

Why Big Business Wants Soaring Prices

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CONGRESS PUSHES ANTI-UNION BILL

Steel Profiteers Demand Outrageous Price Boost

Encouraged by the Truman administration's obvious readiness to yield as much as possible to their extortionate demands, monopolists of steel, auto, electrical equipment, packing and other basic industries are pressing for outrageous price increases before they will concede to the just wage demands of the country's striking workers.

The steel industry, shut down tight for more than two weeks, on January 28 stated through Irving S. Olds, chairman of U. S. Steel, that before it will agree to settle the strike it must secure price increases "greatly in excess" of \$6.25 per ton.

Truman had already offered to boost steel prices \$4 a ton, even before any concrete wage recommendations had been made by the government. The Office of Price Administration had originally opposed even the \$4 a ton increase. It has been proved by the CIO Steelworkers Union that U. S. Steel, which controls 48 per cent of steel production, can more than afford to pay a 25-cent an hour wage increase out of its "earnings" and still reap profits in excess of its high 1936-1939 average.

Old's demand for unprecedented steel price increases, which are calculated to boost still higher U. S. Steel's enormous profits, is a clear indication that the steel industry is determined to continue its policy of exploiting workers and the public.

Chilean Police Machine-gun Heroic Union Protest Rally

By Diego Henriquez
(Special To The Militant)

SANTIAGO, Chile, Jan. 29—The capitalists last night opened a brutal offensive against the people of Chile, an offensive characterized by extreme violence. At eight p.m. in the heart of Santiago, the government of the Democratic Alliance (Popular Front), headed by the bourgeois Radicals, stained its hands in workers' blood.

Seven dead and more than 100 wounded is the balance sheet of this crime of capitalism. In the massacre, Stalinists, Socialists, and workers belonging to no party fell. In their midst Trotskyist workers fought with valor.

Five thousand workers had gathered at the Plaza Buñes scarcely a hundred yards from the Moneda (Government Palace) at the call of the Chilean Workers' Federation. At the same time thousands of workers met simultaneously in every city of Chile.

NATIONWIDE PROTEST

The nation-wide workers' demonstrations were called to protest the anti-democratic measures of the bourgeois Radical party, which a few days previously had dissolved the Nitrate Workers Union in the province of Tarapaca. The demonstrations were called in support of the strike of 12,000 nitrate workers in the North of Chile.

These workers in turn had struck because the government in addition to dissolving two of their unions also declared a state of siege in the province and placed the area under military rule, taking over a number of union headquarters with armed troops. The nitrate workers had de-

Striking Veterans Plan State March

INDIANA HARBOR, Ind., Feb. 2—Striking CIO Steelworker war veterans here are planning a demonstration at the state capital in Indianapolis to protest denial of unemployment compensation to ex-servicemen. Led by the Union Veterans' Committee of Indiana Harbor, the veterans plan to go to Indianapolis in large groups to demand a hearing from Governor Ralph Gates.

Compensation has been denied them because state authorities have ruled that strikers are not entitled to benefits. The Indiana Harbor Union Veterans' Committee has been very active in support of the steel strike.

A Robber Calling The Cops!



Cops Of 'Labor Friend' O'Dwyer Assault Western Union Pickets

By C. Thomas

NEW YORK, Feb. 4—The temperature was freezing cold as a mass picket line rallied by the Joint CIO Strike Support Committee marched up and down the pavement in front of the main office of the Western Union building this morning in New York City.

A solid phalanx of cops, standing shoulder to shoulder, extended the entire length of the block forming a barrier between the pickets and the building entrance.

Armed with clubs, the cops stood facing the marching pickets. At their back, between the police barrier and the building, a block-long passage remained open for the passage of scabs.

A group of scabs slunk through the passage behind the police

line on their way to the building entrance. The pickets booed. A cop resented the attitude of the pickets and began pushing them around. Without warning, the mounted Cossacks

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Chicago Pickets Thwart GM Move To Break Strike

By Nick Bradford

CHICAGO, Feb. 1—Two thousand massed UAW pickets, 300 of them uniformed veterans, thwarted strike-breaking plans at General Motors' McCook, Illinois plant today by repulsing a "veterans' back-to-work movement."

This widely-heralded scam turned out to be nothing more than the feeble attempt of two disgruntled veterans to crash the picket lines.

For several weeks, the management of the Electromotive Diesel Division of GM at McCook, in collaboration with several reactionary newspapers, notably Col. McCormick's infamous Chicago Tribune, were agitating for a veterans' back-to-work move. Two veterans, a Marc Blodgett and a William Dillworth, were the alleged leaders in this undertaking.

Word reached Local 719 of the UAW-CIO that these two individuals were preparing to march a group of 100 veterans into the plant on Friday, February 1. The Tribune reported that this action was being organized by the two veterans in order to settle the strike on GM "terms."

Zero hour on Friday morning found 2,000 determined strikers mobilized before the plant. The 300 veterans present, instead of trying to break through the lines, joined forces with the pickets in an inspiring demonstration of their contempt for strikebreakers.

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IN THE NEWS

"Hardship" Case

The United States Steel Corporation on January 29 issued its report for the final quarter of 1945. "Directors declared the usual dividend of \$1 a share on common stock, payable March 9 . . . Directors declared the usual dividend of \$1.75 a share on preferred, payable Feb. 20 . . ." (As associated Press)

Democratizing Germany

The American Military Government has granted permission for the formation of a new political party in Munich which has "the definitely avowed objects of re-establishment of the monarchy in Bavaria and separation of that State from the rest of Germany . . . the new Party's program . . . might have been taken from a 17th century textbook supporting the theory of the divine right of kings." (Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 30)

No Danger to Capitalism

"Thus, M. Thorez (French Stalinist leader and Minister of State), comes to work in a large, dignified limousine. He meets freely with conservative Frenchmen in the Cabinet, as seen with them and always conducts himself with reserve and propriety. Pretty soon people may say, 'Why, he is not so bad. Maybe Communists (Stalinists) are not such big bears after all. He seems to be a very decent, well-behaved sort of Frenchman and therefore not such a danger to the country as we had thought previously.'" (Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 24)

Misquoted

"I am told that someone broadcast on election day that I was against the working people, and said I hoped times would get so tough that the working man would have to live off bread and water. The statement is untrue. I never mentioned bread. I certainly appreciate the nice vote given me Tuesday, and will continue to do my best for you. Respectfully, S. J. Pendleton." (Notice in the Seaside Highlands Sun, Avon Park, Fla.)

Murray Denounces Measure Now In House As "Vicious"

Congressional labor-haters, aroused to a pitch of frenzy by the current magnificent strike struggles of the workers, on January 30 shunted aside all other questions in the House to consider the Case Bill, a measure designed to completely cripple

the rights of labor to strike and picket.

Steel Foremen Quit Plant To Join Strikers

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 31—Union-busting dreams of the haughty Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation were dealt another blow here this week. The carefully-laid plans of the company officials to use supervisory workers as strikebreakers is crumbling before the advance of a contagious spirit of labor solidarity.

According to reports of union officers from the Steelworkers Hazelwood Local 1843, the past week has witnessed a steady stream of foremen from both the Hazelwood and South Side J & L mills to the union headquarters where they are signing up in the CIO's United Foremen's Union.

Jones and Laughlin mills were struck in advance of the general steel strike deadline after the corporation representatives informed the union committees that supervisors, not union men, would handle maintenance work during the scheduled strike. The unions promptly answered that proposition by establishing picket lines which barred all but doctors and nurses from going in or out of the plants.

Foremen who are leaving the mills in groups now, under union escort, report miserable conditions within the mills. The discomfort of the men due to cold and insufficient food; has been made even less tolerable by their discovery that J&L has reneged on its promise of 24 hours' pay and is rewarding the men who are living inside the mill with only 14 hours' pay for their services.

VIOLENT BILL

CIO President Philip Murray in a statement addressed to Congress on February 3 called the Case bill "one of the most vicious and one of the most cleverly drawn pieces of anti-labor legislation in Congressional history."

The CIO leader charged that the proposed bill would impose compulsory arbitration, enforce a 35-day "cooling off" period before a strike could be legally called, and make it illegal to give assistance in any form to a strike.

The bill provides for the restoration of the type of strike-breaking injunctions which were supposed to have been outlawed by the Norris-LaGuardia Act. It would also permit employers to sue striking unions for alleged "strike damages" and "violation of contract."

THREAT TO LABOR

This latest vicious Congressional threat to labor further underscores the political helplessness of labor without its own labor party to combat the Big Business political agents of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Only the most powerful mass labor resistance on both the economic and political field can halt the offensive of the union-busters in this Congress whose election the CIO-PAC hailed last November as a "progressive victory."

SENATE READY TO BOW BEFORE FOES OF FEPC

The Senate majority are preparing to capitulate to a minority led by ultra-reactionary Southern Democrats who have entered the third week of their filibuster against the bill for a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission. The bill is intended to curb discrimination in industry against racial and religious minorities.

Despite the claims of Senator Chavez and other proponents of the bill about not permitting this "minority to control the will of the majority" and their complaints about this "travesty upon democratic processes," the Senate majority are now reported ready to bury the FEPC measure.

New York Meeting Hears FEPC Report See Page 5

sure in order to "get on with other business."

This has been the spectacle repeated year after year in the Senate and House whenever measures to protect the Negro people and other minorities from oppression and discrimination are proposed. After giving lip service to the anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, and FEPC bills, Congressional so-called "progressives" always quickly fold up under the opposition of their political colleagues from the South.

INDUSTRIALISTS OPPOSE

This year's filibuster against the rights of 13,000,000 Negro people is again being led by Senator Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi, an old hand at this method of counterpoising the will of a tiny, ruthless minority of "White Supremacists" against

the demands of the Negro people and the labor movement.

While pretending that only politicians from the deep south are sabotaging FEPC, Senators from the industrial north, acting for Big Business interests, are likewise trying to prevent action on the measure. Thus, Senator Hawkes of New Jersey spoke against FEPC, claiming it would "destroy the American system of free enterprise."

In short, the big capitalists are opposed to the bill because their ability to discriminate against Negroes and other racial minorities in industry helps them to divide the workers and undermine their living standards.

The "democratic rights" of a few southern Senators elected by a minute percentage of the white populations of the poll-tax states is given as the pretext by the Senate majority for tolerating this filibuster to help keep millions of Negro people in a status of second-class citizenship.

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Nigerian Union Congress Thanks The SWP For Aid

A letter of thanks just received by the Socialist Workers Party from the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria demonstrates how much workers in the colonial countries appreciate international aid in their struggle against imperialism.

Last June 150,000 Nigerian workers conducted a heroic general strike for an increase in pay of 50 cents a day. The British despots responded by arresting 10 trade union leaders, suppressing two Negro-edited papers, the Daily Comet and the West African Pilot which backed the strike, and clamping a censorship on the colony.

When the news leaked out, The Militant gave front page publicity to the strike, calling upon American labor to support the just cause of their Nigerian fellow workers. The Socialist Workers Party also cabled protests to the Colonial Office in London and to the British Governor of Nigeria.

The text of the letter from the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria is as follows:

TEXT OF CABLE

Dear Comrade:

I am directed by the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria to convey to you the sincere and hearty

thanks of the workers of Nigeria (as resolved at the December 1945 Annual Congress-in-Session) for your very kind and generous assistance, moral and financial, during the June 1945 General Strike.

Your spontaneous support, and collaboration during these hectic days were very inspiring and were of immense value to the cause of the workers. I am hereby to register the workers' deep appreciation of this fine gesture of yours and to commend you highly for your activities.

The Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to probe into the Cola affair started here on December 4, 1945, but has not yet finished its work. The workers presented a comparatively strong case before the Commission and it is hoped, on this score, that the result will be satisfactory.

With fraternal greetings,
A. A. Adjo-Moses
Secretary General

The Strike Wave -- Its Lessons

By The Editors

The gigantic strike struggles being waged by America's industrial workers are raising questions of immense consequence for labor's future. These questions go far beyond the immediate wage issue.

The very magnitude of this struggle demonstrates that it has erupted as a climax to a long-developing class conflict. At the peak of the strike wave two weeks ago, more than 1,700,000 industrial workers were on the picket lines. At this writing, 1,400,000 workers are still out, including those from steel, General Motors in auto, and electrical equipment.

These strikes encompass whole basic industries and the most powerful monopoly corporations. They involve virtually identical immediate demands. They tend toward an especially bitter and protracted character, demonstrating the determination of the two contending forces not to yield. Above all, they have brought forth new and broad labor demands of a political nature, involving questions of national policy on prices, profits, taxes and the very regulation and control of industry.

The power and sweep of the strike wave has come as an unexpected challenge to Big Business. Wall Street had deliberately launched a concerted, intensified anti-labor offensive after V-J Day. But the counter-offensive of labor has already demonstrated that the program of American capitalism to degrade American labor and dominate the world is meeting tremendous and growing resistance.

Despite the unions' wartime retreats and government restraints, the colossus of American labor emerged from

World War II with its organizations intact and greater in numbers. The fighting temper and self-confidence of the union ranks has remained undiminished.

Moreover, the industrial workers are exhibiting a new high level of organization, unity and militancy. Overcoming in part the weakness, hesitancy and lack of preparation shown by the top union leaders, the ranks themselves have been putting into practice those lessons of strike organization learned during the rise of the CIO.

Everywhere local unions have established strike kitchens and commissaries, relief funds and committees, picket captains and flying squadrons, publicity committees and strike publications.

Mass picketing and demonstrations, with colorful and effective banners and slogans, are witnessed throughout the land. So completely unified and organized are the workers in whole industries, that in many instances only token picket lines have been necessary after the first few days of strike.

These strikes have revealed a unity penetrating deeply into all strata of the workers, including the returned veterans, the women, the Negro people and the white collar wage-earners.

Returned veterans are constituting a tremendous bulwark of the strikes. These young workers just out of uniform are taking a foremost position on picket lines. They are establishing union veterans' committees to mobilize the ex-servicemen behind the embattled workers. They

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The Strike Wave And Its Lessons

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have begun to organize parades and demonstrations, including marches on state capitols, in support of their demands.

Today there is scarcely a picket line in which women workers and wives of workers are not prominent. In every sphere of strike activity women are playing a yeoman role, from combatting police terror on the picket lines to organizing strike kitchens.

What has been especially gratifying in this land of capitalist-inspired Jim Crow is the solidarity between white and Negro workers. Even the most backward white workers are now learning the real meaning of union and class brotherhood from the example of fighting solidarity being displayed by the doubly-oppressed Negro workers.

White-Collar Workers March

Another extremely significant development is the growing union-consciousness of the white collar workers. In ever greater numbers they are moving toward union organization and taking the road of labor struggle, as in the national telephone workers' strike. Many are today marching on the industrial workers' picket lines.

In many communities, small merchants, farmers and professional people are lining up openly behind organized labor, supporting the strikes with finances, food and other aid.

The strike wave has conclusively demonstrated that the organized labor movement is capable of rallying the overwhelming portion of the population behind it and of providing leadership to every oppressed layer of the people in the fight against the rule of monopoly capitalism.

It is already apparent that this unprecedented strike struggle, although not yet concluded, has won certain immediate material gains. Many workers, it is almost certain, will secure higher wages which, for the time being, will offset in part the previous price inflation and loss of overtime pay.

More Enduring Gains

More enduring gains of utmost importance for labor's future, however, will come from the increased confidence, consciousness and education this struggle is giving the working class. It is not only strengthening the workers' unity but hardening them in class combat. From this strike wave is emerging a host of tested unionists with leadership ability, providing the workers with a new source of militant leadership.

This strike wave has also developed a deepening political consciousness among the workers. This is partially reflected in the broader demands which they have advanced.

The general wage demand itself has been based on the broad conception of the sliding scale of wages and hours. The workers are consciously demanding wage scales sufficient to maintain an undiminished total income despite less hours of work and loss of overtime. This demand is also directed against unemployment and is designed to prevent employers from exploiting one section of the workers for long hours while others are thrown out of jobs.

Demands Of Basic Importance

For the first time in a major strike struggle, an important section of the working class, the General Motors auto workers, has advanced demands directly bearing on the most fundamental question posed by the deepening crisis of capitalism: What class shall control the economy?

The General Motors strikers have spearheaded the whole strike struggle and have been primarily responsible for wresting recommendations for wage concessions from the government. They have made a national issue of the demand first raised in 1938 by THE MILITANT and the Socialist Workers Party: Open the Books of the Corporations!

The entire capitalist class denounces this far-reaching demand, correctly sensing in it a move in the direction of workers' intervention in matters of prices, profits and production. This is a threat to the monopolists' rule over the economy and points toward workers' control over industry.

