

## New Opposition In Communist Party

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## Flint Workers Move To Set Up A Labor Party

Chevrolet Local 659 Names 10-Man Committee  
To Head Drive To Build Party In Flint Area

By Jack Rockwell  
(Special to The Militant)

FLINT, Dec. 11 — The Flint auto workers have taken an important step forward in the task of building a Labor Party. Chevrolet CIO-UAW Local 659 passed a resolution at its regular membership meeting Dec. 8 calling for a full-time organizer and a committee of ten to direct the work of organizing a Labor Party in the Sixth Congressional District.

Kermit Johnson, one of the outstanding leaders of the sit-down strikes of 1937 and a veteran of World War II, was elected by acclamation as full time organizer.

The ten-man committee includes the Local 659 president, William "Tex" Owens; Don Stevenson, editor of the local union paper; Charles Ziy, vice-president of the Michigan CIO Council; Mark Reid, Jack Palmer, executive board members; Larry Jones, Harrison Johnson, chief stewards; and three committeemen, John Eleazer, Bill Roy and John Richardson.

### BUILD OUR OWN

In an exclusive interview, Kermit Johnson told this reporter: "If we don't like war, unemployment and depressions, and we want to do something about it, let us stop trying to steal other people's political parties and build one of our own."

"The Republican and Democratic Parties are bought and paid for, and they can't be taken away from their owners. These parties were built for profit and exploitation. We can't take either and convert it to an instrument of the public welfare."

"Our future need not be a future of fear and want. But security can come only through plan and purpose. A Labor Party is the answer."

The resolution adopted by the Chevrolet local declared that the "Republican landslide is an indication that millions of the middle class and the working class voted for them in protest against the Democratic administration policies."

"The huge protest vote would have gone to a Labor Party if it had been in existence."

At the Chevrolet meeting, the Stalinists attacked the resolution, and used all the parliamentary trickery they could to pigeon-hole the resolution. But the membership was determined and the Stalinists failed completely.

The action of the Chevrolet local was publicized by the Flint press and radio and the Detroit papers. The other big locals in the city of Flint, Buick, Fisher and A. C., are already on record for a Labor Party, with A. C. reaffirming its position at their

membership meeting of Dec. 8. Although the auto workers have set out to create a Labor Party in the Sixth District, they well know that a lot of spadework will have to be done before they are ready to run a slate of candidates. The emphasis is placed on winning the support of all the locals in the district to take the same action as Chevrolet.

The Chevrolet Committee has already instructed the 45 district chairmen to immediately elect an organizer to enroll the membership in their district into the Labor Party.

The task in the Sixth District will not be an easy one, but the struggle will go forward until the Labor Party becomes a reality.

## Rochester CIO Seeks United Labor Action

(Special to The Militant)

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 14 — The CIO Council here at its last meeting adopted a resolution calling for a united labor conference of all local unions and joint action in defense of labor's rights.

Declaring support for CIO President Philip Murray's appeal for a national conference of the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods leaders, the local CIO has called on the AFL Central Trades Council and local railroad unions to help establish city-wide labor unity.

A joint meeting of the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods here is reported scheduled for Dec. 16 and 17.

The CIO Council's resolution calls for "submerging petty differences" and "extending a warm and open hand to the Central Trades and Labor Council, AFL, as well as the Railroad Brotherhoods."

It urges not "just another top-level 'talking' committee," but a joint action organization that will carry its program down into the ranks of every union.

Sentiment for united labor action is strong here since the city general strike several months ago. The CIO's Strategy Committee in that strike has been designated to plan steps toward joint labor action now.

# CIO EXPOSES PROFITEERS AS WAGE CAMPAIGN OPENS

## UN Resolution On Disarming Solves Nothing

Draft, Arms Production  
Continued As Usual

The United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously last week for a resolution favoring reduction in national armaments and armed forces. The Soviet Union's demand for an immediate census of troops and arms at home and abroad, including atomic weapons, was defeated and the Security Council was told to decide what information on troops and arms should be submitted by the UN member nations.

In essence the resolution made a decision "in principle" only: Hit or too used to pay lip-service to this "principle." Discussion of practical measures to carry out the resolution was postponed for a future assembly session.

All the big powers joined in hailing the resolution as a great step forward. But in none of their countries was there any sign of acts to cut down on armament preparations or the size of their armies.

### PRODUCTION CONTINUES

On the contrary, in all these countries production of war weapons continues full-scale. In all of them plans for maintaining or securing peacetime production continue as usual.

