . We wish we could join you, but we must return to our lodges to report that all we got out of your National Recovery Administration and Section 7-A (purporting to guarantee the right to collective bargaining) was an offer to tighten the company union chains that bind the workers in the steel industry. . . It is useless for us to waste any more time in Washington in the national run-around. . . We are returning home today to prepare for action. . . If the government will not help us, then we must use the only means left to us."

MINNEAPOLIS—Appearing at the Minnesota State Nominating Convention of the Communist Party, Earl Browder launched a vicious campaign of slander and misrepresentation against the leaders of the great Minneapolis General Drivers Union Strike. Simultaneously, Stalinist William Dunne wrote in the *Daily Worker* that "Olson (Farmer-Labor governor of Minnesota) could have been driven from office. . ." Thus the Stalinists in 1934 accused the Trotskyist strike leaders of being counter-revolutionists for not regarding as a revolutionary situation, the union upsurge of 5,000 truck drivers in Minneapolis! The slanders of the Stalinist villifiers failed to spot the stainless record of the Minneapolis Trotskyist strike leaders.

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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.

The Invasion

Allied armies have landed on France's Normandy coast in the first stage of the great invasion which has been heralded as the "liberation" of Europe. But the pattern of "liberation" which Roosevelt and Churchill have in mind is that which has already emerged so clearly in North Africa and Italy.

Roosevelt has refused to give recognition to the emigre de Gaulle clique as the authority in France. Involved here is not any issue as to the representative or "democratic" character of the de Gaulle clique, but the Allied need to unite with the main body of the French capitalists in France to hold back the tide of social revolution which, as experience in Italy has shown, is certain to follow the Allied invasion.

When France fell in June, 1940, the French ruling class became split into two political factions. The emigre capitalists entered the de Gaulle camp, while the vast majority of the capitalists, who remained behind with their properties in metropolitan France, jumped on the Petain-Vichy bandwagon and collaborated with the Nazis.

Now the Vichy capitalists are ready again to switch camps. On May 31, the *N. Y. Times* reported that "the reactionary capitalists who had put their money on Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain are now busy seeking an alternative 'front' that would enable them to shift to the winning side and collaborate with the Allies. . . ." And it is precisely with these capitalists that Roosevelt and Churchill are preparing to unite.

For what purpose? To establish with them a police-military dictatorship of the Badoglio type which will defend French capitalism against the revolutionary onslaughts of the masses.

Already the Allied imperialists have taken one of the first steps toward establishment of a regime of hunger and oppression in the "liberated" territory. The Allied Military Government for France has printed, and is distributing, "French" currency, the exchange rate of which has been fixed at 50 francs to the dollar or more than double the pre-war exchange rate. With this fiat currency in exchange, the French peasants are being asked to deliver up their produce to Allied soldiers, thus decreasing substantially the amount of goods they can in turn buy. Inflation, black markets, poverty and hunger in increasing measure are on the way.

Control over the currency is one of the attributes of governmental sovereignty. The Allies thus early in the game serve notice that they intend to be the real rulers of France.

None of this looks like liberation? That the French masses will secure only when they make a clean sweep of capitalism.

Norman Thomas

The national convention of the Socialist Party, meeting at Reading, Pennsylvania two weeks ago, "drafted" Norman Thomas as their presidential candidate in the coming elections. Thomas consented to be "drafted" only after the convention was "brought over to his views" on the questions of program and policy. "The greatest victory for Mr. Thomas in the formulation of the platform," reports the *N. Y. Times*, "was the adoption of his plank voicing a demand through the United Nations for 'an immediate peace offensive based on the offer of an armistice to the peoples of the Axis nations.'" The conditions that surrounded the alleged "draft" would indicate that it was Thomas who "drafted" the SP to his program of pacifism and confusion.

The Thomas program adopted by the SP calls upon the "United Nations" to institute a peace offensive, leading to an armistice during which the Axis forces would "withdraw from conquered territories, disarm, form new governments and restore loot." The United Nations, are called upon to follow the disarmament of the Axis by "ending their own competitive armaments. . . and working out international guarantees of mutual security."

