

Steel Workers Climax 50-Year Struggle, Close Down Entire Industry

Workers Of The World, Unite!

Historic Battles With Steel Kings Inspire Pickets

By Art Preis

(Staff Reporter, The Militant)

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 23 — South along the snaky Monongahela, northwest along the broad Ohio, northeast along the Allegheny, immense tentacles of steel plants reach out from this city of smoke and steel and stretch for scores of miles beside the river banks.

For the past three days, these plants have sprawled lifeless. No smoke or flame belches forth from the squatting steel monsters, with their huge spines of stacks rising from the open hearths and furnaces.

Those whose labor fed these monsters and pumped life-blood through their iron veins have risen up in titanic revolt. Now the steelworkers of all races, creeds, colors and nationalities are on strike. 227,000 of them in this vast steel valley alone, 800,000 throughout the land, are engaged in the mightiest battle of their lives.

New Fires Are Burning Now

When I saw the mills in their immense silence last night, only great ghosts of structures in blankets of snow-covered roofs stood dimly outlined behind iron-spiked or barbed-wire-topped surrounding walls. There was only blackness in the skies instead of fierce red glare and spurting flames.

Other and smaller fires are burning now, visible only as glowing red dots from a short distance. They are far different from the ore-eating, man-eating conflagrations that a few days ago roared and blazed inside the mills. These are friendly fires, meant to warm and comfort pickets in the long, freezing, vigil of the near-zero night.

These glowing coals in coke-fueled steel barrels, called salamanders, form a mighty chain up and down the valley and the river banks. They have become symbols of union strength and hope opposed to the tyrannical power of the steel bosses.

Hundreds and hundreds of these metal-barrel heaters burn night and day at the innumerable gates, entrances and possible entrances to the steel kingdoms. And always near and around them are the slow-circling clusters of men and women of steel, keeping their day and night-long guards in American labor's greatest strike siege.

Here at the moment there is no outward drama of clashing bodies, the sickening crack of state troopers' clubs, the metallic ring of the horses' hooves as they surge

(Continued on Page 2)

POLICE TERROR HURLED AGAINST L.A. STRIKERS

By M. Patrick

(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19 — Police terror and brutality stalked the streets of Los Angeles, Thursday, January 17, as 100 police, armed with clubs and tear gas, routed a picket line of 1500 United Electrical-CIO strikers and sympathizers, at the United States Motors Corporation plant.

Trouble had been brewing since members of UE Local 1421 went out on strike against U. S. Motors on Friday, January 11.

On Saturday, January 12, office workers who had been ordered by the company to crash the lines or suffer loss of pay, attempted to go through, but were repulsed.

On Monday, police charged the line of 500 pickets, knocking one woman unconscious and injuring others in an attempt to get office workers through.

Tuesday, with the aid of 100 police who opened the line, office workers gained access to the plant.

THURSDAY EVENTS

Thursday, 1500 pickets marched in solid formation, six abreast,

(Continued on Page 7)

GI Describes How Soldiers On Okinawa Organized Mass Protest Demonstrations

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

(The following eye-witness account of GI protest meetings on Okinawa describes vividly how the soldiers there, inspired by news of the first GI demonstration in Manila, organized their own action to demand "Get Us Home!")

OKINAWA, Jan. 13 — The information that came over the radio a few weeks back that GIs in Manila had staged a demonstration against the demobilization snafu had a tremendous effect here.

Every place you went, wherever there were two or more soldiers, the subject was: "Let's call a meeting"; "Let's go on strike"; "They did it there, we can do it here." A rash of mimeographed leaflets sprang up. A couple of men were busted for mimeographing pamphlets.

Then on January ninth, an impromptu meeting of about 1,000 GIs was held. A couple of members of the American Veterans Committee were there and after a while they got up and spoke for their outfit. They asked the men to come to a meeting to be held Sunday, January 13, at the Soldiers Bowl.

OFFICERS MUTTER

The next night there was an AVC meeting that I attended. About 100 were present, including a colonel, a number of majors, captains and second lieutenants. Also a large number of G-2 men (Intelligence). The colonel kept muttering to a major sitting next to him: "They can't do anything. They can't do a damn thing." When he left he said to his aide, "Definitely communist."

A couple of the GIs got up and spoke. They said they had

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CIO CHARGES GOVERNMENT FINANCES STRIKEBREAKING

Ohio Strikers Demand State Jobless Aid

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 26 — The Mahoning County CIO Council set up a committee this Tuesday to launch an aggressive state-wide campaign to amend the Ohio Unemployment Compensation law to provide payments for workers and veterans out on strike.

This Committee is calling upon all other CIO bodies in Ohio to cooperate in its drive to force the governor to call a special session of the legislature immediately for favorable action on this matter.

Unemployment compensation is a burning issue here. In addition to the scores of thousands of steel workers on strike throughout Ohio, there are 10,000 CIO electrical workers on strike in this district alone.

OFFICE JAMMED

The Bureau of Unemployment Compensation office has been jammed by workers and veterans filing claims since the companies started laying off men as they shut down plants in preparation for the strike. These workers and veterans will receive nothing unless the CIO-sponsored campaign to amend the law is successful.

In Pennsylvania, only five miles from here, strikers are entitled to compensation. But even in this neighboring state, the overwhelming majority of veterans are barred by law from receiving such benefits. A delegation of striking veterans has already marched on the State Capitol at Harrisburg to change the law.

Up to now, Governor Lausche of Ohio has given the CIO a run-around on this issue. The Mahoning County CIO Council is calling a mass meeting in Youngstown Sunday, February 3 at 3 p.m. at the Central Auditorium, 225 West Boardman, to force the capitalist politicians to make their stand clear.

TEAR GAS!

Then the police moved in, swinging clubs at the heads of the pickets. Workers retaliated with fists and crash helmets, their only weapons to offset the riot clubs of the police. The police gave ground and the line was intact. Again the police tried to crash the line and failed.

As police retired to gather their forces for a third assault, (Continued on Page 7)



Smash It Open!

Ford, Chrysler Agree To Wage Increases Of 18c, 18 1-2c Hourly

IN THE NEWS

The Bigger The Lie . . .

C. E. Wilson, president of General Motors Corporation, told the Senate Labor Committee's hearing on the "fact-finding" bill: "I'd be a Socialist, too, if I thought the American people would be happier under any other form of government."

The War On Labor?

President Truman's executive order for government seizure of the strike, bound meat packing plants stated that as a result of existing and threatened strikes "the war effort will be unduly impeded."

Too Hot To Hold

Saginaw, Mich., officials last week removed fireproofs used by General Motors pickets to keep warm, when the Saginaw Manufacturers Association demanded enforcement of a city ordinance prohibiting fires on public property. The CIO auto workers union threatened to make it hot for city officials, so the City Council promptly amended the ordinance. The fireproofs were returned and are burning as usual.

Makes Them See Red

"States-rights" Congressmen on January 24 attacked as "communist" the federal government's \$50,000,000 free school lunch program. Said Representative Cleveland of Ohio, "The same forces are back of this as the FEPC and other similar bills. This is one of those cases where we're going to make a detour on the Communist road."

His Aim Realized

Right after Pearl Harbor Roosevelt secretly wrote Churchill, "I am frank to say that I feel better about the war than at any time in the past two years." (N. Y. Times, January 26, 1946.)

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

DETROIT, Jan. 26 — The lengthy wage negotiations between the Ford Motor Company and Chrysler Corporation, two of the automotive industry's "Big Three," and the CIO United Auto Workers, terminated today in an agreement for an 18-cent an hour increase for the Ford workers and 18½ cents for the Chrysler workers.

General Motors Workers, whose courageous 10-week strike has been responsible for forcing these wage concessions in the auto industry, are continuing to hold their picket lines firm. They are determined to force General Motors to grant at least the 19½ cents an hour which Truman's fact-finding panel recommended, but which the multi-billion dollar corporation rejected.

Although the GM workers returned to their original demand for a 30 cent increase when GM failed to meet the union's deadline for acceptance of the government's proposal, Walter Reuther, UAW vice-president, stated after the announcement of the Ford and Chrysler settlements that the union would not settle for less than 19½ cents from GM.

So far, it was announced, only wage rates have been agreed upon in the Ford negotiations. Other contract provisions, it was reported, have not yet been worked out in detail.

If the union locals vote to approve the settlement, the increase for the Ford workers will amount to slightly over 15 per cent. Chrysler workers, whose present rates are lower than those at Ford, will receive a 16.7 per cent increase. These increases are slightly better than half of the original union demand.

Big Business Plot To Smash Unions

CIO President Philip Murray on January 22 charged a "sinister conspiracy" exists among the big corporations to raise prices, crush the unions and keep down wages.

The heads of the big corporations have hypocritically denied this grave charge. For instance, on January 25, a few days after Murray's declaration, C. E. Wilson, head of General Motors, swore before the Senate Labor Committee that "it would be impossible for us to get together on a mutual basis."

Murray Asks Prompt Repeal Of Tax Aid To Monopolists

CIO President Philip Murray, who also heads the striking CIO United Steelworkers of America, last week charged that the federal government is helping to finance strike-breaking and union-busting through tax rebates and similar measures to insure Big Business against any profit losses.

Detroit Stalinists Try To Put Ban On "Militant"

By Kay O'Brien

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Jan. 25 — Alarm over the growing success and influence of The Militant and over their own loss of prestige among the workers, the Stalinists here are attempting to whip up a lynch spirit against the Socialist Workers Party members and supporters.

Unable to answer the factual reports and powerful working class political ideas in The Militant, these unprincipled agents of the Stalin bureaucracy are resorting to their usual filthy lies and slanders.

STALINIST FALSEHOOD

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board of Detroit Transmission Local 735, UAW-CIO, which is on strike against General Motors, the Stalinists jammed through a motion to bar the distribution of The Militant on the picket lines. They then rushed into print with an account of this shameful action in the Daily Worker, January 23, adding the falsehood that two other GM Locals in Flint had taken similar action.

Thus, the Stalinists are trying to replace labor's hard-won (Continued on Page 6)

CIO Meat Packers Return After Resisting Seizure

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special To The Militant)

CHICAGO, Jan. 26 — After denouncing Truman's government seizure of the struck meat-packing plants as a "strikebreaking action" and refusing for 24 hours to call off the strike of 200,000 CIO United Packinghouse Workers members, UPWA-CIO conference delegates here today voted to end the picketing at 5 p.m. this evening and return to work Monday.

Their decision to return to work after eleven days of the greatest strike the industry has ever known, came only after 300 delegates, representing 267 local unions, received a belated assurance in a telegram from Secretary of Agriculture Anderson that the government would raise packinghouse wages in line with a "fact-finding" board's awaited report.

In his original order for seizure of the plants, Truman included no directive for granting any wage gains to the terribly exploited packinghouse workers. They were supposed to return at the former wages and conditions of work against which they had struck.

CHARACTERIZE MOVE

At the same time, the union did not withdraw its characterization of Truman's action as a strikebreaking move. It is clear that the union's previous resistance to the seizure forced the administration to hastily indicate that wage increase, the amount not yet specified, would be forthcoming shortly.

Immediately following the unanimous vote yesterday of the UPWA delegates not to call off the strike in the face of government seizure, the union's president, Lewis Clark, charged that Truman "has engaged in a strikebreaking action the sole effect of which can be to play into the hands of the packers." He claimed that the union had received prior assurances (Continued on Page 3)

ON THE INSIDE

- Buffalo Strikes2
- GIs Mistreated3
- Tobacco Strike6
- Fontana Victim Dies7
- Youngstown Steel Strike8

COLUMNS AND FEATURES

- Veterans Problems4
- Workers Forum5
- The Negro Struggle7
- Diary of Steelworker8
- Notes of A Seaman8

STEEL STRIKE CLIMAXES 50-YEAR TRADITION OF STRUGGLE

(Continued from Page 1)

forward to ride down and crush the picketing workers, such as I saw in Bethlehem, Pa., in 1941.

But here there is an even more profound and stirring drama. Here there is the inspiring example of hundreds of thousands of workers, rising up out of a half-century of immense labors, hardships and tragedies, out of fierce and bloody struggles and terrible defeats, to forge a new and stronger unity in action.

Whatever the final outcome of the immediate wage issues in dispute, the steel workers have already gained a colossal triumph in the unity they have displayed in this unprecedented struggle for their right to live in decency, comfort and security.

The Heart Of Steel

I spent all of today in Homestead and Braddock, two great citadels of Big Steel sprawling their miles of plants along the Monongahela. This is in the very heart of the nation's greatest steel area, where the steel industry grew from infancy and the earliest struggles of the steel workers took place.

Every foot of ground in these towns is rich in the traditions of the steel workers. Here a worker's child learns early in life to know the mills as well as its own mother's face. Here, the grandfathers and fathers of today's steel fighters fought and shed their blood and died in the cause of labor at a time when they had to stand alone and isolated against the armed brutality of the steel potentates and their government agencies.

Through the morning and afternoon I talked with men and women steel workers in their crowded, busy union halls, in taverns, on street corners and on the picket lines, where I did my turn with the men as I questioned them about their problems and their views.

"Just think," said Andy Steiner to me this morning at Sam and Jerry's, the only union bar in Homestead, "just think, it was 27 years from the 'Battle of the Pinkertons' in 1892, when we had the first strike, to the next strike in 1919. Now it is going on 27 years—and we got another strike. Make something of that."

Andy is one of the thousands of active CIO Steelworkers Local 1397 members who are doing their bit to keep a ring of steel-hearted men and women around the big Carnegie-Illinois plant in Homestead. He is doing a special chore helping to build shelters at the entrances to protect pickets from the biting cold.

Building On The Old Traditions

Andy and the others are making something out of the traditions of the old struggles. After each bitter defeat, a whole new generation has risen and carried forward the battle to greater heights. Each generation has built anew on the fighting traditions of the old, transforming the heroic memories of the past into the inspiration for the present battle, the battle which every steel worker I have talked to is convinced must be and will be fought through this time, to victory.

There is scarcely a child in Homestead who cannot recount to you the story of the first great bloody struggle in July, 1892. There are still surviving a half-dozen or so men, now in their 70's, 80's and 90's, who stood with their fellow workers on the banks of the river and turned the Civil War memorial cannons against the boat-loads of Pinkerton agents coming in to break that first strike.

Then there are their sons, men in their fifties and sixties, who went down to cruel defeat in the 1919 steel strike but are today marching again in the class fight that can know no final end until the workers eliminate capitalist exploitation forever.

In the Local 1397 union hall, where Andy Steiner took me to see the old framed picture of scenes of the great 1892 struggle, I talked with several old-timers from the 1919 strike.

This Is Different, This Is Better

All said the same thing, in almost the same words: "This is different—this is better—we're all together now, here and all over the country. Yes—this is different."

Among these old-timers, I spoke with several Negro workers who had been brought in from the South by the corporation during the last war to be used as strikebreakers. Then race hatred had been used to the hilt by the company to divide and disorganize the workers.

"Yes," said one of these veteran Negro workers who has toiled 30 years in the plant, "I worked during that strike. A lot of us did, and a lot of the white workers did. We didn't know any better then, we didn't understand what they were using us for. There never was more than 60 per cent of the men out then."

"But now it's different," he said, looking with shining eyes of pride around the hall at the workers, men and women, black and white, working and fighting together for their common betterment. "Today, we're all in this like we should be, standing together." And from every white worker I heard only glowing tribute to the union loyalty and fighting spirit of the Negro workers, who today are playing a truly significant role in this gigantic battle.

In the room used for the strike canteen, two motherly middle-aged women were serving coffee and doughnuts. They told me they worked as janitresses in the plant.

Widows, with large families and dependents, one of them takes home \$43 every two weeks and the other, \$47. That's just one small but telling fact about the "big" wages the steel corporation propagandists have been lying about

Homestead Workers Picket Where Martyrs Of 1892 Fought



Members of CIO Steelworkers Local 1397 encircle the big Carnegie-Illinois plant in Homestead, Pa. This was the scene of the first great bloody struggle with the steel bosses in July 1892. Survivors of that historic battle re-

mind the present generation of steel workers how the corporation sent boat-loads of Pinkerton agents to smash the picket lines.

N. Y. Daily News Photo

in the press and over the radio.