The GM workers also oppose any price increases, correctly insisting that any wage increases be paid out of corporation profits. In this way, the GM wage demands have been advanced in a manner calculated to protect the interests of the mass of consumers.

Wages Tied To Legislative Issues

Moreover, the entire CIO to a certain degree has connected its wage struggle with national legislative issues, particularly the tax laws. The CIO, through Philip Murray, has called for repeal of the tax provisions for billions in rebates to the corporations. These measures were passed by Congress to bolster Big Business in its onslaught against labor.

However, along with the strong and positive features revealed by the strikes, the struggle has also disclosed dangerous weaknesses and shortcomings.

These are reflected in the policies of the top union leadership. They have failed to give the needed bold and

Men Of Steel On Picket Patrol



No scabs have dared to crash this determined picket line at the main gate of the Bethlehem Steel Company's mammoth plant at Bethlehem, Pa., closed down tight on January 21. Defying ankle-deep snow, cold and sharp winds,

the strikers, working in four-hour shifts, have patrolled all entrances to the plant. Over 25,000 steel workers have shut down this and 12 other concerns in the Lehigh Valley area. Call-Chronicle Photo

militant direction to the struggle. They have not led. Instead, only the terrific pressure of the union ranks finally prodded and pushed them into some semblance of action.

Leaders Delayed, Then Wilted

They delayed many crucial weeks before permitting the steel and electrical equipment workers to join forces with the GM strikers. They wilted under government pressure and surrendered a good portion of the workers' wage demands in advance of any real battle. In no sense did they follow the best features of the GM strike. They sought rather to restrict the struggle to the narrow plane of "pure and simple" wage demands and opposed the broad, forward-looking demands raised by the GM workers.

The CIO leaders attempted to forestall the inevitable conflict by their customary back-room deals in Washington. What they especially hoped for was some sort of favorable government intervention or such minimum concessions from the corporations as would provide a sufficient pretext for calling off the scheduled strikes. Therefore, they made no preparations for a real battle. They proceeded throughout on the basis of hasty improvisations rather than by a real plan and unified strategy.

It is in the very midst of the struggle that the CIO leaders have suddenly started to clamor about the federal tax laws which are helping to finance corporation strike-breaking out of the U. S. Treasury. It is only now when striking workers are going hungry that the CIO leaders are complaining loudly about the government's "state's rights" unemployment insurance law which permits State-controlled agencies to deny compensation to striking workers.

Who Passed These Laws?

Yet these vicious laws were passed by the very Congress and signed by the very President that the union leaders supported during the war and helped to keep in office. Where were Murray and his lieutenants when these measures were being put over? Aside from a little verbal protest, the union leaders had made no attempt to mobilize a genuine fight against these measures. How could they? They were the loyal servants of the capitalist government and its war machine. They were political handmaidens of the Democratic administration.

While these laws were being passed and while the corporations were filling their "war chests" in preparation for a postwar assault on the unions, the union leaders were busy enforcing the "no strike pledge," expelling local mili-

WESTERN ELECTRIC MEN HOLD FIRM IN STRIKE

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

KEARNY, N. J., Feb. 2 — Two successive court hearings, Vice-Chancellor James Fiedler has overruled union evidence and motions, and maintained this vicious injunction in force. This means that at the main plant here, over 3,000 managerial and supervisory people are walking through the picket lines.

This strikebreaking injunction is another clear proof that the unions cannot rely on corporation-controlled courts to protect their rights and that the most effective way to answer such union-crippling legal moves is to clamp air-tight picket lines around struck plants.

STILL HOLD OUT

Since the calling off of the national phone strike, the Western Electric Employees Association has been deprived of real aid from the National Federation of Telephone Workers. But the WEEA leadership has continued to hold out for adequate wage increases, and to reject the Company pre-strike offer of 15 per cent.

That the WEEA leadership has the confidence of the rank and file, which is determined to continue the strike, was again demonstrated in last night's union meeting in Jersey City. Over 5,000 union members voted solidly to continue the fight. This independent union thus helps maintain a solid labor front with striking CIO workers for necessary wage increases.

tants and policing the unions in the interests of the imperialist "war effort."

Moreover, all through the war the union leaders, especially the Stalinists, had spread the myth that the victory of American imperialist arms in the "war for democracy" would usher in a golden postwar era of harmonious class relations between capital and labor.

That is why they did not foresee, let alone prepare for, the present unparalleled conflict between the working class and the big capitalist rulers of American economy.

An especially perfidious role has been played in the present struggle by the Stalinists. They have been following a devious and two-faced policy. While attempting to palm themselves off as "militants," they are actually undermining the interests of the workers in conformity with the reactionary dictates of the Stalin bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

Perfidious Role Of Stalinists

The Stalinists in recent weeks have been yelling radical phrases at the top of their lungs. They even called for "extension of the strikes." But in every union where they have a significant influence, the Stalinists tried to stall strike action. It was such unions as the CIO Electrical Workers, dominated by the Stalinists, which made the greatest concession on wage demands to the employers in advance of strike action.

For nearly eight weeks, the UE leaders ignored the pleas of the striking General Motors auto workers to call out the 30,000 UE members working in the GM Electrical Division. It was the Stalinists who ran interference for the top UAW leaders in preventing Ford Local 600 from passing a resolution condemning the treacherous "company security" plan when it was first proposed by the CIO auto union's Ford Division director, Richard T. Leonard.

Now, the Stalinists have crowned their treacherous conduct by unleashing an "anti-Trotskyist" red-baiting campaign against the GM militants, thus offering a springboard to General Motors for launching a large-scale red scare in an attempt to divide and discredit the GM strikers. Once more the Stalinists have revealed themselves as the most unscrupulous enemies of the workers within the labor movement.

Unions Helpless On Political Field

It is in its relations with the capitalist government and on the decisive political arena that the labor movement has revealed the most glaring weakness during the course of the strike wave. In every instance where the struggle has had to be waged on the political plane, the unions have been helpless.

At best, the union leaders have been able only to denounce Congress and its Big Business measures from the sidelines. When Murray attacked Truman's proposal for semi-compulsory arbitration fact-finding boards, the CIO President threatened to mobilize "all labor's political strength." This was just bluster.

Labor today is still tied to the Democratic and Republican parties of Wall Street. The union leaders still follow the bankrupt policy of placing dependence upon the capitalist government and its administration to protect the interests of the workers. The union leaders have consistently opposed the creation of the indispensable instrument to fight for the workers' political demands, an independent labor party.

Truman's Anti-Labor Policies

The Administration's policy during the strikes has shown unmistakably that the government represents Big Business. Truman himself gave the green light to the Congressional labor-haters when he called for legislation to restrict strikes through "fact-finding" boards. After trying to force the GM workers to end their strike without any concessions, he used the "fact-finding" panels as the instruments for whittling down the workers' wage demands.

He resorted to direct strikebreaking through government plant seizures in the CIO Oil Workers and Packinghouse Workers strikes. In the latter case, only the defiance of the union forced Truman to give a belated assurance of some wage increases based on a "fact-finding" report.

Only the tremendous direct action of the workers on the picket line has forced the administration to recommend some minimum wage concessions, although none of the strike-bound big corporations has as yet agreed to these recommendations.

But even before any wage settlements were suggested by the government, it had already secretly agreed to huge price increases for the monopolists. The capitalists and

their government had conspired in advance to rob the workers of any wage gains through price inflation.

This is all part of Wall Street's preparation for the next stage of its struggle against labor. That preparation includes laws to cripple the unions and their fighting power. It also means an attempt to secure provisions in union contracts which would enable the corporations to victimize union militants and restore the open shop.

One of the most treacherous concessions which the union leaders in oil, auto and other industries are making to the employers, is the agreement to "company security," including permission to the companies to victimize union militants for so-called "unauthorized strikes." At the same time, the corporations are demanding elimination of union security, such as maintenance of membership and the union shop.

Labor Faces Future Offensive

Every move of the corporations and their government points up the fact that the present strikes will have settled no decisive issues. Once the present strike wave has receded, labor will face a further and more ruthless Big Business offensive. The workers will have to fight against terrific inflation, new anti-labor legislation, vast corporation grabs from the public treasury.

These and many other issues are already becoming life-and-death matters for the working class. None of these issues can be resolved except through political means.

All the positive gains which labor will have won through its magnificent strike struggles will be lost unless the workers are prepared for the next stage of the struggle. And that preparation means above all a genuine labor political program and a party to fight for that program.

The workers will be successful in the inevitable great conflicts ahead only if they are prepared to battle politically. But despite the magnificent industrial organizations they have built, the organized workers are crippled by lack of their own class political machinery to contest the capitalists on the decisive political arena.

Union Ranks Want Labor Party

There are numerous indications that the union ranks desire genuine independent labor political action. That is the meaning of the tremendous vote given labor's candidate, UAW Vice President Richard Frankenstein, in the Detroit mayoralty election last November. Numerous local union bodies have already gone on record for a labor party. In some cities, such as Seattle, committees of active unionists are organizing to work for the formation of a labor party.

The top union leaders cannot be depended upon to advance the necessary effective program in preparation for the political struggle which faces labor in the period ahead. It can be expected that they will attempt to sidetrack the movement for an independent labor party and a clean-cut break with all capitalist politicians and capitalist political machines.

It is up to the tested union militants who are the real backbone of the present magnificent strike struggles to provide the leadership in the movement for a labor party.

A new and different kind of labor leadership is required if the workers are to triumph in the stormy conflicts that lie ahead. That means men and women with fighting hearts, unshakable loyalty to labor's interests, a thorough grasp of the great class issues and a genuine working-class political program.

With such a leadership and program, and with their own party, the workers will then have the major requisites for success in the next phase of their fight: the struggle for real labor political power against the rule of Big Business and its Democratic and Republican machines.

Profiteering Steel Barons Ask Outrageous Price Rise

(Continued from Page 1)

ous profits even if wage concessions are made, was followed the next day by a similar hijacking demand from Eugene G. Grace, head of Bethlehem Steel.

In his statement, in which he took the occasion to smear the militant strike action of the workers in the Lackawanna Plant as "despicable," Grace admitted that the average take-home pay of all Bethlehem wage-earners had dropped from \$64.85 weekly in 1944 to \$49.98 at the end of 1945. Employment fell at the same time from 239,765 to 154,786.

NEAR-RECORD TAKE

But Bethlehem Steel's reported profits for 1945 were admitted by Grace on January 31, to be \$34,947,116, only a little over a million dollars less than the all-time 1944 record take. The actual profits were really greater, since Bethlehem marked off to depreciation and other funds some \$75,000,000, as contrasted to only \$45,000,000 in 1944. The usual high dividends were paid.

That the steel barons are merely spearheading a concerted Big Business drive to destroy all price controls and extort scandalous prices from the workers and all other consumers, is shown by the fact that Henry Ford II immediately followed up the steel price demand by calling for the elimination of ALL price regulations affecting the automobile industry. Similarly, it has become clear that General Motors is holding out for huge price increases before it will concede the 10 1/2-cent an hour wage increase recommended by Truman.

Walter P. Reuther, CIO United Auto Workers vice-president, declared in a wire to Truman

that "industry, spearheaded by Steel and the General Motors Corporation, is determined to hijack the American people and the American Government into accepting unjustified price increases that will provide the most outrageous profits in history."

The General Motors workers, whose bitter 11-week strike has been chiefly responsible for forcing the Truman administration to recommend wage concessions, have demanded consistently that no price increases be granted GM.

The fight of American labor for the maintenance of decent living standards is shifting to the price front, where the inflation deliberately planned by Big Business threatens to wipe out the wage gains which the workers will have made in their great strike struggles.



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U. S. Army Abets POW Slave Traffic

Authentic reports seeping through the censorship expose atrocities in slave labor traffic between the United States and France which are no less bestial than the atrocities committed by the Nazis during their heyday.

These accounts, emanating from conservative and Catholic French papers, such as *Figaro*, *Temps* and *Le Petit Parisien*, confirm the cynical hypocrisy of the "War for the Four Freedoms" and the fraudulent indignation of the "democratic" imperialists against Nazi brutality.

At the beginning of October there were 450,000 German slave laborers at work in France, but many more are in camps working for the army, according to Louis Clair in the January 14 *Progressive*. Every two weeks 50,000 new prisoners are turned over to be profitably exploited by French industry. The French government hopes to secure 1,750,000 German slave workers by June of next year.

SUPPLIED BY U. S.

The main source of supply for these slaves, says the writer, is the U. S. Army. "More than 700,000 have been turned over to the French by American authorities, more than 200,000 of these are already so sick that the French government now wants to return them since they are no longer of any use." "Ninety thousand living skeletons have been returned to the U. S. Army, 10,000 of them stretcher cases."

"People point to the Gestapo tortures, the gas chambers and mountains of human bodies found in the internment camps in Germany," reports *Figaro*. "But in certain camps for German prisoners of war... living skeletons may be seen, almost like those in German concentration camps, and deaths from undernourishment are numerous. Prisoners have been savagely and systematically beaten and some have been employed in removing mines without protection equipment so that they have been condemned to death sooner or later."

In one camp for 20,000 prisoners in the Sarthe district, inmates receive 900 calories a day; thus a dozen die every day in the hospital. Some 4,000 to 5,000 are unable to work at all any more. Recently trains with new prisoners arrived in the camp; several prisoners had died during the trip. Several others had tried to stay alive by eating coal that had been lying in the freight train on which they came.

BEATEN AND KICKED

A witness reporting on the camp in Langre said: "I have seen them beaten with rifle butts and kicked with feet in the streets of the town because they broke down of overwork."

The reports agree that treatment in the camps differed in no respect from Nazi SS brutality. Many cases were reported where men were so horribly beaten that their limbs were broken. In one camp men were awakened during the night, called out of their barracks and then shot "because of attempted escape."

Written affidavits prove that in some camps commanding officers sold on the black market all the supplies that had been provided for these men.

The French government is di-

rectly involved in this criminal and profitable slave traffic. When the slaves are turned over by the U. S. Army to French industry, they are supposed to get the same wages as French workers. But these wages—an average of 150 francs per day—go to the government, not to the prisoners. The government in turn pays 10 francs to each prisoner. The upkeep is about 40 francs for each prisoner. This leaves a net profit of 100 francs a day per prisoner, or a total net profit of 175,000,000 francs per day for French "democracy."

"DEBT" OF HUMAN LIVES

Under the agreement made with the U. S. Army, there are 600,000 German prisoners "still owing" to the French industrialists. That these, too, will be dumped into this inferno of suffering and death was calmly stated by the N. Y. Times of December 8. "U. S. Group Control Council in Berlin has recently decided that all German POWs in this country are going to be turned over to the French."

Thus, while the American imperialists perform their ghoulish mockery of a "war-crimes trial" of the Nazi leaders, these "democratic liberators" are themselves guilty of an infamous slave trade in which tens of thousands of helpless German workers—many of them heroic fighters against Hitler and his barbarous machine—are being slowly and agonizingly destroyed.

Why GIs In China Refuse To Back Chiang's Regime

GIs in the Far East are demanding immediate return home. One of the reasons they give is opposition to being used as tools in bolstering up the dictatorial regime of Chiang Kai-shek in China. These GIs speak from first-hand experience. What they have observed about Chiang's rule can be judged from the following report by Edward Rorbaugh of the United Press:

"While a representative of Chiang Kai-shek conferred with Communist (Stalinist) delegates in Chungking, his planes strafed farmers, boatmen and townspeople in and near this city well above the Yangtze in New Fourth Army territory. I saw a P-47 bearing a Kuomintang star blast a cottage by the grand canal, half a mile ahead of me on the outskirts of the city."

"The people had seen American fighter planes before; they had seen these planes in the air fighting Japs. But never had American guns been directed against them, and they stood in the canal road, motionless, unconscious of the fact that those guns carried death for them. Their brown faces were steeped in bewilderment and incredulity, and their helplessness against American-made power in the air was the helplessness of Ethiopians against Mussolini's feats."

Written affidavits prove that in some camps commanding officers sold on the black market all the supplies that had been provided for these men.

The French government is di-

Royal Air Force Takes Up GI Cry To Speed Return

Inspired by the world-wide protest demonstrations of American soldiers, British Royal Air Force men, demanding speedy demobilization, began sit-down strikes at Mauripur camp, near Karachi, India, on January 22. The action immediately spread to other stations in India, Ceylon, Egypt and Palestine.

By January 28 at least 12 important British air bases in the Middle and Far East were paralyzed by the strikes. The men remained in their headquarters in defiance of their duty assignments as a protest against the slow demobilization policy of the British Army and Navy.