The Thomas-SP program is compounded of all the tainted nostrums of pacifism with which the middleheads have for years poisoned the minds of the workers and disoriented the struggle against capitalism and imperialist war. Thomas and Company confine themselves to lecturing the imperialist bandits to reform and turn over a new leaf, thereby fostering the illusion that it is possible for the imperialists to wage anything but a war for imperialist plunder, that it is possible for imperialists to conclude anything but an imperialist peace, that it is possible for the oppressed peoples to achieve peace, freedom and security under the reign of monopoly capitalism.

How far the degeneration of the Socialist Party has proceeded under the leadership of the pro-allied, pacifist Norman Thomas can best be appreciated by contrasting Norman Thomas and his leadership with that of Eugene Debs. Debs was no pacifist; Debs was no reformist. Debs did not advocate reliance on Wilson or the imperialists and their schemes. On the contrary, Debs went to jail because of his intransigent revolutionary struggle against the first World War.

The true inheritors of the Debs tradition are not to be found among the assorted preachers, pacifists and college professors that support Norman Thomas, but among the Trotskyists, eighteen of whose leaders have been jailed for their struggle against the second World War, just as Debs was jailed for his struggle against the first World War.

Forced Labor

On a number of occasions *The Militant* has warned that the advocates of labor conscription were counting heavily on the emotional delirium attendant on the invasion to ride roughshod over the opposition to forced labor. The conspiracy against which we warned unfolded on the very eve of the invasion. Writing in the *New Leader*, June 10, the Washington correspondent of that paper reports: "Last week, just a few days before the Western Front was opened, the compulsory labor draft was put over. The WMC order accomplishes exactly what the Bailey-Brewster (Work-or-Fight) Bill aimed to do. In fact, it goes one step further. Where the Bailey-Brewster Bill was confined to males 18 to 45, McNutt's order also includes women."

The reason given for the imposition of the Roosevelt-McNutt forced labor plan at this time is utterly fantastic. The sponsors of the plan try to justify the drastic provisions of the order by pointing to the increasing number of cutbacks in war production which have caused workers to shift to "non-essential" plants and industries which offer greater job security. Such incidents as the shutting down of the Brewster Aeronautical plant, with its cold-blooded disregard of the interests of the war workers who were thrown onto the streets without so much as a fare-you-well, have alarmed the workers into seeking jobs which promise some stability of employment. Instead of dealing with the problem by providing some measure of protection to workers against the sudden shut-down of war plants, Dr. Win-the-War prescribes his favorite quack medicine of freeing workers to jobs at frozen wages until they are unceremoniously tossed out of a plant that the government decides is no longer needed for war production.

Acting under administration pressure, the union representatives on the labor-management committee of the WMC have endorsed the Roosevelt-McNutt forced labor plan. William Green, AFL president, has issued a statement crediting the plan with having been "developed by the management-labor committee of the WMC," adding the monstrous swindle that "it represents no basic departure from the voluntary system" of employment. Philip Murray's personal representative on the WMC, Clinton S. Golden, official of the United Steel Workers, participated in the conferences which sanctioned the program.

Having disarmed the unions with their no-strike pledge, the top union bureaucrats now volunteer their aid in fastening the unions with the strait-jacket of forced labor.

Stalinist Terror Drive Opened On Trotskyists

(Continued from page 1)

San Pedro, which shrieked in bold headlines, "Unite For Victory! Expose the Disrupters!"

The entire advertisement was devoted to a typically venomous and mendacious attack on the union militants in the San Pedro shipyards, all of whom are labeled "Trotskyites. . . who would sabotage production, create economic chaos and disrupt national unity." These "Trotskyites," the Stalinists assert in horror, propose nothing less than that labor "revoke the no-strike pledge, smash the Little Steel formula, take labor off the War Labor Board and, finally, organize an independent Labor Party." "These 4 'proposals,'" the Stalinists have the brass to tell intelligent workers, "spell SABOTAGE OF THE WAR EFFORT (original emphasis)" and "is the same program which Hitler and Tojo, dump the War Labor Board to follow." The Stalinist scoundrels dare assert that the Trotskyists are carrying out this program in alliance with "Ku Klux Klaners, Bundists, Coughlinites, America Firsters"—that is, the very fascist scum against whom the Socialist Workers Party organized a series of huge workers' demonstrations just before the outbreak of the war.

This advertisement then concludes with an appeal to "Community Action" which makes clear that the real object of the Stalinists is to arouse nothing less than lynch terror against Trotskyists as well as all union militants. This is the meaning of its final exhortation to "SHOW THESE PROVOCATEURS THE GATE."

