

# THE MILITANT

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## Paris Meeting Of GIs Adopts 'Magna Charta'

### Soldiers Demand Democratization of Army, Abolishment of Special Officer Privileges

By Charles Carsten

Moving to stamp out the worldwide GI protests against both the slow-down in demobilization and the U. S. Army's Prussian military caste system, Chief of Staff General Eisenhower issued an order from Washington on January 17 banning any further soldier demonstrations.

This edict came a day after General Joseph T. McNarney, commander of U. S. forces in the European theatre, prohibited all mass meetings of troops in his command, admitting that "further meetings may prejudice the prestige of the occupation forces."

The same day Eisenhower handed down his directive, Lieut. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Jr., ordered court-martial for any soldier or officer in the mid-Pacific who continues to agitate for speedy demobilization.

### REPRISALS BEGUN

Attempting to intimidate the GIs, General Richardson on January 17 confined to quarters three leaders of the Honolulu protests, while the Army "investigated" their remarks about the Army's demobilization policy at a servicemen's meeting. They were released later.

In their first response to mass soldier protests against the demobilization slowdown, the Brass Hats spoke of concessions and

and stations to officers and men alike.

(3) Abolition of reserved sections for officers at recreational events.

(4) Abolition of all special officers' quarters, and the requirement of all officers to serve at least one year as enlisted men except in time of war.

(5) Reform of Army court-martial boards to include enlisted men.

In addition to this program for democratizing the Army's Prussian military regime the soldiers demanded removal of Sec-

(Continued on Page 3)

## Flint Unionists Hit Red-Scare As Aid To GM

(Special To The Militant)

FLINT, Mich., Jan. 18.—The united action of leading officials of the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council together with the members of AC Spark Plug local has frustrated a corporation-inspired attempt to split the ranks of the striking General Motors workers here with a red-baiting "anti-Trotskyist" campaign.

Meeting in special session, the presidents of Fisher Body, Chevrolet and Buick CIO auto locals and the Flint CIO Council's Executive Board issued a stinging statement denouncing four Bargaining Committee members of AC Local who had unsuccessfully sought to remove Robert Carter, chairman of the AC Bargaining Committee, from his post on the pretext that "Trotskyite Communists" were trying to impose their control on the union.

These red-baiters had also announced their intention of seeking the dissolution of the Flint CIO Council because it was "a breeding ground for Communism."

### SPREAD FALSEHOODS

The Flint CIO leaders stated that the initiators of this campaign were irresponsibly spreading falsehoods, creating a "red scare," and trying to bring division within the union.

They expressed utmost confidence in Carter and his trade union policies, stating that he "is still chairman of the AC" (Continued on Page 3)

## Eye-Witness Report of Paris GI Meeting See Page 3

made promises in order to calm down the dissatisfied GIs. These measures failed to placate the soldiers.

Members of the nine-man soldiers' committee in Manila announced plans for a mass meeting and demonstration on January 16, to protest the demobilization plan announced by General Eisenhower.

Evidently concluding that the time for soft talk has passed, the "big brass" has begun to show the iron hand of Prussian military discipline.

### "GI MAGNA CHARTA"

This decision to punish all soldiers who protest against the harsh regime came shortly after five hundred angry soldiers, meeting on January 13 in the famed Trocadero in Paris, approved "a revolutionary program of Army reform," in the words of the United Press, and set up a GI Liberation Committee.

The "Enlisted Man's Magna Charta" adopted by this important meeting included the following demands:

- (1) Abolition of officers' messes, with all rations to be served in a common mess on a first-come-first-served basis.
- (2) The opening of all officers' clubs at all posts, camps

## Civil Liberties Spokesmen Protest "La Verite" Ban

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—Prominent leaders of American civil liberties organizations, together with a group of editors of labor and liberal papers, have joined together in a vigorous protest to the French government against the denial of democratic rights

to La Verite, organ of the French Trotskyists. La Verite was the first working class paper to be published in the underground fight against the Nazis in France.

A protest cable, addressed to Charles de Gaulle, President of France and to Andre Malraux, Minister of Information, was signed by Roger Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, George Novack, Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee and Morris Milgram, Secretary of the Workers Defense League.

Editors signing the protest include Farrell Dobbs, editor of The Militant, E. R. Frank, editor of Fourth International, Liston Oak, managing editor of the New Leader, Dwight Macdonald, editor of Politics, Herman Singer, editor of The Call, Max Shachtman, editor of New International

and Albert Gates, editor of Labor Action. TEXT OF CABLE The full text of the cable follows: "It has been brought to our attention that La Verite, the central organ of the Parti Communiste Internationaliste of France is still refused authorization to appear as a fully legal newspaper. It is refused the purchase of paper, and all of the rights of a newspaper, including circulation and distribution. "We understand that La Verite was among the first labor papers to be published in the underground in resistance to the Nazi invaders. It has an outstanding record of struggle against fascism. "In view of the declarations of your government that it observes the principles of democracy, we cannot understand why this working-class newspaper is being deprived of its rights of expression and circulation. "The attitude of your government seems all the more inexplicable since the Parti Communiste Internationaliste participated as a legal party in the recent French elections. "On behalf of the rights of free speech and free press, we urgently request your government to correct this injustice and grant immediate freedom of publication and circulation to La Verite."

### ON THE INSIDE

- Chicago Steel Strike .....
- Labor Supports GIs .....
- Fontana Tragedy .....
- Lynn UE Strike .....
- Mine Disaster .....

### COLUMNS AND FEATURES

- Veterans Problems .....
- Workers Forum .....
- The Negro Struggle .....
- Diary of Steelworker .....
- Notes of A Seaman .....

# 800,000 STEEL WORKERS STRIKE FOR LIVING WAGE

Get Off That Money Bag



## 1,700,000 On Nation's Picket Lines In Greatest American Labor Struggle

By Art Preis

JANUARY 21.—Today at one minute past midnight the battle was joined in the most titanic and crucial labor struggle in American history.

Eight hundred thousand CIO steel workers—the flesh and bones and blood of America's basic industry—threw down the gauntlet before the steel corporations, the most voracious and ruthless monopoly in the world.

Throughout the nation, at one blow from the mighty fist of steel labor, the gigantic mills, the vast blast furnaces and hearths, stood cold, silent and deserted.

## Steel Workers In Pittsburgh Strike Solidly

By Eloise Gordon

(Special To The Militant)

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 21.—The entire steel industry in the key Pittsburgh area is closed down tight. Approximately 200,000 steel workers here are on strike in labor's greatest fight.

The first picket lines appeared at the Hazelwood and South Side plants of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation at 7:30 Friday night — 48 hours ahead of the general strike deadline—after company representatives walked out of negotiations regarding maintenance crews to man the machinery during the strike.

After the provocative walk-out of the corporation representatives, the union has taken a position that no one will be permitted in or out of the two mills involved.

Workers report that the company has been pouring supplies —cots, blankets, truckloads of food, sugar, refrigerators, etc.—into the mills for the past few weeks.

The steam is completely down in the J & L mills because the straw bosses cannot operate the simplest kind of machinery.

Pickets told the Militant reporter that they can see the supervisors scurrying around inside the plants wrapped up in blankets the company provided. They are suffering from the cold, and look enviously at the salamanders outside burning coke to keep the pickets warm.

While the Militant reporter (Continued on Page 2)

Pittsburgh, Homestead Braddock, Youngstown, Lackawanna, Bethlehem, Gary, Indiana Harbor, South Chicago,—all the names synonymous with steel—today became the battlegrounds of a struggle that strikes at the very foundations of American monopoly capitalism.

For from the steel plants come the indispensable materials and products on which the whole gigantic organism of American industry, transport and commerce is nourished and sustained. Steel, day, some 200,000 CIO electrical and radio workers poured from the plants of the international electrical trusts, General Electric, Westinghouse, and the Electrical Division of General Motors. The next day, the united forces of 325,000 CIO and AFL packinghouse workers clamped fighting picket lines around the plants and stockyards of the meat barons.

Today no less than 1,700,000 workers are on strike at one time; they are all fighting for the same thing, a greater share of the wealth their labor produces, the wealth that is being drained off in unprecedented profits for a handful of Big Business parasites who produce nothing yet demand all.

WALL ST. INSATIABLE So voracious and insatiable, so drunk with privilege and power are these Wall Street pirates who dominate American economy, that even the capitalist government dares not give them open support. The Truman administration is constrained by political expediency to give verbal support, however feeble, to the greatly reduced minimum wage demands which the union leaders have agreed to accept under pressure from the government.

But the steel, auto, electrical and meat — packing plutocrats, lust for higher prices and greater profits and greedily clinging to their war-profits look, have arrogantly rejected even the pleas of the Truman administration to make the minimum wage concessions required to terminate the strikes. When Benjamin Fairless, U. S. Steel president, speaking for (Continued on Page 2)

COAST TO COAST The power in action of the organized steel workers is joined with that of more than 900,000 other striking workers already massed on embattled picket lines from coast-to-coast. They are fighting for decent wages and security against the country's greatest monopoly giants, whose savage slogan is "Unconditional Surrender To Wall Street!" First on the honor roll of the heroes of American labor are the 225,000 General Motors strikers. With unparalleled fortitude and courage, they have held out for more than nine weeks against the world's largest industrial corporation and have spearheaded the drive of all American labor for a living wage. Last week, they received mighty reinforcements. On Tues-

## Chicago Packinghouse Strikers Show Fighting Spirit On Lines

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Jan. 18 — At 12:01 Wednesday morning, 193,000 CIO and 70,000 AFL packinghouse workers simultaneously started to man mass picket lines throughout the nation in their gigantic joint battle with the ruthless barons of the meat-packing industry for a decent wage standard.

Here in Chicago, center of the industry, over 30,000 packinghouse workers are courageously maintaining mass picket lines in the face of mounting police provocations and wholesale arrests. Yesterday 15 pickets were arrested, two of them twice, and charged with violation of a state law prohibiting "interference" with persons attempting to go to work. Two strikers were injured in clashes with the police when pickets argued about allowing Robert Ingram, assistant superintendent of Swift's, to enter the yards without a union pass. Police punched one picket in the stomach and the other was reported struck by Ingram's car.

Numerous other pickets were hauled to police stations and then released. Almost one-fourth (Continued on Page 2)

strike, office workers and company officials. POLICE TERROR

Pickets are allowing no one to enter the yards without a special union pass. This includes workers in independent plants not on

## Entire Jersey Town Aids UE Strikers' Wage Fight

By Alan Kohlman

Special To THE MILITANT

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., Jan. 15.—The 8,500 striking Westinghouse and General Electric workers here have rallied virtually the full support of this entire city of 65,000.

At 10 a.m. today, the start of the national strike of 200,000 members of the CIO electrical and radio workers union, an inspiring demonstration of 5,000 pickets marched from two local strike-bound plants of the giant electrical monopolies to the Village Green. Seven beaming policemen led the parade, followed by an American Legion band. Then came six pickets on horseback and thousands of union pickets singing "Solidarity Forever" and "You Can't Scare Me, I'm Sticking to the Union." Prominent in the ranks of the pickets were sev-

eral thousand "bobby-soxers" who displayed their own version of an effective picket sign: "We're Not Dumb Clucks—We Want Two Bucks." "G. I. vs. G. E." Mingling with these young girls on their first strike, were hundreds of older unionists, many of whom participated in the ten-year building of the UE in Bloomfield. They carried other signs: "Our Fight Is Your Fight" and "Fight For Security." The Vets were there too: "What Have We Fought For?" and "G. I. vs. G. E." Likewise, the salaried workers marched announcing: "Salaried Workers Local 412 Need A Living Wage" and "Why Is The White Collar Man The Forgotten Man?" The mass meeting in Bloomfield's Revolutionary War Park (Continued on Page 7)

## IN THE NEWS

### Sign Of The Times

Banner at Newark, N. J. mass meeting of GM strikers and friends: "Hitler Burned Books—GM Hides Them — Let's See Them!"

### All But The Bars

Commenting on the "Get Us Home!" demonstrations of U. S. soldiers, Maj. Vladimir G. Urse, chief of the neuropsychiatric section of Walter Reed Hospital, said: "It is a well-known fact that in prisons, Sundays or the day of rest present the most difficult time for the inmates—and the 7,500 miles of ocean separating the soldiers in the Philippines may be likened to a prison wall."

### Heroes' "Welcome"

"Amputees on the boardwalk at Atlantic City depress visitors and therefore hurt business, civic leaders there feel. Pressure has been brought on the War Department to close the Thomas M. England General Hospital there, which has been an amputation center. Civic leaders argue it's all for the good of wounded men — normally depresses them to see normal pleasure seekers. Hospital will be closed March 31." (N. Y. World Telegram, Jan. 12.)

### Safety In Numbers

"Miami Beach, Jan. 16 (AP)—Winston Churchill said in an interview soon after arriving here today that he hoped U. S. troops 'are not all going home, because we are not numerous enough to handle postwar Europe alone.'"

### Talked Too Soon

"SHANGHAI, Jan. 12 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Wedemeyer today told his China theatre troops he was proud that they had not held demobilization speed-up demonstrations. A short time later, 600 men and a few officers gathered and voiced send-home demands similar to those made by other U. S. soldiers throughout the world."

## Militant Action Will Win

By The Editors

America's industrial workers have courageously resisted the brazen wage-cutting, price-gouging, union-busting offensive of the giants of monopoly.

The greatest strike struggle in American history, now headed by the mighty army of 800,000 steel workers, has begun.

In defense of their living standards, 1,700,000 workers have carried their fight to the picket lines. They have unshelved their most powerful and decisive economic weapon, strike action, and are utilizing it on an unprecedented scale.

### Where Responsibility Lies

The responsibility for this gigantic struggle lies squarely on the shoulders of the arrogant, profiteering corporations.

Greedy, insatiable, drunk with power, they are determined to rule or ruin, to exact ever greater profits from the toll of the workers, to rob the masses through deliberately contrived price inflation.

They have contemptuously spurned even the compromise wage proposals that the capitalist government itself, under the workers' pressure, has conceded, are the minimum for an equitable settlement.

As CIO Steelworkers President Philip Murray stated in his final strike call, American Big Business has proposed to labor's

millions nothing less than UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

When this crucial struggle first began with the heroic strike of the General Motors workers, The Militant correctly judged the real nature of the battle that was being joined.

While the union leaders sought to restrict and confine the struggle, to project a worthless "one-at-a-time" strategy against the corporations, The Militant week after week pointed out the true scope and character of the unfolding struggle.

We said repeatedly and events have confirmed our statements to the hilt — that the strike struggle was being waged not against single or isolated corporations, but against the combined power of American Big Business as a class. The corporations were waging a concerted war against labor.

### Slogan For Victory

We said from the first and we now repeat it with all the force at our command: THIS IS THE BATTLE OF ALL LABOR! IT CAN BE WON BY THE UNITED ACTION OF ALL LABOR! AND IT WILL BE WON NOT IN WASHINGTON, NOT AT THE CONFERENCE TABLES, BUT ON THE PICKET LINES!

Every unionist to his post! The slogan for victory is: "Fight—Fight—Fight!"

# ON-THE-SPOT REPORTS FROM NATIONAL STRIKE FRONTS

## Youngstown Steelmen Out Solid In Strike

By George Weissman  
(Special to The Militant)

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 21.—Over 70,000 steel workers went on strike at 12:01 this morning, completely blacking out steel and iron production in this Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania area. Not a pound of iron or steel, and practically no coke, is being produced. Joining the local Electrical and Packing-house workers, the steel workers have swelled the ranks of strikers in this area to over 85,000.

Half of these striking steel workers are in Youngstown and immediate suburbs. The biggest Youngstown companies closed by strike action are Carnegie-Illinois, whose three plants here employ 9,000 workers, Republic Steel Corporation where 8,000 are out, and Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company with 11,000 on strike.

Steel workers at the Ohio Works of Carnegie (Big Steel) were the first to establish picket lines in the Youngstown district. Infuriated by a last-minute double-cross on the part of the corporation concerning the agreement on those authorized to enter the plant, the men went directly from a meeting to the mill gates and started picketing at 10 o'clock last night.

**AGREEMENTS BROKEN**  
Throughout preparations for the strike the corporation has made and then broken a series of agreements with Local 1330 (Ohio Works.) The last agreement was that the company would submit the list of 15 top managers, inspectors, etc., who would be permitted to enter the plant. The union agreed to this proposal. At the last minute the company broke its word and, in emphatic reply, Local 1330 closed the plant two hours before the deadline.