Approximately 6,000 RAF soldiers, including about 1,000 Indians, stopped work for several days at two airports in Cawnpore, biggest RAF maintenance center in India.

Similar action was taken at a large airfield on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt, where several hundred members of the RAF ground staff refused to work. Calling their action a "sit-down" strike, they demanded a speedup of demobilization and complained of "repressive disciplinary measures recently imposed on the station, long working hours, inadequate welfare and poor food."

AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS

Work at the Lydda, Palestine, airfield—one of the main pivots of the air transport between Britain and the Far East—was halted by a strike of about 700 RAF personnel.

About 1,200 RAF men at the Dumdum airfield of Calcutta, joined in the sit-down strike demonstrations on January 27. A day later dispatches reported additional men on strike at Katayake Field on Ceylon and at a station near Singapore.

Prime Minister Attlee and Viscount Stansgate told Parliament on January 29 that 11 of the 12 "incidents" had ended. But on the same day, new strikes of RAF men were reported in Lahore and the Punjab, India.

A spokesman for men of the RAF base at Cawnpore, India, where 5,000 men returned to work on January 28 after a four-day strike, declared that "the strike has been called off for a short time only."

The men said they were awaiting the British Government's findings on their detailed demands.

The British government and Brass Hats have responded to the protest demonstrations of the RAF men in much the same way that Washington officials replied to demonstrating American GIs. British officials make "promises" and declare they will make "no concession to indiscipline." But they are taking no prompt action to correct the prompt action to correct the conditions against which the men are protesting.

The French government is di-

They Want To Go Home, Too!



Inspired by the example set by American GI demonstrators abroad, these crowds of Chinese workers who had been forced to labor in Japan during the war, paraded down Tokyo's Ginza on January 25. In huge mass meetings they protested against the delay in returning them to their home in China and Korea.

Asme Photo

Cruelty To Lichfield GIs Ordered By Army Brass

By Charles Carsten

GIs in their world-wide protest demonstrations have urged democratic reforms in the Army. Proof of the urgency of these reforms has been provided by the present courts-martial in London of nine enlisted guards and two first lieutenants. These men are accused of cruel and inhuman treatment of American combat soldiers during the winter of 1945 at Tenth Rein-

ed in the February 2 issue of *The Militant*. Then PM, "liberal" New York daily, printed three articles on the trials. PM wonders where the brutal Lichfield policy, reminiscent of Nazi concentration camp barbarity, originated.

CALCULATED POLICY
But actually the trials themselves have shown that the calculated policy of beating American soldiers barely recovered from battle wounds was not borrowed from the Nazis but originated in the Army high command itself.

On January 2, 1946, Major Richard F. LoBuono, former Lichfield provost marshal, who is not on trial, testified that "higher quarters" were aware of the conditions at the Lichfield guardhouse. Despite the fact that much of the brutality occurred while he was commanding officer of the guardhouse, he declared that he was removed because he was "too soft."

Major LoBuono told the court that General Brown, Commanding General of the Ground Forces Reinforcement Command, warned Sgt. Judson H. Smith, one of the defendants in the trials; "YOU'RE NOT TOUGH ENOUGH ON THESE MEN. YOU'RE NOT RUNNING A HOTEL, SERGEANT."

Major LoBuono testified that he was following orders when he refused to issue mattresses for the prisoners and made them sleep on boards. The prosecution asked LoBuono whether Col. James A. Kilian, commanding officer of the Lichfield depot during the time prisoners were savagely abused, had ever suggested that "the Lichfield policy was dictated by higher authorities?" LoBuono answered, "Yes."

According to Major LoBuono, Col. Kilian, who is typical of Prussian-minded U. S. brass, when told that a guard had shot an "escaping" prisoner through the leg, responded: "Make the guard a sergeant." **TOP BRASS KNEW**
Although Col. Kilian is not on trial, he not only knew what

was going on in the Lichfield guardhouse under his command, but was directly responsible for the cruel policy followed by the guards.

Clearly showing, furthermore, that the high command was in a position to know of the inhuman conditions at Lichfield, Col. Kilian said that in one month eight generals had visited the guardhouse. Among them were Brig. Gen. Henry J. Matchett, Commanding General of the Ground Forces Reinforcement Command; Brig. Gen. J. W. MacKelvie, deputy field commander for Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee; and a Major Gen. Hughes, Inspector General from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters.

Col. Kilian declared that all had commented favorably on the guardhouse as being well-conducted. Here is one of many examples of what was happening to the prisoners in this "well-conducted" guardhouse:

In the winter of 1945, Alvin Alfred, a white soldier, and Clarence Wright, a Negro soldier, were brought to the guardhouse. In the evening they were taken from their cell to the "Bull Pen," a brick enclosed court yard in the center of the cell block. What occurred then was related by another prisoner:

SAVAGE BEATINGS
"Two guards held Alfred by the arms while a third asked him where he had been wounded. When he said his stomach, he hit Alfred repeatedly in the stomach until he collapsed, groaning and crying, with blood flowing from his mouth."

The guards then gave Wright an equally savage beating, according to the witness.

These generals, who have eagle eyes for a pair of unshined shoes or an unbuttoned pocket among soldiers passing in review, couldn't have helped noticing that sanitary facilities in the Lichfield guardhouse were completely lacking. Lester J. Chaves testified there were no urinals and only one commode in each wing.

The generals knew all this and more. As part of the high command they helped formulate and enforce the U. S. Army's policy of keeping men in replacement depots under a reign of terror and vicious brutality so that they would be only too glad to return to the battle front.

SEATTLE
Public Meeting On
VIGILANTE TERROR IN FONTANA
HEAR
Myra Tanner Weiss
SPEAK ON
"The Facts Of The Case and
How To Combat Vigilante Actions"
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 8 P.M.
Socialist Workers Party Headquarters
1919 1/2 Second Avenue

(Continued from Page 1)
manded the lowering of the prices of food, clothing, etc., which have been skyrocketing in the company stores despite an agreement with the unions fixing prices at a lower level.

The five-day strike of these workers in the North brought out the rest of the workers in the entire nitrate industry.

When the demonstration began in Santiago, the Carabineros (National Police) after openly provoking the crowd, began firing with rifles and machine-guns. The workers replied with stones, sticks, fist blows and angry shouts.

WRITTEN IN BLOOD

Thousands of rounds were fired. Blood flowed on the streets. But the workers did not lower their trade union banners. On the contrary, in the midst of the struggle and the general panic they dipped handkerchiefs, banners and placards in the blood of their dead and wounded comrades. They defiantly raised these emblems. On the base of the statue in the center of the Plaza they wrote the following words with the blood of the fallen workers: **MURDERERS! LIBERTY!**

The Carabineros sustained 14 wounded.

The workers re-formed their ranks with greater strength. They did not flee, but organized a meeting on the scene of the massacre and conducted an unauthorized parade through the main streets, carrying their banners soaked in the blood of the martyrs.

Thousands of demonstrating Stalinists and Socialists formed the core of the marchers. But the slogan of "national unity" preached by Stalinism was not heard once. The war song of the proletariat, *The Internationale*, rose in a mighty chorus. Small groups of militant Trotskyists of the Revolutionary Workers Party, carrying their slogans in the parade, were greeted sympathetically by many demonstrators. The Trotskyists shouted: "Down with the Radical assassins! Unite the Communist, Socialist, and the Chilean Workers' Federation! For a workers' and farmers' government! Call a general strike!"

SHIFT IN GOVERNMENT
As the voice of the parade grew louder instead of diminish-

ing, the radio announced that a shift had occurred in the government. The Ministry of the Interior had been combined with the Navy Department. Another Ministry had fallen into the power of the Department of Aviation.

In this way, the bourgeois Radicals opened the way for the military clique to seize power, thus facilitating their intentions to carry out in Chile an adventure like that of Peron in Argentina and preparing the ground for a bloody bonapartist military dictatorship against the people.

The first measure of the government was to decree a 60-day nationwide state of siege. The arrest of the principal leaders of the Chilean Workers' Federation was ordered. The streets are patrolled by police armed to the teeth.

This morning the workers in the Sewell Copper Mines and the workers in the most important railway shops in the country (Santiago and San Bernardo) went out in a spontaneous strike.

Last night the National Council of the Chilean Workers Federation called a nationwide general strike.

The strike in the North and the prospective general strike are the logical culmination of the sharpening class struggle in Chile. From January 8 to January 11, in the provinces of Concepcion and Arauco alone, 25,000 coal miners, railway, textile, and other workers conducted a general strike.

COUNTRY TENSE
Tomorrow the funeral of the victims will be held. The entire country is tense. Despite the state of siege the workers have decided to turn out in mass at the funeral to protest and to affirm their will to defend their democratic conquests.

In writing this article for the readers of *The Militant*, in the name of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Chile, I call on the workers of North America to come to the defense of their class brothers in Chile. Send telegrams to the Chilean government protesting its anti-democratic measures. Solidarity with the Chilean Workers' Federation!

We are sure that the American Trotskyists are in the front rank defending their class brothers.

'GET US HOME!' DEMAND ALL SOLDIERS IN HAWAII

Following GI reports from Paris and Okinawa in previous issues of *The Militant*, we publish herewith an eyewitness report from Honolulu on the moods and sentiments of the GIs there.

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

HONOLULU, Jan. 20—The reaction of GIs here to the War Department's announcement of a slowdown in demobilization was immediate after reports of demonstrations in Manila. In the Hawaiian Islands an enormous protest meeting of 25,000 was held at Hickam Field, others at Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks.

GI opinion on the War Department's demobilization policy is unanimously negative.

Let their be no mistake, these demonstrations were supported by overwhelming sentiment and are not the result of "agitators." It was almost impossible to find an enlisted man opposed to them. It may appear like mutiny to some but to the GI it is normal exercise of his democratic rights.

WHAT GIs WANT
What were the demands raised at all of these demonstrations? Invariably GIs demanded a comprehensive and overall plan covering demobilization for at least the next six months. A second unanimous demand was that the Army keep its word and free all two-year men by March 20. Another, that points be cumulative so that a man serving overseas receives recognition of this in terms of extra credit toward discharge.

Resolutions passed by the protesting GIs revealed deep-seated distrust of Washington's foreign policy as demonstrated in Indonesia and China. Why, it was asked, must Allied countries be occupied? Why keep troops in the Philippines?

Another great step forward was made in this wave of mass GI protests. Previously there was considerable sentiment against the labor movement due to the propaganda against strikes during wartime. Men asked: "Why should they be able to strike? My family and I receive a lot less and I can't open my mouth."

The average conscripted soldier believed that through bad luck he had been deprived of a chance to make a decent living while the men at home garnered "big wartime wages."

The protest demonstrations have — to some degree at least — served to reestablish unity between the civilian worker and the drafted soldier. The soldier has been condemned for sins similar

to the ones formerly reserved for organized labor. Most soldiers overseas believe they have been forgotten and left to their own devices by the people "back home." Even under the pressure of the protests, the War Department has not yet made a single concession to the servicemen.

Chief of Staff General Eisenhower forbade any further demonstrations. No criticism of "persons in authority" is permitted. Several members of the Oahu Servicemen's Committee for Speedier Demobilization were restricted to quarters here because they characterized Eisenhower's plan as wholly inadequate. They were later released with warnings.

Officers attending or participating in meetings of the American Veterans Committee are warned on threat of court martial not to even mention the subject of demobilization. The lid is clamped down tightly. But underneath it, the same discontent and resentment remains.

NO CONFIDENCE
The major effect of all this on the average GI is nearly complete disillusionment and loss of confidence in the politicians in power. "I don't believe a thing they tell me," say the GIs. "I won't believe I'm going to be discharged until I have that precious sheet of paper tightly in hand."

One almost unanimous conclusion of the servicemen is that they will not vote for a single person now in office. Many so further and say they will not vote for either party now in office. And some conclude that the next administration should be a Labor Government. Many are very receptive to this idea and very few can think up any reason for opposing the proposal.

One thing is sure — the present administration and Congress have lost hundreds of thousands of supporters.

UNO And The Fine Art Of Camouflage

By Joseph Hansen

Predatory animals have developed camouflage to a high degree. The eyes and nostrils of a crocodile, for instance, look like knots on a dead log as it floats just below the surface, waiting for its hapless victim.

But camouflage did not reach full flower until the capitalists picked it up from the beasts of prey. What endless resource and cunning in camouflage have the capitalists displayed in their savage struggles for world domination! Bomb factories photograph as peaceful parks and lawns. Powerful gun emplacements resemble quiet groves of trees. Mighty battleships blend into the vacant sky and sea.

C-DO NATURE

In all fields, the capitalists have brought camouflage to heights far beyond the miracles of nature. Colonial rule, to cite another example, depends as much on properly wrought camouflage as on artillery, tanks, bombers and modern rocket-firing planes.

The French imperialists shoot down the fighters for Indo-China's freedom—as Felix Guin, new President of France, explained on taking office—solely "in the interests of the native populations themselves."

The Dutch and British likewise are most meticulous about their camouflage in Indonesia. The Dutch only want to give the Javanese "equal partnership" in the old colonial empire. And the British pour death and destruction on the people of

mouflage artists have attempted to give the UNO the coloration of its political surroundings. Perhaps in moving Spaak and Lie into public view they thought of the rattlesnake which so closely resembles the surrounding terrain it is scarcely ever observed until it is within striking distance.

As late as 1934 UNO President Spaak travelled so far to the left in taking on the hues of socialism that he visited Leon Trotsky ostensibly to learn the correct way to fight for trade union democracy in Belgium. And UNO Secretary-General Trygve Lie went so far to the left while building a reputation as a "socialist" that he at one time joined the Communist International when, under Lenin and Trotsky, it was a revolutionary organization.

The beauty of Spaak and Lie as UNO camouflage is their well-tested dependability. For years these two "socialists" have proved their sterling loyalty to king and capitalist rulers.

BOTH BETRAYERS

Spaak betrayed his comrades in the trade unions, and took a post in the Belgian government. There he faithfully and cynically learned all the ins and outs of serving as "socialist" camouflage for a foul, corrupt and utterly reactionary institution—the Belgian monarchy.

Trygve Lie likewise distinguished himself as Minister of

Justice for King Haakon and the Norwegian shipping interests. During the 1936 Moscow purge trials, Trygve Lie arrested and interned Leon Trotsky and his wife in Norway to prevent them from exposing the shameful lies and filthy slanders heaped on Trotsky's name by the Stalinist frame-up specialists. He did this in response to pressure from the shipowners who feared a break in commercial relations with Moscow. Trygve Lie prevented the persecuted exiles from resorting to court action or the press in answering the Stalinist liars. Finally Trygve Lie threatened his captive with deportation, that is, delivery into the hands of Stalin's GPU gangsters. Only a passport granted by the Mexican government saved Trotsky's life for a few more years.

STALINIST SUPPORT

What more could world imperialism and the Stalinist bureaucracy demand in proof of Trygve Lie's dependability? Small wonder that Vyshinsky, who was in charge of the Stalinist frame-up against the old Bolsheviks in the purge trials, pressed the UNO to select Trygve Lie for camouflage! In the entire kingdom of beasts of prey and the whole history of capitalism, it would be difficult to find more treacherous and perfidious camouflage than the one selected by Anglo-American imperialism and Stalin for the UNO.

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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

O'Dwyer And Stalinists

During the 1945 mayoralty campaign, Farrell Dobbs, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor of New York, warned the workers about the Democratic candidate William O'Dwyer's proposal to almost double the police force. Over the radio on October 26, 1945, Dobbs predicted:

"There is every likelihood that this tremendous increase in the police force is aimed directly at the workers who dare to exercise their legal rights to strike and peacefully picket."

This prediction has been confirmed during the very first month that O'Dwyer has been in office. The ex-cop O'Dwyer's augmented police force is being used as a brutal strike-breaking agency against the striking Western Union workers of the CIO American Communications Association in New York.

At Western Union's central office in downtown New York, hundreds of O'Dwyer's cops have been on hand every day since the beginning of the strike. They form a passageway through which scabs pass in and out of the building.

On January 23, when the pickets attempted to stop the scabs, hundreds of O'Dwyer's policemen assaulted the pickets with clubs, injuring several and arresting ten. Thus O'Dwyer encourages strikebreaking against the low-paid workers of one of the most ruthless corporations in the country.

No sooner had O'Dwyer stepped in to the Mayor's office than he came forward with a proposal to increase the sales tax from one to two per cent. This tax, paid largely by working people, would place an added strain on their already heavily taxed wages. Since sales taxes fall most heavily on the poor, O'Dwyer's proposal has been loudly applauded by the big real estate interests and banks.