LYNCH CRY

The lynch cry was then taken up by Stalinist stooge Harry Bridges, president of the CIO longshoremen's union. His rag, *The Dispatcher*, on June 2, in the same issue that featured the announcement of Bridges' permanent no-strike pledge, carried a companion piece by Bridges himself devoted entirely to an "expose" of the "Trotskyites." "Look behind almost any of the rash of strikes now being desperately organized over the nation and you will generally find an animal known as a 'Trotskyite,'" squeals Bridges, who is fast tobogganing into complete dispute with the workers because of his contemptible strike-breaking record and anti-labor alliance with the bosses.

VILE CANARD

He does not hesitate to stoop to the vile canard that the Trotskyists, the most uncompromising anti-fascist fighters for socialism, "claim that Communism and Fascism are not only the same thing but, as a matter of fact, between you and them, Communism is a damn sight worse"—this from a venal renegade who has publicly re-

nounced communism in favor of capitalist reaction!

But then Bridges gets down to real cases, the heart of his gripe against the Trotskyists. Everywhere the Trotskyists have a "chance to preach their treason" in the unions, their program "generally takes the same form: outright repeal of labor's no-



strike pledge, no 4th term for FDR, dump the War Labor Board by withdrawing labor's representatives from it, and organizing a third labor party now."

With an eye to quelling the upheaval in his own union at his own craven treachery, particularly in advocating that labor surrender for all time its right to strike, Bridges sounds the call to his goons and thugs to go after "these Fifth Columnists in the ranks of labor, especially in our own local union." "Keep your eyes peeled. Let's go get 'em," is his final lynch appeal.

Since, Bridges published his tirade, the Stalinists have wheeled their heavy artillery into line. The *Daily Worker*, reflecting the fury and alarm of the Stalinists at the labor support for the CRDC campaign to free the 18, opened up just before the CRDC mass meeting last Thursday with a slanderous broadside by its poison-pen "expert" on labor news, George Morris.

CIO SUPPORT

This article literally howled at the horrendous fact that nationally-prominent trade union leaders, including a member of the CIO National Executive Board, were scheduled to speak on behalf of the 18 imprisoned Trotskyists. The article complains that the Trotskyists "are successful in picking up suckers among some labor officials" and that "some well-meaning people" have been "made suckers in a belief that this is a genuine civil liberties case."

Morris makes the usual lying amalgam, seeking falsely to link the convicted Trotskyists with native fascists now on trial in Washington, although "actually the Trotskyists are far more serviceable to Hitler." Why are such union leaders as Baldanzi, Wolchok and De Lorenzo supporting the Minneapolis Labor Case, he whines, when "labor (read 'the Stalinists') has complained only because more of their kind—whether they be Bundists, Kluxers, Trotskyists, or

any other variation—were not put behind bars." The Stalinists have absconded bag and baggage to the camp of capitalism. They have sold their services to Wall Street as strikebreakers, red-baiters, stool-pigeons and government labor spies. In defense of capitalism, they have embarked on a campaign of vilification and terrorism against the militant labor movement.

GPU ATTACK

This GPU attack is directed first of all at sabotaging the defense of the imprisoned and indicted American and British Trotskyist leaders. As such, it is nothing else than a blow at the democratic rights of all the workers, whose liberties are endangered by the government frameups and anti-labor laws under which they are conducted.

The Stalinist campaign is not being conducted on a purely literary plane of discussion and verbal argument. It bears all the earmarks of incitation to terrorism and lynch violence. It is the traditional cover under which the GPU in the past has carried through murderous reprisals against Stalin's working class political opponents.

ON GUARD AGAINST STALINIST TERRORISM! NAIL THE SLANDEROUS DEFAMATIONS AGAINST MILITANT LABOR AND THE IMPRISONED TROTSKYISTS! Let the organized workers everywhere beware of the Stalinist virus. Organize to defend the labor movement from the sinister Stalinist menace. ON GUARD!

Canada Stalinists Back Big Bankers

(Continued from page 1)

356 directorates in dozens of corporations.

These directorates extend into almost every field of commerce and industry, such as steel, nickel, electrical equipment, railroads, chemicals, meat packing, aluminum, etc., etc. The banks and insurance companies have interlocking directorates. All this is what the Canadian capitalists call "free enterprise!"