Although the union had agreed to furnish the necessary maintenance men to prevent deterioration of equipment during the strike, the company, again breaking its agreement, has brought food, beds and foremen into the plant for the strike's duration. Despite the cold and snow, the pickets were in high spirits. Their oil drums, converted into stoves, lit up the gates. Coffee was served to everyone on the line. News of the early arrangement of the picket line was passed on by telephone and word of mouth.

As new pickets arrived, they would pick out one of their buddies in the line, then suddenly emerging from the darkness, would make a dash as if to enter the gate, always lunging into their best buddy. Although this happened scores of times, it never ceased to send a thrill of excitement down the line. Then, as soon as the new arrival was recognized as a militant, a wave of laughter followed.

**PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM**  
No attempts were made to enter the plant. Workers, unaware of the early closing, would see the picket line, then turn around and go home, or join the line. One foreman, turned back by the line, not only refused to go through but donated his lunch to the pickets. Both veterans

**BALTIMORE Militant Labor Forum Labor Comes Out Fighting**  
(The meaning of the Strike Wave)  
Sunday, Jan. 27  
Workmen's Circle Lyceum  
Room 5  
1029 E. Baltimore St. 8 p.m.

## Mass Picketing At Chicago Stockyards



Chicago Packinghouse workers defying city police, block the 42nd Street entrance to the Chicago Stockyards on January 17. These pickets are part of the 325,000 CIO and AFL workers now on strike nationally.

## Chicago Packinghouse Strikers Show Fighting Spirit On Lines

(Continued from Page 1)

of the Chicago police have been withdrawn from regular duties and assigned to the packinghouse and other strikes. Three hundred cops from each shift are assigned to the stockyards area.

Democratic Mayor Kelly has issued an appeal for 500 to 1,000 new policemen on the pretext that they are needed to patrol the streets to check the growing crime wave in the city. Union officers state they will attempt to extend the picketing to thoroughfares inside the yards in spite of company contentions that the area is privately-owned property. So far picketing has been limited to the entrance gates to the yards.

**"PRIVATE PROPERTY"**  
Two pickets distributing union leaflets inside the yards were arrested today by stockyards police and turned over to the city police. The leaflets appealed to the office workers, explaining their stake in the outcome of the strike. Police broke up the mass picket line at the 41st and Ashland entrance when workers attempted to stop cars from entering the yards.

The city maintains that streets in the yards are "private property," while the union insists these are public thoroughfares. The arrest of the pickets for distributing leaflets to office workers urging them not to go work

is expected to provide a test case. Today the union sent a motorcade of 50 automobiles on a roving trip through the yards. They also distributed literature to the office workers.

**WIDESPREAD SUPPORT**  
Service on the stockyards branch of the elevated lines was stopped at 5:25 yesterday morning when the motormen and trainmen, members of the AFL Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric and Motor Coach Employees, Local 308, refused to operate the lines beyond Halstead Street, forcing office workers to walk over a mile into the yards.

Locals 710 and 718 of the AFL truck drivers union pledged to respect the picket lines. Local 718's drivers handle intercity shipments of livestock. The strikers are receiving the full support of the Back-of-the-Yards Neighborhood Council, representing 185 business, church, social and union groups with over 100,000 members. The Council has already given \$1,000 to the strike fund, opened a soup kitchen, and established a service for temporary relief. Merchants are contributing food supplies. A number of Council leaders are on the picket lines.

**MERCHANTS AID**  
Reflecting the attitude of the majority of the neighborhood

businessmen, who are dependent for their livelihood on the incomes of the workers in the yards, one merchant said: "We are 100 per cent behind the workers. We will do everything we can to help them, and that means financial as well as spiritual help. So far we have given what they asked for. We are prepared to give them what they need in the future."

Another stated: "We sell to the workers, not the packing companies. Where do you suppose we stand?"

Joseph Meegan, secretary of the Back-of-the-Yards Council said: "It is our people, it is our cause, it is our fight. And these people out here have never been afraid to fight for their rights. We are hoping for a short strike, but we are prepared for a long one."

A seven-man planning committee, headed by Oscar Brown, local president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been set up to rally the support of the large Negro community for the strikers.

**CONTENDING FORCES**  
The strike is mainly directed against the "Big Four," Swift, Armour, Wilson and Cudahy, and the larger of the independents, Morrell and Kingans. Also struck are Rath and Tobin. The CIO United Packinghouse Workers is demanding a 25 cents an hour increase, 17 1/2 cents immediately, with the balance to be negotiated. The AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's demand is for a 90 cent an hour minimum, a guaranteed work week of 36 hours and other adjustments. The AFL union at first demanded 25 cents an hour increase, but says that it will now accept 15 cents an hour, plus its demand for minimum wages. A number of small independents have signed with both unions, granting 15 cents, with a promise to negotiate further increases.

After nearly three days of negotiations in Washington, the conference between union representatives, packers and government officials broke up today with no immediate prospect of a break in the wage deadlock. Both the unions and the packers are standing firm in their positions.

**AFL, CIO UNITY**  
CIO and AFL unions are reported standing unitedly against the packers, each agreeing not to settle until the other reaches a settlement on its demands. Despite enormous profits and fat government subsidies, the highest offer from any of the Big Four packers has been 10 cents an hour increase from Swift. A government "fact-finding" panel will start sessions in Chicago next Tuesday, although both unions contend all the facts in the situation are known and the panel is not needed.

Earlier in the week when the "fact-finding" panel was first announced, UPWA-CIO President Lewis Clark answered the question, "Will naming the fact-finding panel cause a postponement of the strike?" by stating, "We will not agree to a postponement for any reason except a concrete proposal that will satisfy our wage demands."

Just before the strike started, Clark said: "The responsibility for the strike rests with the packers. It is interesting to note that Swift & Co. is ap-

## No Scab Can Slink Past Lackawanna's Pickets!

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

LACKAWANNA, N. Y., Jan. 17.—Some 11,000 members of five CIO steel locals out on strike against the Bethlehem Steel Corporation here are now rounding out their first week on the picket lines. Undaunted by rain, snow and bitter cold weather, the pickets have done a first-rate job in carrying out their intention to keep the plant shut down tight.

Called last Friday night, the strike took place when the company was discovered to be making preparations to house and feed strikebreakers in the event of the national steel strike taking place on January 14 as originally scheduled. This, together with the company's refusal to come to an agreement with the union on maintenance of furnaces during the strike, precipitated the walkout.

All during the week the picket lines have remained solid. The men are clearly filled with a sober determination to fight through to a victory.

**WORKERS' INITIATIVE**  
This vast steel plant stretching over more than three miles of lake front with many gates, miles of fence, fields and open spaces, has presented a difficult problem in organization. But right from the start the men have shown their ability and initiative in solving this problem and every day sees a steady improvement in the functioning of the picketing system which has effectively sealed off all entrances to the plant.

Reliable reports indicate that the few scabs in the plant are running low on food. The plant police, members of an AFL union, are complaining bitterly about the food situation, as the scabs get first choice of the little there is on hand. The situation in the plant is so bad that the secretary of Plant Superintendent Entwistle has to do the cooking for the few executives marooned there since the surprise walkout last Friday.

But the pickets are getting plenty of food through the excellent organization by the food committee and through the generosity of the local merchants, whose sympathies are clearly with the strikers.

The "Lackawanna Striker," daily strike bulletin put out by a strikers' publicity committee, headed by Wilfred Baines and Phalen Ghan, keeps the picket line informed about the daily developments. Items such as the following show the hazards scabs are meeting trying to sneak into the plant. "It is reported that two strikebreakers fell off the overpass near the strip mill."

Another reads, "Wouldn't you think scabs would have enough sense not to fall into the creeks at Woodlawn and the strip mill?"

**UNION ORGANIZES**  
A meeting of the picket committee was held on Monday, with Scotty Jackson, picket captain, presiding. At this meeting, a dispatching system was organized with Vincent Copeland, Local

2601, as chief dispatcher, assisted by Tom Lenahan, Local 2602, and Ralph Sterling, Local 2603. Through this centralized dispatching system pickets are assigned to the various gates on four-hour shifts. This system runs full blast 24 hours a day, with patrol cars constantly keeping the center in touch with the picket captains in charge of the different gates and areas being picketed.

A strike mass meeting is planned for Friday afternoon at which time representatives from the different locals and the international office of the union will speak on the issues involved. Many veterans are picketing on the line and a veterans committee is in the process of organization.

The number of steel workers out in this area was swelled when

the workers of the Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation walked out at midnight Sunday. The reasons for calling the strike were the failure of the company to put in effect a WLB decision granting all employees a five-cent an hour increase retroactive to May 15, 1944 and sympathy with the Bethlehem strikers.

**PROSPECTS GOOD**  
Prospects for the strike at Lackawanna are good. The organization of the strike is at a high level of efficiency and the morale of the men is high. Although the union negotiating committee made up of the local presidents and other officers have repeatedly attempted to come to an agreement with the company on the maintenance question, the company has remained adamant.

This company attitude has convinced the strikers more than ever that it is only their own fighting action on the picket line that will win them a living wage.

## Pittsburgh Steel Workers Form Solid Strike Front

(Continued from Page 1)

in the Hazelwood local's office, phone calls came in from the supervisors inside the mill, begging piteously for union escorts to guide them out of the gates. That brought the laugh of the week and an answer you can well imagine.

**VETS BACK STRIKE**  
The leaders of Hazelwood Local 1842, a fighting bunch of young steel workers, told us that the veterans in the local area not only are 100 per cent behind the strike but are the most active elements in organizing pickets.

The American Legion in Hazelwood donated \$25 and told the local that additional help they needed, whether more finances or the use of their hall, could be had for the asking.

The Hazelwood union officers report that housewives living near the picket lines, have been calling the union offices and offering their homes as depots for coffee, etc. The union is now setting up a commissary in the union hall.

At Braddock, the union established picket lines at 10:30 last night. They have made arrangements, in agreement with the company, Carnegie-Illinois, to allow maintenance crews for the duration. The union was issuing passes to these authorized men.

But yesterday, as the men were receiving their passes from the union, they reported that they had received calls from the company officials telling them it would not be necessary for them to report since their plans had

been changed. At a joint meeting with the company officials on Saturday, the union was abruptly informed, without explanation, that the company did not want to utilize the services of union maintenance crews.

**BRADDOCK IS SOLID**  
The entire population of Braddock is backing the strike. The borough officials of Braddock and New Braddock are scheduled to go on the picket lines.

The biggest single steel union local in this area is at the Carnegie-Illinois works in Homestead. It employs approximately 11,000. Last night from 9 p.m. to the time the pickets went on the lines, an enthusiastic mass demonstration was held at the Local 1397 union hall.

From the demonstration the pickets went out to cover all the gates of the mill. Favorite picket line slogans are:

"WE WANT A FAIR DEAL, NOT A FAIRLESS DEAL," and "WE WILL PICKET UNTIL WE LICKIT."

Every striker feels that they are in for a long, tough fight, a fight for the very existence of the union. They have tremendous pride in the strength of their giant union.

For the first time in steel labor's history, these sons and grandsons of the strike martyrs of 1892, many of them veterans of the great 1919 Steel Strike, are entering the fight with the knowledge that they have a powerful organization in the forefront of this tremendous national fight of the whole American working class.

## 800,000 Hit The Picket Lines In Mighty Steel Struggle

(Continued from Page 1)

proffer of an additional price-steel of \$4 a ton, it was clear that Big Business as a class had determined on nothing less than a showdown struggle against American unionism.

That is precisely what The Militant had warned, from the outset of the General Motors strike, was the main issue in the unfolding struggle. That is precisely what was confirmed when General Motors walked out of Truman's "fact-finding" hearings and bluntly rejected the government's recommendation of a wage settlement nearly 45 per cent less than the CIO auto workers' original demand.

**FORECAST CONFIRMED**  
This forecast has received additional confirmation by the actions of the electrical and meat-packing trusts. Although the leaders of the CIO electrical union agreed, even in advance of the battle, to call off their strike if the companies would meet the 15-cent offer made by Fairless to the steel workers and negotiate the difference between the 25

cents originally demanded, GE, Westinghouse and General Motors refused to consider it. In months of negotiations, Westinghouse has made no counter-offer, however small.

Moreover, they are scheming, with the aid of the compliant government, to rob the workers and nullify any wage gains by means of deliberate price gouging. To this end, they are proceeding to throw the country into industrial paralysis, to black-

mail and intimidate the consumers, and to starve out and crush the striking workers and returned veterans.

For the entire American labor movement, for the overwhelming majority of the American people, there can be no timid yielding on the fundamental issues posed by the rapacious corporations. And 1,700,000 workers on the nation's picket lines are determined to battle out these issues to a decisive and favorable conclusion.



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# THE MILITANT

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# GI Protest Meeting In Paris Is Described By Eye-Witness

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

(The following is an eye-witness account of the important meeting at the Trocadero in Paris on Jan. 13, where the GI Liberation Committee was formed and "The Enlisted Man's Magna Charta" adopted.)

PARIS, Jan. 13—News appeared here a few days ago that there would be a GI meeting today at the Arc du Triomphe. The Herald-Tribune announced it but the Stars and Stripes remained silent. Yesterday General McNarney met a delegation in Frankfurt and suggested there should be no more protest demonstrations.

Here in Paris the authorities have said all week that peaceable demonstrations were permissible, adding that if any trouble arose the men who initiated the meeting would be liable to court-martial for "inciting to riot."

On Friday the commanding general ordered all unit commanders to inform the men that they should go through official channels with any complaints and not bring the Army as an institution into dispute. Most of the unit commanders interpreted the order to mean there must be no demonstrations.

At the same time the commanding general informed the units of a French law of 1848 (!) prohibiting parades without permission of the police. And yesterday a story appeared saying the French objected to any demonstrations at the Arc, where the Unknown Soldier is buried, because it was a national shrine.

Despite all this well over 500 men showed up today after the Stars and Stripes finally printed a statement on the back page saying the demonstration would take place at the Place du Trocadero instead of the Arc.

The demonstration was slow getting started. The Trocadero is a very big place and the men were scattered all over it waiting for someone to get things going. Finally a Tec 3 (sergeant) began to pass out a mimeographed statement entitled "The Enlisted Man's Magna Charta."

The sergeant called attention to the "Magna Charta" and its contents. He then pointed out that a Congressional Committee would be in Paris to investigate the demobilization situation in about two weeks and suggested that if there was agreement along the main lines of the document a committee should be elected to present it and other information to the Congressional Committee.

The men agreed with enthusiasm.

## Paris GIs Adopt Magna Charta

(Continued from Page 1)

retary of War Robert P. Patterson. The soldiers elected a five-man committee, composed of four enlisted men and a first lieutenant, to present their demands and complaints to a Senatorial investigating committee scheduled to visit the European theatre soon.

Even before Eisenhower's order banning further demonstrations, officers had begun to crack down on the GIs. On January 11, the staff of The Daily Pacifican, widely read Army newspaper in Manila, issued a statement to correspondents that declared "new restrictions on freedom of expression imposed from above no longer enable us to bring full news and full truth to our GI readers."

Meanwhile, despite promises that no ship would sail for home with empty berths, a January 16 United Press dispatch reported: "The U.S.S. Cecil, carrying veterans to the United States, left Manila one-third empty, the Navy disclosed today."

asm and a committee was elected. Numerous officers, mainly big brass, were standing around the edges of the meeting. But there was one lieutenant near the center who finally shouted: "Would you let an officer serve on that committee?"

There was a great deal of applause at this, and he was elected unanimously. Many of the men expressed admiration for his courage because "he surely was putting his neck out."

**MOVEMENT IS NAMED**  
The sergeant, who distributed the "Magna Charta," was very critical of Congressmen who speak on the question of demobilization, have their speeches entered in the Congressional Record, and do nothing in the way of action. This criticism received warm applause.

He stressed the need for organized action by the soldiers themselves, in an orderly way of course, if anything was to be accomplished. He asked the men to form committees in their own units for the purpose of sending telegrams, collecting information, etc.

Someone asked him what the name of the movement should be and someone else in the crowd suggested "Liberation Committee." The name finally adopted with cheers was "GI Liberation Committee."

One soldier asked the question: "Why do we have to occupy France?" The lieutenant stressed the fact that the high brass didn't want faster demobilization because it meant a reduction in rank. A soldier pointed out that they were using the demobilization question to exert pressure for peace time conscription.