These actions show what a crime the Stalinists committed against the New York workers by supporting O'Dwyer. Even now, the Daily Worker, official organ of the Communist Party, plays down O'Dwyer's strikebreaking and scab-herding role in the Western Union strike and his proposal for an increased sales tax.

Intent on preserving the unholy alliance of the Communist Party with Tammany Hall, the Stalinists are whitewashing and concealing the anti-labor role of O'Dwyer, helping to undermine the courageous struggle of the Western Union workers, and facilitating O'Dwyer's scheme to tax the poor for the benefit of the rich.

Tax Rebates

Nothing has so enraged the vast army of striking workers as the fact that while they are compelled either to go without relief of any kind or exist on a mere pittance, the big corporations, whose arrogance forced them out on strike, are being handsomely cared for by huge tax-refund handouts.

In most states, although workers are required to make regular payments into the state unemployment compensation fund, men and women on strike are not permitted to collect unemployment insurance.

In the few states where they can apply for compensation while on strike, they are subjected to long delays and must wade through endless red-tape. In the end, what they do receive is a completely inadequate allowance, scarcely sufficient to maintain bare existence.

Most of the veterans have not worked long enough to accumulate benefits and cannot collect state unemployment insurance. While on strike they receive nothing under provisions of the GI Bill.

The government's agents of Big Business have craftily worked out and enforced this policy in an attempt to starve out workers.

The government's treatment of the corporations stands in glaring contrast to that accorded the workers. Tax measures passed by Congress during the war permit the big industrialists access to twenty billion dollars in post-war refunds.

This anti-union war chest provided by the government for the big corporations is eleven billion dollars more than the total net corporate profits in the boom year of 1929.

As CIO President Philip Murray has stated, the government's policy, both in relation to unemployment compensation for the workers

and tax refunds for Big Business is clearly calculated to aid strikebreaking corporations and to help Wall Street in its attempts to weaken and crush the unions.

The fact that these discriminatory laws were put over by Democrats and Republicans alike provides further proof of the urgent need for a Labor Party. Representatives of an independent Labor Party would fight not only to prevent passage of such laws. They would fight for legislation to protect the welfare of the workers as against the greedy plutocrats.

Murray's Proposal

Philip Murray, president of the Steelworkers Union, on January 23 declared: "The American Government owns over \$1,000,000,000 worth of the most modern steel plant facilities now under control of the very corporations which have flouted the President's decision (to raise wages by 18½ cents an hour). These facilities should either be made available for private operation by individuals such as Henry J. Kaiser who, in the interest of the nation, has accepted the President's wage decision for his steel employees, or should be operated by the Government until the steel corporations accept the President's decision."

Why should these vast government-financed steel facilities be turned over to Henry J. Kaiser or any other capitalist? The only qualification Kaiser has ever demonstrated is his peculiar ability to enrich himself out of public treasury. Hasn't Kaiser reaped enormous profits from the battlefields of the Second World War without turning over to him an additional billion dollars worth of public property?

Why were these government-owned steel facilities, paid for by the people, handed over to the big monopoly corporations in the first place? Why is Murray willing to let the corporations retain these publicly-built facilities, or, if seized temporarily, to get them back when they "accept the President's decision?"

The corporations have no right whatever to the publicly-financed facilities which they have operated only to enrich themselves and which they would rather shut down than pay the steel workers a decent living wage.

We support Murray's demand for government operation of the Defense Plant Corporation facilities. We favor government operation of all idle plants. But neither Kaiser, Fairless, Grace, nor any other capitalist should have any control over or profit from these plants. They should be placed under workers' control.

Workers' control would effectively end the stranglehold of the bosses and their Washington agents on the steel industry, for the workers would then have the decisive word in running the plants.

The correct demand to raise, therefore, is the one long proposed by the Socialist Workers Party: "Government operation of all idle and government-built plants under workers' control!"

Yalta Robber Deal

One of the secret deals made at Yalta by Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt has now been bared. When Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson said he believed a secret agreement at Yalta last February gave Russia simply the "right" to "occupy" the Kurile Islands, Stalin's official news agency, Tass, corrected him. It was agreed, said Tass, that "the Kurile Islands would be handed over to the USSR."

So secret was the deal, admitted Byrnes, that not even he found out about it until after V-J Day although he was at Yalta. Moreover, to this day he has not seen the full memorandum despite the fact he is Secretary of State! Truman then said that the complete text of the secret horse-trade is in the files of the President—presumably left there by Roosevelt. Truman intimated that besides the Kuriles deal there were "other" secret agreements.

In this accidental way, the people of the world learned about one of the "commitments" Wall Street talks about when it insists troops must remain overseas. They are the secret commitments dividing up the world among the Big Three and the commitments to put down colonial rebellions and workingclass revolutions.

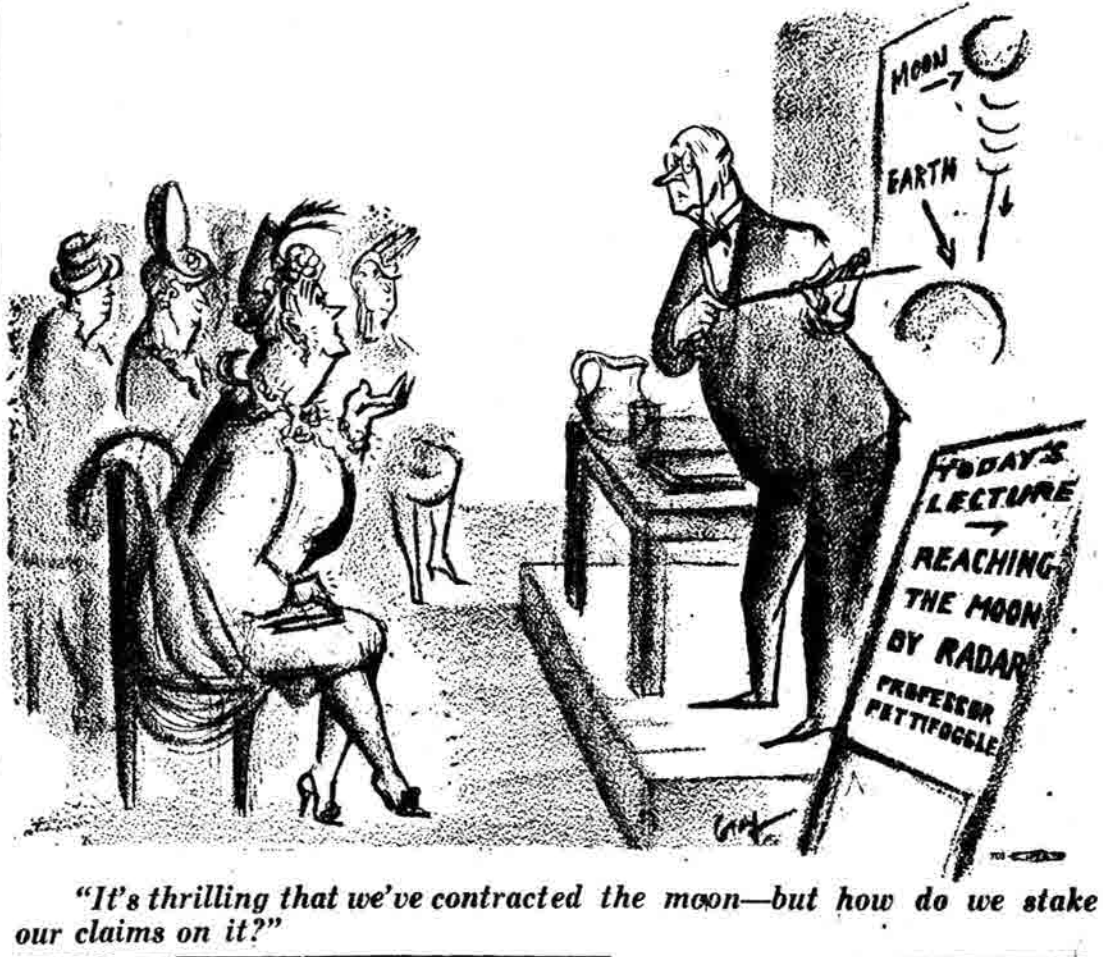
What should be the attitude of the workers toward these secret commitments? The Bolsheviks along ago pointed out that the workers can safeguard their class interests only by unqualified opposition to secret diplomacy. The Bolsheviks placed high on their banner "Down with secret treaties!" And one of the first acts of the Soviet Union under Lenin and Trotsky after the workers took power was the publication of all the sordid, secret imperialist deals found in the files of the Czar.

The Yalta secret deals underline once more the correctness of the Bolshevik position. Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt kept their unholy agreements dead secrets because they could not stand the light of day.

Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt did not represent the peoples of the earth at their conferences. In the United States, for instance, Roosevelt did not even consult Congress, far less the people. Churchill likewise did not consult Parliament, far less the people. Churchill and Roosevelt represented Anglo-American imperialism. And Stalin of course did not even consult his own hand-picked legislative bodies, far less the people of the Soviet Union. Stalin represented the bureaucratic caste that usurped power in the USSR.

The secret deal on the Kuriles is only one item of the many on which the unholy three made a compact against the peoples of the earth. The other sordid deals still remain secret.

Let these secret agreements be made public! Drag the rotten undercover horse-trades out into the light of day! Then the people of the world can judge the real aims of the imperialists and their agents who plunged humanity into the Second World War.



Workers' BOOKSHELF

THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL, Volume I, by Leon Trotsky, 384 pages with full index, Pioneer Publishers, New York, 1945. Cloth \$2.50, paper \$1.50.

Many of the most important documents and speeches by Leon Trotsky, written in the three critical postwar years after World War I, are contained in this important book. They cover the first four Congresses and the first five years of the Communist International—those decisive years following the victory of the first workers' state in Russia in 1917.

Pioneer Publishers' crowning achievement is to make available at this time the basic materials of this heroic and almost forgotten period of the Third International. For although Trotsky wrote these manifestos and speeches more than a quarter of a century ago, they are just as timely today for the workers who are gripped by similar problems following World War II.

The book begins with the Manifesto of the First World Congress in 1919 and ends with documents pertaining to the Third World Congress in 1921. These were explosive years, when tremendous upsurges took place in the labor movement all over the world.

Deeply revolted by the imperialist slaughter, the European masses were inspired to follow the example of the Russian revolution. But in one country after another, for lack of strongly organized revolutionary parties and firm leaderships, their offensives were beaten back. Capitalism managed to stabilize itself for another period.

Trotsky's documents in this book show how carefully and skillfully he observed and analyzed these political developments throughout the world. For Trotsky, like all the great Bolshevik leaders, was above all an

internationalist. Thus, although he applauded the Russian working class and its "battle-tempered Communist Party" for the "honor of making the beginning," he did not separate the Russian workers from the workers in other countries in their common task of making the world revolution and creating socialism.

"The working class of the world," he wrote, "has seized from its enemies the most impregnable fortress—the former Czarist empire... chief bulwark of world reaction." But this, he never failed to underline, was only its "stronghold," its first "base." Without the aid of revolutionary victories in other, more advanced countries, the Russian Revolution itself would remain in grave danger.

Always explaining, teaching, exhorting and warning, Trotsky's writings show how eagerly the Bolsheviks watched for the next break in the iron ring of capitalism which encircled the young Soviet Union. Every country, every party, every working-class leadership was submitted to his searching scrutiny and analysis.

And at each successive stage of development and every critical turning point, Trotsky presented his analyses within the framework of the full Marxist evaluation of decaying and imperialist-dominated capitalist society.

"In 1919," he wrote, the "bourgeoisie was in a state of extreme confusion. Those were the days of panic, the days of a truly insane fear of Bolshevism." They who projected the bloody slaughter, "feared an accounting... feared retribution for their war crimes."

Many American workers will remember the reflections in this country of these conditions in the savage Palmer "red" raids and the gigantic anti-labor offensive when the capitalists here

smashed many union struggles and re-instituted the open shop.

Trotsky pointed out that through the cowardly treachery of the various Social-Democratic parties, capitalism was enabled to centralize world revolutionary parties and the absence of strong, to again restore its class equilibrium.

In the first period following the 1917 revolution, the revolutionary Marxists put forward as the immediate objective in European politics the working-class seizure of power. But when the young Third International failed to win over the majority of the working masses to its program and the upsurge temporarily subsided, a tactical shift was carried out at the Third World Congress in 1921. Attention was then concentrated upon explaining the real situation to the masses and winning them to the banner of Communism in preparation for the next direct struggle for power.

Trotsky laid bare the deep-going decay in the capitalist system which presaged its eventual downfall. With Marxist foresight he showed how the new, mightiest imperialist power, the United States, "rising on the blood and agony of the first world war, would not escape the terrible contradictions of capitalist society in its decline."

Throughout Trotsky points to the only road for the working class out of this capitalist blind alley—the road of revolutionary socialist action. This, he states, requires a party and a leadership possessing "not only the ability to assume the offensive but also the readiness to temporarily retreat in order to preserve one's forces so as to deal all the surer a blow." It required, he said, "a combination of enthusiasm with icy calculation."

Reviewed by
Larissa Reed

Congressmen At Work

In medieval courts, the feudal lords and courtiers observed elaborate rituals. Nowadays, historians smile at the complicated rigamarole and superstitious taboos. But future historians will undoubtedly turn to Wall Street's Congress when they want a real belly laugh.

The other day, for instance, Representative Thom of Ohio, while lauding Robert A. Taft as a possible candidate for President in 1948, violated ritual by mentioning that he was a "Senator."

Immediately Representative Murray of Wisconsin leaped to his feet: "Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry."

The Speaker instantly responded: "The gentleman will state it."

Murray gloatingly probed into the grave demeanor of his colleague: "Mr. Speaker, I should like to have the Chair decide whether or not it is in keeping with the Rules of the House to discuss Members of the other body on the floor of this House."

Hoffman of Michigan hastened to take up the cudgels: "Mr. Speaker, may I be heard on that?"

But the Speaker growled crustily, "The Chair does not need the assistance of the gentleman." He then pontificated on proper ritual in discussing the Senate or a Senator in the House of Representatives: "Of course, under the Rules of the House, reference to debates in the

body, generally speaking, violates the rules."

Not satisfied with this general specification, Murray propounded a hypothetical case on which he wanted an immediate yes or no answer: "I have a kind letter that I wrote to a member of the other body that I should like to include in an extension of my remarks. I submitted it to the Parliamentarian. I do not want to violate any rules of the House. I did not place anything personal in the letter. It is a letter dealing only with issues."

The cautious high priest in the Chair, however, ducked responsibility for splitting this hair: "A point of order can always be raised."

Representative Martin of Massachusetts, enthralled with this absorbing and weighty discussion, ventured a parliamentary inquiry: "In the interest of proper observance of the Rules of the House, I believe we ought

to have a clear cut decision as to whether we can mention in debate the name of a person who is a Member of the other body."

Rankin of Mississippi, who specializes on ritual as well as race hatred, orated authoritatively: "If you merely refer to a man, a distinguished citizen of the United States, who happens to be a member of the other body and do not refer to that fact, I do not think it violates the rule."

Finally the Speaker hauled out the House Rules and Manual and quoted from Section 371 of this bible: "It is a breach of order in debate to notice what has been said on the same subject in the other House, or the particular votes of majorities on it there..."

Murray of Wisconsin became so emotional over the moral correctness of this ritual that he related a hair-raising experience: "I happened to be over in the other body and heard a certain member of that body take a bite out of me... I could not do much about it because I could not get the floor. If it had been up in northern Wisconsin where the rules and regulations of the lumberjacks control, either I would have poked him in the snout for his remarks or he would have poked me, like William Hale Thompson was always going to do to the King of England."

From this, Representative Murray drew the moral that "Even though we may not like a rule, if it is a rule we should follow it. And I mean all of us, too."

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

Unemployment Compensation For Vets

Tens of thousands of ex-GIs now on strike are denied the unemployment compensation provided by the so-called GI Bill of Rights. Payments under this shameful legislation are miserably low—\$20 a week. But even this pittance is withheld precisely when the veterans need it most.

This flows from a coldly calculated policy on the part of political representatives of big business who drafted the GI Bill and who now administer it. They hope by these measures to demoralize and make strike-breakers out of the veterans.

The government's attitude is all the more insulting and arrogant when contrasted with its generous treatment of big businessmen. Employers made huge profits and lived in fabulous luxury all during the war while the GIs were fighting and suffering in foxholes overseas.

CORPORATION REBATES

Continuing the same policy of favoring employers, Congress passed legislation which provides payment to corporations of 85.5 per cent of any losses sustained by failing to produce, plus huge rebates on surplus profits taxes.