Other workers, including one who had been 33 years in the mill, told me they have been working only two or three days a week since V-J Day. Some, among the skilled workers, who were getting \$1.24 an hour, have been downgraded to 96 cents, and in their last pay check took home the "magnificent" two-week total of \$31. One said, "I asked them to give me what they took off in taxes and insurance and I'd give them my pay check back. I'd be better off that way."

Are the men and women ready to hold out? A Negro worker told me with a chuckle, "We made it through the depression, didn't we? And this isn't going to be any worse than that. We'll make it through this no matter how long it lasts."

Now Everybody's Together

That's the spirit of the steel strikers and that's the spirit I observed on the picket lines after we left the union hall. Out on the picket line at the Open Hearth No. 4 gate, I spoke to the young assistant picket captain, who said enthusiastically, "It's really surprising how everybody is doing his bit. Hardly anyone is renegeing on the picket assignments. Everything is pretty smooth and well-planned."

There on the line I marched around for a spell and talked with one foreign-born worker who had been in the midst of the bitterest clashes in the 1919 strike.

"You don't know what a difference. In the last strike, they called it a 'hunkies' strike, a 'foreigners' strike.' Right here where we are picketing, the company police and the

state troopers beat us on the head with clubs. They went right into the workers' homes—smashed everything up.

"But now—we got everybody together—everybody," he said with intense feeling. "Even the company police—they're organized in a union, they don't even carry guns any more."

At that very moment, one of the two young company police sitting in the booth at the gate, came out and strode over to where Eloise Gordon, our Militant representative in this area, was talking to the pickets around the salamander while distributing last week's issue of the paper.

In the most friendly fashion, the company guard asked for a Militant and bore it off in triumph. A few moments later he came back and pleaded with Eloise for another copy "to take home for myself to read."

"You're working," said Eloise, to the delight of the pickets, "why don't you get yourself a six-month subscription for 50 cents." "Oh, I will," he assured her, "only I can't right now and I want to take it home and read it first to see what it's like." Eloise gave him one more copy.

Later we walked into town to see the simple eight-foot white stone marker put up in 1941 by the steel locals at the entrance to the West Street High Level bridge to commemorate the courageous men who fought and died in the 1892 historic forerunner of the present battle. Right across the road is the Homestead "Roll of Honor" listing the names of the local boys who were taken into the armed forces in World War II. Most of them were the boys of steel workers. Thus stand the two markers symbolizing the steel workers who died in the class struggle and those who

Indiana Harbor Veterans Back Steel Workers On Picket Lines

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

INDIANA HARBOR, Ind., Jan. 24—Responding to a call for solidarity with the striking steel workers issued by the veterans' committees of Youngstown Sheet and Tube Local 1011 and Inland Steel Local 1010, CIO United Steel Workers, about 150 striking veterans met this afternoon at the Indiana Harbor union headquarters.

The twofold purpose of the meeting was to have the veterans exert pressure on the Veterans Administration by registering for readjustment pay under the GI Bill of Rights for the duration of the strike, and to demonstrate the veterans' support of the strike by taking over the picket line at Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co., Indiana Harbor.

E. Campbell, chairman of Youngstown Local 1011 veterans' committee, asserted that since Murray had accepted President Truman's compromise recom-

mandation of 18 1/2 cents, (below Murray's own compromise offer), the corporation's refusal to accept Truman's proposal in reality constitutes a "lock-out," which has shut down the plants.

Then Ted Markovich, chairman of the veterans' committee of Inland Steel Local 1010, declared that even though the veterans are calling the dispute a "lock-out" they are supporting the union's fight 100 per cent and are proving it on the picket lines.

He went on to state further that reactionary, anti-labor forces are trying to make it seem that the veterans support the many anti-labor bills before Congress.

This, he pointed out, is absolutely false. Most of the veterans are in labor's ranks and

many of them are on the picket lines today.

To prove that the veterans are behind the fight for the union, he urged each veteran to sign cards printed by the veterans' committees and addressed to Senator Homer Capehart, Senator Raymond Willis and Representative Ray J. Madden. The text of the cards is as follows: "Honorable Gentlemen:

"The several proposed legislations to restrict the American workingman's right to strike are measures aimed at the liberty and independence of our union.

"Many senators and congressmen assume that veterans particularly desire these bills. This assumption is false. We bitterly oppose all anti-labor legislation and appeal to you to counteract these measures. A good majority of working men are veterans of World Wars I and II."

Each veteran present signed three of the cards, sending one to each of the above-mentioned congressmen.

After the meeting the veter-

died in the imperialist war to enrich the barons who murdered their grandfathers and fathers in 1892 and 1919.

On our way back from visiting the memorial stone, we experienced the most exciting moment of the day in Homestead. Looking down the hill toward the main gate of the plant, we saw a mass picket line circling before the entrance. Strung before the gate was another small straight line of individuals, from which every few seconds one would detach himself and hurry into the plant gates.

We hurried over and learned it was time for the administrative and supervisory people, as well as the CIO maintenance crews to go into the plant under the rigid inspection of the union pickets.

The "white badge" men, better dressed, softer-looking than the picketing workers, were being used by the company to put on a show of marching into the plant in a body. The pickets threw their circle close, so that only one man could pass through at a time. Meanwhile the picket captain and assistant picket captains closely inspected the passes and jerked back the coat collars to inspect each white badge to insure that only legitimate "pushers" and supervisors went in, according to the agreement with the union.

"But if one of them so much as picks up a screw-driver—out he goes and stays out," the picket captain said. "They can only come in through this one gate, and some of them have to go two miles inside the plant to their departments. There's nothing to do in there. All they do is play cards. But the management thinks it's playing 'psychology.'"

A Veteran Turns The Tables

We watched the most aggressive of the picket captains, a little, wiry young fellow who had recently returned from 33 months' army service in Europe.

As each "white badge" came up to the line, the veteran's elbow would jut out and catch the supervisor in the crook of the arm. "Pass?" he would snap. "Badge?" he would bark, pulling open a coat collar to get a better view. "OK." We watched that elbow jab out methodically and halt the meek "white badge" men.

In one pause, the little tough veteran turned to us and grinned slyly: "That's psychology, too!"

That jabbing elbow of the little veteran was a bit of living testimony to the might of the organized steel workers. Never before in all the history of steel have there been such scenes. Who ever heard of the one-time domineering and arrogant supervisory flunkies of the corporation halting humbly before the plant gate at the imperative prod of a steel worker's elbow?

Braddock Spirit Is The Same

Over in Braddock later on, we witnessed the same determined spirit among the members of Local 1219 at the big Carnegie-Illinois plant there. We talked to the steel militants in the local union hall, crowded to the door. Later we climbed up and down the icy slopes to visit various groups of pickets around the ever-present and ever-welcome glowing salamanders.

As in Homestead and everywhere else in the steel valley, the workers of Braddock are indignant about the propaganda the steel barons are putting out to the effect that the average steel worker's wage is \$1.23 an hour.

In the union hall, the workers eagerly told me some of the true facts of their conditions.

"Since the end of the war," said one worker, "we have had very little overtime. For unskilled labor alone the 40-hour week has meant a loss of roughly \$40 a month in take-home pay. Remember that 70 per cent of the men here are classified as unskilled labor, getting 78 1/2 cents an hour."

Another, a boilermaker among the top layer of wage earners, exclaimed: "A buck twenty-three an hour! Why the pushers here only get \$1.18. The average boilermaker gets only around \$1.05 1/2. The average wage—if you don't figure in what management gets—runs to about 89 cents an hour. The men in here, a lot of them, been taking home about \$48 in cash after two weeks' work."

One big, hearty worker stated heatedly, "If we were supposed to be getting \$1.23 an hour like the papers say, then we boys got a helluva lot of back pay coming. Every time I see my foreman, I yell at him, 'Hey, when am I going to get all my back pay?'"

A New Headline For Labor

On our return from Braddock, we passed once more through Homestead and got a last glimpse of the memorial to the martyrs of 1892. And I suddenly recalled the headline I saw in yesterday's Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: "Steel Output Hits 50-Year Low"—the lowest, in fact, since the 1892 strike.

And I thought too of another headline being written today by this gigantic national steel strike of 800,000 workers, a headline those old pioneer steel labor fighters would have been proud to see. This headline proclaims that all the struggle, suffering and sacrifice of more than half a century have not been in vain:

"STEEL LABOR MORALE, UNITY AND FIGHTING POWER REACHES A 50-YEAR HIGH."

Buffalo Workers Strike 40,000 Strong; Union Plane Tracks Food Flown To Scabs

BUFFALO, N. Y. Jan. 26—Over 40,000 workers in more than 60 plants are out on strike in the greatest display of labor's might this area has ever seen.

Headed by the valiant General Motors strikers, 6,000 strong, who are manning picket lines for the ninth consecutive week, the strike forces include 33,000 steel workers from more than 40 mills and foundries, and many others from CIO Electrical, Auto and Office Workers unions.

STRIKEBREAKING MOVES

Everywhere in the area the plants silhouetted against the gray winter sky, are cold, empty and deserted. And everywhere there is the ceaseless activity of pickets holding tight their sector of labor's nationwide battle lines against the profit-bloated corporations.

The latest developments on the steel front have been the desperate efforts by Bethlehem Steel corporation to feed the handful

of scabs and officials imprisoned in the Lackawanna plant for two weeks by the ceaseless vigilance of the pickets. Having failed to crash the lines or to bring supplies by boat, the company managed to get in some supplies by plane. A union plane is now on the job to track the scab-supplying machine to its home field. The pickets will no doubt take it up from there.

In another strikebreaking move, the company is trying to discredit the union and injure its standing with the general public. The wife of a foreman now scabbing in the plant claims that union men are to blame for a fire at her house in broad daylight, and that they have threatened her over the telephone. The "Lackawanna Striker," daily strike paper of the steel workers, correctly exposes this as an attempt to start a smear campaign against the union.

The Bethlehem steel strike is the largest in this area. Here 11,000 members of five CIO United Steelworkers locals who went out January 11, when the strikebreaking preparations of the company became evident, are conducting a 24-hour picket line.

STRIKERS' VIGILANCE
Displaying considerable organizing ability, the Bethlehem strikers, have set up well-oiled machinery with an efficient centralized picket dispatching system. The picket captains meet regularly and the pickets work in four-hour shifts. Mass meetings are held which keep the strikers informed and serve as a means to get more men on the line. The "Lackawanna Striker" appears daily and is eagerly awaited by the men.

A veterans' committee has been set up with Lully Rosenthal as Chairman and vets are prominent on the picket lines which are composed of all nationalities and races working in steel.

Unity in action and purpose is certainly the keynote of the workers in this area fighting on the picket lines for a living wage

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LOCKED-IN J. & L. BOSSES ON REDUCING DIET

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 22—Two truck-loads of food which the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation tried to smuggle onto river barges to sneak in to supervisory employes barricaded in the Hazelwood mill, failed to reach their destination due to the vigilance of strike pickets. The trucks contained numerous delicacies, including turkeys, quantities of cold cuts and butter.

One of the supervisors, on his own request, was escorted in a weakened condition out of the plant by the pickets. He complained that all they had to eat in the plant was weinies and grapefruit juice.

To relieve the monotony of their long vigil, pickets have been phoning into the plants inquiring: "Hey, boss, how you eating?"

Stalinist 'Exception' To The GI Demands

An Editorial

The Stalinists have replied with cynical hypocrisy to the world-wide demands of the GIs for rapid demobilization. The Stalinists say they favor demobilization of all men in the armed forces "except those essential for occupation."

This formula which appeared in the December 23 Worker, official organ of the Communist Party, has since been repeated by the Stalinists in almost every article about GI demonstrations.

Why this duplicity of the Stalinists? Why don't they back the GIs 100 per cent? The reason is that, as faithful followers of the Kremlin, they insist on withdrawing U. S. troops from those areas such as China where Stalin wants them out.

But in those countries where Stalin's policy coincides with that of Anglo-American imperialism, the Stalinists actually support Wall Street's policy of maintaining capitalist rule by armed force against socialist revolutions or colonial uprisings.

The War Department, for instance, has "assured" men in the service that all will be demobilized except those needed for occupation duties. This is virtually the same formula advocated by the American Stalinists!

A January 8 editorial in the Daily Worker shows how the Stalinist leaders line up with Wall Street's counter-revolutionary objectives. "We have duties to fulfill in the armies of occupation," the American Stalinists declare. The "we" is Wall Street—not the American working class. The "duties" are the imperialist aims for which General Eisenhower says he needs a million and a half soldiers, the very dirty "duties" against which American soldiers are protesting.

Every worker must back the demands of the protesting GIs to the hilt. No treacherous evasions! Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!

February F.I. Analyzes American Labor Upsurge

There are two Americas: the America of the stock exchange and the banking houses; and the America of the toilers, the poor people who work for a living," states the leading editorial on "The New Upsurge of American Labor" in the February Fourth International, just off the press.

Pointing out that the labor movement of America is 14 million strong—the largest trade union movement ever built in a capitalist country—the editorial explains why the present strike wave is unfolding on a much higher level than the struggles of the American working class in preceding years.

In 1919 millions of militant rank and file workers were also aroused to struggle in the labor upsurge which swept the country after the last war. But at that time "the mass industries remained by and large unorganized... the reactionary AFL leadership of the AFL dominated the mass movement." As a consequence the industrialists finally succeeded in crushing the strike wave and "imposing the rule of the open shop in the country's major industries."

But labor rose again. A series of victories culminating in the triumph of the powerful CIO in 1936-37 has completely altered the relationship of forces between the capitalists and the labor movement. Today, "the huge unions in auto, steel, electric, coal, etc., represent the strongest unions of the whole world; strongest in numbers, in organization, in recent fighting experience, in aggressiveness and self-confidence."

UNINTERRUPTED GROWTH Even the war, the editorial points out, could not interrupt the growth of this trade union movement. True, severe blows were dealt the labor movement during the last four years, when it was forced into a series of temporary retreats. Today, however, the "emergence of labor from the war with all of its strength is testimony to the solid structure that labor built in the period of heroic growth in the great sit-down strikes of ten years ago."

The editorial goes on to explain the connection between the upsurge of labor in this country and the general leftward swing of the masses throughout the world. It points out that American imperialism embarked on its quest for world empire, is turning "with redoubled fury upon the main enemy—the working class at home" so that tomorrow it may proceed without obstacles in its plot to enslave the whole world.

But, the editorial sums up, Portland, Ore. Myra Tanner Weiss Los Angeles Organizer, SWP Will Speak On 'Vigilante Terror In Fontana' Friday, Feb. 15 Socialist Workers Party 134 S. W. Washington 3rd Floor 7:30 p.m.

Shocking Brutality Exposed By GIs Confined In U. S. Army Guardhouse

GI Describes Mass Protests On Okinawa

(Continued from Page 1)

speech over the radio. It could easily be sold to the New Yorker magazine as a typical army cliché article. It was full of such favorite bywords as "The Team," (i.e. the Army), "Our Mission," etc. In brief, he said that he needs men to set up installations and warehouses. And not one word on demobilization.

The men got burned up about it. Especially about the part where he mentioned "the honored dead of Okinawa graveyards." The way they figure it—what the hell did he know about the honored dead?

So came this afternoon, at two o'clock. We had to drive a Jeep about 20 miles to get there. I arrived a little late. I didn't miss anything at the beginning—just a recruiting speech or two for the AVC.

12,000 ROAR

They must have received permission to talk about demobilization, however, as the chairman of the meeting got up and said: "I understand some of you men have something to say about demobilization." There was a roar from the 12,000 throats. They took any man from the audience who wanted to speak and gave him a maximum of two minutes. Well, they took off—but good. They ripped into the General's speech.

Speaker after speaker said: "We can't trust the War Department." "We can't trust the brass hats in Washington." "We have to take things into our own hands." They asked a lot of embarrassing questions. They quoted the 13th amendment to the Constitution. A bunch of Negro soldiers got up and said their piece, to the effect: "We're all in this together, for better or worse." They got a big hand. The meeting broke up after a number of telegrams were sent to Congress.

ATTITUDES CHANGE

A couple of months ago the men were almost solidly for universal conscription on the basis that this would allow them to get home sooner. Now, however, they see conscription and volunteering for the regular army going at an unprecedented rate and they're still being slowed down. They have turned against conscription.