The Magna Charta raises a number of points about demobilization of the Army which have been the subject of increasing discussion in recent months. One soldier asked: "Why we should take up all these other questions when the main thing we're interested in is going home? Won't we be permitting the main issue to be side-tracked?"

A combat soldier replied: "Maybe you won't be here when things are changed, but think about your sons who will have to be in this army during the next war. Let's think about their welfare."

To this someone shouted, "No more war!", but few of the soldiers seemed to think this mere statement would guarantee that their children wouldn't have to serve in an undemocratic army. The chairman pointed out that not everyone would be able to go home, point system or no point system, and there were "certain reforms absolutely necessary, along the lines of demobilizing the army," if the interests of these men were to be protected.

The main emphasis at the meeting was on correcting injustices to the men who had been in the services for a long time by letting them go home, and preventing injustices to the men who had not been overseas long by democratizing the army and doing away with the privileges now enjoyed by the officer caste.

Everyone was highly satisfied with the meeting and left determined to spread the word about the GI Liberation Committee's plans for the future.

## One Veteran's Reward



Note the overseas service stripes on the sleeve of the picket who is being brutally clubbed by a plainclothes cop in Los Angeles. Police launched a vicious attack, hurling tear gas bombs at 1,200 striking workers, members of the CIO Electrical Workers Union at the United States Motors plant.

# Labor Unions Back GI Protests Against Demobilization Delays

Labor is the only organized force in America which is giving outspoken support to the demands of the American troops for speedy demobilization.

Both the CIO and AFL, as well as international affiliates like the CIO United Auto Workers, have addressed appeals to Congress and the War Department on behalf of the protesting servicemen.

Numerous local unions have likewise voiced their demand that the call of the GIs, "Get Us Home!" be immediately and

favorably acted upon by the government.

The Executive Board of Detroit Briggs Local 212, UAW-CIO, on January 11 addressed a strong resolution to the government giving "full support to the demand of the GIs that they be immediately returned home."

This resolution, adopted in response to an appeal from a Manila soldiers committee headed by Sgt. Emil Mazey, former Briggs Local President, charges that "the continued stay of these millions of GIs in the Armed Forces can only serve the

predatory interests of Wall Street."

### CIO LETTER

Last week the CIO, in a letter to Congress signed by Clinton Golden, chairman of the CIO Veterans Committee, asserted, "The high command seems unable fully to appreciate the principles and workings of democracy," and charged that many soldiers are being kept in the army "for the advantage of their commanding officers."

At the same time, AFL President William Green publicly stated that the War Department "has not lived up to its promises to the servicemen." His statement came in response to a telegram appeals from 7,500 AFL members in Manila. The GIs, Green said, "have lost confidence in the sincerity of the War Department's expressed policy of rapid demobilization."

In contrast to the widespread and open support for the GIs expressed by organized workers and their unions, the major veterans organizations in this country, dominated in the main by brass hat elements and business interests, have maintained a studied silence on the appeals of the soldiers overseas. Neither the American Legion nor the Veterans of Foreign Wars has come to the aid of the protesting GIs.

## High Ranking Brass Hats Live On Fat Of The Land

High-ranking officers who enjoyed outrageous privileges during the war are padding themselves with even more comforts and expensive luxuries since the end of the fighting.

Following are a few examples of officer privileges bitterly resented by men in Manila as reported in a January 8 AP dispatch.

Brass Hats in Manila decided that a nine hole golf course was not large enough for them. They forced an engineering battalion to move off the other half of the grounds and into what a

medical officer described as "a buffalo wallow."

About 1,000 Japanese prisoners of war were assigned to clean up a golf course for the Brass Hats. GIs "expressed the opinion that the Japanese could be better employed repairing damaged Philippine buildings or at least removing the debris of war."

Colonels and higher officers get the quality items such as good cigars, watches, cigarette lighters and fountain pens which are sold by the post exchanges. Privates may have enough money but quantities are limited and they don't get an opportunity to buy.

A young officer said his gold-braided commander lived in "a sumptuous house staffed by 32 Filipino houseboys." The men, he says, "are trying to figure out what in hell has to be done that requires" 32 servants. The place was redecorated and painted before the commander moved in.

A lieutenant colonel has two private homes for his own use. He got them on the claim that he had to have space to "entertain distinguished visitors." His visitors have consisted of Red Cross and USO girls, a junior officer said. Housing of any kind is at a high premium in Manila.

A captain "sent an 80 foot launch on a tour of the harbor in search of the ship which was doing his laundry for him.

"It cost the taxpayers better than \$100 just so that bird could wear a clean shirt," declared a junior officer.

**READ 'THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL'**

# Flint Unionists Denounce Red-Scare As Aid TO GM

(Continued from Page 1) Bargaining Committee, chairman of the Strike Strategy Committee and president of the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council and will so remain."

"It is significant," their statement says, "that 'red-baiting' has long been the method used by labor's enemies to disorganize labor, especially during strikes. This leads one to believe that these people, by their utterances, are serving management rather than labor. This is not the first time that organized labor has been hurt by people more concerned with their own political future than with the future of the labor movement. It is deplorable that this issue has been raised by a group led by one Bill Rodgers, whose public record is none too savory."

Rodgers, Keene, Kontyko, and Jordan who belong to the AC Local seven-man Top Bargaining Committee went to the boss press with a pack of lies and red-baiting cries after their failure to unseat Carter. Carter ran against R. J. Thomas for the presidency of the UAW at the 1944 Grand Rapids convention.

After attacking Sol Dollinger, local organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, they declared that the CIO Council is a "breeding ground of Communism" and "serves no good purpose."

### RED-BAITING

Rodgers charged "it was the Trotskyite element that fostered the huge line of pickets that prevented office workers from entering December 18." This refers to the picket line set up by the AC workers to keep out office help after police had resorted on the previous day to violence in order to open the lines. Rodgers stated that he and other members attempted to get through a proposal to allow office workers to pass unmolested.

The four red-baiters declared that "the Trotskyites had made inroads at Bulck and Chevrolet as well as at AC and predicted the purge movement would spread to these locals and beyond Flint."

These irresponsible and false accusations have aroused bitter resentment in the ranks of Flint labor which for nine weeks has held solid against all General Motors' efforts to crack their unity. Carter, Edna McNamara and Harry Gray, the targets of these charges in AC local, stated to the press:

"We regret very much that a certain group of people took this mud-slinging to the daily press instead of taking it up with their membership. . . . The red-baiting tactics used in their press release is a company trick. We

became very well acquainted with 'company red-baiting' back in 1937."

### CARTER REINSTATED

They reported that on Sunday AC's membership, by a two-thirds majority, instructed President Archie Myers to notify Carter of his reinstatement as bargaining committee chairman. "We will abide by the rule of the membership and not the rule of four people," they concluded.

Everett Francis, Fisher Body Local president declared: "The four members of AC Local who have made these statements are either doing it in a spirit of destructive mischief designed to build themselves politically in their locals, or they are openly desirous of splitting the ranks of labor during a very trying strike period."

Tex Owens, Chevrolet local president, further hailed the charges by stating: "Workers are encouraged to join Local 859, be they Trotskyites, Republicans, Socialists, Communists, Democrats or any other political party, provided they are employed by Chevrolet Company. . . . people who run to the public press with

red-baiting stories, regardless of the tint, can be either over-ambitious local union politicians or company stooges."

Ben Woodard, Buick Local president, denied that any but accredited pickets were sent to the AC picket lines. Although workers on the picket lines had hoped that AC President Archie Myers would firmly dissociate himself from the red-baiting charges, Myers chimed in with and condoned the accusations of the four.

### ABETTED BY STALINISTS

Both the Daily Worker and leading local Stalinists have approved and seconded these wild company - inspired accusations. Now these actions are recoiling upon their own heads, since the local company-dominated press has seized upon the red-baiting campaign to publish information furnished by FBI agents and raise a hue and cry against Casper P. Kenney, representative of the CIO State, County and Municipal Workers, who is leading the strike of the school maintenance workers. This strike is backed by the CIO Council of which Kenney is a member.

# Belgium's Rulers Fear Trotskyists

The Parti Communiste Revolutionnaire, Belgian section of the Fourth International, has demanded in the January 5 issue of its paper, La Lutte Ouvriere, (Workers' Struggle) that Trotskyist witnesses be called to testify in a re-trial of leading capitalist collaborationists in Charleroi.

"Most of our leading comrades of the prewar period were arrested. Most of them died in the Nazi prisons," declares La Lutte Ouvriere.

"In this way," continues the paper, "our comrades in Liege lost comrades Remy and Van Belle who died in the Neungamme concentration camp. They were betrayed to the Gestapo by the infamous Destexhe who, like all capitalists, did not hesitate to collaborate with the Gestapo in order to crush the revolutionary communists."

The Gestapo became interested in the Belgian Trotskyists long before the Nazis invaded Western Europe. "On December 13, 1945," says the Belgian paper, "Paul Levy, a war correspondent, wrote a sensational article in the Liege paper La Wallonie in which he stated that as early as 1937 the Gestapo had prepared a list of Belgian communists and Trotskyists."

Despite the fact that the Trotskyists were the most

hounded and persecuted by the Gestapo, despite their magnificent record of struggle during the Nazi occupation, government officials in league with the Stalinists contrived to exclude them from a recent trial of collaborationists in Charleroi.

"This should have been a trial of all the capitalist judges and police who collaborated with the Gestapo," declares La Lutte Ouvriere. "This was not the case."

Even the parents of Remy and Van Belle, comrades who died at the hands of the Gestapo, were not summoned as witnesses for the prosecution. Trotskyists who returned alive from the Nazi concentration camp were also excluded from the trials.

"They were not permitted to participate in the trials, states La Lutte Ouvriere, "because it was well-known that the testimony of the Trotskyists would be a terrible indictment of the whole regime!"

# SWP Organizer In Flint Nails Red-Baiting Smear

The following statement nailing the corporation-inspired, red-baiting attacks in Flint was issued to the press on January 17 by Sol Dollinger, Flint organizer of the Socialist Workers Party:

In the January 16 issue of the Flint Journal appears an article in reference to my activities as organizer of the Flint branch, Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyist), and in regard to the program and activity of the Trotskyists in the UAW-CIO. It is our considered opinion that the statements appearing in the pages of the Flint Journal are corporation-inspired. The

time-honored method, but none-the-less disreputable, to split the unity of striking workers is to resort to red-baiting.

At no time during this strike has General Motors Corporation been successful in breaking the magnificent solidarity of the GM workers. One has only to ask himself the question "Who benefits?" The answer is obvious. The only beneficiary of these red-baiting attacks is the power-glutted General Motors Corporation.

The General Motors workers are engaged in a titanic battle with the mightiest, the richest, most arrogant financial colossus in the world. The GM workers have the right to expect the aid of every working class organization, whether it be a political party or another trade union, in their fight to maintain a decent standard of living for the working people of America.

The Socialist Workers Party, all of its members, and I as an official representative of the party, are actively participating, supporting and aiding the striking General Motors workers. We accept our obligation as should every individual worker and organization in the entire country.

We feel that the basic problems of this country—war, inflation, and unemployment—will not be solved until the workers and farmers organize and win a majority of the people over to the idea of taking control of the government, running the government in the interests of the majority of the people, and not as it is today, in the interests of America's 60 Families, who number less than 1 per cent of the population. Our party bases its principles

and program on the great Russian Revolution of 1917, led by Lenin and Trotsky. There, for the first time, the poor people of Russia proved to the workers of the world that it was possible to take power in the country and wield it in the interests of the people.

In answer to the four misguided individuals of A.C. local, who issued the release to the press about Trotskyists working in the GM-UAW locals of Flint, we would like to make this clear: If there are any people in these locals who accept part or all of our ideas, they can rest assured that they are the most active people on the picket lines, the best supporters of the strike, the most selfless, self-sacrificing and devoted members of the UAW. Where any members of our party are elected to office by the membership of their union, they perform their duties in the best traditions of militant, progressive unionism.

We expect and know that all our members in the UAW are in this fight to the finish, for a 30 per cent wage increase. For this strike will determine whether the American workers will be able to maintain themselves and their children at a decent standard of living or be pushed down as serfs of the corporation.

**Flint, Mich. Socialist Workers Party Meeting EVERY SUNDAY YWCA First Street And Harrison 8 p.m. Admission Free**



In a dramatic night demonstration in Paris, France, on January 8, United States soldiers carrying torches, march along Champs Elysees shouting: "We Want to Go Home!" AP Photo

# THE MILITANT

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Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.



Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

## Labor Unity

The inspiring unity in action of the AFL and CIO workers in the Stamford, Conn., General Strike is now being demonstrated on a far greater scale and in an even more crucial struggle by the 325,000 striking packinghouse workers.

Equally confronted by the attacks of the meat-packing barons and fighting for similar wage demands, the AFL and CIO unions in the industry have jointly called their members on strike.

When the CIO United Packinghouse Workers announced its strike date, the AFL Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union immediately announced it would not only direct its members to respect the CIO's picket lines and refuse to work in any struck plant, but that it would give financial aid to the rival union.

Once the strike began, the two unions are reported to have pledged that neither will settle and return to work before the other has also made a settlement. In this connection, the AFL union, which had offered to settle for a wage increase less than the final offer of the CIO, has since returned to its original higher demand.

On far too many occasions the American workers have witnessed the tragedy of narrow jurisdictional interests overriding the great principle of labor solidarity. Many times workers, divided by rival union interests and affiliations, have been misled to the point where they violated each other's picket lines on union leaders' orders.

But the deepest and most abiding desire of the workers is for class unity in the struggle against their common class enemy, the ruling capitalists.

In the great battle now being waged by all sections of American labor, this urgent desire of the workers to get together in action, despite different affiliations, is becoming a tremendous force.

Every worker must hail this latest inspiring example of labor solidarity exhibited by the AFL and CIO packinghouse strikers.

The final guarantee of victory in the present fight being waged by American labor resides in its ability to unite in action and meet the enemy with a solid front of militant struggle.

## Political Action

The Congressional halls are again ringing with denunciations of labor. A flood of old and new measures to bind labor hand and foot, shackle the unions, destroy the right to strike, are pouring into the legislative hoppers.

This renewal and intensification of the Congressional anti-labor drive comes in the midst of American labor's greatest struggle for decent wages and security. It comes when organized labor is demonstrating its tremendous power on the picket lines.

With all its numbers and power, the labor movement stands politically helpless before the insults, threats and tirades of a capitalist-dominated Congress. Not one effective voice is being lifted on behalf of labor inside Congress.

The responsibility for this lies with those union leaders who have consistently fought against and blocked any movement for genuine independent labor political action, for the formation of a labor party.

Today in Congress there would be a different story to tell if the workers had their own party, based on their union organizations, mobilizing and directing the political might of the working people.

There would be genuine labor spokesmen who would rise to throw the slanders of the labor-haters back into their teeth. There would be working class representatives who would turn the attack back against the political hirelings of Big Business.

The American working class which has built such mighty unions is fully capable of creating a political organization with a program which truly expresses its interests.

This is a task of greatest immediacy and urgency. Labor must now exert the same energy, resources, organizational capacity to-

ward the building of a labor party, that it is using so magnificently in the economic struggle on the picket lines. Through a party of their own the workers can take the next big step forward in defense of their rights, liberties and economic well-being against the conspiracies of the union-hating Congressmen belong to the Democratic and Republican parties of Wall Street.

## The Choice Is Clear

Who are the contending forces in the titanic struggles surging over America today?

On one side, spearheading the struggle on the picket lines, are 1,700,000 workers in basic industry. Whom do these embattled unionists represent and what are they fighting for?

They are fighting not only to win living wages for themselves and their families but for all the wage earners in this country.

They are fighting for the welfare of the returning veterans. That is why scores of thousands of ex-servicemen are in the forefront of the picket lines fighting shoulder to shoulder with their fellow workers.

They are fighting for the millions of demonstrating GIs who are clamoring to come home but who want to come back to good jobs with decent working conditions, not to sweatshops or breadlines.

They are fighting for the interests of the small business men, professional people and farmers whose own livelihood directly depends upon the earnings of the industrial working class. That is why, as *The Militant* reports, entire communities are openly expressing their sympathy and support for the strikers.

Opposed to all these sections of the American people, snarling and baring their fangs like wolves at bay, stand the giant corporations owned and controlled by a tiny group of billionaires. The Morgans, Rockefellers, du Ponts who produce nothing are defiantly refusing to give any substantial concessions to the workers who create all the wealth.