General Motors, for example, will collect \$100,000,000 from the government in refunds from excess profits taxes paid during the war, plus 85.5 per cent of its deficit, even if its plants don't turn a wheel this year.

Veterans are beginning to raise their voices in angry protest against the government's financing of strikebreaking corporations and refusal to pay unemployment compensation to ex-GIs on strike.

The first important action was taken at the beginning of the General Motors strike by the UAW-CIO City-Wide Veterans Committee. A demonstration was called by a meeting of 1,000 striking UAW veterans. The GIs who responded to the call on January 7 picketed the headquarters of the Michigan Unemployment Compensation Commission in Detroit. The angry veterans carried banners with slogans such as: "GM Gets Tax Rebates: We want Our Unemployment Compensation Under the GI Bill of Rights."

VETERANS' ACTION

On January 24, 1945, 600 striking veterans from cities in Pennsylvania took action reminiscent of the great Bonus March of 1932 when thousands of jobless veterans converged on Washington and demanded favorable action on their claims. Striking ex-GIs from Pittsburgh, Erie, Farrell and Sharon marched on the Pennsylvania capitol in Harrisburg where they demanded a special session of the State Legislature to vote a veterans' bonus and provide striking veterans with state unemployment compensation.

In Indiana Harbor, 150 striking veterans—members of the CIO United Steel Workers—responded to a call of the union veterans' committees for a meeting on January 24. The men demanded that the Veterans Administration grant them the readjustment pay provided by the GI Bill for the duration of the strike.

The Mahoning County CIO Council, Youngstown, Ohio, set up a committee on January 22 to launch an aggressive state-wide campaign to amend the Ohio Unemployment Compensation law to provide payments for both workers and veterans out on strike.

The Veterans Committee of the Buffalo CIO Council has likewise protested against the government's refusal to pay veterans' compensation while they are on strike. The Committee pointed out that veterans were unable to collect social security because they had only recently returned to work. It demanded unemployment pay for veterans regardless of the reason for unemployment.

These are extremely encouraging signs. The worker-veterans are not willing to put up with the discriminatory actions of Wall Street's government. Especially noteworthy is the fact that veterans and workers are engaged in united action against the Government and Big Business. Their struggle must be supported to the hilt. Demand unemployment compensation for veterans out on strike!

Corporation Swindlers Attempt Huge Tax Steal

American Big Business is trying to engineer an \$8-billion tax refund swindle under just one single "relief" provision of the federal tax laws, according to a report of the Bureau of Internal Revenue to the Congressional Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation on January 24.

The Bureau's report was in reply to powerful Congressional pressure, headed by Senator Walter George, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. George and others are demanding speedy payment without proper investigation of what the Bureau termed "fantastic" claims of the corporations for billions in tax rebates for alleged "hardship cases."

This so-called "relief" provision written into the tax laws permits the repayment to corporations of excess profits taxes paid during the war in what are termed "hardship cases." The language of the provision is so broad that virtually every corporation is putting in claims for "relief."

The total of such claims already filed is \$3,700,000,000 (that's billions)—and that's just for the first year of the war. Most of the claims for the later years of the war haven't yet been filed, the Bureau reports. These, it estimates, will bring the total claims to \$8,000,000,000.

The payment of many claims, states the Bureau, would amount to virtual repeal of the wartime excess profits law. Congressional representatives of Wall Street are trying to get all claims paid without investigation, although, the Bureau reports, careful study of the claims will take years. In this connection, the Bureau recalled the charges of "grand larceny" which followed the payment of similar refunds after the first World War.

Of the 1,177 corporations with over \$10,000,000 assets which paid 1942 excess profits taxes, 443 or 38 per cent filed refund claims as "hardship" cases. These 443 of the biggest corporations asked for almost half of the total amount claimed by 13,407 companies applying for refunds.

This is just one of the jokers in the tax law which guarantees corporate profits even if industry shuts down. There are also the "carry-back" refunds from which the corporations figure to swindle billions for the U. S. treasury. Finally, there is a flat 10 per cent rebate on all wartime excess profits taxes paid, not to speak of the plan for 5-year amortization of government-built plants out of taxes. The grand total of the tax steals is variously estimated at between \$50-billion and \$60-billion.

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.

Foreign-Language Articles Needed

I want to avail myself of this opportunity to express the following in your most excellent paper, *The Militant*. I would like to suggest this one idea, if it sounds good to you. I have noticed thousands of people in America that can't read English. Most of them have been here some ten or thirty years, and they are voting citizens. What I learned is they studied their questions and answers for citizenship like parrots, and today they are voters. I would say here in Detroit hundreds of thousands of Poles and Italian factory workers hardly know "yes" from "no." I believe it's up to your newspaper to educate these people in the truth.

I would translate one article in different languages so they would be able to read it and know what Socialist Workers Party is all about. I would say Socialism means the right to every human being to live a decent life. I would say, "You had a Republican government that it did not or never amounted to anything. The only security we had was a big Depression. Then the so-called Democratic Party came along."

Then I would say, "There is more democracy in the Socialist Workers Party than there is in the Democratic Party itself. Why don't we try a Socialist Workers Government?"

"Well, this is your own chance! Workers, don't be afraid of how you vote; nobody is going to tell you how to vote. We have no other choice, you are the Government you get together. There is one solid thing that we can promise you, and that is better administration than the Republican and Democratic Parties did all together."

If you think that this is a good idea, or translating anything similar to this, it would greatly help your newspaper.

Robert Brennan
Detroit, Mich.

Open Letter to Stalinist Workers

I have just read a pamphlet printed by the Stalinists during the war. The author is George Morris, and the title is "Trotskyist 5th Columnists in America." In this pamphlet he accuses the Trotskyists of some terrible predictions. Whether he admits it or not, these predictions have come true. Events have proven that it WAS an imperialist war. Events have also proven that there ISN'T any full employment, and there IS a sharp crisis for the workers in job security; and that national unity WAS a farce.

Labor-management agreements HAVE NOT helped the workers. We told the workers all through the war, that they are always the losers under this capitalist system.

These great strike waves all over the country for a living wage, are a bitter struggle. The workers tighten their belts and take it on the chin, while fat politicians and bureaucrats live off the fat of the land. All this has been also predicted by Trotskyists and proven by life.

George Morris unwillingly is speaking for us. Of course, we call for nationalization of all industry under workers' control. We know that only in this way, lies peace, security and plenty for all. We attacked the no-strike pledge because we knew that the worker was being chained by the government. All these things the Stalinists advocated.

What is the Stalinist line now? America today DOES dominate the whole world. The In-

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British Comrade Describes Rising Militancy Of Workers

Editor: Since receiving regular copies of *The Militant* and *Fourth International* direct from New York, I have a much clearer picture of your party life. Previously I had an occasional loan of the one copy when it was passed around the local branch, but now it is really possible to read the material thoroughly.

The Militant has a broad field in its articles and reports, and its appeal to the man in the street is obvious from the results of your subscription campaign. Of course, you have book-stall sales, and generally your sales must be on a much larger scale than the Socialist Appeal has here. Our main fields are at the factories and pit-heads, and in door to door canvassing.

The contacts we have, especially those in the unions and the Labor Party, would learn a lot from reading *The Militant*. The factual information on working class organizations, your meetings and conditions generally is sadly needed here; it is not to be found in other papers.

Daily the struggle becomes more and more intense. Some people are temporarily lulled by

concessions at Christmas such as a day's extra holiday, and extra rations (if they can afford to pay for them), but these concessions are mere sops. The workers are beginning gradually to see the havoc wrought by the capitalist system on their existence, and this too the children grasp.

I see this in my work as a teacher in a good working class area. Quite spontaneously the youngsters make statements about profits or wages: "The bosses are greedy, aren't they?" And they talk knowingly of strikes and their causes. These are children of only seven to nine years of age, and it is not only in what they say that their class consciousness is revealed, but in their general behavior. They bear enormous responsibilities, many are far too mature for their years, and the joys of childhood which should be their right are greatly restricted.

I should be very interested to know what the conditions of teaching are in the American equivalent of our primary schools.

With fraternal greetings,
E. W.
England

SAMMY SAWYER

Sammy Sawyer met a warrior
Going to the war
Said Sammy Sawyer to the warrior
"What are we fighting for?"
Said the warrior to Sammy Sawyer
"Democracy for the nation."
"To help the Bank of England."
"And Wall Street speculation."

Sammy Sawyer met a warrior
Coming from the war
Said Sammy Sawyer to the warrior
"What are you here for?"
Said the warrior to Sammy Sawyer
"Do not bother me."
"I need a little rest before—"
"I start on World War Three."

Said Sammy Sawyer to the warrior
"It sure does seem so funny."
"We have a lot of cash for war."
"For peace we have no money."
Said the warrior to Sammy Sawyer
"Let us say some prayers."
"So God can kill more workers."
"To make more millionaires."

Davis Dusenbery

Zionism And The Socialist Future

In a letter to *The Militant*, I suggested that the Jewish question be discussed. I didn't have to wait long. The December issue of *Fourth International* carried the statement by Trotsky which I referred to, and a very informative article by T. Cliff, "The Middle East at the Crossroads." I also note that subsequent articles will deal with Zionism and I am looking forward to their appearance.

The heading in the above-mentioned issue reads: "Zionism or Socialism—Which way for the Jew?" This implies that one must make a choice between the two. In other words if one is a Socialist, he must give up the ideals and aspirations from which Zionism flows; namely, the vital need and the legitimate right of the Jews for self determination and cultural autonomy. Surely Socialism does not deny that right to any people. For many like myself who are seeking a Socialist road to Jewish survival, the question is not Socialism or Zionism. We are already convinced of the desirability of Socialism and are seeking a party which carries on the most effective struggle in the direction of Socialism and the fulfillment of our Jewish aspirations.

Trotsky made two very significant points in his statement — "the Jewish nation will maintain itself" and that a "nation cannot normally exist without common territory"—which deserve further consideration. From my own experience I feel that the Jewish masses will never yield to assimilation and that unless recognition of national rights be given them by a Socialist Revolutionary party, it will never receive their whole-hearted support.

In discussing the question, I think you should take into consideration and attempt to clarify the issues confronting Socialist elements in the Zionist movement.

A. G.
Newark, N. J.

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The Militant
Use Coupon On Page 2

Congressional Lynchers At Work



Reprinted from *The Militant* of July 21, 1945.

Meeting In Harlem Hears Report On Two-Party Lynching Of FEPC

Editor:

At a meeting called by the Peoples Committee and Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr., at the Golden Gate Ballroom in Harlem on Sunday January 27, five thousand Negro people gathered to hear a report of a large national delegation which met with Senators and Representatives from their home states on January 24 in Washington, D. C., to demand enactment of a permanent FEPC.

Congressman Powell, who had preached a sermon in his church that morning, entered the ballroom with his wife Hazel Scott and took the platform to act as chairman as the audience applauded politely and the band struck up the "Star Spangled Banner." He said representatives of all political parties had been invited to speak at the meeting. Evidently the Socialist Workers Party was not invited although the crowds eagerly read copies of the *Militant* distributed by white and Negro workers. We also sold large numbers of the brochure "A Practical Program Against Jim Crow," written by Charles Jackson, Negro Trotskyist leader and writer of the "Negro Struggle" column in the *Militant*.

Congressman Vito Marcantonio, spokesman in Congress for the Stalinist-dominated New York City American Labor Party and Congressman from East Harlem, who owes his election mainly to large Italian, Negro, Porto-Rican and foreign born minorities told the meeting: "There is no need of the Negroes kidding themselves any longer, the FEPC is a Negro issue."

Introduced as representing Negro Republican leaders, Edgar G. Brown confessed he was ashamed he supported some Republicans for public office. He criticized House Republican minority leader Joseph C. Martin because Martin failed to obtain more than half of the three score Republican signatures he promised to get on the petition to force the House FEPC bill out of committee where it was pigeon-holed by Northern Republicans and Southern Democrats.

No one called for the unity of Negro and white in a united front struggle against the reactionary poll-taxers for the liberation of the oppressed workers and farmers of the south and north, except the Trotskyists distributing the *Militant* at the door.

Senator James Mead of N. Y. sent a telegram saying he couldn't be present because he expected the filibuster to continue in the Senate through Sunday. This excuse was given the lie at the meeting when it was pointed out at the meeting that the Senate had adjourned on Saturday and wouldn't reconvene until Monday, giving Mead ample time to appear if he desired. Senator Wagner was reported sick in bed with the flu.

Both these Democratic Party leaders have consistently maintained senatorial silence in the face of the wild ranting of Bilbo, the "Rasputin of the Senate," and Eastland, another flunkie of fascist reaction in the Senate.

William Charles,
New York.

AKRON

All Militant Readers Are Invited To Hear
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A series of discussions on the fight of the American workers for security.

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Labor's bitter fights with the robber barons of industry.
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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 SITUATION STRIKES
Auto . . . Steel . . . Rubber

Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK — The Trotskyist Youth Group, 116 University Place, holds its weekly forum every Friday at 8 p. m. Dancing and refreshments after every meeting. Send name and address for weekly announcement.

Friday, Feb. 8 — Gloria Wall speaks on FEPC.

PHILADELPHIA — Youth forums held on alternate Saturdays, 8 p. m. at 405 W. Girard Ave.

LOS ANGELES — Write to SWP headquarters, 145 S. Broadway, for information on Youth Group activities.

Watch this column for further details on youth activities.

Pioneer Notes

The Socialist Workers Party Branch in Connecticut sent us the following interesting report along with another large order for literature. They write:

"You might be interested to know that between September 1945 and January 12, 1946 we sold 404 pieces of literature. I don't think that's too bad. However, we are recruiting, and I think that, with the call-back work (for Militant subscriptions) we will raise our sales even more. "We had one example yesterday — we visited an old timer (a trade unionist and of reddish hue politically). After a brief talk we inspired him to the extent that he bought \$1.95 worth of literature. He has his mind on the Communist Party members and sympathizers whom he knows. He intends to get these pamphlets circulating, as he has already done with others he has bought from us."

From Chicago where the branches of the Socialist Workers Party are very busy keeping the steel strike picket lines supplied with *The Militant* we hear: "We sold about \$6 worth of literature at two small meetings of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — Jobs for All! The Struggle for Negro Equality, American Workers Need a Labor Party, and A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow."

Order these pamphlets from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

Ask Your Shopmate
To Subscribe to
The Militant



During the past few months *The Militant* has been seen and read by hundreds of thousands of workers all over the country. The distribution of *The Militant* at picket lines, union meetings, plant gates, veterans' meetings, etc., has resulted in many new subscribers, and enthusiastic partisans for the only paper that has consistently and uncompromisingly fought to maintain labor's hard-won gains.

The following reports from strike areas indicate the warm reception of workers to *The Militant*.

Clara Kaye writes from Chicago: "In the past two weeks we have distributed approximately 7,000 copies of *The Militant* at plant gates, picket lines, union meetings, Communist Party meetings, etc. This has meant at least one distribution a day, sometimes two, and once even three. Over 30 comrades have participated in these distributions, and the response has been wonderful."

"Youngstown Sheet and Tube was the most encouraging experience for us as we had never covered it before. Yet *The Militant* was known by many workers who had heard of it through their friends. Other workers told us that they had read it, and many came back to get a few extra copies for their friends."

From Toledo, Maggie McGowan writes: "The extra bundles of *Militants* we have been receiving are being put to good use at distributions at plant gates. We've been making our distributions to workers going into the plants at 6:30 a. m., and what a wonderful sight it is to see them actually line up to receive their copy of the paper of the socialist revolution . . . and sometimes take an additional copy for a friend!"

"We've learned that many discussions go on in the plants around articles in *The Militant*, and many workers leave their copies for workers on the second shift."

From Pittsburgh, Eloise Gordon writes: "We distributed a large number of papers at a mass

meeting of former GIs at East Pittsburgh the other night. The boss press and the corporations are exerting all efforts to confuse the veterans on the question of their compensation, implying that union affiliation or participation in picketing stands between the veteran and his \$20 weekly allotment. This meeting drew 220 vets. The local, UE 601, is meeting the issue squarely and placing the blame where it belongs—in the lap of the capitalist politicians who framed the so-called 'GI Bill of Rights.'

"You can imagine how pleased we were to have the issue of *The Militant* carrying all the news of the protests of overseas GIs. Our paper bore out the arguments of the Veterans' Committee men from Local 601, that it is the unions who defend the servicemen and ex-servicemen. We could easily have distributed many more papers. Not a single copy was allowed to go to waste, and needless to say none were thrown away."

Our renewal drive is getting underway, and many of our readers whose subscriptions are expiring will receive letters advising them of this fact. We urge them all to renew promptly in order not to miss a single issue of *The Militant*.