There has also been a change in the attitude toward labor. A couple of months ago they were wont to say: "Those S.O.B.'s ought to be put in the army and take my place." But now they put it: "What the hell, they've got to live. Living is getting to be pretty tough, with layoffs, and so forth." And then, surprisingly often: "We ought to go on strike too, all over the world." Union terminology punctuates their statements these days: "Organize," "Sitdown," "Send our representative."

The living conditions here are abominable. "Support Fourth International. Workers of all lands unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains and a world to gain. Down with capitalism."

"The world today stands amazed, as well as aghast, at the military power which Wall Street has unleashed. The peoples of the world are due to be amazed—an amazement filled with admiration and solidarity—at the power of the American working class."

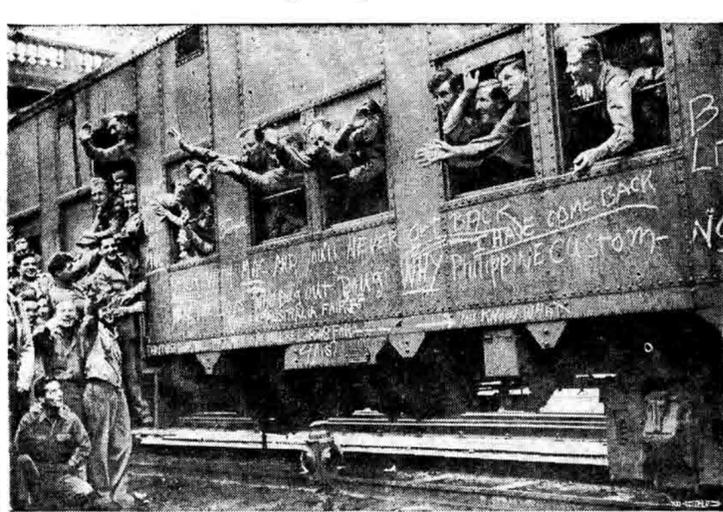
The February Fourth International also includes a timely article on "American Imperialism in the Philippines" by Chris Andrews and an article on "Democracy or Bonapartism in Europe" by Pierre Frank, written shortly before the French elections last October.

ON PALESTINE

The third and last section of the important series on "The Middle East at the Crossroads" by T. Cliff, a Palestinian Trotskyist, deals with the policies of the various political tendencies active within the working class there. "The Arsenal of Marxism" features "Discussions with Trotsky on the Transitional Program" of the Fourth International held June 7, 1938.

With their "stabilizing force" excuse, Wall Street's spokesmen are getting closer to the truth. U. S. imperialism wants GIs stationed indefinitely in China to "stabilize" Chiang's dictatorial regime against the will of the Chinese people.

A Sample Of GI Protests



This picture taken last October expresses the feelings of members of the 32nd and 41st Divisions, first infantry outfits sent to the Pacific. The signs chalked on the sides of cars won these soldiers early release. Instead of being sent overseas, they were returned to Ft. Sheridan, Ill., for discharge. One of the quips directed against General MacArthur reads: "Move over God, it's Mac."

"Go Home!" Shout Students To American GIs In China

Twenty thousand Chinese students marching through the streets of Shanghai on January 13 defied police efforts to disperse them and shouted at Americans along the route: "Why don't you go home?"

Leaders of the students said the demonstration was part of a nationwide movement demanding establishment of a democratic China and withdrawal of United States forces. The following day thousands of students again paraded in Shanghai's streets. They demanded that American troops quit China and shouted "Down with imperialism!"

Besides the desire of the Chinese people to solve their problems without interference from Wall Street's forces, they have other reasons for urging immediate withdrawal of American troops.

The Chinese people suffer daily from the brutality of American military police. "In railroad stations crowds cringe back from the ugly little batons that American M.P.'s carry," says Robert P. Martin, correspondent for the N. Y. Post. "Those clubs have been used."

In addition to the military police, other American soldiers under the imperialist ideology of

which would enable the youngsters to understand China.

Brass Hats are only interested in enforcing discipline relative to military courtesy (saluting officers), standing inspections, doing guard duty and so on. They disdain to teach the men even the most rudimentary courtesy toward the people of China. U. S. imperialist policy is calculated to discourage friendly relations between troops and the populace.

GI'S ARE BITTER However, according to Martin, only about 10 per cent of the servicemen have been guilty of crimes against the Chinese. The vast majority of the GIs condemn the actions of this misguided minority.

American soldiers and Marines are embittered and dissatisfied because they are forced to remain in China. They would be only too glad to accede to the demands of the Chinese people and go home. But Washington does not guide its policy either by the desires of the American soldiers or by the demands voiced by Chinese ricksha men, peasants, laborers and students.

SMASHED RICKSHAS "Almost any hour of the day one can see smashed rickshas and bicycles—which may mean bankruptcy to each owner," Martin reports. The Chinese do not understand the "turbulent violence of American vehicular traffic," he explains. And Americans do not understand the value of these possessions to the Chinese.

"Much of the blame," Martin declares, "can be placed on higher echelons which have not enforced Marine discipline and have refused to sponsor education

Belgian Trotskyists Launch New Monthly Magazine

The irrepressible vitality of the Trotskyist movement is further exemplified in the launching of L'Avant-Garde (The Vanguard), new monthly theoretical organ of the Fourth Internationalists in Belgium.

Our Belgian co-thinkers have every reason to be extremely proud of their achievement, since theirs is the first monthly publication of revolutionary Marxism to be published in Belgium. Neither the parties of the Second International nor of the Third International were ever able to issue a theoretical organ of their own. L'Avant-Garde represents a great step forward in the history of Belgian Trotskyism, which in the past has had to limit itself to a newspaper as its principal organ of expression.

The foreword of its first issue, dated December 1945, states the aims of L'Avant-Garde as follows: "The crisis of humanity is a crisis of the revolutionary leadership. To surmount this crisis, the vanguard must expel from its consciousness all the elements of corruption, skepticism, and yielding to the class enemy which are implanted there by the enemies, within its own ranks; reformism, Stalinism, 'pure' syndicalism. L'Avant-Garde has undertaken this task.

IMPERIALIST PEACE "It will conduct the struggle as forcefully in the domain of theory as the Fourth International will accomplish it on the political field, and as the working masses throughout the world will accomplish it in the factories and in the streets, for the triumph of socialism!"

In their Review of the Month, the editors first discuss the illusory nature of the imperialist peace, so clearly illustrated by the Sacco and the London Con-

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Another officer, First Lieutenant Leonard W. Ennis, who will face trial for mistreating prisoners, was even more brutal in his treatment of enlisted men. According to Kobliski's testimony Ennis told men in the guardhouse: "All you guys have Purple Hearts but you are just a bunch of bums."

THE HOLE Aubrey Ritchie testified that he was beaten over the head with a club while confined during November 1944. He showed the court the scars left by the wounds and declared he was battered over the head for not double-timing. Receiving no medical treatment, he was placed in "The Hole" for 16 days with two other men.

"The Hole" is an eight foot square, barren, unheated room. It has no lights and a completely boarded-up window. Men thrown in "The Hole" received only a loaf of bread a day and water. They were allowed one blanket from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. They had to sleep on the concrete floor. As in Ritchie's case, other witnesses testified they were put into the solitary confinement cell while still bleeding from head wounds. "No reading material whatsoever"

was allowed in the Lichfield guardhouse during the winter of 1944-45, according to the testimony of Lester P. Chaves. Prisoners were forced to stand with their nose and toes touching the wall and then ordered to double-time while still in that position for such minor infractions of guardhouse rules as possessing a copy of the Army newspaper Stars and Stripes!

While the men were double-timing against the wall, guards often shoved their faces into the wall and beat them with billy clubs. Chaves' description of guardhouse conditions was, in the words of the Stars and Stripes reporter, "a picture of prison brutality which resembled Nazi concentration-camp treatment."

Cigarettes were forbidden. A soldier who confessed to having some was forced to eat them and then stand with nose and toes touching the wall.

SAVAGE REPRISALS Complaints about conditions or treatment brought savage reprisals. Five guards armed with clubs beat a prisoner until he was unconscious because he protested on finding a foreign substance in his food and refused to eat.

Pfc. Thomas P. Capello tried to tell the chaplain about treatment of the prisoners. The chaplain replied: "Don't tell me about the guardhouse... You will take your punishment like any one else."

Like all the other prisoners, Capello declared complaints were useless because officers knew about the beatings. In fact a prison officer, Lt. Ennis, struck him with a billy club three or four times after shouting: "You S.O.B. ... got you now ... you not dam good." This sadistic outburst occurred when Capello failed to turn around fast enough upon Ennis' order.

Major Richard LoBuono, former Lichfield provost marshal, who was in direct charge of the prison during the time prisoners were mistreated, is not on trial. On January 2, 1946, LoBuono admitted to the court that the general policy at Lichfield was "We've got to make life so tough for these prisoners that they'll be glad to get back to combat."

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By Charles Carsten

The sensational testimony of brutality against U. S. Army enlisted men, imprisoned for infractions of Army regulations, revealed at the important trial of guards now going on in London demonstrates the urgent need for democratic army reforms advanced by the "GI Liberation Committee" in Paris on January 15.

These disclosures regarding the treatment of prisoners by officers and guards at the 10th Reinforcement Depot guardhouse, Lichfield, England during the winter 1944-45 have barely been mentioned or have been ignored by the American press, although they have received considerable attention in Army publications for enlisted men.

A succession of witnesses have testified that guards "brutally beat," "marked up" and "cut" prisoners for the slightest infraction of rigid guardhouse rules.

NEGRO SOLDIER DEAD

A Negro, Pvt. Eril L. Bolton of the 3433 Trucking Co., died March 15, 1945 from a "massive intra-cerebral hemorrhage" possibly caused by having his head rammmed against a cement wall, according to Inspector General reports submitted to the court.

Further evidence of possible murder at Lichfield was given by Pfc. Thomas P. Capello who testified that while he was a prisoner there he had heard rumors that "inmates had been killed."

In one case of extremely harsh penalties for small offenses, Mike Kobliski told the court, he was under a 40 year sentence merely for overstaying his pass two days after being released from a hospital in England. He had served in a combat tank outfit from June 20 through August 6, 1944.

While suffering deep emotion Kobliski described in court one of his combat experiences. "Approaching Le Mans, the tank on which he was assistant driver burst into flame from a direct hit, and the driver's severed arm suddenly dropped into his lap," reported Stars and Stripes. Kobliski's hair was burned off, his hands, arms and shoulders severely scorched. Later he was hospitalized in England.

Kobliski said prisoners were told by the guards: "You won't have to worry about going back to the front if you come back here again."

"CONCENTRATION CAMP"

In contrast to the attitude of the guards Kobliski gave the prisoner's viewpoint: "There wasn't any more reason to fight after being beaten up—we were fighting to break up concentration camps, and we got one right in our own army."

The motive for this calculated cruelty was disclosed by prison officer First Lieutenant Granville Cubage who told Kobliski in an interview: "You fellows don't learn by being here once or twice. The only way to keep you away from here is to take a club and knock you all over the floor."

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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, SWF 423 Springfield Ave. 8 p.m.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

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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

Build A Labor Party

The actions of Congress and the Truman Administration in the present crucial labor struggles have underlined the role of the government as an instrument of Big Business.

This is demonstrated by President Truman's strikebreaking seizure of the meat-packing plants. Previously he attempted to force the GM workers to end their strike without any gains. The administration's fundamentally anti-labor policy is still further shown by Truman's attempt to impose semi-compulsory arbitration through his so-called "fact-finding" bill.

In Congress Democrats and Republicans are competing in unrestrained attacks upon labor and in cooking up new legislative restraints upon the unions.

Meanwhile Congress is taking good care of the monopolists through numerous measures to protect and guarantee their profits.

This anti-labor, pro-Big-Business government is displaying no less hostility toward the demands of the millions of soldiers overseas. Such GI slogans as "No Boats—No Votes" express their growing distrust of the capitalist politicians.

The Senate filibuster against the Fair Employment Practices Commission shows how little regard this government has for the rights of 13,000,000 Negro people and other minorities.

The workers, the GIs, the oppressed minorities—the overwhelming majority of the population—have no voice and no representation in the present government. Both the Democratic and Republican parties stand more clearly revealed than ever as the servants of a tiny clique of ruling billionaires.

The labor movement which heads the economic struggle for decent wages and working conditions must now take the lead in mobilizing the political power of the masses against the domination of Big Business. That can be done only through a labor party based upon the trade unions—a labor party completely independent of and opposed to the reactionary parties of Wall Street.

Our Program

We call our readers' attention to three changes in "Our Program" printed on page 5. The first change is the discarding of our slogan: "Withdraw union representatives from the War Labor Board!"

We put forward this demand throughout the war. The War Labor Board was an instrument created by the Government to aid the bosses in chaining the labor movement. The WLB blocked wage rises and defended the interests of the profit-mad corporations. The files of the WLB resembled a graveyard in which union complaints were given quiet burial.

The presence of union representatives on such employer-dominated government boards did immense harm to the workers. The acquiescence of union heads in WLB decisions and their participation in its reactionary work constituted betrayal of the union cause and a vote of confidence in the bosses and their government.

The War Labor Board was one of the first casualties in the great wave of strikes following V-J Day. It has been scuttled by the political representatives of Wall Street as no longer effective in curbing the trade unions. The WLB is therefore no longer a current problem.

The principle of trade union independence expressed in this slogan remains as important, however, as in the past. Militant workers who stand on this principle are duty bound to defend it against any violations. For instance, they will oppose union participation on the National Wage Stabilization Board which the corporations and their government have set up as a successor to the WLB.

The second change in "Our Program" is dropping of the slogan: "Working class political action!" This formulation has been subject to misinterpretation. Democratic and Republican agents in the CIO Political Action Committee, for instance, twist this slogan to mean labor support for candidates of the boss parties. We advocate genuine independent political action which means oppo-

sition to the boss parties and support only of working class candidates. This position is best expressed in our slogan: "Build an independent labor party!"

The third change in "Our Program" is a shift in the order of our slogans. The final slogan is now: "For a workers' and farmers' government!"

The establishment of a workers' and farmers' government is the goal of our activity. The other slogans are designed to further this aim. Moreover, the full realization of such key slogans as "Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans" and "Full equality for Negroes and national minorities" is only possible through the establishment of such a government. We have, therefore, shifted this slogan to the place corresponding with its character as the crowning reward of our present program of action.

Pickets' Rights

The employers are making provocative attempts to crash through picket lines in the current strike struggle. Naturally and justifiably the workers have vigorously defended their lines against such provocations.

The corporation spokesmen howl that, by regulating or restricting entrance into struck plants, the 1,800,000 strikers are robbing a few corporation executives, foremen and unorganized office employees of their rights.

The American Civil Liberties Union has intervened through a public letter to the AFL and CIO, condemning "the use of force by pickets to prevent access to plants on strike by those who are willing to cross picket lines."

The ACLU in the past has performed many good services in the cause of democratic rights. But in this instance the ACLU actually lends a "civil liberties" cover to scab-herding and thereby gives aid and comfort to the worst enemies of labor and democratic rights.

Mass picketing is the only effective way to keep scabs and strikebreakers out of strike-bound plants. That is why workers insist on holding their lines solid against any attempts to pass through without union authorization. Employers are deliberately sending supervisory employees through picket lines to provide a pretext for police assaults on strikers. Thus, in condemning the use of force, the ACLU should address the employers and their government agencies who are alone responsible for initiating and employing violence.

From Los Angeles to New York employers have incited one assault after another upon peaceful pickets.

At the United Motors Plants in Los Angeles, for instance, police came fully prepared to follow through on a corporation provocation. They clubbed and tear-gassed pickets who refused to admit company-intimidated office workers.

In New York City hundreds of police escorted scabs through Western Union picket lines and clubbed and arrested strikers.

The ACLU in effect places the "right" of scabs to go through picket lines with the aid of police violence above the rights of millions of union members to protect their working conditions and living standards by effective picketing and strike action.

Damaging Admission

Herman Goering has made an admission as damaging to the Stalinists as to the Nazis.