In wartime while the workers were slaving in the factories and the soldiers were fighting and dying, these parasites were gorging themselves on blood profits.

In their lust for endless gain they did not hesitate to falsify inspection records, manufacture defective war materials, swindle the government and commit half a hundred other crimes. Through their connections with the German and Japanese international cartels they coined money on both sides of the imperialist war fronts.

Thus the battle lines are clearly and sharply drawn. An infinitesimal minority of rich parasites are arrayed against the toiling masses, who represent the overwhelming majority of the population.

There can be no neutrality in this fight. Every decent American must unambiguously answer the question:

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

## Gangster Methods

Along with a concerted campaign of slander, red-baiting and lynch incitation against the Trotskyists, the Stalinists in a number of cities have physically assaulted Socialist Workers Party members.

The latest assault took place last week when five *Militant* distributors in front of the Chicago Coliseum were brutally attacked by Communist Party goons. Previously, the Stalinists had made similarly vicious assaults on *Militant* distributors in Akron, Ohio on November 16 and in Youngstown, Ohio, on December 21.

In Youngstown at Ukrainian Hall where Williamson, the CP National Secretary, was speaking, Stalinist hoodlums set upon a girl distributing *The Militant*, tore the papers from her hands, and threatened "Get away or get beat up!"

The Stalinists are resorting to these desperate acts of violence because the Trotskyists—the real working class revolutionists—are gaining greater influence among the best union militants at the same time that the Stalinists are becoming increasingly discredited.

Militant unionists, disgusted by the total surrender of the Stalinists to Wall Street during the war, have been further revolted by their more recent "left" opportunist twists and turns.

On the other hand, through reading *The Militant* and watching Socialist Workers Party members at work within the unions, the militants have observed that the Trotskyists are honest, devoted and principled defenders of labor's interests.

Unable to answer our ideas and arguments, the Stalinists have stooped to the vilest reactionary methods in desperate efforts to check the growing influence of the Socialist Workers Party and the *Militant*. They use lies, libels, frameup-tactics—and now physical violence. While falsely labeling the Trotskyists as "fascist spies," they themselves are practicing the gangster tactics also employed by fascists. Such methods can only play into the hands of the worst enemies of labor.

These vicious attempts to suppress *The Militant* not only violate the cherished traditions of free discussion in the labor movement. In their poisonous propaganda the Stalinists have clearly indicated that their attacks are directed not against Trotskyists alone, but against all other advocates of progressive policies within the unions.

That is why it is the duty of every sincere defender of democracy to expose the slanders of the Stalinists, to repel their assaults and prevent any repetition of these Stalinist gangster tactics which have no place in the ranks of labor.



"I always say—if we DID give those strikers the raise, they'd only squander it foolishly."

## Workers BOOKSHELF

**MARITIME.** By F. J. Lang. Second edition, with new introduction by author. Pioneer publishers, 1945; 182 pp. \$1.

The maritime industry occupies an important place in the economy of U. S. imperialism. In the militancy and sweep of its struggles the maritime labor movement during the past 12 years has made history. Yet, nowhere except in this book by F. J. Lang is there an integrated account of the ships, the men who own or control them, the men who man the ships, and their respective relation to the government.

"Maritime," first published in 1943, is dedicated to seven seamen members of the Socialist Workers Party who went down in torpedoed ships. This second edition, just off the press, has a new preface by the author, summarizing his main points in the light of the wartime experience. Hundreds of seamen in all the maritime unions have had their eyes opened by this book. Some found in it a new and fascinating history of their own union. Others for the first time read the cold facts proving that the ship-owners are government-subsidized parasites. Still others began to understand the real role of the capitalist government.

No other book like this ever found its way into the focles of the merchant ships. For their own information the parasite bosses of the maritime industry have many carefully documented studies on the industry and its

problems, including the "labor problems." So far as the men on their ships are concerned, the operators help subsidize the American Merchant Marine Library that furnishes every ship with books carefully chosen for remoteness from reality.

"Maritime" helps expose the false contention of the operators that the economics of the industry are no concern of the seamen. "Maritime" shows that it is precisely the seamen who have the most concern—even though they get the least.

One section of the book relates the story of the maritime industry and the long struggle of the seamen to achieve the status and rights of the organized shore-side workers. The book concludes with a program of action to insure the survival and strengthening of the seamen's unions as independent organizations of the seamen.

This program points to the political arena as the next great necessary step for the unions. It advances the argument that the organized seamen must control the industry in order to stop the mismanagement by the parasite ship operators. In addition it calls for the opening of the ship-owners' books, to expose the loot of enormous government subsidies.

This program was worked out prior to the publication of "Maritime" in 1943. At that time many maritime workers thought it too "radical" and unrealistic. Is there any other proposed pro-

gram that is more realistic today?

Compare what is written in "Maritime" with all that has been written by the Stalinists, either in *The Pilot*, organ of the CIO National Maritime Union, which they lead, or in the *Daily Worker*. Not a word has to be changed in the new edition of "Maritime." Consider on the other hand how the Stalinists have to scurry around today trying to cover up their tracks of yesterday! They put forward the program of collaboration with the shipowners not only in war but for the postwar period in order to make capitalist "free enterprise" work.

Whatever slogans and demands the maritime workers raise in the coming period of great battles, they will surely be far closer in spirit to the militant program outlined in "Maritime" than to the "wisdom" peddled by the Stalinists in one section of the maritime industry, or to the "hand to mouth" strategy of the syndicalist "anti-political" leadership in other sections of the industry.

This book was not written by a research worker enclosed in a library. It is obviously the work of a seaman who writes of the industry and the unions from intimate first-hand knowledge. F. J. Lang has prepared an excellent handbook, indispensable to all class-conscious seamen.

Reviewed by Art Sharon

## Congressmen At Work

Like other human beings, Wall Street's Congressmen have their heroes. On auspicious occasions, the Congressmen assemble in adoration while their leaders recount the mighty deeds and inspiring acts of the illustrious paragons of virtue they revere.

The most recent ritual of this type occurred when the Senate confirmed the appointees to the United Nations Organization. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, took the floor. The usual noise, chatter and commotion died down, for Barkley is Majority Leader and he speaks the scriptures and the law for all Democratic Party wheelhorses.

"Mr. President," began Barkley, "I shall content myself with just a word or two with reference to this nomination. I never knew Mr. Stettinius until he came to Washington a few years ago in a public capacity, although the name had been familiar to me for many years."

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., the hero up for adulation in the Senate, is truly molded of the stuff of Wall Streets great. His most stupendous single act of heroism was to select as his father none other than Edward R. Stettinius, Sr., a partner of the Wall Street banker, J. Pierpont Morgan.

Senator Barkley, devoutly attended by all the other Congressional worshippers of the House of Morgan (including the Republicans, of course), showed how heroic was Stettinius, Jr.'s birth. Barkley contrasted it to the easy path of those born poor:

"It is not difficult for one who was born and reared in hard circumstances, who had to fight his way in childhood, in boyhood, and in manhood, to get his feet firmly planted on the soil and to be able to stand erect with his chin up in the face of all circumstances, however difficult and trying." Imagine then, how heroic was Stettinius, Jr., in choosing as his first mighty hur-



did not rest. He decided to hitch his wagon to the star of politics. Sure enough, his heroic character overcame all obstacles. A post as Chairman of Roosevelt's War Resources Board fell his way. Then a post on the National Defense Advisory Board. And a post as director of priorities on OPM. Then Director of Lend Lease. And finally as a "reward of merit" this shining knight in golden armor speared the post of Secretary of State.

"It seems to me," declared Barkley, rising nobly to the oratorical heights demanded by the occasion, "that he has shown the same sort of devotion to public ideals that was shown by George Washington."

"We have all praised and heaped encomiums on Thomas Jefferson," continued Barkley, "... Mr. Stettinius belongs in that class. He is a man of the highest ideals, a man of the deepest moral convictions, a man of vision, a man who has contributed his ability and talents, who has contributed of his time and of his wealth, to the elevation of the standards of the peoples of the world."

With deep emotion and without a dissenting voice, Wall Street's Senate confirmed the appointment of their hero to the post of representative of the United States to the United Nations Organization.

**CHICAGO Socialist Workers Party Theater Militante** Presents "TRIAL BY FURY" February 2 8 p.m. Produced and directed by Clara Kaye Cast composed of brilliant "professional amateurs" Food and music for local jitterbugs afterward **BUCKINGHAM HALL 59 East Van Buren**

## PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

**Buffalo Points the Way**  
Upholding previous interpretations of the so-called GI Bill of Rights, General Bradley, Veterans' Administrator, recently ruled that veterans are not to receive unemployment compensation under the bill if they are out of work "due to an industrial dispute."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars responded to this discriminatory ruling with a demagogic proposal, typical of its entire anti-union program. Omar B. Ketchum, national legislative representative of the VFW, said his organization would attempt to have the bill amended so that veterans who did not vote for strikes might draw compensation.

Adoption of this proposal would place a premium on anti-strike activity by veterans. It is an attempt to make strikebreakers and union-wreckers of the veterans.

While this move is made in the guise of "aiding" the veterans, it is in reality motivated by a desire to split the veterans away from organized labor. This is what the bosses hope to do.

### VFW'S Anti-Labor Proposal

This latest proposal is in keeping with the whole anti-labor, pro-Wall Street program of the VFW. Joseph M. Stack, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, recently demanded enactment by Congress of a national system of compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars want all Americans back at work," Stack said in backing his proposal, "and we demand that Congress act now to put the wheels of industry in motion." This attempt to hog-tie the union movement by taking away its one real weapon, the right to strike, was hailed with enthusiasm by all spokesmen for reaction.

Some time ago the VFW went on record favoring legislation giving veterans fantastic super-seniority rights. The August 18 *Militant* branded the proposed legislation as another attempt by the bosses to use the veterans in their drive to smash the unions.

The VFW's program is inspired by what the employers want—not by the desires and needs of the worker veterans who are in the vast majority. The VFW is an agency of Wall Street. It attempts to dupe GIs through demagogic trickery.

### Labor Proposal Recognizes Veterans Rights

The proposals of the VFW are in sharp contrast to those advanced by the Veterans' Committee of Greater Buffalo Industrial Union Council. This union committee recognized the right of every veteran to unemployment compensation — no matter what the cause of unemployment.

The CIO Committee pointed out that striking workers in New York State can collect unemployment insurance after seven weeks delay. But veterans recently employed are barred from such payments. The Committee demands that the state "come through with a fair break that will put veterans on an equal status with non-veterans."

The Buffalo CIO Veterans' Committee is fighting for the real needs of the veterans. It has started a drive to organize both union and non-union veterans into a powerful force united with the labor movement. It points the way to the organization of the veterans as a mighty ally of the working class.

The working class answer to the bosses and their agents in the ranks of the ex-GIs is organization of the veterans by the labor movement. Veterans in alliance with the labor movement will defeat the reactionary aims of the bosses and secure all the benefits ex-servicemen are entitled to.

## Militant's Record In Backing GIs' Demands

The *Militant* was the first paper in the United States to raise the demand that the GIs be brought home. Today it is the one paper in the country that gives unqualified support to the world-wide GI demonstrations for immediate demobilization. It is the only paper that has called upon the whole labor movement to back up the soldier's protests.

As early as May 12, 1945, *The Militant* raised the demand to bring the boys back home. Editorials and articles have insistently repeated this demand. Following the first protest demonstrations in Manila, the January 5 *Militant* stated in an editorial: "Help them get back home. The desire of the veterans should be supported to the hilt here at home."

"Withdraw all troops from foreign soil!" The *Militant's* record stands in sharp contrast to that of other papers in the country. The December 23 *Worker*, official organ of the Communist Party, stated editorially: "America wanted its boys home by now, except those essential for occupation."

This hypocritical formulation of the Stalinists does not differ from the statements of Brass Hats and Washington officials. They say all men will be brought home except those needed for occupation. The War Department claims it needs a million and a half for such duties.

On January 8 the Stalinists warned soldiers and their families. "We have duties to fulfill in the armies of occupation." They thus clearly identify themselves with Wall Street's oppressive imperialist policy.

The N. Y. Times, outspoken propagandist for Wall Street, condemned the GIs for demanding to be brought home. An editorial on January 8 made this callous demand for courts-martial reprisals: "What they have done is indefensible, and they should be made to understand this."

Virginia Gildersleeve, Dean of the Rockefeller-controlled Barnard College, brazenly advocated the following imperialist concept: "Many Americans must live abroad and serve their country abroad. They can't always live at home," Dean Gildersleeve said. "The English learned it long ago. We must learn it now. Many must live and work and perhaps die in foreign lands."

These statements are typical of the attitudes taken by the capitalist press and Big Business spokesmen throughout the land toward the rightful demand of the soldiers abroad to be brought back at once.

# WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant". Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

## Soldier Describes Army Caste System

The following letter appeared in Stars and Stripes on October 9, 1945. I think it's as interesting for civilians as for the GIs to whom it was addressed.

C. C. New York

I have information that might throw more light on the Army caste system, and would like to pass it on to my fellow GIs as food for thought.

Due to the additional rental and subsistence allowance he receives, a married 2nd Lt. gets \$81 a month more than a single 2nd Lt. This boils down to the fact that a 2nd Lt.'s wife is worth exactly \$81 a month. A corporal with overseas pay gets only \$79.20 a month. Would you say that a 2nd Lt.'s wife could sit at home doing nothing (or whatever it is that 2nd Lt.'s wives do) and still be worth \$1.80 more a month to the War Department than a corporal who has given up everything and is serving overseas? A major's wife is worth \$147 a month, slightly less than the base pay of three privates. A Lt. Col.'s wife is worth \$162, four dollars more than a private's wife and six kids. Does a Lt. Col.'s wife need \$4 a month more to live on than a private's wife needs to support herself and six children?

How embarrassing it will be when I get home to have someone ask how much I did toward winning the war, and have to say that I did \$2.40 a month's worth less than a 1st Lt.'s wife. There is definitely a caste system.

Sgt. Norman L. Manuel

## For More Articles On Women's Problems

Dear Grace Carlson: Like G. W. of Los Angeles, who wrote in the December 29 issue of The Militant, I miss your column on women. Your articles always were the first I read when I opened the paper.

As a housewife and mother, it gives one a "lift" to read about the things that concern us most. For instance, the other Thursday evening, when I went to 14th Street to shop, and then sat, tired, in the subway on my way home, I thought of what a story you could write about all those women who have to go "bargain hunting" on Thursday night (the only night the stores are open to 9 p.m.).

Like many others, I cannot go during the day, because I have nobody to leave the baby with. On Thursday evenings, my husband watches the child. Then I rush downtown, looking for cheap things—glad when I find some "seconds" or "irregulars" at a less expensive price. And the bitter feelings I sometimes have about this rotten way of life! We cannot afford to pay the outrageous prices they ask for chil-

## PLAN FOR HUNGER

Editor: As I see things in my own community, the bosses are planning things ahead for me and my fellow worker just to see how long we can take to starve. I am enclosing some clippings from the Toledo papers on food price increases.

I. M. H. Toledo

Children's clothes—or any clothes, for that matter! And then I think about what a different life it would be if we had a socialist world, in which we could get good, long-lasting clothes; no more bargain hunting on Thursday nights, no more worries, day in and day out, about the necessities of life!

I know this letter is not very good—I am tired. But I wanted to write, anyway. If I wait for some evening when I feel fresh and able to write a good letter, I shall not write for a long time. Hoping to find your column again soon, every week, I am yours with hearty greetings.

A Housewife New York

(Editor's Note: Comrade Carlson intends to resume a regular series of articles for The Militant in the very near future).

## Scores Poem About Trotsky

Editor: In the January 5 issue of The Militant, in the "Workers Forum," appears a "poem" apparently dedicated to Comrade Trotsky, which I believe shameful to our movement and a gross insult to the memory of Trotsky, the revolutionary leader, Trotsky the materialist.

The type of poem such as "Trotsky's Dream" is similar to the Byzantine odes to the leader that have filled the Stalinist press and brought only nausea to intelligent revolutionaries. "Did Trotsky come from realms afar, To build his golden dream— And did he contemplate at night The shining fields of stars and see The socialism that would grow The time that was to be?"

Comrade Brown could very well have been writing of a Yogi or saint, but of a Bolshevik revolutionary man, never! Comrade Brown was no doubt filled with the most honest enthusiasm, the best motivations. But unfortunately he does not yet understand that Trotsky to us was a man, a mortal man. He was a great man and our leader insofar as he expressed, developed and added to our ideas, led us in action. He was subject to man's mistakes and he made many. He was subject to criticism and all his life welcomed it.