Alan Kohlman of Newark sends the latest information on the branch's renewal campaign: "In its third week, our renewal campaign continues to gather momentum. The 'Party Pluggers' are still in the lead with 2,498 points and 'The Red Recruiters' have a total of 1,861 points."

"To date we have obtained 109 six-month and 12 one-year renewals; and 14 six-month and 3 one-year new subscriptions. Also one combination sub to *The Militant* and the *Fourth International*."

Sam Ryan, organizer of the Bronx Branch: "Our branch, organized but a few weeks ago, is setting the pace for the other branches of Local New York in our present renewal campaign. In only two mobilizations we have obtained approximately 50 per cent renewals."

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!

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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!

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Why Big Business Profiteers Are Trying To Blame Inflation Upon Labor's Demand For Living Wages

By William F. Ward

At the same time that the big corporations are fighting against adequate wage increases, they are conspiring to smash all price controls and clamoring for outrageous price increases.

On the one hand corporation spokesmen howl that they cannot afford to meet the wage demands of the unions and that if they should do so, prices would shoot upward in a ruinous inflationary spiral. They even have the gall to contend that, since this will happen, the workers themselves would derive little or no benefit from any wage increases they might win by strike action.

On the other hand, the big corporations are refusing to settle the strikes unless and until the administration grants them greatly increased prices for their products. Thus, Irving S. Olds, chairman of the board of U. S. Steel, last week called for an outrageous price rise in excess of \$6.50 a ton for steel. Henry Ford 2nd followed up by telegraphing Reconversion Chief Snyder that government control of prices should be promptly removed.

Profits Above All

Why does Big Business resist wage increases on the pretext that these will spur inflation, while it simultaneously plots to wreck all price controls and extort huge price increases which are bound to speed up inflation? The explanation is simple. The corporations are aiming to defend their profit interests—those blood-stained profits they piled up during the war and the added billions they expect to grab from future production.

All their talk about the "danger of inflation" is designed to conceal this central fact and thereby deceive the workers and deny their just wage demands.

It should be understood, first of all, that an increase in wages does not necessarily bring about increased prices. It does mean, however, a direct and immediate reduction in the capitalists' rate of profit. That is why employers at all times stubbornly resist the wage demands of their workers.

That is also why the capitalists who now falsely argue that wage increases bring about inflation, do not dare to face this question: Why, during the war, while wage rates were frozen, did their profits go 250 per cent above 1939 levels and the cost of living double? The mere statement of these facts shows that inflation does not have its source in wage increases.

Wages And Prices

The unions have proved that the big corporations can easily pay the demanded increases out of war profits and capital reserves without raising prices. This fact is so irrefutable that companies such as General Motors have refused to open their books to union inspection and arrogantly assert that they do not recognize ability to pay as a factor in determining wage increases.

Even though the unions have shown that increased labor productivity and improved plant efficiency alone will enable the companies to easily absorb wage increases, still the big corporations keep insisting that wages be held down while prices must be boosted!

It is true that inflation, expressed in the soaring costs of living, is a growing threat to the American people. But the responsibility for this danger

rests entirely upon the capitalist rulers and their government at Washington. The current inflation is a direct consequence of the Second World War, its ruin, its wastefulness, its colossal costs.

For over four years, instead of producing homes, clothing, household appliances, autos, etc. the factories have turned out shells, guns, tanks, bombers. This war economy has prevented the people from getting the goods they needed during the war and created the present scarcities. Moreover, to finance its imperialist slaughter, the capitalist government accumulated an astronomical national debt of almost \$300-billion, thereby inflating the currency and cutting the real purchasing value of the dollar.

Government's Role

These inflationary factors have been further reinforced by unrestrained profiteering and speculation. In war time, through cost-plus contracts, subsidies and other devices, the government guaranteed high profits to the capitalists while freezing workers' wages.

Ever since the war ended, Big Business has been conducting a relentless campaign to maintain its enormous profits and even augment them. Again the President and Congress have been lending a helping hand.

Congress eliminated the excess profits tax. It has provided for corporate tax refunds of more than \$20-billion, guaranteeing high profit levels. And now, under pressure from the corporations which have launched an all-out assault on price curbs, the government is scrapping one control after another and yielding to the extortionate price demands of Wall Street.

What Labor Faces

What will be the consequences of this Big Business holdup and Truman's surrender to the Wall Street bandits?

First: it guarantees a continuation of unrestrained profiteering. Anticipating these lush profits, the stock market is booming to heights unsurpassed since 1929.

Second: it means an enormous impetus to inflation, new and bigger boosts in prices. The costs of living, the prices of food, clothing and all the elementary necessities, will inevitably go higher and higher.

Third: this total breakdown of price controls and granting of price rises will lead to the cancellation of labor's wage gains won in battle on the picket lines.

Thus it is not wage increases which are serving to create and to accelerate inflation. Inflation arises from the anarchy of the rotting capitalist system and the destructiveness caused by its reactionary wars.

It is being aggravated by the insatiable greed for profits of the financial and industrial magnates. It is being facilitated and encouraged by the capitalist government, which Big Business controls and maintains in power.

It is precisely because of this capitalist-fostered inflation that the workers are obliged to fight for substantial wage increases. The most effective way to combat the vicious consequences of the growing inflation that the profiteers and their agents in Washington are inflicting upon the American people is for labor to demand a rising scale of wages which is automatically adjusted to every rise in living costs.

O'Dwyer's Cops Terrorize Western Union Picket Line

(Continued from Page 1)

charged into the line. Men and women were set upon by club-swinging, uniformed thugs bent on cracking workers' heads.

The workers were completely unprepared for this brutal assault. They had been told by their Stalinist leaders that Mayor O'Dwyer was a "friend of labor," and were led to believe that they were going to get the "cooperation" of the police.

At the very moment of the police-incited "incident" one of

the Stalinist leaders of the striking CIO American Communications Association stood on top of the sound truck and boomed over the loud speaker: "Reform the line and keep moving. Don't cause any trouble. If the police don't lose their heads there won't be any trouble, etc., etc."

The cold, calculating brutality of O'Dwyer's police, who had massed for the express purpose of provoking an incident that would give them an excuse for clubbing pickets, was palmed off as the work of "hotheads."

WORKERS ENRAGED

It was much easier for the Stalinists to paint O'Dwyer as the "labor-progressive-coalition" candidate during the recent mayoralty election than it is to conceal his present strike-breaking role from the pickets on the Western Union line. More than one picket questioned through gritted teeth: "Is this what we elected him for?" Others cursed in anger: "Unless we stop the scabs from going in, O'Dwyer's cops will break our strike."

"Unless we stop the scabs from going in the cops will break the strike." This has become so ob-

vious that it has found expression in the Stalinist-controlled Joint CIO Strike Support Committee. At a special emergency meeting of the committee one delegate declared that the workers are getting fed up with being pushed around by the cops, and that only the militant action of an aroused labor movement can halt the strikebreakers.

But the Stalinists, who had concluded a political deal in the recent mayoralty election with the Democratic Party and its candidate O'Dwyer, still cling to their foul-smelling alliance with Tammany.

Instead of mapping a militant program designed to really stop the scabs from crossing the picket line the Stalinists have planned another brief protest demonstration "to meet the labor injunction threat in the Western Union strike."

ONLY ONE WAY

The main purpose of such labor injunctions, however, is to give the cops a pretext to use violence against effective picketing. O'Dwyer's cops have resorted to violence on a number of occasions even before the courts have given them the injunction pretext. There is only one way to meet such threats. That is the way of militant mass picket line resistance to all strikebreaking actions.

The outcome of the Western Union strike is of the utmost importance to the entire labor movement in the New York area. If the cops are permitted to break the strike, a precedent will have been established and a pattern laid down for police strikebreaking against other unions.

It is necessary to arouse the entire organized labor movement to the danger that threatens, to reveal its true source and to rally the unions for a fighting showdown with the corporation and its political agents in the city administration.

Demand Action On Compensation



Delegates from unions in all parts of Connecticut massed outside the state capitol at Hartford, on January 29, where they had marched to demand a special session of the legislature to provide unemployment compensation immediately for all strikers.

Acme Photo

Steel Union Pushes Organizing Campaign In Reading, Pa., Area

By James White

(Special to The Militant)

READING, Pa., Feb. 2 — Events during the past week have brought decided changes along the Reading strike front.

After one week of continuous picketing, the line at Carpenter Steel, Reading's largest steel plant, was abandoned Monday morning by orders of Andrew Konrath, Regional Organizer of District 11, CIO United Steelworkers.

PARRISH MORALE UP

The strategy of the Union in dealing with Parrish Pressed Steel Co., however, was encouragingly different.

A picket line was thrown

around Parrish Pressed Steel immediately after it was withdrawn from Carpenter Steel.

Men on this picket line succeeded in signing up over 400 Parrish workers. This, combined with the union men already signed up, ran the total number of organized workers to over 95 per cent. A Parrish Local was formed and a petition for an NLRB vote was drawn up. On the following day, all the men were sent back to work collectively.

This move buoyed up the morale of the entire new Local. They, as well as the rank and file of other Locals, believe that the forthcoming vote will be 95 per cent in favor of the CIO United Steelworkers.

When the carpenter strike began, only 150 workers entered the plant. But by Friday of the first week, 500 men were reporting for work daily. This increase was directly due to the fact that Konrath failed to appeal to the entire local labor movement for aid in maintaining a 24 hour picket line. Instead, he called for a two-hour watch at each change of shifts. When the pickets left the lines, the scabs went in. A large percentage of the men who had signed cards became disgusted and also returned to work.

ORGANIZING DRIVE

Konrath thereupon called a mass meeting of Carpenter steel workers on Sunday afternoon and ordered them back to work in an organized body. The men began reporting for work Sunday night at 11 o'clock.

An NLRB vote has been petitioned for and the workers are to continue their organizing drive

from within the plant. This may be difficult as some of the men have lost confidence in the union after last week's events.

The consensus of opinion among the Carpenter Steel rank and file is that Konrath should either have sent them back to work while the effectiveness of the strike was at its peak, or have kept a large 24 hour picket line and fought it out to a successful finish. Konrath did neither.

NAACP Backs Steel Strike In Youngstown

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 26 — The Youngstown branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has announced its complete support of the steel strike and other wage struggles of unions in this district.

The NAACP statement, now being distributed as a leaflet, points out that the tremendous majority of Negroes are workers and that better wages mean a higher standard of living for the Negro people. It also states that the CIO has been in the forefront of the fight against discrimination and that many union officials in the Youngstown area are colored workers.

The day is past when white workers and colored workers can be divided by the corporations in their attempt to keep wages down and to bust the labor movement, the leaflet says in conclusion.

Allentown Mack Strikers Fight Union-Busting Drive

ALLENTOWN, Jan. 31 — The Mack Truck plants here are the scene of an unusual series of work stoppages brought about by company attempts at union-busting.

They began on Tuesday, January 29 in the 5C bus plant and have spread to other plants. The strikes are a result of the company's failure to abide by the lay-off provisions of its contract with CIO United Auto Workers Local 677.

A lay-off occurred Friday January 25, which affected nearly 400 men and women. The contract stipulates that before anyone shall be laid off, the hours of work per week shall be reduced to 32. However, the company refused to put this provision into effect in its bus plant. Instead they wanted to maintain a 48-hour week. They also refused to cut the hours of maintenance men engaged in reconversion work. Everyone else was placed on a 32-hour week.

But the union stewards and committeemen of the bus plant and the various maintenance departments refused to submit to the company's attempt at contract violation. Instead, they insisted on abiding strictly by the

Strike Leader Calls CP Story "Pack Of Lies"

By Grace Carlson

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Feb. 2 — John W. Anderson, Secretary of the General Motors Citywide Strike Committee of Detroit, characterized the January 29 Daily Worker story that "GM Strikers Bar Trotskyist Paper for Aiding Corporation" as a "pack of lies."

In an interview here today, John Anderson gave a full report of the action of the Citywide Strike Committee on the question of the distribution of The Militant at the GM picket lines.

At the January 23 meeting of the Citywide Strike Committee, Fred Fisch, a delegate from CIO United Auto Workers Detroit Transmission Local 735, introduced a motion that the Committee go on record as "discouraging the distribution of The Militant" to GM strikers.

Fisch backed up his motion by a reference to a recent action of Local 735's Executive Board in barring The Militant from their picket lines. Last week's Militant carried the story of this frenzied attempt of Fisch and other Local 735 Stalinist leaders to prevent their members from being influenced by the ideas of Trotskyism. This bureaucratic action reflected a well-founded Stalinist fear that Local 735's members were eagerly welcoming the weekly analyses of the present strike struggles which they have been reading in the columns of The Militant, which has been distributed regularly at all GM picket lines.

REPORT UPHELD

At the Citywide Strike Committee meeting, Fisch tried to justify Local 735's attempt to suppress a workers' paper by charging that The Militant had misrepresented facts about the strike. In particular, Fisch referred to a story in the January 12 issue, which reported a recent clash between the police and the strikers on the Transmission picket line. Fisch claimed that The Militant's report that "blows were exchanged" was false. However, John Anderson pointed out that at the time the incident occurred, Local 735's delegates to the Citywide Strike Committee had made the same report to the Committee.

John Panzer of Local 235, Chevrolet Gear and Axle and John Anderson, who represents Fleetwood Local 15 on the Citywide Strike Committee, argued against Fisch's motion. The dangers to the labor movement inherent in such an attempt to suppress the rights of free speech and a free press were pointed out to the members of the Citywide Strike Committee.

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PACKED MEETING

But the Stalinists from Local 735 had brought five delegates to the January 23 meeting of the loosely-organized Citywide

Strike Committee. Each local is supposedly allowed only two delegates. Three of the Transmission delegates had never attended a Citywide Committee meeting before. At the poorly-attended January 23 meeting, Local 735's delegation was one-third of the total attendance, and Stalinists from other Detroit locals helped to swell this figure. In this packed Committee meeting, the Stalinist motion was declared to have won a majority in a voice vote.

SLANDEROUS LIE

But William Allan's statement in the January 29 Daily Worker that the Citywide Strike Committee had passed a resolution "barring" The Militant from GM picket lines because it is "of service to the corporation instead of to the strikers" is a slanderous lie! Not even in a meeting packed with Stalinists could such an accusation be made. The solid workingclass character of The Militant is too well known to Detroit workers to permit of such an open piece of falsification and slander.

As reported in last week's issue, Arthur Burch, Detroit representative of The Militant, has written to the Local 735 Executive Board, requesting an opportunity to appear at its next meeting or at the next membership meeting. In his letter, Burch pointed out that the action against The Militant was a "clear violation of labor's democratic rights." If permitted to appear at a Local 735 meeting, he promised to "explain the situation and answer any questions that you might care to ask." No reply to this letter has been received to date.

ATTEMPTS FAIL

Recent attempts of the Stalinists to bar The Militant from the Fleetwood picket lines met with ignominious failure. When a well-known Stalinist supporter raised the question of barring The Militant at a Local 15 meeting, with the charge that it was "Communist," there was so much opposition that he didn't even dare to introduce a motion.

Meantime, the distribution of The Militant to GM strikers on the Detroit picket lines continues. Despite all Stalinist motions, the Militant distributors always receive a hearty welcome. Many subscriptions have already been obtained and this number will be greatly increased when the GM workers return to their jobs.

SWP Leader Tours Coast To Expose Fontana Case

By Jean Simon

(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES Feb. 1 — Speaking on the facts and lessons of the Fontana vigilante case, Myra Tanner Weiss, Los Angeles organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, begins a tour of West Coast cities next week.

She will speak first at a mass meeting Sunday afternoon, February 2, in San Bernardino, county seat eight miles from Fontana, scene of the fatal fire. The meeting is sponsored by the San Bernardino Central Council (of Negro organizations), the San Bernardino Council for Human Rights and the San Bernardino NAACP.

PROTEST FAILURES

Comrade Weiss will be one of the main speakers at this meeting to protest the failure of the district attorney and the grand jury to thoroughly investigate the causes of the fire which destroyed a Negro family in Fontana a month and a half ago.

Other speaking dates of the tour are: San FranciscoFeb. 10
PortlandFeb. 15
SeattleFeb. 17
San DiegoMar. 1
Dates are being arranged for several smaller cities including Santa Cruz and Eureka between February 17 and March 1.

The purpose of the tour, according to Comrade Weiss, is that the men in the shop learned of the suspensions they promptly walked out, refusing to work without union representation. They intend to return only when the suspended men return. Furthermore, they will work only 32 hours per week, although the company has announced through the press that when the men return, anyone who refuses to work 48 hours will be suspended. The affected committeemen remain firm in their stand and issue the same instructions: 32 hours per week as stipulated in the contract.