Goering's admission, placed in the record of the Nuremberg trial on January 16, was made last October during a prison interrogation. This leading Nazi confessed that he accused the Communist Party (Stalinist) of responsibility for the infamous Reichstag fire in 1933 without any evidence whatever.

The fact was long ago established that the Nazis themselves burned the Reichstag and then tried to pin the guilt on the Stalinists in a frame-up trial. Goering consequently added nothing new about Nazi crimes.

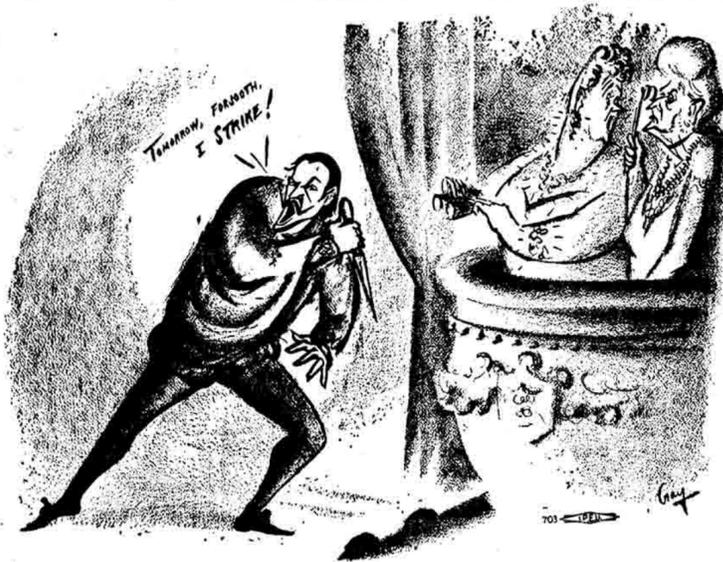
The main importance of Goering's admission lies in his explanation of Hitler's reasons for staging the fire: "Communist activity was extremely strong and our Government as such was not very secure."

To stabilize his regime, Hitler, it will be recalled, utilized the fire as an excuse to crush the Stalinists. He then smashed all the workers' organizations and instituted a reign of terror. In this way Hitler bound together the broken barrel of German capitalism with the iron hoop of fascism.

Goering's confession of Nazi weakness even after the seizure of Government power shows that the workers could have stopped Hitler in time. Goering's revelation confirms the analysis made by Leon Trotsky from 1929 on when he urged the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party to unite their forces and battle irreconcilably against the rising Nazi danger. The Hitlerites, Trotsky pointed out, could not resist the mighty power of the German working class once its ranks were closed against the common enemy.

But the Stalinists as well as the Social Democrats ignored Trotsky's warnings. Stalin declared that the "main enemy" in Germany was the Social Democratic Party. The Social Democrats and the Nazis, Stalin proclaimed, "are not antipodes, but twins." Moscow commanded the German Stalinists to direct their heaviest blows at the Social Democrats rather than against the Nazis. This treacherous advice, carried out by the Stalinist heads of the German Communist Party, enabled Hitler—despite his weakness—to march into office and then consolidate his power on the bones of the divided labor movement.

Goering's confession provides occasion for every militant worker to again examine the circumstances of Hitler's rise to power. Nazism triumphed in Germany only because the false policies of Stalinism and Social Democracy opened the way.



"Goodness—another strike! It's lucky our tickets were for tonight!"

Workers' BOOKSHELF

STEELWORKERS NEED A \$2-A-DAY INCREASE, by Philip Murray; CIO United Steelworkers of America, 17 pp., no charge.

Through their Iron & Steel Institute the steel barons are spending millions of dollars in a national advertising campaign to try to persuade the American public that the steel workers are not entitled to their \$2 a day wage demand and are unjustified in going on strike. The corporations complain moreover that they are too poor to pay this wage increase.

This new pamphlet just published by the CIO United Steelworkers of America proves in carefully documented facts and figures how vital this wage-rise is for the steelworkers in view of the reduced pay checks and constantly mounting cost of living. It makes an excellent companion to the USA-CIO pamphlet reviewed in this column January 19, revealing the fabulous wealth coined by the steel barons in the five war years.

The steel workers have been seeking a wage increase since December 1943. For over two years they have been stalled by the corporations, aided and abetted by the War Labor Board.

Through the stiff-necked arrogance of the corporations, negotiations repeatedly broke down during these two years until finally on November 28 the steelworkers voted 5-1 for strike action to back up their demands.

Even after this action the union representatives endeavored—with out the least success—to arrive at a satisfactory agreement. As a last resort on January 21, one week after the strike was scheduled to take place, 800,000 indignant steel workers walked out and completely shut down

the basic industry of America. The first section of the pamphlet explains why steel workers need a wage increase. It begins with the unassailable premise that the workers must "have a standard of living, consistent with the minimum requirement of health and decency."

Philip Murray, author of the pamphlet, states that the steel workers were "deprived of a single general increase in basic wage rates for four years." He points out how severely the end of the war has deflated their earnings. The average weekly pay, based on a return to the 40-hour week from the wartime 48-hour week, will be \$42.70 compared with \$56.32 in April 1945. But rising prices make the situation even worse. Because of the skyrocketing cost of living, the real wage in 1946 "will be \$4.15 a week less than in 1941!"

Even the wartime figure of \$56.32 would be inadequate today. According to the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics of the University of California, a worker's family needs at least \$58 a week to maintain a minimum standard of health and decency. Thus, even a \$2 a day increase would "still leave the average wage of steel workers \$8 a week below the minimum requirements." And even this inadequate wage increase has been relentlessly turned down by the wealthy steel corporations!

The second section of the pamphlet shows that corporations are more than able to pay the wage increase, thanks to the enormous open and concealed blood profits coined by the steel barons during the war. After payment of all taxes, reported profits totaled \$1,225,000,000 or \$245,000,000 a year. This is 113 per cent more than the \$115,000,000 annual average for 1935-39.

The total assets of the industry increased more than one billion dollars, or 22 per cent between 1939-1945. They rose from \$4.86 billion to \$5.91 billion. All this fantastic wealth went into the bank vaults of a handful of multi-millionaire parasites who today plead "poverty" and demand a huge price rise for steel products in order to maintain their superprofits.

Murray further points out the huge profit-making possibilities for the steel industry in 1946. The steel moguls now have the benefit of the reduction of overtime labor costs. They have reductions in federal income tax rates. They will have increased productivity through new and more efficient facilities. Certain price increases have already been granted in 1945 by OPA on some products. Thus, the "industry can pay the \$2 a day wage increase and still make profits after taxes of \$482,880,000 in 1946."

But the wealthy owners of the steel industry prefer to sit tight and let government "carry-back" tax refunds guarantee their profits even while the plants are shut down. They are bent on disrupting the entire economic life of the country and starving out the steel workers rather than yield them a decent living wage.

This pamphlet can be obtained without charge by writing to the Publicity Department, CIO United Steelworkers of America, 1500 Commonwealth Building, Pittsburgh 22, Pa. Every steel worker and supporter of their struggle should obtain a copy to combat the false arguments of the steel corporations and their agents and prove how necessary and justified is this strike.

Reviewed by Larissa Reed

Congressmen At Work

Representative Ludlow of Indiana is worried about World War III. Recently he wrung his hands over unbridled growth of militarism in the United States:

"I think that all observers who have discerning minds have noted with sinking hearts that the light that shone through the Atlantic Charter and the San Francisco Conference is becoming a little bit dimmed."

In fact the light has become so dim that Ludlow felt very pessimistic: "The prospect for world peace is growing dimmer and dimmer as the world loses sight of the lights on the highlands and slips back into the welter of militarism."

Ludlow groaned over the way the government fosters militarism. The following items in particular bothered him: "First. A War Department—function to destroy and kill. "Second. A Navy Department—function to destroy and kill. "Third. An Office of Scientific Research and Development—function to invent the instruments that destroy and kill. "And so on."

In the face of such a powerful combination, the outlook for peace would seem almost hopeless. Fortunately, however, Ludlow put his brains to bear on the problem. And with brains like that at work, a sure-fire remedy was bound to come up:

"Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced a bill to create a Department of Peace and Good Will to be administered by a Secretary of Peace and Good Will in the President's Cabinet." Ludlow bubbled with enthusiasm over his genius-like pro-



olive branch to the militarists. Setting up a Department of Peace, he explained, doesn't at all mean an end to the Departments whose function is to destroy and kill. "Quite the contrary."

"I would not eliminate or depreciate any of these. In the present posture of world affairs we must have, and must continue to have until peace is secure, an adequate Army and Navy."

It looks like a natural. While the other Departments work night and day to destroy and kill, Ludlow's Department will line up the "forces of good will and mutual understanding throughout the world." Thus when World War III breaks out and the other Departments destroy civilization with the atom bomb, Ludlow's Department of Peace and Good Will can play a mighty role compiling and filing any complaints that might be addressed to Wall Street militarism.

New York Open Forums

Sunday, Feb. 3

Downtown:

"The Meaning of de Gaulle's Resignation" Speaker: Dave Stevens 116 University Place 8 p.m.

Harlem:

"FEPC—What Are The Facts?" Speaker: Louise Simpson 103 West 110th St. Room 23 7:30 p.m.

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSIEN

Why Vets Support Strikes

Why veterans are in the forefront of the gigantic battle for higher wages is explained in a recent pamphlet entitled Ex-GIs and the Steel Wage Fight, issued by the CIO United Steelworkers of America.

Eight hundred thousand steelworkers are fighting on the picket line for a \$2 a day wage increase and "that's where the ex-GI comes in," says the pamphlet. "He's Joe civilian now, having to earn a living just like anybody else."

By one of the most cunning propaganda campaigns in history, calculated to turn veterans against workers, Wall Street led servicemen to believe most workers were earning \$150 a week.

These lies were quickly exposed when GIs came home and began looking for jobs. Instead of the fabulous wages they have heard about, they are offered jobs at \$20 to \$30 a week for "beginners." Many have refused to take these low-paying jobs because they can't support themselves, let alone a family, on such miserable wages.

Ex-GIs are demanding an income that will enable them to purchase a few of the things they manufacture. They are trying to cash in on some of the promises made when they were drafted and while they were fighting overseas.

ONE QUARTER OF A MILLION STEELWORKERS SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES. They are in the vanguard of the present struggle. These men remained members of the union without paying dues. The union fought for their interests when they were away.

Now the CIO United Steelworkers of America is fighting all attempts "to discriminate against the ex-GIs for having been in the armed forces instead of on the payroll," states the pamphlet.

Union Supports GI Demands

The Steelworkers union is pressing Congress and the big brass to speed up discharge and demobilization, to stop the diversion of shipping from troop carrying to commercial or coasewise use, to democratize the services and to increase the allowances of enlisted men.

The union is demanding that Washington liberalize, strengthen and iron out the kinks in the so-called GI Bill of Rights; modernize the Veterans' Administration and eliminate racial discrimination in its operations; and give unemployment compensation for veterans on strike.

Finally, the United Steelworkers are pressing the government to give the veterans a fair chance at federal surplus property, adequate housing and the right to vote regardless of color or poll tax.

This impressive program, benefiting union and non-union veterans alike, is unequalled by any organization outside the labor movement. It is further evidence that the unions are the best friends and staunchest support of the ex-GIs.

On the job, unions guarantee both veterans and non-veterans job security. "You can't be fired without good cause," states the Steelworker's pamphlet, "and the grievance committee will go to bat for you if you have been unjustly dealt with."

The union assures genuine seniority rights—"No more favoritism in lay-offs or promotions," the pamphlet continues, "Nor bucking or browning, and no more chicken."

In addition, the pamphlet points out, through union organization workers have secured these conditions: vacations with pay; agreed-to work shifts; time and a half for overtime, and racial equality—no discrimination because of color.

For these and other reasons the majority of veterans are giving all-out support to the nationwide union struggle for a living wage and better union contracts.

Expose Discrimination In New York Schools

Vicious discrimination, patterned on the model of the infamous quota system, is being systematically enforced against Jews, Catholics and Negroes in New York. This "open secret" has just now been exposed in a report by the Mayor's Committee on Unity.

This Committee, established two years ago, and composed of 15 leading city officials and educators, confesses that it is helpless to combat this mounting racial and religious hatred. Moreover, according to PM, it is "terribly distressed" at the publicity precipitated by its own "stark" report in the press.

Virtually without exception, the private and professional schools in New York have established a quota system on racial and religious lines, according to the full report presented to the Committee by its executive director, Dr. Dan W. Dodson. Up to now even faculty members have not dared to speak out against these conditions known to them for many years.

Publicly the New York schools of higher education hypocritically deny practicing discrimination. But privately and "off the record" deans and prominent faculty members admit this practice. They even try to justify it on the ground that the schools are "national" institutions. Evidently only the youth of the "Master-Race" are "nationals" fit to enter them.

Numerous instances exposing the scope of this shameful discrimination are cited in the report. Discrimination has greatly increased in the last decade. The medical schools are cited as the most "vivid and dramatic expression" of the practice. "It is in this area that the cancer of prejudice in American education first grew. It has since spread into almost every other branch of higher education," says the report.

In the decade preceding the war "the percentage of Jewish students of the total student body admitted to under-graduate colleges fell about 50 per cent." Similar discrimination slashes away at the enrollment of Italians and Catholics. Most drastic is the discrimination against the Negroes, "who are virtually excluded."

Instead of urging a frontal attack upon the existing abuses, liberal spokesmen have proposed, among other things, a \$50,000,000 state university which would presumably "afford equal opportunity" for the youth of all races and religions. But such a suggested new university would not eliminate the pernicious disease of discrimination. Everyone knows that the same type of discrimination is practiced in higher educational institutions including the state universities all over the country.

Under the capitalist system, rotted through and through with discrimination in every field, its institutions of higher learning must also necessarily become poisoned by these shameful practices.

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.

A Letter From Holland Expresses Confidence In Fourth International

Zutphen, January 10, 1946

Dear Comrade,

I, member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Holland, read *The Militant* and will ask you if you know somebody in your Party who will correspond with me. I am glad to know that in the U.S.A. a party is, which fight for Socialism. The Socialism from Lenin and Trotsky. Five years, long years, we have only heard the voices of our enemies, Hitler and Churchill. But after these five years we know now that all over the world are parties of the Fourth International.

We have lost many of our best friends. Here in Holland our leader Sneevliet.

Our party is not big, but we know one day the 4th International will come over the world.

I know the English I have written is not without mistakes, but I hope, you can understand me and one of yours will write me back.

I am 28 years old and since a long time member of the Revolutionary Labor Party. As I was 14 years old, I was member of the

Independent Labor Party, later the Revolutionary-Socialist Labor Party from Sneevliet. In the war our leaders have been executed through the Nazis. After that our Party was no more, many comrades have got fear. Others are more revolutionary than Marx, they say, we don't want a Party, we don't want the mass. We have instituted now our Party, our Trotskyist Party. We are glad that we belong to the 4th Int. Write me, who has been voted in the N. Y. election and what the S.W.P. has made.

I have read that in the S.W.P. Negro's are organized. That is fine. Everywhere in the world the coloured people is fighting for its freedom. Black, brown and white labourers in one Party, fighting for one ideal, against our enemy, the international capitalism.

I hope I will soon here from you or another comrad. When one of yours will correspond in the German language, that is all right but I hope he can read my English.

With kindest regards,

J. D. B.



GM Tag Day Experiences Told By SWP Members

Soldiers, Civilians Give to GM Strike

Editor:

Together with other Socialist Workers Party members, my sister and I went out with cans to help raise money for the GM strikers on the day that they were having the big parade here of the 82nd Airborne Unit 504. Before I was honorably discharged I was in the air force myself. We met with very sympathetic response, and although I couldn't count the money in the can, I know it was considerable, with many bills.

Hardly a man in uniform passed us, including officers, who didn't give us some money for the striking workers. We started on Third Avenue, around 10th Street and walked over to Washington Square on Fifth Avenue. One soldier said: "I don't know how long this has been going on, but I've been giving money the past three days to this cause." And he smiled.

Near Fifth Avenue I heard a voice. I looked around, behind me, then in front of me. Then I looked up, and there was a woman in the window about five stories up. She threw down a \$5 and a \$1 bill and called out: "You're doing a good job—keep it up!"