Trotsky's greatest contributions

to our movement were in the struggle against the Stalinist bureaucracy, its slavish prostitution of thought, its introduction of idol worship into the labor movement and the consequent devastating damage to the socialist movement that has characterized our epoch. Trotsky fought all his life against the attempts to make an idol of Lenin, as Lenin had previously done in the case of Marx and Engels. He vigorously condemned those who did not think, who worshipped. He scored the type of poems that have been, that are, dedicated to Stalin. Stalin in these poems also surveys the stars for socialism. Trotsky all his life participated in and surveyed the working class struggle.

The poem, I repeat, is an insult to Trotsky, to our movement. Comrade Brown must learn the meaning of our movement, the relation of leaders and led in a Bolshevik movement.

Henry Martin N. Y.

## "Royal Runaround" Described By Vet

Editor: When I was discharged from the Army in early November, I decided I might as well get something for the worse-than-wasted years (5½ of them) I had been indentured to Uncle Sam. So I went over to the Veterans' Administration and made application for attending school, under the "GI Bill of Grips" plan. And I have learned something new about the royal run-around the government is handing its "heroes" of yesterday.

"They told me at the Veterans' Administration that the Government would pay up to \$500 for my schooling. That sounds pretty good, when you hear it, but just try to get it!

In the first place, I had to wait more than two months to be notified of my eligibility to attend one of their schools. Yesterday I finally received the certificate, and went around to the school which the Veterans' Administration recommended to me. There, the president of the school told me that a 16-week electricians' course would cost \$140. But, he continued, the V.A. would pay only \$80 of the \$140. He said frankly, he wouldn't advise me to try to get anything out of the government. He had had veterans stick it out for as long as three months, living on their own pitiful savings, waiting for the government to come through and then quit the course because the money never came. "And as for us," he said, "we have to wait for months before we can collect even the \$80 they offer to pay."

I left the school and went back to the V. A. I asked the counselor there if this was true; and he frankly admitted it. "I am a veteran myself," he said. "And I wanted to go to school, too. But when I realized what a runaround it was going to be, I decided to take the job, save my money, and go to school on my own."

I was glad when I was sent across three years ago. Two years in the Army here had made me so sick and disgusted with the whole set-up we're living under, I thought anything would be better than the dirt we had to take here. But I found out over there that you can always learn something more about the filthy way the big shots kick the "common man" around. So I was glad to get back home; and I guess I even believed some of the big promises they made about what they were going to do for us.

Well, as I said, you can always learn more and even more. When it comes to the "schooling" they were going to give us—we get more bull and less dough. When it comes to houses fit to live in, they won't even give us permission to sleep in Central Park.

Well, at least, I'm home, and able to fight this damn system. That's more than a lot of my buddies can say; more than a lot of them can ever say. But from what's happening now in Manila, in Germany, in France, in Indo-China, and everywhere else where the GIs are rearing up on their hind legs and telling the brass where to get off, maybe it's not too much to say: there's hope for mankind yet. If we act quick enough, maybe we can finish off this stinking system and get started on a decent way of living under socialism!

Kent Darrow New York

# To All Readers Of The Militant: Our Party Is YOUR Party, Too!

You have been reading The Militant and recognize it as the fighting newspaper of the working people. You know its ideas and most of you agree with them. But ideas alone are not enough...

## Good Ideas Must Become A Reality

The Militant is the spokesman of the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY. The Socialist Workers Party is made up of workers like you. It is led by workers like you. The more workers who join, the better we can fight together against Big Business rule, for decent living and working conditions.

## Now Is The Time For You To Join Us

Join the ranks of the Socialist Workers Party and help to build a better world—a socialist world—for you and your children. Help us educate more workers on how to prevent World War III and the atomic destruction of civilization. Organize with us today to win a workers' world tomorrow.

Fill Out the Application Blank— at the bottom of this page.

## Join The Socialist Workers Party

THE EDITORS

# Harlem SWP Invites Workers To Visit And Join Its Ranks

Editor:

I want to report a very interesting experience that you are partly aware of. I was very glad to read M.T.R.'s letter to me in The Militant of January 12 because she is a part of Harlem, which is my foremost thought. It is the desire of every member of our party to awaken the people of Harlem and to draw them to us.

I accepted the invitation of M.T.R. and visited her. I am happy to report that I found a young lady who is 100 per cent socialist, although unaware that socialism is the name of her ideals. After conversing with her, I realized more clearly the great need for the Harlem Branch of the Socialist Workers Party to really work toward giving socialism a hearing in Harlem.

The Militant has many readers in Harlem who know we are real fighters against capitalism, which breeds discrimination, exploitation and oppression, wars and depressions. Harlem knows that the landlords, the bosses, the Bilbos and so forth are its enemies. But Harlem also knows it has been deceived by the Republicans and Democrats as well as the so-called Communist

Party. Now Harlem is afraid to believe in anyone.

I am speaking to Harlem as a section and as individuals. Come and investigate the SWP, this party of workers who have the answer to the Negro question. Come and question us on any subject. Look at the records. Give us an opportunity to prove we alone—and not the Stalinists—are the real Communists.

We alone support all oppressed people throughout the world. We solidarize ourselves with the workers wherever they are awakening to the evils of capitalism.

## PARTY IS A WEAPON

Our party offers all workers a weapon to fight a winning battle against all who exploit and oppress us. We say to the workers of the world: Unite and fight the common enemy. And when the workers awaken, and are ready to fight exploitation and discrimination, we say: Join our party and together we, the workers, can overthrow this decayed society of capitalism, place its records in the pages of history, and establish a new society, a society of socialism where there can be no exploitation, discrimination or oppression.

M. T. R. stated in her letter: "Mr. Howell and his party should really get busy in Harlem."

We invited M. T. R. to join our party. Every member gives us strength to fight a greater battle for the workers against the landlords, against the day of socialism.

The more individuals who come to us the more power we will have. It is not enough to read The Militant and wish us luck. We want you as individuals to come to us and join in the class struggle which alone will bring an end to the hardships we now endure.

We invite all workers to attend

## Akron

Lenin Memorial Meeting Friday, Jan. 25

Speaker

Grace Carlson  
Akron Militant Club  
405-6 Everett Bldg. 8 p.m.  
39 East Market St.

## New York Open Forums

Sunday, Jan. 27

Downtown:

"Will The Strikes Bring Inflation?"

Speaker: Art Sharon

116 University Place 8 p.m.

Harlem:

"Problems of Negro Veterans"

Speaker: Charles Carsten

103 West 110th St. Room 23 7:30 p.m.



One of the most popular features in The Militant is "The Negro Struggle," written by Charles Jackson. Many comments from Militant subscribers and reports from our comrades and friends testify to this fact.

In addition, Comrade Jackson's column has been reprinted by a number of the leading Negro publications. One of the most recent reprints appeared in The St. Louis American of January 3; quoted intact was the column entitled: "The Colonial Struggle Is Our Struggle" (Militant, December 22). The Omaha Guide of January 5 reprinted "Round-About-Roundup" (Militant, December 29).

Ruth Laurie of Newark sends in this enthusiastic report: "It is great to hear workers calling for The Militant, and that is just what happened at the United Automobile Workers' mass meeting held in the Essex House in Newark. We distributed the papers in the meeting hall, and just couldn't pass them out fast enough. 'Shouts of 'Five more here'; 'Three more here'; 'Some over here'; greeted us from all sides.

"I spoke to auto workers from the outlying communities, and they all had favorable comments to make on The Militant. A worker from Bristol, Conn., told me the paper had been distributed there. He told me further that he liked The Militant very much, and added that he considers much of the other Trotskyist literature excellent.

"Another GM union activist from Linden suggested that we send a number of copies of the paper to his union headquarters. He pointed out: 'If The Militant were left at our headquarters so it could reach our pickets and union members who frequent the hall, it would serve a particularly useful purpose since the paper exposes the role the Stalinists have played in the trade unions, and we do have trouble with them there.'"

George Rock of Kansas City sent in this very interesting experience: "Recently, I hitchhiked from Missouri to New York,

then back to Missouri and I was very pleased to note a very militant leftward trend among all the workers I met on the road. Several months ago while I was on the road, workers would apologetically admit to me that they were union men. Today I find they proudly whip out their union cards to prove it to me.

"One truckdriver I traveled with replied to my query, 'Have you ever read a real labor paper?' with a sharp statement, 'There ain't none such.' Needless to say I discussed The Militant with him, and also gave him some of the facts in the Minneapolis Labor Case. By the time we parted he had taken a one-year subscription, and he had changed his mind to the point where he agreed that there is at least one real labor paper."

Our distribution of The Militant at the Stamford general strike left quite an impression. Reporting the demonstration in their issue of January 12, Business Week related that a picket came into one of the Yale & Towne strike centers with a copy of The Militant. "Somebody handed it to me at the meeting," Business Week quotes the girl as saying. "Nope, I don't know where you could get one, unless at the meeting."

Since then, thanks to our alert comrades in Connecticut, many workers have found out where to get it. Last Sunday our comrades obtained 33 subscriptions to The Militant in Stamford, many from Yale & Towne workers.

Mrs. L. Hubbard of California sent us the following letter: "I am enclosing \$1 for a renewal of my subscription to The Militant. I am not sure just when my present subscription expires, but I hope I am getting this renewal in to you in time not to miss a single copy.

"Each week I look forward very eagerly to the arrival of the paper. Even though I am just a housewife, I wish to keep posted on matters affecting the workers. I take particular interest in your 'Postwar Notes for Seamen' as my husband has been going to sea for some time now."

## OUR PROGRAM:

### 1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!

A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay!  
A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living!  
Government operation of all idle and government-built plants under workers' control!  
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment!

### 2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!

No restriction on the right to strike!

### 3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!

### 4. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!

Down with Jim Crow!

### 5. Working class political action!

Establish the workers' and farmers' government!  
Build the independent labor party!

### 6. Tax the rich, not the poor!

No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!

### 7. A working class answer to capitalist militarism!

Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!  
Trade Union wages for all workers in the armed forces!

### 8. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!

For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!  
Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!

## Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY  
116 University Place  
New York 3, New York

I would like:

- To join the Socialist Workers Party.
- To obtain further information about your organization.
- To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

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# Liebknecht-Luxemburg Working-Class Martyrs

By Ruth Johnson

"More than 10,000 Berliners filed through shattered streets and light snowfall today to honor the memory of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, revolutionary leaders who were assassinated twenty-seven years ago. The crowd bearing floral wreaths, assembled in East Berlin and marched two miles to Friedrichsfelde Cemetery, site of the monument which was ordered destroyed by Adolph Hitler."

The few lines of this report last week in the N. Y. Times gives an answer to all who try to blame the German working class for Hitler's crimes! Hunyry, thinly clad, suffering under the heel of military occupation, 10,000 workers of Berlin marched in tribute to their unforgotten martyrs, two great revolutionists who gave their lives fighting for a socialist Germany and a socialist world!

Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were assassinated on January 15, 1919 by Junker hire-



LIEBKNECHT

lings of the Social-Democracy, which betrayed the peoples' desire for socialism and saved the tottering capitalist regime.

### SENTENCED TO PRISON

Karl Liebknecht, son of the founder of the German Social-Democracy, proved his own stature as early as 1906 when he delivered a series of lectures against capitalist militarism to a socialist youth organization. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison for their subsequent publication.

When World War I broke out,

Liebknecht was a member of the Reichstag. The Social-Democratic Party to which he belonged opportunistically swung over to support of the war. But Liebknecht adhered to the principles of Marxism. At the December 2, 1914 session he broke the discipline of the Social-Democratic Reichstag group and voted against war credits, thereby taking his place with Lenin and Trotsky amongst the irreconcilable anti-imperialist leaders of international socialism.

With Rosa Luxemburg, Clara Zetkin and Franz Mehring, Liebknecht founded "Die Internationale," first illegal organ of the German revolutionists.

At the magnificent May Day demonstration he organized in Berlin in 1916, Liebknecht denounced the imperialists and called upon the German working class to intensify the fight against its main enemy—the capitalist class at home. He was arrested, secretly tried, and sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment.

### INSPIRING REVOLUTIONIST

Rosa Luxemburg was a fiery orator, gifted writer, theoretician and activist who conquered physical frailty to become one of the most eminent of revolutionists. Born in czarist Poland, she was a political refugee at the age of 18. She secured German citizenship and in the Social-Democratic Party worked and fought against the revision of Marxism promoted by the Bernsteinists. She met the outbreak of war in 1914 by calling upon the German workers to refuse to shoot down their French brothers. Like Liebknecht, she was imprisoned.

Rosa smuggled articles for "Die Internationale" out of her prison cell. She wrote the famous "Junius" pamphlet circulated throughout Germany, explaining that victory of either side—German or Allied—would only lead to another world slaughter unless the masses took



LUXEMBURG

power and organized a workers' republic.

It was in prison that Rosa received the inspiring news of the Russian Revolution, which she ardently supported. Then in 1918 came the revolt of the Kiel sailors and soldiers of Berlin. One of the first acts of the revolutionary workers and soldiers was to throw open the prison gates for Liebknecht and Luxemburg.

The Social-Democratic traitors strove to persuade the Kaiser to remain. Failing to save the monarchy, hating and fearing the spread of Bolshevism above everything else, they then striven their efforts to establish a bourgeois republic and prevent the workers from taking power. The Social-Democracy particularly feared the Spartakus Bund, organized by Liebknecht and Luxemburg in 1918 as an independent party, with the slogan of "All Power to the Workers' Councils."

Conscious of their tasks and the pressure of time, Liebknecht and Luxemburg began to organize the German Communist Party. Rosa wrote the program for the party in complete agreement with the program of Lenin and Trotsky. But events moved too rapidly. The advanced workers were pressing forward. The German Communist Party, just emerging from the Spartakus group, was still too weak to take power.

### MARTYRED LEADERS

The leadership of the Social-Democracy, holding the reins of government, did everything in its power to crush the revolution in its infancy. Leaflets were circulated demanding the death of Liebknecht and Luxemburg. Rewards were offered for their capture. On January 15, 1919, they were arrested and murdered.

This bloody beheading of the Vanguard of the German working class marked the beginning of a protracted period of repression and reaction under capitalist rule that culminated in Hitler's assumption of power in 1933. But the demonstration of 10,000 in honor of Liebknecht and Luxemburg in Berlin last week shows that, despite the Nazi terror and all their wartime sufferings, the advanced workers have cherished the memories of their martyred revolutionary leaders. Their words and deeds remain as a beacon lighting the way to the inevitable revival of revolutionary and genuine international socialism in Germany.

## Flint Strikers Hear Talk By Charles Jackson

FLINT, Mich., Jan. 14—Before an audience of 40 General Motors workers on strike, Charles Jackson, Militant columnist, explained "The Negroes' Stake in the GM Strike."

Comrade Jackson compared the labor movement in 1946 and 1918. "The unity of all GM workers in 50 cities, in 196 plants—both colored and white workers," he stated, "is a fine indication of the big advances that labor has made."

To the intent audience, Jackson presented some of the perspectives for Negroes and white workers, which would arise out of a victorious strike. Most important, he indicated, is the demand of underpaid Southern workers for organization, and second in importance is the realization of organized labor in the North that the South must be organized.

Comrade Jackson completed his inspiring talk by showing how the struggle of the colonial workers of the Far East is the same fight as that of the General Motors workers; a common defense against Wall Street. The meeting was concluded with a long discussion period in which many of the workers participated. Several dollars' worth of literature was sold, and one person signed up for membership in the Flint branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

# Stalinists Slander Seattle Progressives In Attempt To Block Labor Party Movement

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

SEATTLE, Wash. — The Stalinists in this area are setting their frame-up machinery in motion again. This time it is aimed against the hundreds of rank and file union militants here who are organizing for a labor party and for militant, democratic unionism.

The first move in what looks like a new concerted drive against workers who refuse to go down the line with the Stalinist program of betrayal is a letter signed by the Northwest District of the Communist Party, published January 10 in the New World. This paper, whose president is Congressman Hugh De Lacy, claims to be an independent weekly, but is in reality an out-and-out Stalinist slander sheet.

Ranting all the Moscow Frame-up Trial lies against Trotskyism that Trotskyists are "fascist agents and spies," that Trotskyists are "enemies of the Soviet Union," etc., the letter of the Communist Party shrieks "No Quarter to Trotskyism! Out the Trotskyites from the labor movement!"