Coldwell's facts and figures did not impress the lackeys of the bankers in the Canadian parliament, but they do impress the workers and farmers. This has been shown by the manner in which the CCF has been able to muster the support of workers and farmers throughout the country.

The CCF is a tame, reformist party which seeks to improve the capitalist system, rather than abolish it. But the swing in its direction is unmistakable. Because of this the CCF has become the target of a wild and vicious campaign in the capitalist press.

International Notes

MEXICO

Caught in the ever-tightening vise of rising living costs and static wage scales, 70,000 Mexican miners and metallurgical workers went out on strike June 8 in the greatest down-tools action since President Avila Camacho took power in 1940. Several thousand workers in various other industries were also rendered idle.

The strike was directed, in the main, against American and British companies who control some 80 per cent of Mexico's metal ore production. In all, 105 mining and metallurgical concerns were shut down by the walk-out.

The strike call was issued by leaders of the workers' syndicates after mine owners had refused a demand for a 50 per cent increase in wages and a further demand that temporary increases given last September be made permanent. Quoting a survey by the Banco di Mexico, the syndicates showed that between January, 1943 and February of this year the cost of living had advanced 52.3 per cent, thus more than justifying the wage increase demanded.

Nine owners countered with an offer of a 10 per cent wage increase. The government initiated negotiations a month ago in order to avert a strike, but no acceptable compromise was worked out.

ENGLAND

A few weeks ago the British capitalist class and its Tory government, headed by Winston Churchill, were thrown into near-panic by a wave of strikes among coal miners and engineering apprentices. The two leading labor skates in the government, His Majesty's Minister of Labor,

Ernest Bevin, and His Majesty's Minister of Home Security, Herbert Morrison, were entrusted by Churchill with the task of bridling the militant workers and halting the strike movement.

Mr. Morrison had four leading members of the Trotskyist party arrested and thrown into prison on charges that they "did conspire, combine, confederate and agree together in furtherance of a strike declared by the Trade Disputes and Trade Unions Act of 1927 to be illegal." This Act was, passed after the general strike of 1926. It has been consistently opposed by the whole British labor movement. Bevin and Morrison were once among its loudest opponents—before they became Ministers in His Majesty's government.

But the arrest of the Trotskyists was not enough. Bevin introduced a new Defense Regulation 1-AA which makes it a crime to "incite, instigate, or act in furtherance of strikes" in any industry classified as essential to the war effort, and provides penalties of five years in prison, a fine of 500 pounds, or both.

The House of Commons enacted the new regulation into law in the teeth of tremendous opposition from the organized labor movement and this opposition is still continuing. The Labor Party, of which Bevin and Morrison are two of the leading parliamentary ornaments, played possum, neither opposing nor endorsing the reactionary regulation. When the measure came to a vote in the House of Commons 56 of the Labor M.P.s voted for it, 16 voted against, and 93 abstained. This vote gives the true measure of the British Labor Party and its policy of collaboration with

the boss class and the Tory government. Only 16 M. P.s of a total of 165 had the courage and honesty to vote as the workers who sent them to Parliament expected them to vote. The rest either didn't vote at all, or else voted for the vicious Regulation.

Defense Regulation 1-AA came too late for use in the recent strike wave, but it will be brought into play when the workers again go into action against the bosses. It is directed, in the first place, against the Trotskyists, who are the most consistent and militant fighters for labor's rights. But without doubt it will be used against any class-conscious worker, regardless of his political affiliation, who dares to summon his comrades to struggle against the exploiting capitalists of Britain.

However ideas cannot be imprisoned and no law the ruling class may devise will be able to hold back the militant advance of the British working-class. The class struggle cannot be banished from capitalist society, because it grows in the soil of exploitation, poverty and oppression.

Buy The Militant

IN DETROIT

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The Case of William Batt and SKF Trade With Nazis

William L. Batt is a very important and influential man around Washington. As executive vice chairman of the War Production Board and a member of the Combined Resources Board he wields a power in national and international economic affairs few men in America possess. His say-so undoubtedly carries immense weight.