On Washington Square I ran into seven of my buddies who had been in the army with me. They were watching the parade. One Italian boy asked me what I was doing and then said: "You know, that's not a bad idea—I think I will help too." Even the soldiers in the parade smiled at us; some of them tried to get some change out of their pockets, but they passed too quickly.

On the way back we stopped in a restaurant. We didn't ask for any money there, just left the cans on the table. But almost everyone in the place came over to drop something in the can.

One man, who at first had refused my sister, came over and said: "I didn't know what this was for." He put some money in the can. "The only way the workers are going to get a decent wage is by striking. I'm a worker myself. And my son who has just returned from the army can't get a job yet."

Ken Darrow
New York City

Seventh Avenue, even though it is a poorer neighborhood, and there were not as many people there.

Several soldiers and even officers contributed. One of the soldiers indicated that he had been a former GM worker himself. Another soldier told me to "keep up the good work."

In general I would say the strike is extremely popular. I received a number of dollar bills. Several who wanted to give 50 cent pieces commented that the slot in the can should have been larger, because we had to change the 50 cent piece into smaller change in order for it to go through. A large percentage of housewives and women workers gave contributions. The poorest women would stop to give me pennies, which was all they were able to give.

One woman said she was on strike herself. She remarked that she feels if the GM workers win, then "all of us will win."

Many other contributors commented to the effect that "we realize the GM workers are fighting our fight."

I felt very inspired, since I had not expected such a good response. As a matter of fact, in the beginning I felt shy and didn't quite know how to go about it. But as soon as I put on the picket sign and took out my can, I didn't have to say anything. People just came over and dropped money into the can. Within five minutes I felt that I was doing them a favor to give them a chance to help the GM strikers.

Dan Shelton
New York City

Poorest Give Pennies

Editor:

On GM Tag Day I went to the streets around Macy's Department Store. The response was so warm that I filled three cans. It took less than one hour to fill each can, which is considered a good average. Something that interested me very much was that I received more contributions on Eighth Avenue than on

Suggests Program To Interest Women In Political Struggle

Editor:

A correspondent expressed the hope that a column in *The Militant* be devoted to the women. It is probable that more than a column is necessary to receive their enthusiastic interest and support. A fundamental and revolutionary innovation only would meet the feminine requirements in woman's role as the mother of the race. For the parent who has the peculiar position of bearing, nursing, rearing and training the children, the future workers of the world, should be recognized in that capacity in a very practical way. The industrial state should pay the wife for her work, just as her husband is paid for his.

Woman's work was cut out for her by nature, and she has been regarded as the most important parent. But as an individual she has taken the back seat. Therefore she sees no need to be concerned about politics. Her husband earns the money, and she is dependent on his efforts. Many women have found this position humiliating, and have believed that the solution lay in going out of the home to work.

As a parent, the man has felt inferior. His part in the great miracle of life has been ridiculously small. To compensate for this, men have created industry, and also a society and religion that is patriarchal. Man has arrived as a parent, and he is paid for his work. But unless a woman does a man's work in addition to her own, she isn't paid. There are unfortunately, still many families where the man assumes the position as dictator, because "he earns the money." Such uncongenial surroundings for children produce psychopathic cases like Hitler.

A movement that will promise "wages for women for woman's work" will undoubtedly attract their support in overwhelming numbers. This suggestion is not founded on the principle of bonuses for babies; a fascist method to produce more soldiers.

This is a practical solution for world problems which are psychological as well as materialistic.

Lillian M. Hostitler
Spokane, Wash.

Veteran Gives \$10

Editor:

Two of us went out on the New York University campus on GM Tag Day. Those young veterans, back at school after discharge from the army, were by far the most generous. One of them put a \$10 bill in one of the cans. They never failed to remark: "Keep up the good work."

Even among those young veterans who were not particularly familiar with what is going on in the country today, there was a general tendency to support the GM strikers because they were engaged in a "fighting action."

One of the most interesting things for us was to observe the sharp class lines which show up in society as a whole. Those students who refused to give generally made a remark to that effect. For example, one of them said: "I won't give; I'm a capitalist, my father owns a factory."

Sandy Robertson
Laurie Falk
New York City

Pioneer Notes

Two branches of the Socialist Workers Party, now engaged in calling on Militant readers for subscription renewals, have sent us enthusiastic reports on the pamphlets they have sold in this manner.

Newark writes: "Please send us at once 100 copies of the new edition of Jackson's *A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow*. We have been out of them for months and need them very badly in connection with our current Callback Campaign. In the two weeks of this campaign, in addition to selling a high percentage of Militant renewals, we have sold a total of 54 pamphlets, mostly James P. Cannon's *Socialism on Trial and The Struggle for Negro Equality*."

From the newly-formed New York Bronx branch, we hear: "Last week our new branch mobilized to visit our neighborhood subscribers of the Militant. Ten teams went out, and in addition to a very high percentage of renewals, we sold 25 pamphlets: 12 copies of *A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow*, 7 copies of *Jobs for All!* and 6 of *American Workers Need a Labor Party*. We plan to go out again very soon. The friendly response we met in our first mobilization, the eager desire of many of the people to talk both about the paper and the pamphlets, gives our new branch just the send-off it needed for its work."

Toledo
Delicious Home-Cooked Duck Dinner
and
Gala Housewarming
Saturday Night, February 23
at the New SWP Headquarters
213 Michigan Street

Duck Dinner at 7 p.m.\$1 (Includes Social)
(Tickets by reservation only. Call AD 2304 or write
213 Michigan not later than Feb. 21)

Housewarming at 8.30 p.m.
no reservation needed.....50c

Open-Shop Spreads In Garment Industry

Editor:

Because of mass unemployment, brought about by the cancellation of war contracts, open shops are springing up in the small communities throughout the country. This is characteristic of the garment industry.

In order to increase their profits at the expense of the workers, money mad manufacturers who operate organized shops in the main centers are subsidizing these small town sweat shops.

Sweat shop operators, while paying starvation wages, assemble garments that have been cut in union shops. These completed garments are shipped back to organized plants, given a label and sold as union-made products.

This situation, if allowed to continue unchallenged, will seriously endanger hard won conditions and wages brought about through the efforts of militant trade unionists.

Pressure must be brought to bear on the leaders of both the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and International Ladies' Garment Workers unions by their respective memberships, forcing them to carry on an extensive and relentless campaign to organize these small-town open shops.

Complete organization of the industry alone can guarantee the higher wages and better working conditions of the metropolitan workers and at the same time raise the living standards of the small-town workers.

Clara Raymond
Reading, Pa.



Many branches of the Socialist Workers Party have written advising that they plan renewal campaigns to visit readers of *The Militant* whose subscriptions are now expiring.

In addition to this, they also plan to invite readers to their various activities, such as forums and socials, introduce them to *The Fourth International*, monthly theoretical magazine of the party, and sell them, the popular pamphlets printed by Pioneer Publishers.

In this vein, Alan Kohlman of Newark sent us the following letter: "In addition to increasing our bundle order to 2,000 papers weekly, we have launched an 8 week renewal and contact campaign. Our branch has been divided into two teams, 'The Red Recruiters' captained by Larry Carter, and 'The Party Pluggers' captained by Frieda Kalb.

"Our campaign is set up on a point system. For each visit comrades receive 3 points. They achieve 10 points for obtaining a six month sub, and 15 points for a one year sub, and as high as 100 points for a new recruit. At the end of the second mobilization, 'The Party Pluggers' led 'The Red Recruiters' 1610 points to 1174.

"Our total results after two Sundays' work is: 75 six month and 7 one year renewals, in addition to 12 six month and 1 one year new subscriptions. Captains Kalb and Carter will keep you informed on the progress of our campaign."

from Goodyear, Arizona requesting a six month subscription.

Mill Adams of New York relates the following incident: "At a distribution at a meeting of United Automobile Workers held at Manhattan Center, we gave out about 400 copies of *The Militant*. The workers reached out eagerly for their copy as they heard us call out slogans for working class action and solidarity with the GM strikers. We held our papers up high so the workers could see at a glance our meaningful headlines.

"This is the first experience I've had in New York where worker after worker said 'Of course *The Militant* is our paper. I read it every week' and then went on to urge the workers entering the meeting hall to be sure to get a copy of the paper that prints the truth."

Eloise Gordon writes from Pittsburgh: "Enclosed is a one year subscription obtained at the solidarity demonstration of the steelworkers from Homestead and Duquesne with the striking Westinghouse workers. In obtaining this sub, the usual procedure was reversed; a worker who had become acquainted with our paper during the recent distributions approached me to ask if he could subscribe! Had I not been so completely engrossed in the inspiring proceedings I guess I could've gotten more subscriptions.

"However, among the steel workers who joined the Westinghouse strikers picket lines there were many men who are Militant subscribers. It was sure heartwarming to note that fact!"

Returning GIs Refuse to Scab

Editor:

After travelling over 4,000 miles on a troopship from Japan, over 4,000 GIs arrived at Seattle in December.

The camps were overcrowded and we were quartered on the ships, some of us for two days, others longer.

I remember the big "Welcome Home Boys" signs at the pier. I also remember the phonies who approached us when we were on our first pass to town. They were looking for scabs to work for \$2.50 an hour at a bakery whose workers were on strike.

As far as I learned and saw, none of the GIs applied.

A lot of people might think we were but for a good time on our return to the States. That's true! But it's deeper than that. Take a look at the picket lines around you. The ex-GI is there. And if it isn't the strike fever the boys have who have been demonstrating overseas, then you name it.

S. K.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

UE Workers In N. Y. Picket Night and Day

Editor:

Despite below-freezing temperatures and bitter winds, over a hundred striking electrical workers at the General Motors Frigidaire plant in Long Island City are maintaining day and night picket lines. The Frigidaire workers, members of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, are striking with 200,000 of their union brothers for a \$2 a day increase.

On the first day of the strike,

THE PICKETS

Like a roll of distant thunder
The pickets tramp their beat,
And our slave ensnatched brothers
Can hear their marching feet . . .
Even as the guns of Sumter
Belched harbingers of doom,
For a system long out-moded
And consigned it to its tomb . . .
Mark the surging ranks of freemen!
Oh! Hark ye to their songs!
Flung against the walls of plunder,
Assailing ancient wrongs . . .
Mighty is their righteous anger,
And terrible their wrath!
They, the fighting hope of millions
Who tread the union path . . .
Naught can stay eventual victory
Or madmen hope to ban—
Culmination of our triumph,
The Brotherhood of Man!

Eddie Dumaine

office workers reporting for the day shift heeded the appeals of the strikers not to cross the picket lines. Some joined the line, and others stood by shouting encouragement to the workers.

AFL truckdrivers of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 814, expressed their solidarity with the embattled electrical workers by refusing to cross the picket lines.

The morale of the strikers is excellent. One of the pickets said, "We've got a solid front here against the big three (General Electric, General Motors and Westinghouse) and we're going to see it through to the finish."

Another picket, a chief steward at GM Frigidaire, said, "If the fact finders want some facts we can give them plenty. Us Frigidaire guys have been getting the runaround for almost three years now. We've been fighting for a contract, but the

WLB put the case on ice for a couple of years. A strike is the only thing the company can understand."

Sandy Robertson
New York

AKRON

All Militant Readers Are Invited To Hear "The Forward March of Labor"

A series of discussions on the fight of the American workers for security.

Led by Mary Clark at the MILITANT CLUB
405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 E. Market St.
Every Friday Evening at 7:30 P. M.

Feb. 8: THE PIONEERS OF UNIONISM.
Things you were not taught in school about the workers' role in the early history of America.

Feb. 15: THE INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION AND THE GROWTH OF LABOR UNIONS.
Labor's bitter fights with the robber barons of industry.
The Molly Maguires . . . The Knights of Labor. . . Railroad Strike of 1877.

Feb. 22: THE GREAT STRUGGLE FOR THE EIGHT HOUR DAY.
Haymarket . . . Internationalism

Mar. 1: THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR & THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD.
Samuel Gompers . . . Big Bill Hayward

Mar. 8: WORLD WAR I AND LABOR
Eugene Victor Debs . . . The Russian Revolution
Seattle General Strike . . . Tom Mooney

Mar. 15: POST WAR PLANS . . . 1919 STYLE
The Palmer Raids . . . The Strike Wave . . . Sacco and Vanzetti

Mar. 22: THE WORKERS' ANSWER TO THE DEPRESSION
Labor strikes back:
Minneapolis, San Francisco, Toledo

Mar. 29: THE CIO AND THE SITDOWN STRIKES
Auto . . . Steel . . . Rubber

Lillian M. Hostitler
Spokane, Wash.

Seattle Vigilante Terror In Fontana

speaker:
Myra Tanner Weiss
Los Angeles Organizer, SWP
Sunday, Feb. 17
SWP Headquarters
1919 1/2 Second Ave.

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. Build an 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!
9. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

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.

NAME _____ (Please Print)

STREET _____

CITY _____

POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____

Detroit Stalinists Seek To Suppress 'Militant'

(Continued from Page 1)

right of free speech and a free press by repressions of which the workers are the first victims.

On the same day the Daily Worker story was published, a four-man delegation appeared at the headquarters of the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, with the well-known Stalinist, Fred Fish of Local 735, as their spokesman.

Refusing to give their names or show any credentials, these four claimed to have been sent by Local 735 to order Militant representatives to stay away from the local's picket lines. When pressed for a reason, the four began denouncing The Militant in typical Stalinist fashion, claiming that it was "against the workers," that it criticized the UAW leadership and "caused disunity," that it was trying to "break the GM strike" and was "backed by corporation funds."

The Militant and SWP representatives pointed out to the "delegation" that such views could have only one source—the Communist (Stalinist) Party and its Daily Worker. Thereupon one of the four pulled out a Daily Worker and another said he read it, but "not every day."

The SWP spokesmen proposed to Fish that in the interests of the truth and free speech he utilize as much space as he wished in The Militant to dispute any facts or ideas presented by The Militant. He was promised that whatever he wished to say to the Local 735 members as well as other GM strikers would be printed in full and distributed free of charge.

TURN DOWN OFFER

Of course this opportunity to give an honest answer to The Militant's point of view was turned down, since the Stalinists have no honest answer to their working class critics. That is why they must resort to threats, slanders and lies.

To prevent the Stalinists from bringing further harm to the working class, the Detroit representative of The Militant, Arthur Burch, has written to the Local 735 Executive Board, pointing out that the board's action against The Militant was a "clear violation of labor's democratic rights" which could have come about only through a "misunderstanding on your part."

Comrade Burch requested that the board permit a representative of The Militant to appear

at its next meeting or at the next membership meeting of the local "to explain the situation and answer any questions that you might care to ask."

These attempts to muzzle the working class, or any section of it, hurts all workers, as was shown by recent Stalinist attempts at anti-Trotskyist red-baiting in Flint, Michigan. The Flint campaign was initiated with a story by William Allen which became a springboard for a corporation-inspired red-baiting drive to divide the GM strikers.

HURTS LABOR

Allen's story, which contained a tremendous falsehood to the effect that Flint Chevrolet Local 659 had passed a motion barring The Militant from the Chevrolet picket lines, was completely exposed when Tex Owens, president, and Tom Kelly, recording secretary of Local 659, immediately denied that any ruling against The Militant had ever been passed by the local. The Daily Worker was forced to publish a retraction.

The Stalinist red-baiting against the Trotskyists and other genuine militants in Flint enabled GM, with the help of a few company stooges inside the Flint AC Spark Plug Local, to attempt a large-scale red-baiting drive. This was aimed not only at the Trotskyists and other real militants, but also against the Stalinists, who had instigated the dirty business.

CAMPAIGN SMASHED

However, as reported from Flint in last week's Militant, an aroused labor movement there has smashed the red-baiting campaign.

The Greater Flint Industrial Union Council issued a strong denunciation of four AC local members who, in their position as members of the local's top bargaining committee, sought to remove Robert Carter, the committee chairman, on the grounds of "Trotskyism." The red-baiters had also issued a public statement calling for dissolution of the Flint CIO Council, of which Carter is president, as a "breeding ground for Communism."

DENOUNCED BY CIO

A membership meeting of the AC local voted overwhelmingly for the immediate restoration of Carter to his bargaining committee post.