However, the text of the letter reveals that not only Trotskyists but all other advocates of a labor party and militant unionism are included in the Stalinist incitement to frame-ups, bureaucratic expulsions from the unions, and lynch attacks.

### FEAR LABOR PARTY

"Our attention has been called," the Stalinist letter begins, "to several pieces of literature distributed at the recent meeting at Eagles Auditorium, among them two poison-pen sheets called the 'Militant' and 'Workers Action' and a leaflet for a 'labor party'." The meeting in question was a rally of the Democratic Party, featuring Congressman Hugh De Lacy.

The advocacy of a labor party contained in these "several pieces of literature" especially incenses the Stalinists. For they

stand in great fear of the growing labor party movement and more generally of the mass upsurge of American labor.

The Stalinists control strong sections of the Washington Democratic Party and have elected several of their followers to Congress and the State Legislature. Furthermore their present line, as set forth in Hugh De Lacy's speech, preaches reconciliation with the Truman administration at the very time that several millions of American workers are pitting themselves against it. Hence, the Stalinists redoubled their fury against union militants.

### WHOM THEY SLANDER

The CP letter falsely lumps together as "Trotskyite" all three publications distributed at the Hugh De Lacy rally, although only The Militant is a Trotskyist organ. The Militant, chief target of the Stalinist attack, has many hundreds of subscribers in the Seattle area and receives enthusiastic response at numerous union meetings where it is distributed.

Workers Action is a monthly newspaper published by a group of leftward moving Seattle trade-unionists, who are not Trotskyists, but who in the last eight months have vigorously campaigned for the formation of a labor party.

The Committee for a Labor Party, which sponsored the labor party leaflet attacked by the Stalinists, is a committee of individual unionists from 30 different unions whose purpose is to win the labor movement over to a labor party position. The Committee has already obtained

600 signatures to a petition calling on the unions to build their own party.

All three papers advocating the formation of a labor party are labelled by the Stalinist letter as—"fascist"!

### FORMER SLANDERS

Honest and progressive unionists in Seattle have learned to thoroughly hate and despise the Stalinist frame-up methods against their labor opponents. These unionists recall the infamous frame-up and lynch campaign that the Stalinists here put on in 1944 against all those who would not go down the line with the Communist Political Association's program of supporting Big Business and the no-strike policy.

For eight weeks without let-up, the Stalinists through the New World, then sought to smear as "Trotskyite-Fascist spies" loyal and devoted unionists including the membership of Local 104, AFL Boilermakers Union and particularly Ed Weston, who is today President of the Washington State AFL council.

The Stalinists, then in an orgy of superpatriotic support for Wall Street's imperialist war, climaxed their frantic campaign in 1944 with a goon squad attack on meetings of the Institute of International Relations held under the auspices of the pacifist Quakers. The labor movement was thoroughly aroused by this action and three union locals, Local 104 of the Boilermakers, and Locals 79 and 289 of the AFL Machinists, condemned by resolution the Stalinist gangster methods.

The Stalinists are now attempting a new frame-up and lynch campaign against their opponents in the Seattle unions. All honest and progressive unionists must once more call these treacherous enemies to order.

## Victims Of Fontana Tragedy



The three children, Ann, 7, and Barry, 9, who lost their lives in the fire which reduced their home to ashes, following vigilante threats. Their mother died with them in the flames. Photo, courtesy of Los Angeles Sentinel.

# SWP Meeting Hits Fontana Whitewash

By Jean Simon

(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 17—An audience of 140 persons attending the first public meeting on the Fontana vigilante case here last Sunday night contributed more than \$200 in cash and pledges to the campaign of the Socialist Workers Party to prevent an official whitewash.

Speaking on "Vigilante Terror in Fontana," Comrade Myra Tanner Weiss, Los Angeles SWP organizer, told the story of the mysterious fire which burned to death three members of a Negro family previously threatened with violence by vigilantes.

She also described in detail the official attempt to whitewash the whole matter by treating the fire as an "accident" and refusing to take seriously or investigate the threats reported before the fire by O'Day H. Short, only surviving victim. Short is still critically ill in the Fontana hospital, suffering from shock and burns.

Paul T. Wolfe, arson expert investigating the case for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, had reported that evidence at the scene of the explosion and fire which wiped out the Short family did not support the "accident" theory advanced by the Fontana officials.

Comrade Weiss outlined a broad working class campaign of mass pressure to expose the vigilantes in Fontana and prevent a whitewash. She repeated the proposal made in a communication to labor bodies and organizations of minority groups on December 31 to build a defense organization of labor and minority groups to prevent similar victimization in the future.

Mrs. Carrie Stokes Morrison, sister of Helen Short, victim of the fire, spoke briefly after Comrade Weiss. "I think your idea is a grand one," she said. "We certainly appreciate anything that anyone can do to help prevent a whitewash, and we think that through expression of public sentiment is the only way we can get anything done."

Mrs. Morrison was accompanied by Mrs. Marian Downs, another sister of the dead woman, and Mr. J. T. Downs.

Comrade Junius Stevens, chairman of the meeting, invited questions and discussion from the audience. The response from unionists, members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and others demonstrated a widespread interest in the case despite attempts of the daily capitalist press to ignore and bury it within the Negro community.

## Pickets Protest At Jim-Crow Rink

By Clara Kaye

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Jan. 16—Intensified efforts of the Committee of Racial Equality and the Socialist Workers Party to abolish discriminatory practices at White City Skating Rink bore increasing fruit Saturday, when the management, daunted by the widely advertised impending demonstration, closed the rink on their busiest evening, consequently losing hundreds of dollars in revenue. A large police squad stood around while the 50-man picket line paraded, chanting and singing, for an hour.

A defective heating system was the pretext advanced by the cowed management for closing the rink.

Would-be-skaters were advised to attend another lily-white rink at 75th and Racine, which, like the White City rink, refused to issue "membership cards" to the Negroes who attempted to procure them last night. Membership cards are not required of white skaters. A leaflet was distributed to the skaters, informing them of the purpose of the pickets.

Robert Michel, manager of the White City rink, was arrested January 6 when two Negroes barred from the rink swore out a warrant charging him with direct violation of Illinois Civil Rights laws, as reported in The Militant last week. His trial has been postponed until February 4.

Meanwhile, plans are continuing to enlist in the fight against Jim Crow, many neighborhood organizations, churches, trade unions and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Chicago Industrial Union Council Executive Board has passed a resolution favoring the campaign of CORE and the SWP against White City, while the local Negro press is solidly supporting the action by featuring it in front page headlines.

# UE Girl Pickets In Youngstown Aided By Husky Steel Workers

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 15—Approximately 10,000 CIO United Electrical workers went on strike this morning in this district, completely shutting off production at General Electric, Westinghouse and the electrical plants of General Motors. 200,000 are on strike nationally.

The largest electrical plant in the district, the Westinghouse transformer factory at Sharon, Pa., was closed by pickets who formed ranks at 6:00 a. m. A strikebreaking attempt led by William Bogert, head of an independent union of office workers, failed when the office workers made no serious attempt to enter the struck plant.

For more than two hours this morning the streets adjoining the factory gate were jammed with thousands of workers. But when it became apparent that the office workers were not going to play cat-spaw for the company by attempting to force the picket lines, the great crowd went home leaving the pickets to guard the plant.

The tragic fact that many of these office workers feel no solidarity for the striking production workers is traceable to events which occurred here during the war, when the independent union of the white collar workers, the Westinghouse Employees Association, went on strike for wage demands.

The production workers at

honor in their union.

500 workers struck two GE plants at Niles, O., and 24-hour picketing began at 6:00 a.m. 320 glass workers who produce auto headlights and bulbs also struck.

Here in Youngstown, UE Local 734 today closed GE's Mazda Lamp Works which employs 770 workers. The company had taken a threatening attitude and moved cots and food into the plant just prior to the strike. Some foremen are now in there and are the virtual prisoners of the pickets rather than the star boarders of the corporation.

Local 734 is a young local and the great majority of its members are young girls in their first strike. Fearing trouble the first morning, they called upon the CIO steelworkers to aid in picketing. Several squads of steelworkers bolstered the line and those few who came to report to work left without trying to enter the plant. From that point on the girls have carried on the fight very well.

### WARREN STRIKE

At Warren, O., 3,500 workers of UE locals 717 and 722 closed GE's Ohio Lamp plant and GM's Packard electrical division this morning. Picket lines were formed at both plants at 6:00 and veterans were prominent on both.

This is the hometown of the traitor, DeCavitch, who was a leading Stalinist trade unionist and International Vice-President of the UE. A week before his union's strike he sold out by resigning from the UE and taking a job with Federal Machine and Welder Company as labor relations "expert." DeCavitch goes to his anti-labor job directly across from the struck GE and GM plants every morning in plain view of the now scornful pickets who once gave him high position and

# New York Meeting Held In Honor Of V.I. Lenin

NEW YORK, Jan. 18—Over 300 workers attended the Lenin-Luxemburg-Liebknecht Memorial meeting held here tonight under the auspices of the New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party at the Cornish Arms Hotel.

This Memorial Meeting commemorated the three revolutionary immortals whose names have gone down in history as the most intrepid fighters against capitalist war, exploitation, class tyranny and oppression.

The historic film, "From Czar to Lenin," depicting actual scenes of the Russian Revolution from 1917 to 1921, was shown as part of the commemoration ceremony. Comrade C. Thomas, New York SWP organizer, delivered the memorial address. The Trotskyist chorus sang the Memorial hymn and other revolutionary songs. Rose Karsner, pioneer member of the American Trotskyist movement, was chairman.

The theme of the main address was the necessity for cementing the international solidarity of the working class in the struggle for

a better world. Comrade Thomas quoted the statement made by Frederick Engels over 50 years ago and repeated many times by Lenin and Rosa Luxemburg: "Capitalist society faces a dilemma, either forward to Socialism, or a reversion to barbarism."

"Our task," said Comrade Thomas, "is to build the party that will lead the American working class to victory, the Socialist Workers Party. A party that is based on the concepts of Lenin, who with Trotsky, led the Russian working class to victory in 1917. A party that combines the word and the deed in the manner of Luxemburg and Liebknecht. A party that is prepared to solve the dilemma of capitalist society by leading humanity forward to Socialism."

## Chicago SWP To Present Play "Trial By Fury"

By Florence Hayes

CHICAGO, Jan. 23—"Trial By Fury," a satire on the Minneapolis labor trial, written by Art Preiss, will be produced by the Theatre Militante, dramatic group of the local branch of the Socialist Workers Party, Saturday, February 2nd, at 8 p.m., at Buckingham Hall, 59 E. Van Buren Street.

The play, which will be directed by SWP member Clara Kaye, is done in the style of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, "HMS Pinafore." It was written after the frame-up conviction at Minneapolis of 18 Socialist Workers Party leaders and members of Local 544-CIO on December 8, 1941, for their opposition to the imperialist war.

Following the performance, refreshments will be served and music provided for local jitterbugs. Friends of the SWP and Civil Rights Defense Committee are cordially invited to attend this event in celebration of the release of the 18 from prison last year.

Ask Your Shopmate To Subscribe to The Militant

# Seattle Typos Score Great Strike Victory

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

SEATTLE, Jan. 15 — The fighting rank and file of Seattle Typographical Union, Local 702, won the most spectacular victory in modern Northwest labor history when daily newspaper publishers, beaten to their knees, were compelled to offer a \$2.65 daily wage raise, approximately \$150 in retroactive pay and improved working conditions in order to resume publication after an eight-week's shutdown.

On strike since November 18, the printers won 90 per cent of the \$2.95 daily pay increase demanded and knocked out of the new contract the clause which formerly required them to pass through picket lines of sister unions.

Seattle printers, driven to militant action by the nearly 50 per cent cut in their paychecks resulting from soaring prices, found that in order to fight the owners of the boss press they first had to fight their own boss-collaborating officers. Voting strike over the stiff opposition of President Tillman K. Garrison and Secretary J. M. Litonius, the rank and file forced the resignation of both from further negotiations when even the publishers pointed out in a Shopping News advertisement that the union had repudiated its own officers by rejecting a second "generous" offer December 4, which was strongly supported by Garrison and Litonius.

### FOIL "FACT-FINDING"

Mayor William F. Devin, chronic Republican, scenting a prospect of providing a shot in the arm for his waning election hopes, aided the publishers a few days later by creating an "impartial fact-finding" board. First "impartial" act of the board was to demand of the rank and file strike committee authority to

act as final arbitrator (contrary to Typographical Union policy). Second "impartial" act was to threaten a "radio blast" from the mayor if an agreement was not reached.

Printers, their nostrils smarting from the stench of "fact-finding" boards, reacted by thunderously voting to adjourn a special meeting, called by Garrison, five minutes after it opened. At another meeting December 30, before rejecting the third Garrison-supported publishers' offer, the printers instructed their strike committee to refuse to negotiate a strike settlement with anyone but the publishers.

### MILITANCY WINS

Willing before the solidarity of the rank and file, unable to win with their trump cards of compliant union officers and "impartial" fact-finding board, the publishers offered a 26 per cent pay raise (from \$10.35 to \$13.00 for a 7-hour day), which was accepted at a special meeting January 12.

Job printing plants of Seattle will probably be closed before February 1 as job printers, marking time pending outcome of the newspaper strike, resume negotiations with the Master Printers. Paying 10 per cent assessment during the newspaper strike the jobmen, who now receive \$11.50 for an 8-hour day, are demanding \$13.50 for a 7-hour day, paid holidays, sick leave and severance pay. Last offer of the owners was 50 cents per day increase, no reduction in hours.

## NEWARK MILITANT LABOR FORUM Sunday, February 10

"The Meaning of the Strike Wave and the GI Demonstrations"

Speaker:

William Warde, Associate Editor, THE MILITANT

Chairman: Alan Kohlman, Newark Organizer, SWP 422 Springfield Ave. 8 p.m.

## DETROIT Lenin Memorial Meeting

featuring

# "CZAR TO LENIN"

Famous Documentary Film Showing Actual Scenes of the Russian Revolution

Speaker: ARTHUR BURCH Chairman: GRACE CARLSON

5108 LINWOOD SUNDAY, JAN. 27 8:00 P.M.

# General Electric Strikers In Lynn Gain Support Of Entire Community

**By Ann Anders**  
(Special to The Militant)  
LYNN, Mass., Jan. 15—At 8 a.m. today, 15,000 members of Local 201, CIO, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, struck and closed the River Works and West Lynn plants of the General Electric Company here, as part of the national strike against the big electrical corporations.

Braving freezing temperatures, hundreds of union strikers marched two abreast before the River Works main gate, while hundreds of others stood by. A large contingent of gaily-clad girl strikers marched at the West Lynn plant singing "Solidarity Forever" and other labor songs. Passers-by stood about watching the girl pickets, commenting on their spirit and militancy. Many placards reading, "We Want To Live, Not Exist," "You Got Yours, Charlie" (referring to GE President Charles E. Wilson), "We Want Ours" and others were carried by the marching pickets.

Last Sunday afternoon in Odd Fellows Hall, at a packed meeting which overflowed into the streets where many workers listened to the proceedings through loud speakers, the strikers made known their determination to fight to a finish.

**NO ADMISSION!**  
Proposals to permit autos, carrying supervisory and office help to pass through picket lines, met violent opposition. UE International President Albert J. Fitzgerald restored order by personally making the motion that no cars be permitted to enter

the plant. At this writing only three or four Army and Navy autos have passed through the picket line, bearing military and government personnel.

Only skeleton maintenance and power-house operator crews—union men—are being permitted to work on union passes, a provision designed to protect company property. But as one woman militant expressed it: "Let the pipes freeze—they don't care if we freeze!"  
Reduction of work hours since V-J Day resulting in about a 30 per cent pay cut; other wage cuts instituted under the guise of job reclassification; piled-up grievances accumulated throughout the war years; all these plus the steady rise in living costs, have resulted in the workers' demand for \$2-a-day pay raise.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**  
The Company, after months of stalling, has countered with a ridiculous offer of a 10 per cent increase and flatly refused to consider a compromise offer from the union for a 15 per cent wage increase with the balance of the \$2 to be negotiated.

Local feeling against the company is running very high, since the GE payroll constitutes roughly 60 per cent of the purchasing power in Lynn. Both newspapers in this overwhelmingly working-class city were forced to adopt either a pro-labor or a neutral tone in their front-page editorials. Mayor Cole issued a statement urging the company to meet the "just and reasonable" demands of the workers.