Thus far, 3 committeemen, one alternate committeeman and 6

first, to break the conspiracy of silence of the capitalist daily press on the vigilante terror in the Short case by bringing the story to the workers of all the major cities and a number of smaller towns on the coast.

DEMAND EXPOSURE

"We must mobilize mass pressure to demand a thorough investigation and exposure of the vigilantes who threatened O'Day H. Short and his family two weeks before a fire of unknown origin destroyed them. The whitewash of the whole affair by local authorities must be stopped."

"Secondly," Comrade Weiss continued, "we must raise the alarm signal, call for the establishment of anti-vigilante defense organization by labor and minority groups to prevent victimization in the future."

THE STRUGGLE FOR NEGRO EQUALITY

By John Saunders and Albert Parker

introduction by CHARLES JACKSON

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Harlem:

City Convention Discussion

Speaker: C. Thomas, N. Y. Organizer

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

Bronx:

"Treacherous Role of Stalinism Today"

Speaker: Dave Stevens

1034 Prospect Ave., 1st Floor 8 p.m.

Chicago Unions Back Picket Lines Protesting Jim Crow Skating Rink

By Robert L. Birchman

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—The militant and determined fight against the notorious Jim-Crow policies at the White City Skating Rink, 63rd Street and South Park, continued last Sunday night when 150 workers, students and residents of the community picketed for over an hour. This was by far the largest of four demonstrations which have been held at the rink.

In the picket line, both Negro and white workers from auto, steel, farm equipment, packing-house and Montgomery Ward, participated, as well as students from Roosevelt College, University of Chicago and South Side High School. A number of veterans were among them.

Among those leading the picket line were Michael Mann, secretary of the CIO Chicago Industrial Union Council; Willoughby Abner, vice-president of the Council; Mike Bartell, Chicago organizer of the Socialist Workers Party; Gerald Bullock, chairman of the Committee on Racial Equality; Joe Jefferson, Editor of Crusader; and Homer Jack, secretary of the Chicago Committee Against Racial and Religious Discrimination.

"JIM CROW MUST GO!"

The lively and enthusiastic picket line shouted: "Jim Crow Must Go," "White City Violates Civil Rights," "They sang 'Solidarity Forever' and 'We Shall Not Be Moved.'"

Carrying their banners, the pickets marched to the rink from a mass meeting at the Woodlawn A.M.E. Church, 65th and Evans. Many bystanders joined in the parade and picketing.

The mass meeting was addressed by Michael Mann, who said: "White City Skating Rink will be closed unless everybody is allowed to skate without regard to their color." He pledged the full support of the CIO in the fight against Jim Crow at the White City Skating Rink and declared that the CIO will aid and support at all times the battle for civil rights.

Mike Bartell, organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, pointed out how "Jim Crow, the legitimate son of the Southern landowning bourgeois, became the adopted son of the industrial and financial barons of steel, auto, rubber and meat packing. They aim to divide the workers along racial lines and thus keep all workers, both Negro and white, oppressed in order to exploit them to the advantage of these industrial kings." He declared that White City is "a symbol of the whole Jim-Crow system . . . which can only be wiped out by the united action of the workers and Negro people."

Gerald Bullock gave a history

of the struggle against the vicious Jim Crow White City Skating Rink. He pointed out that the Committee on Racial Equality, of which he is chairman, started the exposure of the discriminatory practices at the rink. He welcomed the aid of the Socialist Workers Party and declared that support kept increasing until now a number of labor unions have joined forces with them.

LABOR SUPPORT

Among the labor organizations backing the fight are: Chicago CIO Industrial Union Council; CIO United Transport Service Employees; Federated Hotel and Waiters Union, Local 356; Dining Car Employees, Local 351; and CIO United Steel Workers, Local 1422.

In addition to the Socialist Workers Party, the NAACP, Labor's Council for Community Action, the Negro Labor Relations League, and the Chicago Committee Against Racial and Religious Discrimination are also backing the case.

Other speakers at the mass meeting included Joe Jefferson, co-editor of Crusader. In a forceful speech, Jefferson demanded: "Where are some of the community leaders?" He pointed out that the ministers, lawyers, doctors, editors and others of the Negro community who were not present were shirking in their duties.

STALINIST ROLE

Jefferson also said that the Crusader had been approached by a group and asked not to have anything to do with the White City case. While he did not mention any specific names, it is known that the Stalinists on the South Side have been exerting pressure on individuals, groups and the Negro press not to support the fight at White City. Jefferson said that regardless of what pressure was exerted, he would continue the fight to eliminate discrimination at the White City Roller Skating Rink.

Representatives of five organizations have asked the state attorney's office to take action under the Civil Rights Act to close the White City Rink as a nuisance. M. J. Meyer, attorney for CORE, said that the State's Attorney's office had promised an investigation.

A United Blow At Jim Crow



This group of Chicago pickets, both Negro and white, show their fighting spirit at the White City Roller Skating Rink, where they demonstrated on January 27 in protest against Jim-Crow practices. Included in the group are M. Mann, Secretary of the Chicago CIO Industrial Union Council, Willoughby Abner, Vice-President of the Council, and Frank Jordan, Chairman of the Council's Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Chicago Sun Photo

Cleveland Unionists Demonstrate Against Meeting Of G.L.K. Smith

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 2.—On just a few hours' notice, over 300 Cleveland unionists, including veterans and other strikers from the GM, UE and steel picket lines, last night organized a "reception committee" for America's No. 1 Fascist, Gerald L. K. Smith. They established an angry, militant picket line at the Public Auditorium Ballroom where Smith was scheduled to hold a private meeting of his fascist-minded followers.

Chanting "Hitler Speaks Tonight," a large number of persons crowded the wide, terraced entrance to express their hatred of the anti-labor, anti-Negro, anti-Jewish poison which Smith is attempting to spread throughout the country.

Despite the poor preparations and lack of leadership, it was a fighting picket line that meant business as it shouted "Down with the fascists!" Among the hastily-improvised signs were: "G. L. K. Smith—New Fascist Hope," "Keep G. L. K. Smithism Out of Cleveland," and "Smith is Hitler's Friend."

POLICE ESCORT FASCISTS

Scores of police flanked the picket line on all sides. They had been instructed to crash the line and courteously escort Smith's followers through it. Every time they attempted to do so, they had to run a gauntlet of fiery wrath.

Numerous war veterans in uniform shouted defiantly to each police convoy, "We fought Hitler over there and we're going to fight him here!" The union veterans turned away several veterans who had come for the meeting, by explaining Smith's fascist program to them.

Some Smith supporters never reached the front door. Many slunk away after experiencing a blast of boos and jeers from the solid wall of anti-fascist pickets. Unfortunately, through oversight, hundreds did gain entrance through an unpicketed back door on the Mall.

RUMORS SPREAD

Although no definite information had been obtainable until Friday night at 6 p.m., just two hours before the meeting, rumors had been circulating all week that Smith was going to use the Public Auditorium. City officials had replied to some inquiries by saying that a Father Arthur W. Perminello, called the "Father Coughlin of the South," was to speak there under Smith's auspices. To others, they said that Mrs. David K. Stanley, head of the fascist United Mothers organization, was scheduled to give a book review.

Militant anti-fascist unionists want CIO leaders to ask PAC-endorsed Mayor Burke to answer publicly for the city administration's assistance to Smith. Mayor Burke has been working overtime to try to break the pressmen's strike, and now has abetted Smith's labor-smashing campaign in Cleveland.

Smith has announced that he will return. It is the duty of Cleveland labor leaders, especially the Stalinist-dominated CIO

but under pressure gave some feeble support to last night's picket line. To fight fascism, the entire power of the organized workers must be mobilized in dead earnest.

What is needed is a broad anti-fascist united front of all labor, fraternal, nationality and minority organizations and working class political parties. This committee would coordinate the publicity, educational work and other activities necessary to arouse the whole community to resist the menace of fascism.

This is the program being advocated by the Cleveland Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, which played a prominent role in the picketing and is actively preparing to help mobilize a militant mass "reception" for Smith on his return.

The Buffalo Branch of the Socialist Workers Party is heartily in accord with the plans of the CIO committee and will do all in its power to insure success of the conference. In keeping with the policy of the SWP which has recently taken a leading role in the fight against native fascism and Gerald Smith in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Detroit, the Buffalo branch last Saturday night held a meeting on the "Fascist Danger in America," with Bill Gray as main speaker. At this meeting it was emphasized that only militant action could stop Smith and a resolution of support for the CIO move was unanimously adopted.

The Philadelphia Branch of the Socialist Workers Party and The Militant Labor Forum are moving this month to a new and larger headquarters. The new address is 1303 W. Girard Avenue (near Broad Street).

The new headquarters contains ample room for all the expanded activities of the SWP. The meeting hall will accommodate audiences of 250. In addition, there are facilities for a kitchen and office. The Philadelphia Branch is further fortunate, since the headquarters is in a recently rebuilt building, equipped with many unusual advantages for the comfort of members and friends.

On Saturday, February 23, there will be a House-Warming Celebration at the new home of the Philadelphia SWP. All readers of The Militant are invited to attend.

Might Set Example
An Associated Press report, Jan. 31, from Nuremberg, states: "Justice Robert H. Jackson told American soldiers in a radio interview tonight that he feared German industrialists—one of the chief causes of the war—never would be tried for their crimes."

"Only world socialism will guarantee peace, plenty and happiness," said the speaker. "Lenin accurately predicted 30 years ago that the masses of the people have a choice between socialism and barbarism, that was true then and it remains even more acutely true today."

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Delicious Home-Cooked Duck Dinner
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Buffalo CIO Plans Anti-Smith Demonstration

BUFFALO, N. Y.—A committee set up by the CIO Council to plan a warm reception for the notorious fascist Gerald L. K. Smith has issued a call for a broad conference to take place Thursday February 7 at 8 p.m. at the YWCA, 19 West Mohawk St.

All labor, veteran, racial, minority, progressive, and political organizations interested in fighting American fascism are invited to send representatives. The conference will plan united action to combat the racial, nationalistic and anti-labor poison spread by this agent of big business who plans to speak in Buffalo some time this month.

COOPERATES WITH GM

Exposing Smith's Big Business connections, the call declares: "The January issue of the United Automobile Worker publishes an article showing that Smith is cooperating with the 'Society of Sentinels,' a new fascist group connected with General Motors. This foul-smelling outfit has as its open and avowed purpose the wiping out of practically every progressive piece of social legislation enacted in the twentieth century."

"The enthusiastic embracement of its rotten program by the hate-mongering, labor-baiting Smith," the statement continues "is evidence that he is rapidly becoming the chief spokesman and rabble rouser of the reactionary Big Business interests who are currently engaged in a nationwide effort to deny American workers a decent living wage."

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Emancipating amendments were later submitted by a "peace-making" faction. They would:

1. Permit Southern states to "unlegislate" the bill.
2. Permit discrimination against foreigners.
3. Increase from six to fifty, the number of workers required in an establishment for protection under the act.

4. Reduce the penalty for violation from the proposed \$5,000 fine or one year in jail to \$1,000 fine or thirty days in jail.

Even such nullifying amendments as these, presented by the millionaire radio magnate, Senator Caphart (R., Ind.) were rejected. Fortified by anti-la-

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

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

by CHARLES JACKSON

Real Meaning of The Big Blow

The Fair Employment Practices Bill which has touched off the continuing Senate talkathon looked only toward the most basic, the most justified, the most undeniable of democratic rights—economic equality. It simply symbolized the right of any man or any woman to obtain a job that was open and for which he or she was qualified regardless of that man or woman's race, religion or national ancestry.

Nevertheless, it has served as a green light for a tirade of Negro-baiting and general mudslinging on the part of the rabid Southern Democrats. They took this demand for job equality and transformed it with their usual smears into the field of social equality. It was "shown" to be some sort of trick to "promote intermarriage."

Thus a simple demand for that promised "justice and equality for all" is being slapped down once again. The owner of that dark hand which has the nerve to reach for such justice has been again, for over a week, the target of slanderous race-baiting and incitations to lynch attack.

The ignorant Southern Bourbon scum has been heartily joined by "high-class" spokesmen for Northern heavy industry. Senators from all sections have cheered these mouthy bigots and encouraged them to continue their filibuster, just as one would encourage his favorite team in a basketball game.

At this writing a sufficiently large number of both Republicans and Democrats have refused to vote for limiting debate and the Bill can neither be voted up nor down by the Senate majority.

On Monday, January 28 there reportedly were not over five Senators even present throughout the day. These five kept the floor by mumbling incoherently to each other. Their honorable colleagues drifted up to the door, looked in, and understandingly drifted on out.

"PEACE" AMENDMENTS

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In the final analysis, of course, the American workers urgently need an Independent Labor Party. The recent disgusting spectacles displayed by the representatives of the two parties of Big Business should convince Negro and white workers alike that we must have some genuine workers' representatives in Washington, come 1948.

Newark SWP Begins Drive Against Anti-Strike Bill

NEWARK, N. J., Jan. 26 — Assailing anti-labor Bill S-91 sponsored by the New Jersey state administration, the Socialist Workers Party here today issued a public statement exposing the real intent of this measure, which would create compulsory arbitration and outlaw strikes in public utilities.

In an open letter to Governor Edge of New Jersey, Newark SWP organizer Alan Kohlman declared that Bill S-91 "places your administration squarely on the side of the public utilities monopolists," since it would "force a breakdown of direct collective bargaining" and "leave the workers and their unions defenseless against the utilities magnates."

The proposed bill covers all workers employed in electric light, electric power, heat power, telephone, bus, bridge, canal, ferry, steamboat, gas, pipeline, railroad, sewer, steam, water power, street railway, taxicab, jitney, tunnel and water company industries. Its adoption, Comrade Kohlman pointed out, would moreover set a pattern which monopolists of other industries would be quick to seize upon as a precedent for outlawing ALL strikes.

A "cooling off" period of 45 days, during which any worker who strikes would be fired by order of the state, is only the first provision of the measure. At the end of this period, a secret ballot would be taken. Then, a "fact finding" board would be given an additional 20 days to report on the case. Even after these stalls, it would be unlawful for the workers to strike for an additional five days. This makes a total of 70 days' enforced delay.

70 DAY STALL
If after this protracted run-around the workers attempted to strike, the state government would seize the industry, making a strike "illegal." "Then," Comrade Kohlman explains, "during the indefinite period of state operation, the union would still be unable to achieve its demands, while the profits of the monopolists would be continued and protected."

The representative of the Socialist Workers Party requested the right to appear at hearings on S-91 and express his party's reasons for determined opposition to this anti-labor legislation.

NEWARK MILITANT LABOR FORUM

Sunday, February 10

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

Speaker:

William Warde, Associate Editor,

THE MILITANT

Chairman: Alan Kohlman, Newark Organizer, SWP

423 Springfield Ave.

8 p.m.

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."

ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM — Branch meeting every Thursday, 8 p.m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown.

BOSTON — Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Mondays and Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO — Every Saturday night, Current Events Discussion and Open House, at Militant 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: "How to Prepare A Speech" at 7:30 p.m.

"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, 145 S. Broadway, 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.

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 — Every Sunday, 10:30 a.m., meet to obtain Militant subscriptions, 116 University Pl.

Saturdays at 4, rehearsals of Trotskyist chorus. Militant readers invited.

Sat., Feb 9, 8:30 p.m., Welcome Home Party for Our Veterans, 116 University Pl. Entertainment includes Chorus, Dramatic Group Skit.

Bronx — Sundays, 8 p.m. — Discussion of Labor Problems, 1034 Prospect Ave., near 165th St., 1st floor.

Brooklyn, Militant Discussion Club, 635 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 Thurs., 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, 8:30 to 9:30, also Saturdays 2-8 p.m. Circulating library. Class on fundamentals of Marxism, Sunday evenings.

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."

Wed., Feb. 13, 8 p.m., "Negroes in the Civil War."

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 September 30, 1944, Militant.



There's a lot of grime in a worker's sense of humor. There has to be, or rather, he has to have a sense of humor to be able to live the kind of life he lives; and that humor is bound to be somewhat grim.

He laughs at a fellow who has just had a narrow escape from death or serious injury: "When that gate exploded, he was going away so fast his coat tail was standing straight out." He laughs at himself after an intolerable day in the heat: "My shoes were burning up, and I was wet like I'd been out in that lake. I thought they'd have to take me out of that runner with the crane."

A devil-may-care grin on his dirty face, a laugh in his throat... and deep anger in his heart. It would almost seem that the worker, the average worker, understood clearly. "This isn't the time just yet. The time is coming when all the wrongs and injustices of our life will be righted, the time when we will rise up and right them. But until we do, we'll make the best of a bad situation and get a few laughs out of it."