None of the four AC members who issued the red-baiting attack on Carter and other militants dared to appear at the Flint CIO Council meeting to support their lies. Carter was

given a vote of confidence.

The Flint Weekly Review, organ of the CIO, denounced red-baiting and the red-baiters as "serving management rather than labor." Tex Owens, Chevrolet Local president, said that "people who run to the public press with red-herring stories... can be either over ambitious local union politicians or company stooges." Everett Francis, Fisher Body Local president, stated, "It is significant that management in the past used the 'red scare' in order to weaken the morale of the workers."

Nevertheless, the Stalinists both here in Detroit and in Flint, acting on dictates from the reactionary bureaucracy in Moscow, are continuing with their irresponsible and vicious anti-Trotskyist red-baiting despite the opportunities this offers the bosses for attacking union militants and dividing the workers.

Glass Workers End Strike After Thirteen Weeks

By M. Walker

(Special To The Militant)

TOLEDO, O., Jan. 25—CIO glass workers in Toledo went back to work this week ending their 13-week strike against Libbey-Owens-Ford and Pittsburgh Plate Glass.

The strike was originally called because the company refused to negotiate with representatives of the union. Also involved were union demands for pay increases to maintain their standard of living.

The final settlement includes a 10.7 per cent increase with a reopening clause on wages which will give the glass workers an opportunity to demand further increase after the settlement of the wage question on a national scale. They also secured a company commitment that wages will be adjusted in accordance with the national settlement in other industries.

MORALE HIGH

William Akos, President of Local 9, CIO Flat Glass Workers, told this reporter that the morale of the men is high and that they feel that they have won a partial victory.

In a weakened position due to the prolonged period of strike, they had to make a settlement and go back to work. The Glass Workers International has only about 16,000 workers and the entire organization was on strike. Consequently, the union had no financial reserves with which to provide long-time relief for the strikers.

Akos reports that the glass workers feel they have won the point over which they went out. They have forced the glass trust to bargain with them. Further, they have won a small wage concession against great odds and after a long struggle.

The glass workers are not beaten. They went back to work as solid as they went out. And they will be heard from again.

Philadelphia SWP Holds Successful Lenin Meeting

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18—With one of the largest audiences of its weekly forum series, the Philadelphia branch of the Socialist Workers Party tonight held a very successful Lenin - Liebknecht - Luxemburg memorial meeting.

Comrades Bertha Weiss and Jack Spiller, speaking for the SWP and Trotskyist Youth Group, presented the history of Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, the two German martyrs of the cause of international socialism. Their heroic deeds, and the lessons they offer to the revolutionary movement of today, were briefly recounted. Jesse Brown presented the teachings of Lenin as a revolutionary inspiration for the oppressed minorities of today.

The chairman, Rose Carey, long-time activist in the trade union and revolutionary movement, in a brief introduction showed how the lessons of the past are applicable today. At the conclusion of the meeting, Max Goldman, Philadelphia organizer of the SWP, made an appeal for new members to help continue the work of the "Three L's."

One application for membership in the SWP was made at the meeting, while several other workers indicated their intention to join soon. A collection of \$11 was contributed by the audience to aid in the work of the Party.

CIO Tobacco Workers Wage Bitter Strike Against Sweat-Shop Pay, Discrimination

Demonstrating Workers In Tokyo, Japan



Were not the sign written in Japanese, this picture might appear to have been taken somewhere today in the United States. The marchers are Japanese Government railway workers from seven districts. They recently demonstrated for a wage boost to meet the skyrocketing cost of living.

Acme Photo

Ford, Chrysler Agree To Wage Increases Of 18c, 18 1-2c Hourly

(Continued from Page 1)

mand for 30 per cent.

The wage settlements by Ford and Chrysler indicate that important sections of American Big Business have pushed resistance to labor's demands for higher wages as far as they dare in the face of the tremendous strike wave, which last week reached a peak of 1,700,000 strikers in basic industry.

FORCED TO YIELD

The fact that these capitalists feel they cannot push their opposition much further is also indicated by the attitude of Truman in the meat packing strike.

After seizing the struck packing-plants, the administration was forced by the militancy of the workers to agree to carry into effect immediately whatever wage increases are decided upon by the meat-packing fact-finding board.

There is the prospect of a similar seizure of the steel industry, whose 800,000 workers are out on strike, unless the corporations agree to a wage settlement in the next immediate period.

The tremendous strike struggles, spearheaded by the mag-

nificent fight of the 225,000 GM workers, appear now to have forced the giant corporations into a position where they must settle the wage fight. This accounts for the sudden break in the Ford and Chrysler negotiations and the agreement for 18 and 18½ cents increases respectively.

It is a commentary on the union leaders' readiness to retreat that they agreed to settle for less than the 17½ per cent increase proposed by the government in the GM case.

COMPANY SECURITY

The great danger remaining for the auto workers lies in the proposals for so-called company security and penalties for militants engaged in "unauthorized" strikes such as those advanced by the UAW leaders in the Ford negotiations.

While the precise terms of the Chrysler contract have not as yet been released, Norman Matthews, the UAW's Chrysler Division director, stated that "the union recognizes the importance of company security against unauthorized strikes and the need for productivity on the part of the employees."

The "company security" proposal first projected by Richard Leonard, UAW Ford director, has never been repudiated or withdrawn, despite opposition and protests from numerous leading UAW locals.

According to UAW procedure, the agreements are subject to final ratification or rejection by the membership. It would be a short-sighted and perilous policy for the UAW ranks to permit the union leaders to accept company security measures, which aim to victimize the best militants and undermine the locals.

LABOR SOLIDARITY

Other CIO locals in this area have given magnificent support on the picket line. In a militant display of solidarity, several affiliated locals of the Brotherhood of Railroad Workers also marched down to the picket lines carrying their own placards of support.

During the first four days the plant was virtually at a standstill. Then at midnight Thursday, in an effort to deceive and demoralize the pickets, the company flooded the plant with lights and with the aid of a few scabs, who had penetrated the picket line, started several machines and made as much noise as possible. But the pickets weren't taken in by this hokum.

If the spirit and determination of the pickets remain as they are now, the strike will culminate in victory for the workers and the reign of the open shop at Carpenter Steel will be brought to an end.

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 22—The latest attempt of the American Tobacco Company to split apart the three striking locals of the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union was turned down flat at a joint strike committee meeting here yesterday.

Declining an invitation of the U. S. Conciliation Service for a conference between the Philadelphia strikers separately and the company, the committee unanimously voted to hold out until the company meets with the combined committees of the Trenton, N. J., Philadelphia, and Charleston, S. C., strikers.

The strike, now in its fourth month, was called when the American Tobacco Company refused to negotiate the union's demand for a 65 cent hourly minimum wage, a 25 cents per hour wage increase and a no-discrimination clause in its contracts. Since October, the 700 workers in the Philadelphia plant together with the workers at the other two plants, have been waging a heroic fight.

Despite the huge profits made by the manufacturers of Lucky Strike cigarettes and other tobacco products, their workers have always been underpaid. The starting rate is 50 cents per hour and only a few workers have been able to make as much as 70 cents per hour!

ENDURE HARDSHIPS

Never having been able to accumulate much savings, the workers have endured terrible hardships during the strike. Yet when this Militant reporter visited the strike-bound plant, I found the pickets determined and solid.

The plant is located on a little-traveled street and strangers are easily spotted. When the pickets saw me approaching, they quickly assembled a solid formation of women to bar the plant entrance. However, when they learned I was a friend, they

explained that they were expecting a Company attempt to break the strike and were preparing to stop anyone from crossing their line.

One of the stewards offered to take me to their strike headquarters down the street. There, Miss Jessica Rhine, UFTA-CIO Regional Representative, told me that the strikers of the Philadelphia plant are about 90 per cent women and 50 per cent Negro.

The company tried to run strikebreakers into the Charleston plant, I was informed, and it was reported to be trying to recruit hoodlums from saloons and poolrooms to try to reopen the plant here. However, she was confident that with aid from the Westinghouse, GE, and Baldwin strikers, the tobacco strikers would defeat the company maneuver.

SIGNIFICANT DEMAND

The anti-discrimination demand of the union is of special significance in the tobacco industry. Carrying over the Jim-Crow practices from the Southern tobacco fields, the American Tobacco Company employed a rigid discrimination policy in its factories. Negroes were given only the poorest paid jobs and restricted to certain plant areas and facilities. They even had to use a separate entrance and work a different shift than the white workers!

Readers of The Militant are urged to aid this courageous struggle against Jim-Crow and sub-standard wages by financial contributions to the strike. The SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY, 405 W. GIRARD AVE., PHILADELPHIA 23, PA., will be glad to forward any contributions to the Philadelphia strike headquarters.

Workers are also being urged not to "reach for a Lucky" or Pall Mall cigarette, a Roi-Tan cigar or any other American Tobacco Company products until this strike is settled.

ST. LOUIS POLICE JOIN AFL; DEFY WARNING OF OFFICIALS

By George Rock

(Special to The Militant)

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 3—Interesting developments are taking place in the St. Louis police department. More than half of the 1,891 commissioned and civilian members of the police department who are eligible have signed up for membership in the new Local 549, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL, and despite the police board of exceeding its lawful authority.

Policemen have refused to withdraw from the union in spite of the threats of the police board. The union has filed an injunction suit to prevent the board from taking disciplinary action against its members.

Three hundred civilian employees have received pay increases from 10 to 20 per cent. The board claims the union has not influenced the salary increases. In other cities in Missouri, moves are already under way to liberalize pension payments and to take other steps to forestall police unionization.

EMPLOYERS' FEARS

The police board, with the exception of Board President Mark D. Earleton, is trying to smash the union, with the aid of St. Louis businessmen, many of whom have written and telephoned Governor Donnelly, expressing fear that the police union would prevent "proper" discharge of police duties in maintaining order during strikes.

Several of the complaints cited the alleged failure of the organized police at Stamford, Connecticut, to crash through a picket line at the strike-bound Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company.

However, the organizer of the AFSCME stated that the charter specifically prohibited strikes by the policemen and authorized them to cross picket lines. This ruling places their duties as policemen above their obligations as union men to defend the union and the labor movement in general. At the present stage the aims of this union are largely economic.

Patrolman Richard T. Miller, acting chairman of the newly-formed Local 549, and Bernard T. Casserly, acting treasurer, have been discharged from the police department for their activity in organizing the local. They were charged with violation of rule 23, section 342 of the Police Manual, which prohibits policemen from becoming members of unions.

THREATS FAIL

Miller and Casserly claimed, however, that rule 23 was "arbitrary, unlawful, unconstitutional and unnecessary." They charged it interfered with the private lives of members of the police department. They also accused

the police board of exceeding its lawful authority.

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Vets Demonstrate To Aid Western Union Strikers

By John Fredericks

(Special To The Militant)

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—Several hundred veterans in uniform gathered at Franklin Street and West Broadway here today at the call of the CIO to demonstrate solidarity with the three-week-old strike of Western Union employees, and to protest an arbitrary Navy ruling prohibiting the wearing of uniforms on picket lines. By the time the marching veterans reached the Western Union Building, 60 Hudson St., their ranks had swelled to 1,500.

The police sought to prevent the huge picket line from encircling the building, which occupies an entire city block. Strike leaders and veterans, in conference with police, forced the issue and the police finally allowed the picket line to encircle the building for 15 minutes.

SCAB-HERDING COPS

The mass picket line, led by the vets, formed a continuous double line and carried slogans like "CIO Veterans Support Western Union Strikers In Their Wage Fight," and "We fought a war, now we must fight for decent wages." Speakers atop a sound truck at the entrance to the building explained the strike issues and urged that their buddies overseas be sent home at once.

300 uniformed police, armed

with clubs, stood shoulder to shoulder along the entire front of the building and 16 mounted cops were in readiness to protect the scabs now employed by Western Union. There was no violence and no arrests as strike leaders seemed anxious to avoid a recurrence of the clashes on Friday when police assaulted pickets, injuring several and arresting 10.

The military authorities backed down on their arbitrary ruling against wearing uniforms on picket lines despite their threats to make this a test case. There were no signs of Shore Patrolmen or Military Police at the scene.

Several distributors of The Militant appeared on the line to distribute the paper. Reactionary Stalinists, who were in the line, gathering around the distributors to hide the Stalinist hoodlum methods, seized the papers, tore them up and drove the distributors away. The police and Stalinists were in agreement on this action. The police, who are so anxious to protect Western Union scabs, offered no protection to the Militant distributors.

The Western Union strikers, led by the American Communications Assn., CIO, are standing solid in their determination to win their strike and force Western Union to its knees.

Steel Plants Shut Tight In Reading

By James White

(Special to The Militant)

READING, Pa., Jan. 26—With the national steel strike nearly a week old, all CIO contracted plants in this area are completely strike-bound. Token pickets are on duty at each plant.

Moreover, Carpenter Steel Co., which has successfully defied union organization since 1919, is in the process of being organized by the CIO United Steelworkers. Several days before the strike started, workers in this plant, of whom over half are union men, requested that workers from American Chain and Cable Co. throw a picket line around their plant.

On January 21, at 6 a.m., a 1,000-man picket line was established at Carpenter Steel. Of the 3,100 men employed in this plant, less than 150 reported for work. That night 45 authorized organizers from the plant met and elected a negotiating committee composed of 10 men.

Tuesday morning this committee met with the management represented by Vice-President Greenwald. Greenwald rejected the union's demands for recognition and an 18½ cents wage increase. He proposed instead an increase of 15 cents hourly

and no union recognition. The committee in turn rejected this proposal and rejoined the picket line.

Tuesday night the unionized workers of the plant met at Slovak Hall, formed a local and elected temporary officers.

Other CIO locals in this area have given magnificent support on the picket line. In a militant display of solidarity, several affiliated locals of the Brotherhood of Railroad Workers also marched down to the picket lines carrying their own placards of support.

During the first four days the plant was virtually at a standstill. Then at midnight Thursday, in an effort to deceive and demoralize the pickets, the company flooded the plant with lights and with the aid of a few scabs, who had penetrated the picket line, started several machines and made as much noise as possible. But the pickets weren't taken in by this hokum.

If the spirit and determination of the pickets remain as they are now, the strike will culminate in victory for the workers and the reign of the open shop at Carpenter Steel will be brought to an end.

Seattle
Hear
A Trotskyist Analysis of "The Communist Party"
Sunday, Feb. 3
Speaker:
DAN ROBERTS
Seattle Organizer, SWP
Socialist Workers Party
1919½ Second Ave. 8 p. m.

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

JOBS FOR ALL!
A FIGHTING PROGRAM FOR LABOR
By Art Prell
10c
PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.

READ
"THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL"

4th Fontana Fire Victim Dies; Home Burned After Vigilante Threats

By Jean Simon
(Special To The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 26—O'Day H. Short, courageous Negro fighter against race restrictions, was buried today in Los Angeles.

Critically burned in the mysterious Fontana fire which destroyed his home last month, killing his wife and two children, Short lost all interest in battling for his own life when he heard of their deaths some time later, according to his attorney and friends who visited him. He died Monday night in the Fontana hospital.

Many workers, both Negro and white, attended the funeral services held at 10 o'clock this morning, to pay their respects to the memory of O'Day Short and his family, and to demonstrate their determination to continue the struggle he undertook against housing restrictions for Negroes and threats of vigilante violence.

Short was threatened with physical violence early in December by a "vigilante committee" attempting to enforce their race prejudice by restricting Negroes to one side of Baseline Street in Fontana.

REPORTED THREATS

Refusing to be intimidated into moving, Short reported the threats to his attorney, the sheriff, the FBI, friends and relatives, and the Los Angeles Negro press.

No measures were taken to protect the family, and two weeks later a mysterious fire of unknown origin destroyed his

family and left Mr. Short in critical condition.

Local authorities treated the fire from the first as an accident, whitewashing the vigilante terror and the scandalous actions of local deputy sheriffs. The latter had warned Short of objections of local persons against his living there instead of protecting him and taking action against those who threatened violence.

TESTIMONY BARRED

District Attorney Jerome B. Kavanaugh of San Bernardino County, in which Fontana is located, refused to permit any evidence or testimony of vigilante threats at the coroner's inquest which was held after public interest compelled it.