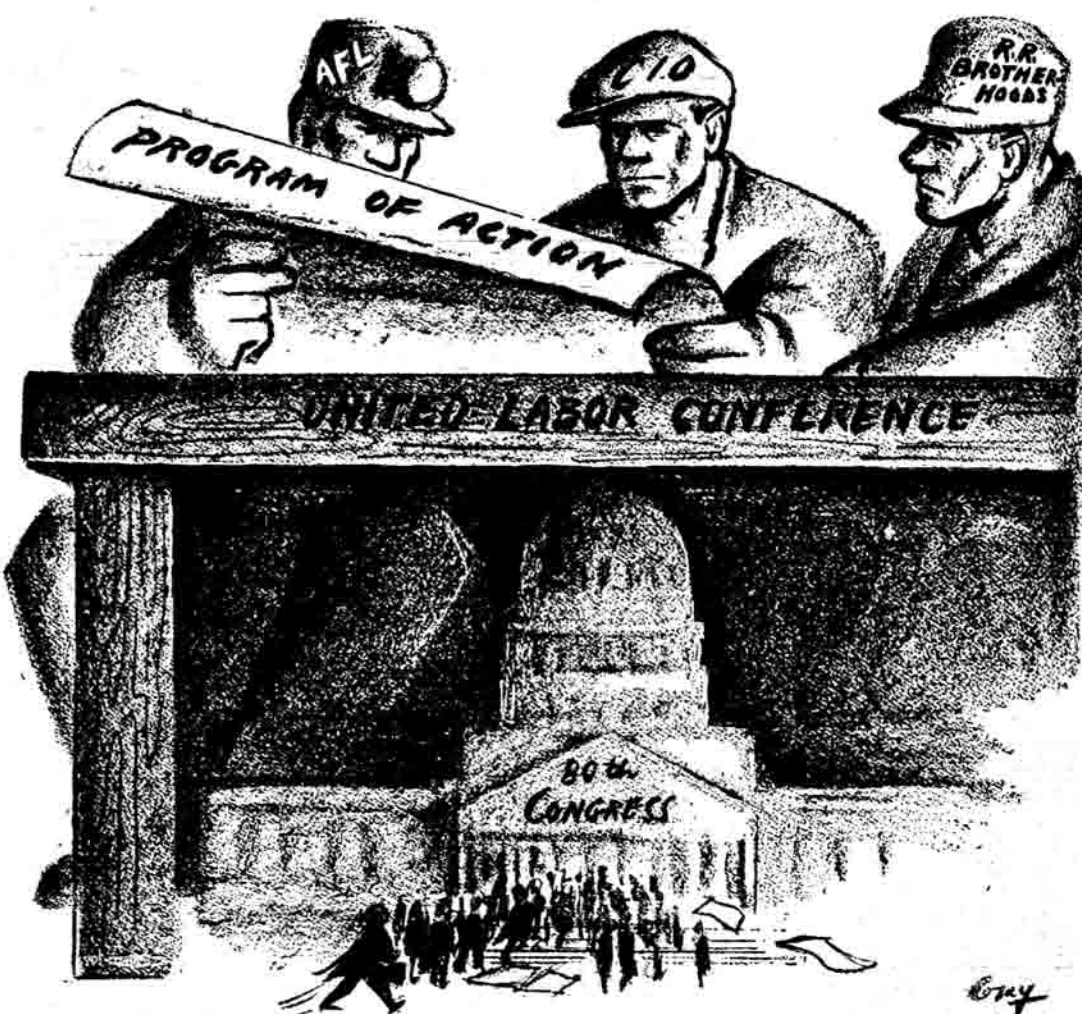
The discussion preceding adoption of the resolution was marked by all kinds of maneuvering on the part of the "Big Three."

The main concern of the British appeared to be the defeat of the immediate troop census count, for fear that Britain would be embarrassed by publicity on the number of troops it was maintaining in such "non-enemy" countries as Greece and Palestine.

The Soviet Union's delegation made some small concessions on eliminating the veto over the day-to-day operation of an inspection body. This in turn was supposed to help win support for including atomic weapons among the arms to be reported in an immediate census.

The whole idea of a census at this time was defeated, however, because the U.S. delegation was concerned above all in keeping the strategic position whereby it could dictate the terms for the Atomic Energy Commission.

### How To Meet The New Congress



## New Congress Prepares To Rush Through Laws To Cripple Labor

Wall Street intends to follow up its strikebreaking drive against the coal miners with legislation aimed to shatter the spine of the entire labor movement. The emboldened capitalists expect Truman to outline these anti-labor laws in his January message to the 80th Congress. They expect the Republican-dominated Congress to rush them through in record speed.