Of course, Batt didn't come by his position accidentally. All his life he has demonstrated unique executive ability and business sagacity. It just so happens he has displayed these qualities primarily for the Swedish ball-bearing trust, SKF, of which he has been an employee most of his adult years. In fact, he was an employee of the Hess-Bright Company, a German corporation in Philadelphia, which came into SKF hands and of which Batt, after the war began, became president and principal stockholder.

Now, SKF holds a very advantageous and profitable position in this war as in the last. As a corporation in a neutral country, Sweden, it is able to do business with both sides in the war, and from all accounts it has not failed to make the most of its opportunities. Particularly, SKF in Sweden has been supplying ball-bearing machinery and ball bearings to Nazi Germany. These exports have, in fact, increased considerably since over 600 American boys were shot down during the destruction by bombing of the Schweinfurt ball-bearing works in Germany.

Now the American company which Batt heads is not supplying ball-bearings to Germany. It has a very handsome business with the U. S. Government. In addition, strictly on the legal up-and-up, it has taken over the Swedish SKF's business in Latin America, as well as that of the Fiat Company, Italian corporation. The latter arrangement was engineered by one Count Hugo von Rosen, who paid a call on Fiat Company at Turin, Italy, on his way to America from Germany in 1940.

For some reason or other—no one has dared to impute it to the influence of Batt—the Swedish SKF has never been put on the American or British blacklist; and, of course, the SKF plant in this country was never taken over by the American alien property custodian.

Batt was made president of the American SKF through the able work of Count Von Rosen, late of Germany, and the late Marcus Wallenberg, Swedish banker, known as the "J. P. Morgan of Sweden," whose Entskilda Bank of Stockholm is chief share-holder in Swedish SKF. Wallenberg, it has been revealed, came to this country on a secret mission for Nazi business interests after the start of the war. One of his chores was helping to select Batt as head of the American SKF and arranging for transfer of its Swedish shares to his custody. This could have protected the American company from seizure as "alien property," although Batt claims this was farthest from their thoughts.

A great hush-hush seems to prevail over these facts in Washington. As I. F. Stone, who has been uncovering the information for PM, states, "it never hurts to have friends."

Getting An 'Inside Track' to Government Gravy Bowl

One of the myths assiduously nurtured in Washington is that the corporation executives and agents who have infiltrated every government procurement and war contract agency and who swarm like hogs around a trough at feed time wherever government funds are being handed out, are just zealous patriots without an ulterior or selfish motive.

Every now and then, however, the curtain is briefly blown aside by the wind of scandal and the people have the opportunity of glimpsing the real role of the "dollar-a-year-pay-triots."

There is the revealing case, which the Truman Senate Investigating Committee recently stumbled over, of Navy commander John D. Corrigan, Annapolis graduate and co-founder of an engineering firm organized three years ago which continued "in the red" until Corrigan was able to use his influence as a Navy official to steer it into "the blue."

Corrigan's firm was paid over \$300,000 by Navy contractors, of which he received a more than modest share by way of commissions, salaries, expense funds and dividends. Corrigan, with an "inside track," was in position to tip off his company to possible prospects, sending his information on Navy Department stationery which he invariably advised be "destroyed by burning" after its purpose was served.

Corrigan's methods of lining up business, as described by the Truman Committee, were quite effective. In his capacity as a Navy official he would "investigate" a war contract plant, complain of its "unsatisfactory" production and suggest that an engineering firm be called in to straighten everything out. Then in would walk a representative of Corrigan's firm and line up an engineering contract.

When the whole fraudulent scheme was disclosed, the Navy Department simply suspended Corrigan. There is no evidence that he will ever see the inside of a jail.

Then there is the case of Allen E. Norman, former assistant director of the War Production Board's printing and publishing division, and chief of the magazine section. Norman is an executive of Fawcett Publications, a big business outfit in the magazine field.

So tickled was this corporation over the fact that it had an "inside track" with the WPB, as Norman himself admitted to the Truman committee, that it boasted in its house organ: "We were fortunate enough to have Allen E. Norman, secretary of the Fawcett Corporations, acting as a consultant to the printing and publishing division of the WPB and W. H. Fawcett, Jr., president of the corporation, as a member of the magazine task force which cooperates with the printing and publishing division of the WPB."

Norman conceded this was "quite inappropriate" and resigned his WPB post. Which now leaves several thousand other "dollar-a-year" men still running the show in Washington, but who are not so indiscreet as to boast about their "inside track."

FREE THE 18!