At the inquest a transcript of an interview with Short which was introduced as evidence by the district attorney revealed that Kavanaugh had been the first to inform Short of the deaths of his wife and two children.

Up to that time hospital authorities had taken extraordinary measures to prevent anyone from mentioning anything about the deaths of his family. Insisting that Short's condition was so serious that he could not withstand another shock. Yet Kavanaugh stated at the inquest that he had not been cautioned against such mention.

Murray Charges Tax Laws Aiding Strikebreakers

(Continued from Page 1)

In no hurry to arrive at a settlement with the strikers.

One employer, Harold Lamb, president of the Union Manufacturing Company in Georgia, openly boasted in a circular to striking workers: "We think it will take four months before our strikers decide to come back to work. Any losses we sustain in 1946 will be made up to us by the Government out of our profits in 1944 and 1945."

'MILITANT' GAVE WARNING

When the Federal Revenue Act authorizing this tax steal was first passed in 1942, The Militant warned that the corporations were planning to use these lush refunds for union-busting purposes. Immediately after General Motors forced its auto workers out on strike, the December 1 issue of The Militant explained how "the government helps the world's most profitable corporation put the squeeze on the workers." GM, if it doesn't turn a wheel, can secure \$160,000,000 from the U. S. Treasury in 1946 tax refunds.

The government's generosity toward Big Business stands in sharp contrast to its attitude toward the workers. The U. S. Treasury which hands out such lavish gifts to the corporations provides no relief to striking workers, least of all refunds on the heavy taxes they paid during the war years. In most states, strikers are denied even unemployment compensation. No wonder the workers are beginning to ask: "Whose government is it?"

Scores of thousands of returned veterans who are loyally supporting labor's strike struggles are being denied compensation under the GI "Bill of Rights." At the same time they cannot get even such unemployment compensation as other workers receive because they have not worked long enough to accumulate benefits.

When Representative Bailey of West Virginia introduced a bill in Congress last week to repeal the "carry-back" provisions on the tax law, he said: "The U. S. Treasury is a silent partner in what appears to have all the earmarks of a conspiracy on the part of a few to destroy our economy in their frantic efforts to crush organized labor." A Big Business-dominated Congress has met his proposal with hostility.

WHAT MURRAY FORGETS

CIO President Murray rightly assails these tax laws as "hijacking" and "rank robbery." But he conveniently forgets to mention that this tax bill was passed with the votes of many PAC-endorsed congressmen of the two capitalist parties and signed by President Roosevelt.

At a press conference on this question, Murray declared that "if Congress didn't do something about the situation, the people would." But it is up to the unions themselves to lead and mobilize the movement to eliminate these tax refunds which place so powerful an anti-labor weapon in the hands of the big corporations.

To plan and organize the national fight against corporation tax rebates is an additional vital reason why the CIO should immediately convene a national emergency convention with representation from all local unions, in Washington, D. C.

Such a mobilization at the seat of the national government is imperatively needed not only to organize an offensive against the infamous tax gifts to the strikebreaking corporations but to fight down the line against all the anti-labor laws Congress is now projecting.

Postwar Battlefield In Los Angeles



More than a score of persons were injured when gas-masked police attacked the picket line at U. S. Electrical Motors, Inc., on Jan. 17. Courageous pickets picked up tear gas shells before they exploded and hurled them back at the cops.

Police Assault UE Picket Line In Los Angeles With Tear Gas

(Continued from Page 1)

Captain Wisdom ordered the use of tear gas. Fifty shells of tear gas were fired into the line. Many shells were picked up and hurled back, but the police were protected by gas masks. As the rising stream of gas floated out over the lines, the unprotected strikers were forced to fall back.

Brutality and force had won the day for the strike-breaking Metropolitan Squad. About 60 office workers then entered the struck plant, only to be sent home by the boss an hour later because there was NO WORK.

LEADERS ARRESTED

During the assault 28 persons were arrested, among them Phillip Connelly, Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles CIO Council, and Carl Brant, International Representative of the UE. Connelly charged that he and the others were locked in "Black Marias" and left there during the gas barrage. Nine were overcome. When the rest demanded to get out, the cops jeered "Our hearts bleed for you."

Scores of strikers were nauseated by the tear gas. Many had bruised heads and bloody noses. Edmond Johnson, a General Motors striker and member of United Auto Workers Local 216, who was being beaten by the cops. At least four police jumped him and clubbed him, breaking his collar bone.

One picket, a war veteran, was attacked by 12 policemen who beat him unmercifully time and time again with their clubs as he tried to shield his face with his arms.

After the pickets were dispersed the police hunted up and down both sides of the streets within a two block radius, clubbing and grabbing anyone in the vicinity whom they thought might be a picket.

Undoubtedly it was one of the most violent picket line battles in Los Angeles history.

A great many of those on the line were former GIs who thought they had fought a war

to end fascism, only to encounter it in violent form here at home. The war-weary and battle-scarred veterans are learning fast that Big Business does not give a hoot for their war records. Big Business utilizes every conceivable weapon from clubs to tear gas on civilians and veterans alike who fight for the just demand of a living wage.

At a special emergency meeting in the CIO Hall at Avalon and Slauson Blvd., immediately after the tear gas rout, plans were instituted for an overall City-Wide CIO Strike Strategy Committee. This committee would comprise five members of each International Union in the CIO, to coordinate the strategy, publicity and finances of all existing and future strikes within the Los Angeles area.

The following day, 1500 pickets obeying the injunction issued by Superior Judge Willis paraded single file, 10 feet apart, around the U. S. Motors plant. They had not quite completed a turn and a half around the building when the Captain of the Metropolitan Squad and his police, who were there 200 strong, again armed with gas, guns and masks, ordered them to disperse. The union leaders wanted no trouble. They asked for and were granted, 15 minutes to clear the picket lines. The pickets filed over to the CIO hall, a few blocks away. There they decided on a protest to Mayor Fletcher Bowron.

At City Hall the pickets again set up their lines, singing "Solidarity Forever" and other union songs. A representative committee of all the CIO unions then went in to see the Mayor.

Led by Morris Zusman, State CIO President, and Phillip Connelly, Secretary of the CIO Council, the strikers protested against the brutality of the police. In a stormy session, unionists from auto, steel, rubber, U.E. and others told of the violence done to them by the vicious S.S. tactics of the police.

Mayor Bowron, who at first tried to white-wash the police terror and then belligerently de-

Bosses Knew What Was Coming

Responsibility for the violence at the Los Angeles U. S. Motors plant was put squarely on the company by an office worker who told how company officials advised office workers to go home "because there is going to be trouble," reports Labor Herald, official CIO newspaper in California.

"None of us tried to go through so I don't see how the police can say the pickets tried to stop us or fight with us," she said.

"As soon as the boss told us to go home I knew the cops were going to start something."

He had given the orders to wipe out all picket lines in Los Angeles, finally agreed to meet with a CIO committee and Chief of Police C. B. Horral, to see if further violence could be averted.

The UE strikers are not dismayed by their defeat today because of police brutality. Far from it; they are more determined than ever to win their fight, and all CIO unions in the Los Angeles area are pledged to help and support them.

Socialist Workers Party Branch Activities

AKRON — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p. m.; also Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 to 9:30. Current events discussion Wednesday evenings. Fridays at 7:30, class on "Forward March of American Labor."

ALLENSTOWN - 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.

Thursday classes, 7 p. m.: "How To Prepare A Speech" and "History Of Russian Revolution," at 8:15 p. m.

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, 1108 S. Broadway, Blue Room, Cabrillo Hotel, or San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

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 Socialist Workers Party, 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.

Sat., Feb. 2, 8:30 p. m. Beachcombers Get-Together at Chelsea Branch 130 W. 23 Street.

Sat., Feb. 9, 8:30 p. m. Welcome Home Party for Our Veterans, 116 University Pl. Brooklyn, Militant Discussion Club, 835 Fulton St., Sun., Feb. 3, 8 p. m.

Harlem Discussion Group meets every Sunday 7:30 p. m., 103 West 110 St., Room 23. Office open Monday to Thursday, 1 to 4:30, also Fri. and Sun., 7:30 to 10 p. m.

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.

Feb. 15, 7:30 p. m. — Hear Myra Tanner Weiss on "The Vigilante Terror Today."

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 — Visit our Headquarters, 1919 1/2 Second Ave.

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., James Apartments, 213 Michigan St. 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.

Wed., Feb. 6, 8 p. m., "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

by CHARLES JACKSON

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

Support the Strikers

Equally as magnificent and encouraging a spectacle as the returning veterans sticking with the labor movement, has been the way in which the Negro workers have lined themselves up so solidly with the rest of labor and have fought valiantly side by side with the white workers in this present nationwide working-class upsurge.

So obviously solid has been the cohesion of Negro and white workers on the picket lines that not once have the bosses even attempted to recruit Negro strikebreakers with fantastic wage and job security promises and send them into the plants through the picket lines.

This is a remarkable testimonial to the power of economic forces to solidify all workers. Especially when we pause to realize that the opposite was the case on the American scene during the previous decades. This, therefore, really IS an achievement. It is not the increased number of Negro lawyers, Negro preachers, or Negro undertakers, during the past twenty-five years that reflects real advancement for our cause but this heightened political consciousness among Negro workers. That is the thing really worth bragging about when we start launching into a discussion of how much "progress" the Negro has recently made in this country.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Hundreds of thousands of Negro workers, many of them new to the trade union movement, have been walking the picket lines in militant fight against the oppressors of all the workers. In the General Motors strike, the steel strike, the meat packers' strike and the electrical workers' strike, brown men, too, have braved the wintry blasts of sleet and snow, fought off non-union foremen and office workers, had their scalps laid open by policemen's sticks and been jailed and fined by the capitalist government.

Some often narrow middle-class spokesmen have been driven by this example of the Negro workers into a new channel of broadened political outlook. Characteristic of this newer analysis, newer alignment and newer perspective was an editorial in the January 28 issue of the Pittsburgh Courier, which follows:

"Quite aside from the merits of the current controversy between Capital and Labor, resulting in nationwide strikes which bid fair to cripple much of our industrial and commercial activity, is the large part that Negro workers are playing. "Not since the wave of sit-down strikes that swept the country in 1937, during the organization of the big industrial unions,

have Negro workers played such a prominent role in labor controversy. In the nine years since those momentous conflicts, Negroes have joined the unions in larger and larger numbers and have become integrated into the structure of organized labor as shop stewards, organizers and officials, until today there is no Labor-Capital conflict in which Negroes do not play a prominent role.

"Negroes are on picket lines and around conference tables, and every news photograph of massed workers shows a large number of black faces.

"The implications of this development are terrific when viewed from the standpoint of race relations.

"It means that the working masses, black and white, are comrades in a sense that they have never been before, with identical interests and equal participation and understanding.

"Since economic considerations are always basic, it stands to reason that from the broader social aspect the antagonisms that have characterized relations between the two groups are bound to be undermined.

"If it can be brought home to all workers, regardless of color or creed, that their interests are identical, a tremendous gain has been made which the most extreme anti-Negro propaganda will be unable to erase."

FOR ALL WORKERS

Amen! brother, Amen! And carrying the above analysis to its logical conclusion, we say (and hope to hear re-echoed a millionfold) in the interest of the Negro and of all working people:

FOR extension of militant strike action against the exploiters in all fields and on all fronts!

FOR broadening of the struggle onto the political as well as the economic field by the formation of an independent party of Labor based on the trade unions!

FOR a Workers' and Farmers' Government in America so that capitalist exploitation and capitalist-inspired discrimination can be torn up by the roots!

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

Steel Strikers Shut Down Mammoth Bethlehem Plant

By John Fitch

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Jan. 21—Over 25,000 steel workers of the Bethlehem area, organized under the banner of the CIO United Steelworkers, have shut down the Bethlehem plant and 12 other concerns in the Lehigh Valley and as far east as High Bridge, N. J. Minutes before the men hit the picket lines at the mammoth plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co., last Sunday night, they were encouraged by a report from C. B. Newell, district director of USA-CIO, that a break had already come in the united front of the employers, and that further dents in the bosses' ranks were expected.

Newell, addressing an overflowing prestrike rally of the steel workers in Quinn School, climaxed a vigorous speech urging all hands to conduct an orderly strike, with the statement that the Lehigh Foundries, Inc., at Easton, Pa., had agreed to pay 18 1/2 cents per hour. The news electrified the audience. The big assembly hall, packed to the roof, rocked with applause and from outside came cheers from hundreds of strikers who stood in the snowstorm listening to the talks through amplifiers.

Short fighting talks were the order of the day. "This is not round one of a fight of four or five rounds, but a fight to the finish." "The issue is not \$2 a day. They are out to destroy our unions." "We will fight to maintain order." These were among the remarks made by various speakers.

"It's in the wood, we are on our way," shouted Newell just before the curtain was rung down on the rally.

The strike was well organized. Picket schedules were distributed and all workers had been assigned to picket duty well in advance of the deadline. Although the wild enthusiasm of the strike of 1941 was absent, in its place was a businesslike determination of the workers to win a victory.

The well picketed, sprawling steel plant with its 18 gates was later provided with salamanders (huge oil drums converted into stoves) and large windbreaks to shelter the snow-covered pickets from the bitter cold and wind.

Resentment ran high against Mayor Pfeifle of Bethlehem who had hired a hundred extra policemen. This move was intended to keep the sheriff from being called in case of trouble. Previous to the strike the sheriff had deputized 50 UNION men to help preserve order.

Food committees with a traveling coffee and sandwich shop were set up for the comfort of the pickets. Local stores offered to provide bread, and a bakery asked for volunteers of union men to help bake bread for the strikers.

Friehofers and Brickers Bakeries, under pressure of the AFL unions, agreed not to furnish bread to the steel company to feed scabs and strikebreakers. AFL and Railroad Brotherhood unions promised support and declared they would not cross picket lines.

The Steelworkers Union has opened a drive to organize the office workers, a large number of whom have signified a desire to be members of the union and share in its benefits.



SAN FRANCISCO

Public Meeting to Protest
VIGILANTE TERROR IN FONTANA

hear:
Myra Tanner Weiss
(Los Angeles Organizer—Socialist Workers Party)

speaks on
"The Facts of the Case and How to Combat Vigilante Actions"

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 8 P. M.

Booker T. Washington Center
2031 Bush St.—Between Buchanan & Webster

Auspices: San Francisco Local—Socialist Workers Party
ADMISSION FREE

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 6, 1945, Militant.

Brother Steel Workers:

We are a people that is dying. Our lungs are choked with the dust and gases of the steel plants. Our constitutions are warped and cracked from the poor meals, the cold houses, and the worries of depression years.

How many of our brothers lie in their graves, their bodies crushed in the mills and yards, burnt and charred in the flames and explosions of the coke ovens, open hearths, and blast furnaces? How many of our brothers lie dead of tuberculosis and pneumonia?

How many exist today with maimed, crippled, or worn-out bodies that are no longer of use to the steel companies or to themselves?

We are a people that is dying. But what have they paid us for our lives, for our living sweat and our dying agony?

Only in recent times have we received even a subsistence wage; and now that will be wrested from us, if the masters of industry have their way.

And how did we gain that subsistence wage? We gained it by years of struggles for organization.

Our fathers fought the gunmen and Pinkertons at Homestead.

Our brothers met violence and murder in 1919

and tightened their belts when they were black-listed.

Ten of us died martyrs' deaths at Republic Steel in Chicago on Memorial Day, 1937. But we won; and we organized a million steel workers into our union.

Today once again the battle lines are drawn up. Our enemies, the owners of the huge steel companies seek to smash our union and thrust us back into the darkness of poverty from which we have struggled so hard to come so short a way.

The battle lines are once again drawn up, and we have taken our place in these lines, glad to be able to strike a blow for ourselves and our wives and children, eager to meet our old enemies on the field of battle.

We do not fear them. We are ready for them.

But, brothers, remember that this battle is only part of our war.

Win it we can and must. But it is not enough. For as long as the capitalists own the factories and mills, we have not triumphed entirely.

We will win higher wages and safeguard our unions, because we must.

But the day is drawing ever nearer when we must fight for a greater prize, for the ownership of all the factories, and the control of the government, for a Socialist Society.

So, as we fight for our lives and welfare in this battle, we must look ahead to the greater battles that are coming.