What is in store can be judged from a message Harvey C. Freuhauf, president of the Detroit Freuhauf Trailer Co., sent to stockholders along with the quarterly report on profits. Freuhauf called for early repeal of the National Labor Relations (Wagner) Act, the Norris-La Guardia Anti-Injunction Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

### PREPARE BILL

The Republicans, according to an unnamed GOP leader, have whipped a bill "into shape for speedy introduction in the new Congress" to make arbitration compulsory; ban strikes in any dispute affecting "public welfare"; and set up federal machinery to intervene in any shut-downs involving utilities, transportation or "communities essential to public health or safety."

These sweeping provisions would affect every union. A simple declaration by the President or two Governors would be enough to condemn a strike as threatening "public welfare."

Truman, speaking for the Democratic ("fine the unions") Party, has already indicated that he hopes to "beat the Republicans to the punch" against labor. Ghost-writer Clark M. Clifford is drafting the recommendations Truman will deliver to Congress.

All the proposed legislation has two objectives: (1) to club labor with restrictive regulations; (2) to facilitate government intervention on the side of the employers in labor disputes.

Besides pressing for new anti-labor laws, Truman seeks to retain his wartime powers indefinitely. Truman told a press conference Dec. 12 that in view of the labor situation he does not intend to issue an order bringing the Second World War to an official end. Truman's aim is self-evident. What does he want these dictatorial war powers for if not to wage war on labor?

This fits in with Republican views. Despite GOP election promises to end the President's wartime powers, Representative Earl Lewis last week declared it "neither wise nor desirable" to lift these powers — they might still serve to beat down labor.

Virtually all the wartime restrictions on business have been removed. Postwar profits have soared even above the colossal take of the mad war years. But the Smith-Connolly Act, passed as a temporary wartime measure, still permits Truman to break strikes. Under the Selective Service Act, strikers can be drafted up to the age of 45.

Big Business has already anticipated that the unions in self-defense will begin building an independent Labor Party. Consequently the House Campaign Investigating Committee has prepared a report to Congress demanding repressive moves against the CIO-PAC and the AFL.

These moves include restrictions on expenditures for political purposes, restrictions on radio time for unions that want to discuss politics, restrictions on assigning labor organizers to political activities, and restrictions on publication of the voting records of Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

Conducting a drive to eliminate Stalinist influence, a coalition of clothing, textile, and steel union officials reorganized the state council so as to deny representation to important unions and to reduce delegations from smaller locals at future conventions.

This places control in the hands of a small clique of salaried officials and removes rank-and-file representatives from the council's executive committee. The anti-Communist measure, moreover, now gives this clique a weapon to use against any future rank-and-file opposition and sets a dangerous precedent for repressive action against other minorities.

Amendments to the constitution which the leadership pressured through, cut the executive committee from 34 to 10; changed the legislative agent from an elective to an appointive post; combined the offices of secretary and treasurer; and reduced delegations from locals having less than 200 members. As a result, no representation on the executive committee was granted to the maritime, office, fur and leather, newspaper and furniture unions.

The Stalinist leadership was ready to accept without protest a statement of policy condemn-

## Shows 25% Raise Possible Without Increase In Prices

Firing CIO's opening gun in a drive for "substantial wage increases," Philip Murray on Dec. 11 released an economic survey showing that without raising prices "total corporate business can support a 25 per cent increase in wages."

Real weekly wages in industry are now 23 per cent below the Jan. 1945 average, "paralleled by the lush profits in history."

These profits, after taxes, are "approaching \$15 billion (annually), fully 1½ times the level of the best war years . . . and 3½ times as high as the average of the years 1936-1939."

These are some of the major facts, based on conservative government figures, contained in a report prepared for the CIO by a firm of private consulting economists headed by Robert R. Nathan, former deputy reconversion director.

They establish the basis for the wage demands soon to be made by the CIO Steelworkers and United Electrical Workers, and already announced last week by the United Automobile Workers.

### UAW DEMAND

Setting the pattern for the "Big Three" of the CIO, the UAW Executive Board the day after the release of the Nathan report issued a demand on the auto barons for a general 23½-cent an hour wage increase, plus a three per cent employer-financed, union-administered health and welfare fund, a wage equalization fund and an old-age pension fund.

These demands, said UAW President Walter Reuther, "do not require any increase in prices." The latest price increases by General Motors "doubled the profit margin it earned during the third quarter of 1946 and set the stage for tremendous future profits."

The same, he said, holds true for Chrysler, with which the union is already negotiating.