The reason why I'm writing these things is this: One of the fellows showed me a verse he had with him today. It was the words for a song to the tune of "The Old Apple Tree." I thought it showed some of the things a furnace man has to put up with. Here's the song:

O, my poor pappy worked in a steel plant
On a furnace making iron out of ore;
And each day he'd sweat and smoulder
As he rapidly grew older
In that steel mill on the Great Lakes' smoky shore.

O he worked in the midst of the fire
In the midst of the molten metal's glare.
And he coughed and choked and cursed
As his lungs filled up with dust.

But the sulphur gas was more than he could bear.

Then one day as he worked on the furnace
In that steel mill on the Great Lakes' smoky shore,
With a misstep that was fatal,
He fell into a ladle,
And now my poor, dear pappy is no more.

So the steel plant sent a man to see my mammy:
"Now we're sorry," he said, "sorry as can be.
Please accept this check of money
To make up for your honey—
Five hundred dollars worthy of sympathy!"

And now it's my turn to work on the furnace
With my dear, departed pappy's old crowd.
So each day I work and wait till
I'll wind up in a ladle
And join my pappy in an iron shroud.

That gives you an idea of some phases of a steel worker's life, and I think it shows also the attitude that we tend to take. It reminds me of one of the standard stories the fellows tell.

"Oh, it's not so bad now as it used to be," they say. "Why, twenty years ago when I came here to work, the man at the gate told me, 'Well, we haven't got any jobs right now, but you just wait here a while, and when somebody gets killed, you can have his job.' So I waited about twenty minutes until they carried some guy out in a wagon, and then they sent me in to work."

But don't get the idea that since these workers laugh at the pain and peril of their work they feel no other emotion. Some of these things they laugh at aren't at all funny. The only way I can explain it is that the anger rises up in their throats and pushes the laughter out. But, as I said, that's only temporary. The resentment and wrath of the workers is smoldering beneath the surface and building up the pressure that will shatter the shell that now holds it.

Some day out laughter will have a lighter ring.

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

Sailors without ships and ships without sailors—that is rapidly becoming a grim reality. Read this story by a sailor who has written me from San Francisco. I do not need to add a thing to his letter.



"I have just buried a ship alive. This may sound strange to you but that is just what I did. I was shipped from the union hall to shift a ship from the yard where she was being stripped to the graveyard where she would spend most of her life.

"She was still in war gear. However, she was a sorry-looking sight as the gray was streaked with rust stains which somehow reminded me of a little girl with a tear-stained face. Then as I stepped on deck the real tragedy struck me. She had been stripped of all the gear which made her proud when she was a working lady. Now she was like a waitress without any arms—still able to move from spot to spot but unable to do any work. Soon she would be unable even to move.

"We soon got under way and it was not long before we were at Suisun Bay, the graveyard for ships in San Francisco Bay. When the fleet of dead ships comes into view it looks like a forest growing out of the water. As you get closer you see that this is an illusion caused by the masts of the ships which are so closely packed.

"We went past the ghost fleet. They were lined up in perfect ranks, 15 to the line. As we passed, the others seemed to be saying: 'Hurry up, friend, you are late.' And our lady seemed to answer:

"There is plenty of time for there will be many more after me." This brought other thoughts to mind. Or should I rather say, questions?

"What did all this cost in the blood and sweat and tears of the workers who built them? (Not to mention the cost in money. Two of us put together our meager knowledge of ship costs and we both agreed that at a conservative estimate the ships represented 200 million dollars.)

"Then a new question arose. What was going to happen to these ships? We, the crew who shifted the lady, discussed her possible future. Was she to be broken up for scrap? Maybe. Some of these probably would be. Was she ever to have a useful life again and if so how? Maybe she would go to some foreign country? Would she be sold to an American ship operator? Or would she perhaps just lie there?

"Then this question arose: what was the sense of keeping the ships and paying watchmen to tend them and be a burden on the people? Why not just take the ships out to sea and give them a decent burial? Why not return them to the elements they once rode so proudly? I don't know, but if you ask Mr. J. P. Morgan he may be able to explain it all to you.

"Or maybe I do know. My guess is that the ruling class is afraid to be caught with their pants down again. They, the conscious ones, know that under capitalist economy wars are inevitable. They know that the fleet is part of the reserve they will need when the shooting starts again. So we, the workers, have to pay the maintenance bill. Under capitalism there isn't any justice either for workers or for ships."

(Signed) R. Gallagher

Remember Fontana! By Evelyn Atwood

The fourth victim of the tragic Fontana, California fire, O'Day Short, has just died. He was critically burned last month in the same flames which consumed his wife and two young children and destroyed his home. The wiping out of this Negro family resulted from an explosion due to mysterious origins SHORTLY AFTER O'DAY SHORT HAD BEEN THREATENED WITH VIOLENCE BY WHITE VIGILANTES.

Despite hospital precautions to keep the news from him, District Attorney Kavanaugh informed Short of the terrible fate of his family. We could not survive this added shock.

So far as all the collaborators in this "white supremacy" crime are concerned, the case is closed.

Closed for the local "law enforcement" agencies. For the deputy sheriff and his men who informed Short that he was living "out of bounds." For District Attorney Kavanaugh who refused to permit any evidence or testimony at the coroner's inquest about the vigilante threats which preceded the fire.

Closed for the real estate dealer, J. Sutherland and the former owner of the land, Louis Helfman, who personally delivered these vigilante threats to Short and warned him that "they are a tough bunch to deal with," and would resort to physical violence.

Closed and "white-washed" for the unidentified gangsters who enforced Jim Crow through these murderous methods.

But the Fontana case is not closed and cannot

be closed for the 13 million Negroes in this country. It is not closed and cannot be closed for the entire labor movement. For the working people of this country, black and white, the attempt to whitewash the Fontana case is a crime against them all.

The vigilante threats, made public before the fire, are sufficient in themselves to justify the grave suspicion that this was a case of brutal arson and murder. An arson expert, hired by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, testified that evidence at the scene of the crime indicated that this was more than an "accident."

Some of the associates of the white authorities who refused to properly investigate the case, are known to have been connected with the vigilante threats. Thus the Negro community on the West Coast is justified in its contention that the Short family died at the hands of "perpetrators of a fiendish act." (Los Angeles Tribune, January 26.)

O'Day Short only wanted a place to live in with his wife and two children. The vigilantes spawned by capitalism gave him instead a graveyard for four.

O'Day Short wanted peace and security for his loved ones. The hirelings of capitalism gave him the peace and security of a cemetery. Like millions of other working-class families, the Shorts were told that the imperialist war was a crusade against racial and national oppression, against foreign "barbarians"; a war for the "Four Freedoms," including "freedom from fear."

Now, in the charred bodies of four innocent victims, the American people can see the hideous shape of their own barbarian masters. In the glare of the Fontana torch, they can see the kind of "peace," "freedom," and "democracy" reserved for them by the American ruling class.

The Fontana fire again demonstrates that the vital questions of peace, freedom and security for the American masses were not at all settled by the "war for democracy." They remain to be fought out and settled right here at home.

The united action of an aroused working class alone can expose and exterminate the vigilante vermin and uproot the criminal Jim Crow system. Only in the struggle for socialism will the roots of discrimination and other capitalist abominations be torn up and destroyed.

'I Came Back From A Nazi Prison Camp To Get Tear-Gassed On The Picket Line'

Veterans On The March



A contingent of veterans photographed as they left Philadelphia to join a march on the state capital at Harrisburg. They are part of 600 ex-GIs, members of the striking CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, who on January 24 conducted the first veterans' march on a state capital following World War II. They demanded a special session of the State Legislature to vote a veterans' bonus, to provide striking veterans with state unemployment compensation, and to act on housing.

AP Photo

UAW Offers \$2,000 Reward To Catch Thugs Who Beat Woman

DETROIT, Jan. 25 — The CIO United Automobile Workers International Executive Board is offering a \$2,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension of hoodlums who savagely beat up Genora Dollinger, well-known Detroit auto union militant, after breaking into her home at dawn on October 16.

At the same time, the UAW-CIO Executive Board absolved Melvin Bishop, Detroit East Side Regional Co-Director, of any connection with the mysterious slappings of several prominent members of Briggs Local 212, UAW-CIO. This decision followed a lengthy investigation by a three-man committee of board members.

Previously, Art Vega and Roy Snowden, two leading members of the local, had been severely beaten. Genora Dollinger, chief vice-president of Briggs Local 212, steward's body and chief shop steward, was elected to the local investigating committee to uncover the identity of the goons. In the midst of this work she herself was so severely assaulted that she was taken to the hospital partially paralyzed.

After weeks of hospitalization she has still not fully recovered from the effects of the blows. The identity of the assailants remains unknown, according to the Board.

CORPORATION INSPIRED

Officers and members of various UAW-CIO locals, including Briggs local, branded the attacks as corporation-inspired actions designed to terrorize the workers and spread discord in their ranks on the eve of the strike struggles now in progress. Briggs Local 212 has for years been in the forefront of militant union struggle against the greedy auto corporations. Consequently, it has been a major target of the labor-haters. Gangster attacks like these have long been associated with the union-busting policies of the corporations.

MORE THAN COINCIDENCE

In an interview on October 27, Genora Dollinger herself declared: "It was more than just coincidence that the assault was made at a time when labor in Detroit is fighting on the economic front for a 30 per cent wage increase and on the political front to elect Frankenstein and other labor candidates to city office. No good union member would ever do such a thing. Whoever paid those thugs could have been acting only as agents for the company. The sooner such types are caught and exposed, the better it will be for all labor."

'If Necessary' Shoot GIs, Says Brass Hat

The real attitude of Army Brass Hats toward GI demonstrations is graphically revealed in the following eloquent letter from a sergeant in the Pacific which was placed in the January 15 Congressional Record.

"I was ordered to get men with weapons and clips of ammunition each and report to our regimental supply officer. He told me to take my men and go with a truck to get chemical supplies. We were to drive 20 miles and pick up the equipment and our orders were to see that the truck got back to camp with the load intact.

"And do you know whom we were to shoot and kill if necessary? Our own buddies and fellow Americans who were on strike and rioting because of recent developments in the demobilization program. We didn't run into any trouble but just think how we felt. We were ordered to kill men who were striking for the same things we all are suffering from."

Inland Steel Workers Nail Company Lies

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

INDIANA HARBOR, Ind., Feb. 2.—In an attempt to gain favorable publicity, Edward L. Ryerson, Chairman of the Board of the strike-bound Inland Steel Corporation, issued a public statement last week declaring that the CIO United Steelworkers never offered his company a settlement on the basis of an 18½-cent hourly increase.

Ryerson tried to give the impression that Inland Steel would have settled if such an offer had been made.

EXPOSES LIE

Lester Thornton, Sub-district Director of the USA — CIO, promptly exposed the lie by stating that on several occasions the union's committee had made the 18½-cent proposal to the company. To further expose the lie, Thornton immediately requested an appointment for the negotiating committee of Local Union 1010 which represents the Inland workers here.

At the negotiations it was immediately revealed that the company had no intention of making a settlement on the union's wage demand. Instead, Fred M. Gillies, the company vice-president, tried to get the committee to scale its demands downward. Needless to say, the committee promptly rejected the company's request and returned to the picket lines.

Pickets were advised to hold their lines and pay no attention to Inland's phony publicity stunts.

The following indignant letter comes from one of the veterans gassed by the Los Angeles police January 17 on the picket line of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, at the U. S. Electrical Motors plant. A detailed report of this police terror appeared in The Militant February 2.

Editor:

I was a private in an Infantry Division in the Army of the United States. I was wounded and captured at the time of "The Bulge" on the Siegfried Line. I spent three months in the prison camp at Nuremberg.

It was a war against fascism and for democracy, we were told.

We were also told, by our officers, that the Germans would use every trick in the bag to wipe us out. Repeatedly we were warned of the unscrupulous tactics of the S.S. Troops and the hated Gestapo.

Most of the time in France our gas masks were left in our duffle-bags. Just before moving up on the Siegfried we were ordered to wear them again. But the Germans never used gas on us.

I HAD TO COME BACK TO THE UNITED STATES TO GET THAT FROM OUR AMERICAN GESTAPO. ALONG WITH MANY OTHER VETERANS ON THE U. S. MOTORS PICKET LINE, I GOT A GOOD DOSE OF TEAR GAS FROM THE LOS ANGELES POLICE ON JANUARY 17.

Armed with guns and clubs, and wearing gas masks and helmets, over one hundred cops charged our peaceful picket line. Swinging their clubs and shooting their tear-gas guns, they on came down on us unmercifully.

Anyone who has seen the daily papers must have noticed the picture of the veteran with four overseas stripes on his sleeve, being clubbed viciously by one of these "storm-troopers."

Nazified As Any S.S. Troops

Women as well as men were clubbed. These cops were as Nazified as any S.S. troops I had seen in Germany. None of the Gestapo agents at the prison camp were any more arrogant.

I gave three and half of the best years of my life to what they said was a war for democracy and the "Four Freedoms." I thought it was my democratic right to peacefully picket an employer who wouldn't pay enough to meet the high cost of living.

But now we veterans are shown what we fought for.

When, on the following day a committee of CIO unionists charged the police with brutality and strikebreaking, Mayor Bowron asserted that the charges were unwarranted and that his administration was determined to preserve "law and order."

Those of us who have participated in strikes for a decent standard of living now know what they mean by "Law and Order."

The only answer to this is a Labor Party. We need city officials from the ranks of labor.

I hope you will print this in your paper.

A Vet
Los Angeles

2,000 ARMOUR WORKERS STAGE NEW STOPPAGE

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—About 2,000 workers staged a four-hour work stoppage in four departments at the Armour meat-packing plant this morning. At a mass meeting of 3,000 Armour workers following the stoppage, a statement was drafted accusing the company of "coercive practices."

The workers charged that Armour is "unnecessarily stalling" and holding back full production in order to avoid rehiring strikers. About 2,000 of Armour's 9,000 Chicago workers have not been called back to work.

The company has been allowing non-strikers to "carry arms into the plant" and these non-union workers are intimidating members of the union, charged Herbert March, district director of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers.

The company has refused to negotiate grievances with representatives of the union.

UNION'S RESOLUTION

The union sent a telegram to Secretary of Agriculture Anderson, appointed by President Truman to run the packing plants, after the government's strike-breaking plant seizure. The union demanded that Armour and Company officials be replaced "with competent government officials who will run the plants of Armour and Company in the interest of the nation and not in the private interest of the company."

Armour officials had been delegated last week to run the plants as agents of the government. A similar policy was introduced in all other seized plants where 200,000 had struck.

The telegram to Anderson also demanded that the government fact-finding panel award the packinghouse workers a wage increase no less than what the government has recommended for workers in other industries, such as oil, auto and steel. "Our wages are already too low, and any widening of the gap would be unfair," the union stated.

The mass meeting unanimously passed a resolution asking

ing the UPWA national strike strategy committee to stage an immediate strike in Armour plants throughout the country. Local union officials state that no action will be taken in regard to striking Armour plants until Lewis Clark, international president of the UPWA, returns from Washington and calls a meeting of the national strike strategy committee.

N. Y. Draftsmen Conduct Their First Walkout

By John Fredericks

(Special to The Militant)

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—A small but unprecedented strike took place here today as 175 draftsmen and engineers of the Lummus Co., struck for standardization wage increases and union recognition. The men, all white collar workers, have been organized into the AFL Architectural and Engineering Guild Local 66. Draftsmen and engineers are commonly thought to be well-paid men who consider themselves as above trade union struggles. Now, for the first time in the history of New York, these men have joined the ranks of organized labor and gone out on strike. They are marching daily before the Graybar Building in the Grand Central district where the offices of the Lummus Co. are located.

It has long been the practice of engineering firms of this type to hire and fire at will, paying non-uniform salaries to men doing similar types of work, practicing discrimination against Negroes and Jews, and generally acting in an arrogant manner toward their employees.

Salaries hit a high of \$70 a week during the war and a low of \$25 during the depression for the same type of work. Lummus Co. has been one of the worst offenders.

White collar workers here are watching the struggle with interest. A real victory will mean encouragement for the broader task of organizing New York's million white collar workers.

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The Militant
Use Coupon On Page 2

PORTLAND, ORE.

Public Meeting On
VIGILANTE TERROR
IN FONTANA

hear:
Myra Tanner Weiss
(Los Angeles SWP Organizer)

speaks on:

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15,
7:30 P.M.

Socialist Workers Party
134 S. W. Washington — 3rd Floor