Various fraternal organizations have donated their halls for use as picket centers. The Lynn Labor Council, comprising all AFL and CIO unions in this

area, has pledged 100 per cent support to the strike. Suggestions of a one-day work stoppage of local industry such as took place in Stamford, Conn., are being aired in the local press. According to union headquarters large amounts of food and clothing have been pledged by local merchants to the reserve strike fund, and a daily strike bulletin will be published.

The largest single union in this area and long hampered by a tradition of independent or unaffiliated unionism, Local 201 is emerging in this struggle as an integral part of the national union movement for higher wages.

## UE Strikers Demonstrate In Newark Center

**Special To THE MILITANT**  
NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 15—Displaying model strike organization, some 1,500 members of Westinghouse Local 426, CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, set up a solid mass picket line this morning in the heart of downtown Newark. Marching two abreast, the round-robin line completely surrounded the block-square Westinghouse Meter Plant.

After mass picketing today, further picketing will continue on a two-hour shift basis. A two-week schedule was handed out to every worker in advance of the strike, whereby each department will picket every other day for two hours.

All the restaurants and cafes on Orange Street have pledged full support to the strikers and are regularly feeding the strikers, as well as providing supplies for the strike kitchen at union headquarters.

In addition to its fight along with 200,000 other UE members nationally for \$2 per day, Local 426 is demanding a closed shop. According to Jake Konowitz, Chief Steward, the local now has 2,276 of the total 2,350 production and salaried workers in the union under maintenance of membership. Representing such an overwhelming percentage of the employees, the union insists on the right to a closed shop.

This afternoon, Marty Venter, Local 426 President, led a delegation of 426 strikers to City Hall where they, together with other CIO unions, insisted that City Council pass a resolution that the state should pay unemployed benefits to strikers. Under pressure from the Newark CIO, Mayor Murphy and all councilmen, except one, endorsed this resolution.

**LABOR SAVING DEVICE**  
In New York City during the recent national long lines telephone strike, supervisors and executives attempted to man the abandoned switchboards. At first the hard-pressed scabs took phoned: "We're accepting only emergency calls because of labor trouble." Then, the phrase, "because of labor trouble" was omitted— took too much valuable

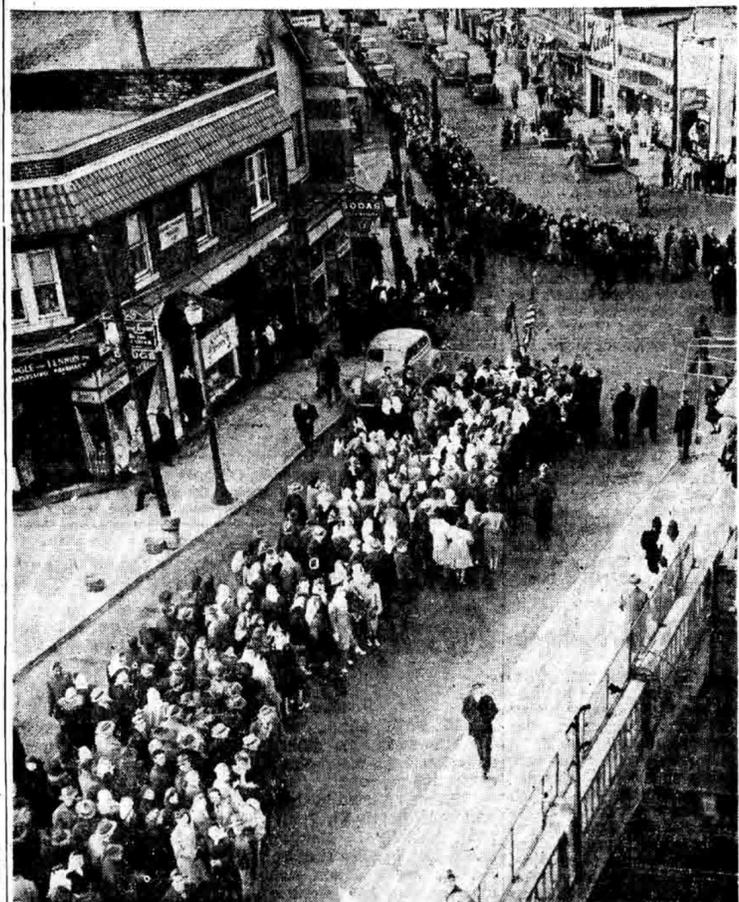
in seating the "official" delegation of Local 16 came as a result of assurances made to IUMSWA President John Green by his henchmen that conservative and red-baiting elements had gained control within that group.

**MURRAY INTERVENES**  
This was the third successive convention at which Local 16's official delegation was seated despite the fact that in each instance the group had not been elected by the membership as a whole. The Stalinists, however, found it expedient to squawk about a lack of democracy and the violation of the union's constitution in only two instances. The other time was the last convention, where they bossed a delegation of shop stewards augmented by a number of delegates who were hand-picked to "keep it safe."

During the convention a significant off-stage drama was enacted. CIO - President Philip Murray, then engaged in the crucial steel negotiations and made aware of the bitter factional fight, dispatched James Carey, CIO National Secretary, to see Green in an effort to bring the warring groups, together.

Green, it is rumored, was willing enough to comply, but powerless to do so. His reactionary associates apparently now controlled his caucus lock, stock and barrel; they constituted a machine which Green had created but could not check.

## UE Strikers Mass In Bloomfield



Determined lines of striking workers from General Electric and Westinghouse plants in Bloomfield, N. J. shown above merging at Lawrence Street to march together to a mass meeting staged on the Town Green on January 15. They are part of the 200,000 members of the CIO United Electrical Workers Union who walked out of 78 plants in 16 states, affecting General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors.

## Lester UE Strikers Demonstrate Solidarity At Westinghouse Plant

**By Robert Oliver**  
(Special to The Militant)

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17—It is almost an hour-long trolley ride from Philadelphia to the strike-bound Lester, Pa., plant of the Westinghouse Corp., where 7,000 are employed. It is bitter-cold even late in the morning. But a feeling of warmth comes over us when the first thing that greets our eyes as we alight from the trolley, is a big sign saying "This way to the Local 107-UERMWA office." Passing us is a small truck placarded with signs saying "Local 107-Official."

As we walk toward the Local office, we pass two gates each guarded by several hundred pickets. Most are in line. Some take off a few moments to huddle around big firepots to try to get the chill out of their bones. Every once in a while pretty, young girl strikers start singing some popular tune and others join in. Many white-collar workers are on the picket line. The office force is also represented by the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers.

At the headquarters are more crowds. Some are in meetings.

Others are registering for their unemployment insurance, which they won't get for eight weeks, but at least they don't have to hang around Unemployment Compensation Commission offices. The local had arranged for a special UCC office to be set up in the union headquarters.

Downstairs, in the picket headquarters, old and young, men and women, black and white, factory and office workers mingle together. Workers are coming in to receive picket cards and assignments. Others are making signs. All are wearing buttons, the most common reading "I Paid My Five-Did You?", referring to a \$5 strike assessment voted before the walkout.

The Local leadership is preparing for a siege and are confident that, if necessary, they can outstay the company. To conserve energy they decided that pickets would stand duty in two-hour a week shifts and still have three hundred on the line at all times. However, this plan has "failed" so far. They just can't keep the members away from the line! While we were there, at least

1,500 were on voluntary duty. Local 107 is set for victory, but we could sense an undercurrent of serious concern among the strikers. They all wear big buttons saying "52 a Day or Bust!" The membership and local leadership of Local 107 mean what their buttons proclaim. They are suspicious and resentful of maneuvers by the top CIO and UERMWA leadership seeking a way out to settle for less.

## Socialist Workers Party Branch Activities

- AKRON** — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open Monday through Friday, 2 to 4 p. m.; also Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7 to 9. Current events discussion Friday evenings.
- ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM** — Branch meeting every Thursday, 8 p. m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown.
- BOSTON** — Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Mondays and Saturdays from noon until 5 p. m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.
- BUFFALO** — Every Saturday night, Current Events Discussion and Open House, at Millant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.
- CHICAGO** — Visit SWP, 160 N. Wells, R. 317. Open 11 a. m. to 8 p. m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7562.
- CLEVELAND** — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p. m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St.
- DETROIT** — Forums on topical questions every Sunday, 8 p. m. at 6108 Linwood.
- Classes every Thursday: 'How To Prepare A Speech' and 'History Of Russian Revolution.'
- KANSAS CITY** — SWP Branch meets Saturday, 8 p. m. Rm. 203, Studio Bldg., 418 E. 9th St., for study and discussion.
- LOS ANGELES** — Visit SWP headquarters, 1106 S. Broadway, Blue Room, Cabrillo Hotel, or San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.
- Lecture Series On Current Strike Wave: "Wages," John Patrick; "Profits," Al Miller; "Prices," Gordon Bailey; "Jobs," Myra Tanner Weiss.
- SCHEDULE:**  
Central, 1106 S. Broadway; "Prices," Feb. 1; "Jobs," Feb. 8.  
East Side, Polks Hall, 424 N. Soto; "Prices," Jan. 30; "Jobs," Feb. 6.  
San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214; "Jobs," Feb. 1.
- MILWAUKEE** — Visit the Milwaukee branch of the SWP at its headquarters, 424 E. Wells St., any evening from 7:30.
- MINNEAPOLIS** — Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily. Forum every Sunday, 3:30 p. m.
- NEWARK** — Open forum every Friday at the Progressive Workers' School, 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30.  
Reading room and office open Mondays-Thursdays, 4 to 10 p. m.  
Militant Readers' Discussion Group meets every Sunday, 7:30 p. m. Round table discussion.
- NEW YORK** — Registration open at 116 University Pl. for classes in Principles of Marxism, Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure.  
Harlem Discussion Group meets every Sunday 7:30 p. m., 103 West 110 St., Room 23. Office open Monday to Thurs., 1 to 4:30, also Fri. and Sun., 7:30 to 10 p. m.  
Sat., Feb. 2, 8:30 p. m. Beachcombers Get-Together at Chelsea Branch 130 W. 23 Street.
- PHILADELPHIA** — SWP Headquarters, 405 W. Girard Ave. Open forums every Friday 8 p. m. on current topics.  
Socialist Youth Group meets on alternate Saturdays, 8 p. m.
- PITTSBURGH** — Militant Reading Room, Seely Bldg., 5905 Penn Ave., corner Penn. Ave. & Beatty St., E. Liberty. Open evenings, 6:30 to 9:30, also Saturday 2-9 p. m. Circulating library. Class on fundamentals of Marxism every Sunday evening.
- PORTLAND, Ore.** — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W. Washington, 3rd Floor. Tel. ATwater 3992. Open 1 to 4 p. m., daily except Sunday, and 6 to 8 p. m. on Tuesday and Friday.
- SAN FRANCISCO** — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 3 p. m., Monday through Saturday, and 7 to 9 p. m. Monday through Friday.  
Friday night study groups: 'Introduction to Trotskyism,' 7:30 p. m.; 'History of Democratic Centralism,' 8:40 p. m.
- SEATTLE** — Study groups every Friday, 7:45 p. m., at Seattle School of Social Science, 1919 1/2 Second Ave.; 1. Imperialism; 2. Introduction to Socialism.
- ST. LOUIS** — Visit our headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday through Saturday from 12 to 2 p. m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8 to 10 p. m.
- TOLEDO** — Forums every Tuesday, 8:00 p. m., Roi Davis Bldg., Room 304, 905 Jefferson Ave. Open evenings, 7-9.
- YOUNGSTOWN** — Youngstown School of Social Science, 225 N. Phelps St., open to public Tuesday and Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5; also 7:30 to 9:30 p. m., Monday through Thursday.

## Ship Workers Convention Marked By Faction Fight

**By L. Williams**

Control of the Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO, passed completely into the hands of a hard-bitten red-baiting bureaucracy at the 11th National Convention of that organization held at Atlantic City during the week of January 7.

The failure of the opposition, led largely by the Stalinists and called the "progressive" caucus, to develop a clear-cut militant position on the vital wage question, enabled the administration to present the issue as a fight against "Communist control" of the union and to deal the insurgents a smashing defeat.

**STALINIST ROLE**  
The efforts of the Progressives were centered primarily in a fight to seat a Stalinist-dominated delegation from Local 16, Kearny and Port Newark, N. J., and to elect Philip Van Gelder to the office of Secretary-Treasurer, a post which he held prior to his induction into the army from which he has recently been discharged.

The convention program of the opposition was allegedly against the participation of the IUMSWA in the company-stacked Stabilization Committee, which has been in session on and off since mid-December and has evolved a government recommendation for a 10 per cent wage increase which both labor and the employees have rejected.

The Progressives' amendment to the Wage Report was a weak proposal to enlarge the present "negotiations." When the amendment was defeated and the motion "carried" by debatable votes, the opposition made no attempt whatsoever to obtain a hand or roll-call vote.

**PRINCIPLED POSITION**  
The only principled position on the question was voiced by Larry Phillips, a delegate from Local 16, who stated that his contingent was instructed by its membership to oppose the "continued participation of the Shipyard Union on Stabilization Committee and any other tri-partite board."

He went on to attack the Committee as stacked by Navy Brass Hats and Labor Department appointees who favor the corporations and charged that the maintenance of this Board meant, in

**Chicago**  
Hear  
**ALBERT GOLDMAN**  
speak on  
**Palestine and the Jewish Refugees**  
Wednesday, January 30  
Liberty Hall  
3420 Roosevelt Road  
2nd floor 8 p. m.  
Auspices:  
Socialist Workers Party

# Diary Of A Steelworker *By T. Kovalesky*

Owing to his intense activities in connection with the steel wage struggle, Comrade Kovalesky writes that he is unable to send his regular column this week. We are therefore reprinting his column from the October 28, 1944 Militant.

The word "Socialism" means a lot of different things to different people, but what it means to me I can write down in just a couple of words. It means peace and plenty for all; it means sunshine and the laughter of children.



I guess it's the kids that interest me mostly. I know I've written things here before about the kids, but that's natural. I'll probably write a lot more about them, too, because I feel that I'm fighting mostly for them. In a way, I feel as if writing words like these were sort of a monument for Little Dick... as if all the time I was saying, "Look, little fellow, this is for you and all the other kids that you used to play with. This is the sunshine, and the forests, and swimming holes, and the meadows that you never had a chance to see. This is the life that you might have had, the opportunities that you and all the other dirty-faced scampers little fellows never found."

"If you had lived longer, you'd have seen life get a lot tougher. More and more you'd have felt the hardships which bend the shoulders of the poor. Maybe you'd have found a girl to share your life, but if you had, you'd have seen the joy of loving loses its sparkle in most cases when poverty keeps gnawing and grinding at it, and when worry keeps scraping at it like the persistent hurt of a hungry stomach.

"So I'm using my big fists now harder than ever, because your little fists are lying still, down under the grass and earth, and they'll never be lifted to defend yourself and your comrades.

"Little Dick, I go out each day like one of the structural steel workers or bricklayers put-

ting up a great building. It is the home of the people of the future that we're building. It is Socialism.

"Here men will approach each other not with a lunging bayonet, but with the helping hand of friendship, no bitter competition, but organized, fruitful cooperation.

"There will be great laboratories here. Would you have wanted to be a chemist? Here you could be. Our chemists will be chosen not by the weight of their gold, but by the keenness of their brains and by the intensity of their desire to serve the human race. And what will they do? Poison gasses and explosives to bring death, destruction, and misery to the people of the world will no longer be needed.

"White coated men and women will wage relentless and unceasing war upon disease. Boiling test tubes and steaming retorts will contain the weapons of the people's army, which we'll muster to fight against the enemies of mankind, polio, tuberculosis, syphilis, and even the common cold. And we'll defeat them all.

"You and your pals wouldn't be driven to steal guns and prowling about in the darkness, waiting to prey upon a fellow creature so that you might live, answering one violence with another and you might keep a little self-respect. No, and there'd be no more broken fathers like old man di Rosa, who buttonholes you every chance he gets to tell you that 'Angie was a good boy. The cops, they shoot my Angie, but he's a no bad boy..."

"We'll work. All of us will work, but we'll do it cheerfully and proudly, knowing that we serve ourselves and our brothers. That we produce and create every day new products that will help make life better for all the peoples of the world. People of all races, of all nationalities will live in brotherhood and mutual respect. Heroes (perhaps you might have been one of them, Little Dick) will gouge out the minerals from the poles of the earth and gather the herbs and drugs of the tropics, and we'll take them, and with them, we'll raise life to an even higher level."