We must learn as we fight, so that we will be prepared for the great battles that lie before us.

And when that day comes, when we win the last battle, then we shall have peace and plenty; and our children will grow up in the sunshine of the Socialist Society.

Youngstown Pickets Keep Vigilant Guard, As Locked-In Scabs Suffer Malnutrition

Children Join Parents On The Picket Line



Kansas City youngsters carry appropriate signs with their fathers and mothers in a pre-dawn demonstration in front of the Swift & Co. meat packing plant.

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT
YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 26—This eastern Ohio-Western Pennsylvania district presents a picture of industrial paralysis proving the effectiveness of the mighty steel workers' strike and the walkout of CIO electrical workers. From Sharon, Pa. to Warren, Ohio, the picket lines are holding firm.

The lines around the steel mills have grown steadily from day to day despite near-zero temperatures and snow. There is continuous improvement in technical arrangements for picketing, feeding and dispatching of Flying Squadrons.

There are now at all main gates, snug little bungalows which permit the men to fulfill their picket duties in comfort. Youngstown Local 1331 of Republic Steel was the first to start a building program with a fancy shanty at Stop 5. Local 1330 of Carnegie-Illinois (Big Steel) appears to be competing with the Republic strikers with their new picket palace at No. 3 gate.

Some people are a bit puzzled because in this strike the Little Steel corporations have been as meek as lambs while Big Steel has been acting tough. This is evidenced by the fact that Republic, with its bloody record of 1937, shut down in cooperation with the union, with necessary plant maintenance done by union men assigned by the local.

DIVIDING THE JOB

On the other hand Big Steel here broke its maintenance agreements with the union, brought foremen into the plant to live and do maintenance.

However, most militants are not convinced that Little Steel has reformed and become peace-loving. Rather they see a division of labor among the steel corporations and just now it is Big Steel's turn to be tough.

All this doesn't mean that Republic may not try to pull some fast ones. Right now the Republic pickets are looking suspiciously at some 300 cars of coal that the company claims were loaded at the mines before the strike started and are therefore entitled to entry under the union-company agreement.

When Carnegie-Illinois started to act "tough" Local 1330 gave the company a lesson in real toughness. The union rule was: those in will stay in the plant, and those outside will stay out. This has been enforced to the letter except for doctors, nurses, patients receiving treatment in the plant hospital, and plant protection men

whose union is wholeheartedly cooperating with Local 1330.

When A. C. Cummins, General Superintendent of Carnegie-Illinois in the whole Youngstown District, attempted to enter the Ohio works he was turned back by pickets.

BOSS TURNED BACK

The plant protection men have their own union and cordial relations exist between it and Local 1330. Since there are a few finky individuals who don't belong to this union, the plant protection men have established a dues picket line alongside the steel workers' line.

There were originally four picket posts around the Ohio Works. There are now seven and each day the men find new possibilities in rat holes to be plugged. To prevent climbing over the extensive fences at night the pickets are establishing patrols.

Since truck drivers refuse to cross the picket line, no food, milk or laundry is getting to those locked in the plant. Those few autos—like the doctor's car and the ambulance—which the pickets permit to enter are carefully searched both entering and leaving. Not even railroad traffic has been entering.

As a result of this almost hermetic sealing of the plant, the life of those inside is anything but pleasant. Supervisors are doing laundry and K.P., while foremen get even dirtier jobs.

RATS SCURRY OUT

A phenomenon of the past few days has been the exodus of the rats (the four-legged variety) from the factory. Some of the pickets maintain this is because these four-legged rodents can't stand the company inside, while others ascribe the exodus to the great shortage of food crumbs and garbage.

Throughout the valley veterans are playing an ever increasing part in the strike. In many places they are the leading element among the militants.

Local 1330 is lending a helping hand to UE-CIO girls on strike at GE's Mazda plant. Steel workers have been taking over the graveyard shift on the picket line there.

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

I received this interesting letter last week.

Dear Brother Sharon:

"I am writing you about an outrageous stunt pulled by some sailors aboard my ship while we were in Norfolk. These guys who had just shipped as replacements ganged up on their colored messman who had been with the ship since we left the coast. They worked him over and he had to be taken to the hospital.

"This messman packed a book in the CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards. The sailors had trip cards (permits) in the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific. A couple of these heroes were 'three sheets to the wind' and while being served dinner the first day began to ride the messman. According to the story I got later, the messman at first ignored them and went about his business. Not satisfied, one of the heroes proceeded to call him by the usual insulting names that are so common down in Norfolk. But that colored messman had guts and proved it. Despite his being alone against this gang he stood up against them and expressed his willingness to fight.

"Well you know the old story. They claimed he threatened them with a knife so in self defense they had to attack him.

"These attacks upon Negroes are taking place more frequently than ever before and are becoming an ugly sore inside the AFL seamen's unions. I think you ought to say something about it in your 'Notes.'

"Steady as she goes.

Curly."

You are right, Curly. The official Jim Crow policy of the SIU-SUP seriously weakens those

organizations. Nothing pleases the shipowners and their government agents more than to see the SIU-SUP hold on to this dangerous and reactionary policy which sows division in labor's ranks. This outrageous incident you tell about is matched by dozens of a similar character.

Most of these incidents can be traced to the agitation of a tiny minority of race hate peddlers, who are themselves unconscious victims of vicious prejudices coming from the camp of labor's enemies. Look these race haters over. Few of them went through the big maritime strikes. Many of them deliberately joined the SIU-SUP because of its Jim Crow set-up.

The official union policy allows a tolerant attitude to their race hatred agitation. Certainly no veteran of the big maritime strikes can doubt the importance of unity and solidarity of all seamen regardless of color or race. Not so long ago I was shipmates with an SUP old-timer, a veteran of the 1921, 1934 and 1936 strikes. His talent for relating sea yarns about the "orient run" earned him the nickname of "Singapore." I got to know him pretty well as he was my watch partner. He was a loyal and devoted SUP militant. He did not happen to be a radical, but voted the straight Democratic ticket.

One day Singapore spoke the mind of many others in the union after watching the colored crew of a Navy tug work smartly and efficiently in real sailor fashion to get our ship out of a bad spot in one of the Alaska bays. Later at coffee time in the mess room he held forth predicting that the time would come, and very shortly, when the SIU-SUP must give up its Jim Crow policy.

So the next time the race-hate agitator raises his head, Curly, do not fear to take him on. He is using the poisonous arguments of superstition and blind prejudice which serve only to injure labor and benefit the operators. You on the contrary will be defending the very best interests of the union and the working class.

Packinghouse Strikers Return After Resisting Plant Seizure

(Continued from Page 1)

from the government that the seizure order "would contain certain provisions for making effective increases that the panel might recommend. The order for seizure, however, is a complete double cross in that no such provision is contained therein."

SEIZURE "FICTION"

He further pointed out that Department of Agriculture officials designated to operate the seized plants are "notoriously sympathetic" to the profiteering meat barons. Clark called the seizure a "fiction" under which the plants will still be managed by the present management personnel of the anti-labor packers.

Directing attention to the section of the seizure order authorizing use of U. S. armed forces to drive the men back to work, Clark emphasized: "It is significant that although the government is unable to bring our soldiers home from China and other foreign countries they have ample forces available appar-

ently, to attempt to break a strike and maintain the packers' profits."

Although the packinghouse workers expect to get a portion of the wage increase they have been demanding as a result of their militant strike action, the strikebreaking intervention of the government was calculated to force them back into the plants with the least gains the government, in cahoots with the profiteering packers, dares to recommend.

Unquestionably the government's recommendation will provide far less than the workers might have forced from the packing profiteers had the administration not intervened to halt their strike and whittle down their demands.

As all previous cases of such strikebreaking seizures have demonstrated, the government agents, usually military officials, do not permit genuine collective bargaining or recognize union grievance procedure while the plants are under government control.

STILL DANGER

There is also the danger that after government control is withdrawn, the corporations may still refuse to meet the workers' terms. That is what happened, for instance, in the Montgomery Ward case.

Moreover, the government is primarily concerned with preserving the fat profits of the packers, who have received close to a billion dollars during the war in government subsidies and are confidently expecting to get enormous price increases now.

In this connection, UPWA President Clark, prior to today's decision to return to work, declared:

"If the Government were sincere in the action . . . the least they could do would be to insure that during the period of government operation, the owners of the packing companies would make no profits but that the cost of meat to the public would be reduced . . . (and) give assurances to the workers that their just request for wage increases would be met. Neither of these assurances have been forthcoming but rather, groups sympathetic to the packers are placed in charge of the operations of these plants and no assurances are given to the work-

ers of any remedies for their needs." The striking packinghouse workers were fully ready to continue the strike in the face of the government's strikebreaking action if the union had not finally received what it considered sufficient assurance that the government would institute wage increases.

STRIKERS MILITANT

Up to the last moment, the strikers have been militantly manning their picket lines despite police provocations, arrests and the beginning of the plant seizures.

The Chicago District Strike Strategy Committee was on record opposing government seizure, and the strike bulletin issued Thursday said: "The law cannot force people to work in a seized plant. You have a perfect right to stay away from work and in doing so you are not violating the law."

The bulletin called government seizure a "strikebreaking move which favors the big packers and disregards workers. Such a move, therefore, is a step toward compulsory government settlement of strikes to the advantage of an employer . . . It represents a dangerous precedent to the entire labor movement."

"We felt we had an obligation to the people here. Unemployment compensation may be slow in coming through, and veterans will not be able to get any at all."

A Councilman stated: "If other communities would do the same thing, perhaps the steel companies would change their position on this strike."

Vets Begin To March By Joseph Keller

It was nearly 14 years, from 1918 to 1932, before the veterans of World War I resorted to various forms of mass action, such as marches on state capitals and Washington, in order to fight for their interests.

Now, less than six months after V-J Day, veterans of World War II are beginning to take up where their fathers left off when MacArthur scoured the 1932 Bonus Marchers out of Washington with fire and bayonet.

On January 24, the country witnessed the first veterans' march on a seat of government when 600 former GIs, members of the striking United CIO Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, converged on the state capitol in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The capitalist press, even the dailies in Pennsylvania, gave very little publicity to this significant event. They fear such actions may spread. Moreover this demonstration, unlike its forerunners of the early '30s, was organized by union members in a strike struggle.

These striking veterans, from Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Erie, Farrell and Sharon, marched in a shouting body to the capitol building in Harrisburg. They demanded to see Governor Martin and threatened to camp in the Senate chamber until they had their case heard.

The banners they carried showed where a large part of the returned veterans stand, despite the Brass Hat and Big Business scheme to turn them against organized labor.

"We Refuse To Scab—Pay Us Our Bonus,"

"We Demand Equal Rights As American Cit-

izens" and "We sweated it out for our country, we will sweat it out for \$2 a day."

These slogans refer to the fact that the veterans are not only denied their compensation under the GI "Bill Of Grips" because they are on strike. They are also denied state unemployment compensation because they haven't, in many instances, worked long enough to accumulate benefits under the state law.

Their willingness to "sweat it out for \$2 a day" expresses their determination to back the strike of General Electric and Westinghouse UE workers for a \$2 a day wage increase.

Specifically, the marchers demanded a special session of the State Legislature to vote a veterans' bonus, provide striking veterans with state unemployment compensation and take prompt action on housing for returned veterans and their families who are suffering from the severe housing shortage. Veterans in other states are also raising these demands.

George I. Bloom, Governor Martin's secretary, and Secretary of Labor and Industry William H. Chestnut, who met the veterans, completely evaded the issues. Bloom blew up the conference with the veterans' committee when he asked to know about "communistic" influence on the marchers. "The Governor, he said, would be "very much interested" in knowing if the veterans were "being used by Communists."

The veterans are regarded as "heroes" by the capitalist rulers only so long as they serve as cannon-fodder. When they fight for their rights as workers and ex-servicemen, they are treated as nuisances and insultingly slapped across the face with a red-herring.

Sparrows Point Workers Close Bethlehem Plant

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

BALTIMORE, Jan. 26—Twenty thousand workers in this area have joined the nationwide CIO Steelworkers' strike against the giant steel corporations. At the Sparrows Point plant of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, 15,000 men have left their jobs and are taking their turn at picket duty.

Lines have been set up at all of the gates and at strategically located places. Picket captains check up on every person or truck entering the plant. To protect the pickets from the winds blowing in from the bay, wind shelters have been set up.

Around the home-made stoves the relief pickets warm themselves and drink coffee brought by the union's mobile canteen. No one grips, and the talk is of how soon the corporation will have to give in, in face of this 100 per cent solidarity of the steel workers.

This same determination to "dig in" and continue the picketing until the union's demands are won is expressed on the picket lines in front of the Rustless Iron and Steel plant and the local plant of the American Can Co.

commission forced the street car men out on strike when they demanded to be relieved of the double burden shoved on their backs during the super-profits war period. The Transit Commission has proved itself to be completely on the side of the bond companies and their profits. This set-up, which takes millions from the pockets of the people of Seattle to add to the loot of the bond companies, is backed up by the city government and mayor.

Workers Strike Seattle Transit

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 17—

Seattle was completely without public transportation for four days last week when over 1,200 members of Street Car Men's Local 587 went on strike demanding a wage increase from \$2,700 annually to \$2,850, and a return to the Pre-War

work week of six days on and two days off.

After the four day tie-up, the union accepted a compromise of a wage increase amounting to \$120 a year and won the demand for a pre-war work week.

The Seattle transit system is completely controlled by a three-man transit commission, a lawyer, a professor, and a banker. Reports are that this commission gave the bond companies a \$1,300,000 bonus over their usual million dollar take last year. This self-perpetuating

CITY COUNCIL VOTES STRIKERS' RELIEF FUND

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 23—The city council of Clairton, south of here, site of the Clairton Works and Coke and By-Products Plant of Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., has voted to borrow \$50,000 if necessary to provide relief for some 3,000 steel strikers residing in the town.

The action was initiated by Mayor John J. Mullen, a staff member of the CIO. Mayor Mullen explained, "We felt we had an obligation to the people here. Unemployment compensation may be slow in coming through, and veterans will not be able to get any at all."

A Councilman stated: "If other communities would do the same thing, perhaps the steel companies would change their position on this strike."



Striking Machinists March On Capitol In California

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 17 — Today 1,000 AFL Metal Trades workers invaded the State Capitol, Sacramento, protesting the refusal of the State Unemployment Insurance Commission to pay them unemployment benefits. The action was sponsored by the

Bay Cities Metal Trades Council with 17 of its member locals represented at the demonstration.

Caravans of cars and busses streamed out of San Francisco and Oakland early Thursday morning. Upon arriving in the state capital the workers assembled in mass meeting at the Labor Temple. From there they marched upon the capitol building and entered the Senate, crowding the main hall and gallery.

ABLE PRESENTATION

As previously arranged, Joe Roberts of the Shipfitters acted as spokesman. In a brief and able manner he presented the workers' grievances to the Senators. He pointed out that the State Department of Employment was functioning as a tool of the employers. When he stated that workers had "paid for it, but they are not getting it," the pickets nodded in approval. The procedure was next repeated in the Assembly.

The pickets then marched to the Department of Employment. While they picketed the offices, a delegation presented their protests to the officials. From there the demonstrators marched to the Governor's chambers where the delegation repeated its grievances. Workers filed through the Governor's office holding their banners aloft. At the close of the interview the Governor,

in his usual smooth manner, assured the delegation that he would take steps to remedy any existing abuses.

A SUBTERFUGE This action resulted from the State's policy of refusing to pay legitimate claims to locked out workers. For the past 12 weeks 55,000 workers have been locked out because of the machinists' strike. When they began applying for compensation, the state officials, acting in the interests of employers, contended that the workers were not entitled to benefits because they refused to cross picket lines. This, however, is a vicious subterfuge.

Even prior to the strike deadline, workers had been informed that there would be no work. Equipment had been serviced and stored. The employers, acting in united fashion, had girded themselves for a long siege.

Meanwhile the joint strike of Machinists' Lodge 68 and East Bay Machinists' Local 1304, CIO, which began October 30, remains solid. Shipyards and machine shops remain closed as union ranks remain firm. The workers understand more and more clearly that the outcome of the auto and steel strikes will largely govern their own gains in their struggles against organized industry.

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