# Thirteen More Mine Disaster Victims Die Due To The Negligence of Greedy Owners

## More Murder For Profits



Rescue workers removing the body of one of the miners killed in the Havaco coal mine disaster at Welch, West Virginia. On January 17 a frightful explosion caused by the mine owners, criminal neglect of safety measures killed 13 coal miners and injured 38.

By Evelyn Atwood  
Once again murder for profit stalked the coal mines when a violent explosion blasted through the shafts of Havaco No. 9 coal mine in Welch, West Virginia, on January 15, killing 13 mine workers and injuring at least 38 of more than 200 others who finally escaped the burning trap.

The same criminal neglect by the coal operators of even the simplest precautions and the same cynical disregard of danger warnings by federal mine inspectors which cost the lives of 22 mine workers in the recent Pineville, Kentucky, tragedy, added these new victims to the unending list of mine workers who every year are doomed to violent deaths by the greed of the mine owners.

### DANGERS KNOWN

A purely perfunctory report last September by inspectors from the Bureau of Mines, which every year reiterates it has no power to enforce its findings, listed at least three danger points in the New River and Pocahontas Coal Company mine. The mine was gassy, and equipped with dangerous electric installations. Safety inspections by the company were totally inadequate. The company operated no safety training program for the miners. Thus it was inevitable that this mine would explode. When it did, "it looked like an atom bomb explosion," said E. V. Becker, Welch Postmaster. Flames shot more than 300 feet into the air. Not only were mine workers killed and injured, but many buildings in the immediate area were wrecked.

Five women and children who were in the company grocery store at the time were taken to a hospital for treatment of injuries resulting from the blast. School children in a building 500 feet away were injured by flying glass. The entire tippie construction at the entrance was wrecked. It is not known how far into the deep mine the blast left its trail of wreckage. Throughout the whole day, as crowds of relatives and rescue workers assembled around the scene of the disaster, the miners who were not killed, emerged, one by one. Some appeared dazed and leaned heavily on their buddies. Others had to be half carried or dragged. Some of the more seriously injured were hoisted out by an improvised cable and bucket arrangement through an air shaft, because the elevator was wrecked. Some 200 units of blood plasma were rushed in for use in treating victims.

### The "Bright" Side Of Mine Tragedy

Although 13 mine workers were killed and 38 seriously injured in the Welch, W. Va., mine explosion due to the operators' disregard of inspection warnings, the N.Y. Times, a chief apologist for the criminal capitalist system, did not fail to point out the "brighter" side of the disaster.

The Times, January 14, reports cheerfully: "The unusual aspect of the explosion was that with so many in its area, so few were killed or injured."

This is the 80th disaster in West Virginia bituminous mines since official records have been kept. In these 2,214 workers have been needlessly slaughtered. But now, as in previous disasters, the coal operators have no comment to make. Neither has the State Mine Inspection Bureau, which is supposed not to serve the coal operators, but to enforce safety regulations for the mine workers. After the disaster a state mine inspector arrived upon the scene for an inspection! But after each disaster, the coal operators continue to reap their profits by sending men to their deaths in dangerous and neglected mines.

# Notes Of A Seaman *By Art Sharon*

It makes no difference whether you walk into the American bar on 23rd Street in New York, the little joint next to the "dog house" at the foot of Broadway in Baltimore, the Sailors Cafe on Clay street in San Francisco or the Post Keller on Seneca street in Seattle — all well-known sailors' hangouts — it is the same story.

The sailor talking over a bottle of beer might belong to the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific, his companion might be a cook from the CIO National Maritime Union. Or it could well be a fireman belonging to the Independent Marine Firemen's Union talking to a messboy holding a book in the AFL Seafarers International Union.

Regardless of what union books they carry, their conversation revolves around a common interest and common problems. Here's where you get the real picture of shipboard conditions. A bottle of beer and a friendly table helps lift the barriers of rival affiliations. Here seaman talks to seaman exchanging the experiences of their last ship.

The sailor might be overheard telling of the outrageous action of the U. S. military authorities in Japan who refused permission to the merchant crew of his vessel to come ashore upon the flimsy legal pretext that only personnel in uniform of an American service could come ashore.

None of the crew wore uniforms. They, like the majority of merchant seamen, refused to be sucked into wearing uniforms at the very beginning of the war, because they did not wish any more regimentation than they already suffered. The sailor might add with indignation that the crew lined the rails and glumly watched the officers of the ship go ashore in uniforms covered with gold braid enough to dazzle a blind man.

His companion, a cook, listens and nods grimly. It is a familiar story to him. He too has suffered the pain of no shore leave in some foreign port after weeks at sea and sometimes, after months without setting foot on solid ground.

He tells in turn the story of his last trip. He made a pier head jump and on his first day on the job found that the ship was carrying old stores with insufficient meats, eggs and vegetables but plenty of rice and beans. It was too late to do anything but try to make the best of a rotten storeroom. The meat and eggs lasted three weeks and the last of the potatoes went a week later. From then on it was rice and beans for breakfast, beans and rice for dinner, and rice and beans for supper.

The crew raised hell; accused the Steward of selling the ship's food; threatened the Cook and 2nd Cook, and finally in a last desperate demonstration threw the entire lunch ration of one day over the side and refused to work. At a crew's meeting that evening the cook explained the fix they were in and got a vote of confidence from the meeting.

They resigned themselves to hoping for army supplies at one of the Pacific bases they were to hit. But at midnight they caught the steward frying up some eggs from his private supply. In vain his protestations that there were only a few eggs, not enough to go around.

The Steward was jumped by several of the more furious members of the crew and only the arrival of the mate on watch with a gun in hand saved his hide.

This too is a familiar story to the sailor. He has been at the mercy of an incompetent "bobby robbing" company steward a number of times.

How totally different are these experiences from the glorious pictures painted by the War Shipping Administration to prospective recruits for the industry! What a challenge to the vain boasting of the class-collaborating union leaders on the "conditions" their leadership has brought to the seamen.

# Minnesota Packinghouse Workers Firmly Support National Strike

By Barbara Bruce  
(Special to The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 16 — Packinghouse workers in the Minnesota area walked out nearly 8,000 strong today and closed up the nation's second largest meat-packing center 100 per cent.

Plants affected in this area include Armour, Swift and Rifkin in South St. Paul; Superior and Bartsuch in St. Paul; Cudahy in Newport, at every entrance to these great meat-processing citadels. Banners bore the slogans: No Raise, No Work; We Deserve A Living Wage; We Want Justice. Placards carried by young men in army and navy trousers stated: We Fought For Better Wages and Jobs.

Operating on four-hour shifts, every union member is expected to serve his turn on the picket line. Pickets are issued strike cards which are punched each time a member reports for picket duty. There is discussion now of fining every member who does not take his turn.

STOCKYARD WORKERS  
No one is allowed to cross the picket line without an official union pass. This includes office workers and plant officials. Plant managers have remained inside both Armour's and Swift's rather than subject themselves to the supervision of the union. Maintenance workers in charge of refrigeration are allowed in the

plants to prevent spoilage of meat on hand.

There is not much meat in any of the plants today, however, since an embargo was placed on livestock and most of the stock on hand was processed and shipped out before the strike began. Stockyard workers are in complete solidarity with plant employees and are also striking 100 per cent.

The militant spirit of the packing workers here was demonstrated last Sunday at a mass meeting sponsored by the UPWA in St. Paul. Well over 1,000 CIO members resounded their approval of the union's strike program. CIO spokesmen were cheered by union members who jammed the hall.

Joseph Ollman, district director of the UPWA, described working conditions in the packing plants from his own 23 years of experience as a packinghouse worker. "The meat packing workers get the lowest wages in the country, next to textile workers," he said. "Their conditions are worse than in any other industry." He told of workers wading in blood up to their ankles, of the stench of the packing houses and how it gets into the very skin of the men and women who work there. Dozens of workers nodded their heads in agreement as he talked.

# FEPC Filibuster

By Joseph Keller

Last week the Southern Bourbon Democrats in the Senate were caught on the horns of a dilemma.

They were torn between two frenzied desires. While anxious to speed enactment of anti-labor legislation, they were confronted by the unexpected "emergency" called forth by the sudden presentation of a bill for establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission.

The Bilbo Bourbons decided that the most immediately pressing problem before the nation is to defend "white supremacy" against the ominous consequences of any federal law against racial discrimination in industry.

When a Senate majority on January 17 passed Senator Chavez's motion to take up the FEPC bill, a bloc of 15 Southern Senators rose to arms and launched their mightiest weapon — the filibuster.

Again a handful of wilful, vicious Southern leaders of the Democratic Party, dredged from the malodorous swamps of Southern white ruling class anti-Negro hatred, prepared to rant indefinitely in order to block action on the FEPC.

Senator George of Georgia declaimed in outrage against introducing the FEPC bill "in a time of industrial crisis, when the very life of this nation is at stake."

But that did not prevent him and his colleagues from proceeding to gum up the machinery of the Senate indefinitely in order to ensure that 13,000,000 Negro citizens of the United States are kept in a permanent position of servitude and second-class citizenship. Senators Eastland and Bilbo, veteran banner-bearers for the "white supremacy" scam, proclaimed their determination to talk the Senate to death, if need be. Eastland said he personally was prepared to talk two years against the measure. More modestly, Bilbo said, "I pro-

pose to exercise my right to speak twice on the measure — for 30 days each time."

Cautious Senator Ellender of Louisiana merely promised to spout "as long as God gives me breath."

First in the hopper of the "1,000 amendments" which the Bourbon bloc threatens to attach to the FEPC bill is an anti-closed shop rider prohibiting discrimination in employment because of "race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, OR MEMBERSHIP OR NON-MEMBERSHIP IN OR AFFILIATION OR NON-AFFILIATION WITH ANY LABOR UNIONS."

On January 18 the FEPC opponents revealed their first filibuster tactic. They began introducing "corrective" proposals for the permanent Journal of proceedings which required the reading of interminable records out loud.

Senator Overton of Louisiana opened a discussion devoted to the Journal, the Congressional Record, the Bible and anecdotes of his childhood days (apparently not yet over.)

This included the usual insulting tirade against Negroes such as: "Any nigger girl can walk into my office and the Federal Government would attempt to make me place her side by side with the other girls. I don't know what I'd do if anyone told me to do that."

Meanwhile the threat of "secession" spread its pall over the Senate. Senator Eastland telegraphed the Mississippi state legislature to "protect the sovereignty of Mississippi and the liberty and freedom of our people (meaning the rich Southern whites) by the passage of a nullification proclamation" if the FEPC bill should pass.

As for the Senate majority, they stand apparently helpless to halt the filibuster. They excuse their inaction on the ground of respecting the "democratic right" of this ultra-reactionary handful of "white supremacists" elected by a tiny minority in the poll-tax states.

For what are the democratic rights of 13,000,000 Negro Americans compared to the right of Senatorial "free speech" for their most vicious oppressors?

# What Strikers Must Guard Against

By The Editors

American labor stands at the most crucial juncture of a titanic battle for tremendous stakes.

In this battle, now spearheaded by 1,700,000 strikers, every worker understands the dangers threatening from the enemy camp of Big Business. The workers are prepared to fight these dangers to the utmost.

There has been NO WEAKNESS in the ranks of the workers. The rank and file have shown, and are showing, iron will and determination.

The two-month long strike of the GM workers plus a thousand picket lines throughout the land testify to their willingness and readiness to fight stubbornly for their just demands.

All the evidences of weakness, vacillation and timidity in this struggle have been exhibited by the top union leaders — and by them alone.

## How Demands Were Compromised

It suffices to show how the wage demands of the workers have been seriously compromised IN ADVANCE OF THE REAL BATTLE.

In the case of the steel workers, the union originally advanced the demand for a 25 cent an hour raise, \$2 a day. This wage increase can easily be paid by the steel companies without price rises and they will still make enormous profits.

At the first crack, Philip Murray under pressure from the government and in fear of militant action, reduced this demand to 19½ cents, a more than 20 per cent retreat.

Then Murray retreated another step by quickly yielding to Truman's proposal for an 18½-cent settlement.

Before a single real blow had been struck, Murray, entirely without consultation with the union ranks, had already given away 25 per cent of the union's demands.

This process has been repeated by the leaders of other major unions now on strike, notably the CIO Electrical and Packinghouse Unions.

The UE leaders retreated, even before the strike, from their original demand for 25 cents to a proposal to settle for 15 cents and negotiate the remainder. Before a picket line was set up, they handed away 40 per cent of the workers' demands! Similarly, the Packinghouse union leaders, who like UE had received only the most insulting and miserly wage offers from the profiteering trusts, were will-

ing to settle without a real fight for 17½ cents instead of 25 cents.

It was only the tremendous pressure from the workers on the one hand, and the completely contemptuous and uncompromising attitude of the corporations on the other which forced these union leaders to finally, though reluctantly, give the signal for battle.

BUT THEY HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEMSELVES TOO READY TO YIELD ON THE WAGE ISSUE UNDER GOVERNMENT PRESSURE. AND THAT REMAINS A GRAVE DANGER AT THIS MOST CRITICAL STAGE OF THE STRUGGLE.

But there is a still further danger, which was first clearly revealed in the Ford negotiations. There the CIO United Auto Workers leaders, in response to an arrogant demand from Ford, submitted a proposal for COMPANY SECURITY which would give the corporation the right to fine and fire union militants who might be provoked into so-called "unauthorized strikes."

Company security provisions, though in a more disguised and modified form, have already been accepted by the CIO Oil Workers leadership, and incorporated into the UAW's contract with the new Kaiser-Frazier corporation.

## Only One Answer to Corporations

One after another, the big corporations, starting with General Motors, have taken the cue from the Ford proposal. They have abrogated contracts in anticipation of confronting the unions with their particular brand of "company security" — that is, the means for victimizing the best union fighters, terrorizing union members, and undermining the unions. At the same time labor-hating Congressmen are preparing legislation which would compel the incorporation of company security clauses in all union contracts.

Everybody knows that the government's proposal for an 18½ cent increase in steel and 19½ cents in General Motors was the direct consequence of the militant strike of the GM workers. It did not come from the goodness of heart of the capitalist administration.

This is the most conclusive evidence that the strikes now sweeping the country can be won and maximum wage gains secured only by the most determined and militant action on the picket lines.

# Western Electric Strikers Fight Injunction Threats

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

KEARNY, N. J., Jan. 19 — The heavy club of government strikebreaking by threat of seizure of the nation's phones forced officials of the National Association of Telephone Workers to call off last week's paralyzing strike of 265,000 phone workers.

The NFTW leaders announced last Sunday that they will proceed with plans for a strike vote under the Smith-Connally Act for February 16. This impending strike will not only back

up the Western Electric strike but will push for \$2 per day for all phone workers.

Ending of the nationwide sympathy strike found the 17,400 strikers of the Western Electric Employees Association (NFTW) further pressed by company attacks. Last Tuesday seven picket captains were arrested at the main gate of the huge plant here when they refused to permit taxi-cabs loaded with company officials through the gates.

### INJUNCTION ISSUED

Thursday night, the Union was served with a surprise injunction issued by Vice-Chancellor James Fiedler of Jersey City, restricting pickets to 10 at the main gate. This brazen strike breaking injunction was illegally issued on complaint of the company without the union even being notified of the court hearings!

The company immediately utilized this injunction to order all supervisory employees to report to work and they are now escorted through the picket lines by police. It is apparent that only mass picketing by thousands can nullify this injunction.

Meanwhile, in addition to the nation-wide phone walkout on February 16, other Western Electric plants, also affiliated with the NFTW, will poll their memberships for an immediate sympathy strike to tie up Western Electric production of 32,000 workers in Hawthorne and Cicero, Ill., Ft. Breeze, Md., and Maspeth, Long Island.

# Baltimore UE Shuts 6 Plants

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

BALTIMORE, Jan. 18 — Carrying out its slogan of "Every member a picket," CIO United Electrical Workers Local 130 has been maintaining large picket lines around all of the six Westinghouse plants here.

Although the strike is only in its fourth day the union committees are functioning efficiently, supplying the pickets with coffee, setting up effective picket lines, and preparing for all emergencies. These 1,500 Westinghouse strikers are prepared for a long struggle.

They are determined to take their part in the fight against the giant corporations, and do a good job of it.