Steel, auto and electrical workers top leaders are meeting on Monday, Dec. 16, in Pittsburgh for what is called a "general strategy conference" to lay plans for coordinating the wage drive of the three unions, which

### Wage Raises Cause Prices Increases?

A report filed last Nov. 5 by OPA, but buried by the administration and ignored by the press, reveals that in 11 major industries price increases granted between Jan. 1945 and June 1946 were anywhere from 30 to 900 per cent higher than added wage costs. The figures, contained in the Eighteenth Quarterly Report of OPA, are:

Industry	Added Costs	Price Rises Due to Granted Wage by Raisers OPA
Agricultural implements	1.1	9.7
Iron & steel	1.6	11.1
Food	0.9	6.1
Lumber	2.8	13.6
Textiles	2.8	9.6
Paper & pulp	2.1	6.1
Cement	1.3	3.2
Furniture	2.0	4.5
Brick & tile	6.2	9.6
Hides & leather	2.3	3.8
Chemicals	0.8	1.2

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## Red-Baiters Dominate Mass. CIO Convention

By S. Crabbe

(Special to The Militant)

WORCESTER, Mass., Dec. 14 — Red-baiting leaders of the Massachusetts CIO in a three-day convention here last week succeeded in almost completely eliminating rank-and-file participation in the state CIO Council. The convention, whipped up by the

reactionary red-baiters, also departed from the democratic basis on which the CIO was built by barring "members of the Communist party and other Communist organizations" from holding office.

Conducting a drive to eliminate Stalinist influence, a coalition of clothing, textile, and steel union officials reorganized the state council so as to deny representation to important unions and to reduce delegations from smaller locals at future conventions.

This places control in the hands of a small clique of salaried officials and removes rank-and-file representatives from the council's executive committee. The anti-Communist measure, moreover, now gives this clique a weapon to use against any future rank-and-file opposition and sets a dangerous precedent for repressive action against other minorities.

Amendments to the constitution which the leadership pressured through, cut the executive committee from 34 to 10; changed the legislative agent from an elective to an appointive post; combined the offices of secretary and treasurer; and reduced delegations from locals having less than 200 members. As a result, no representation on the executive committee was granted to the maritime, office, fur and leather, newspaper and furniture unions.

The Stalinist leadership was ready to accept without protest a statement of policy condemn-

ing them, similar to the resolution adopted by the recent national CIO convention. But these additional amendments forced them into an organizational fight for posts. Don Tormey of the electrical workers and Frank Siegle of the office workers, both well known Stalinists, took the floor many times. But they could not effectively expose their present opponents with whom they had previously collaborated in policies and deals. It was Tormey who at the 1944 convention proposed a no-strike pledge for the post-war period.

Progressive delegates in the steel, clothing, and textile unions were under constant pressure of their officials to maintain solid blocs, but their resentment against the reactionary measure grew. Caught in this fight between the red-baiters and discredited Stalinists and not ready to come into open conflict with their officials, large sections of these delegations voiced their protest by abstaining from voting for or against the amendments.

As chairman of the Constitutional committee, Martin Walsh, Steelworkers regional director, drove the steamroller for state CIO president Joseph Salerno. The pressure exerted by Walsh provoked an open revolt in the steel delegation. William Thomas, delegate from the largest steel local, ran for executive committee as a protest against Walsh's undemocratic action, although he had been defeated in the steel caucus.

## UNITED ACTION NEEDED!

An Editorial

Washington is preparing a gang-up on labor. All reports from the capital show that the Democrats and Republicans are making ready for an anti-labor field day when Congress convenes after New Year. Congressional hoppers are already overflowing with anti-labor bills—each aimed to harass and cripple organized labor, weaken and undermine the unions, destroy hard-won rights of the workers.

Let no one delude himself that the labor-haters are engaged largely in threats and bluff. Big Business, which runs the government, is clearly determined to put labor in a legislative strait-jacket.

The government's ferocious assault on the miners—the unprecedented mobilization of every agency in Washington—showed that Wall Street means business. Organized labor faces an immediate deadly threat.

Labor has the power to defeat the plans of the money-bags and their political agents. All that is needed is to unite the 15,000,000 organized workers in concerted action. Before such concentrated might, the forces of reaction would flee in frantic retreat.

From every section of the ranks of labor there rises the demand for joint action by the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods. In response to the pressure of the CIO workers, Philip Murray has called for a conference of all unions to plan a course of joint

action to defeat the anti-labor legislative drive.

As yet, the leaders of the AFL have remained silent. Despite the lesson taught by the mine strike, they obstinately and stupidly turn their faces away from the real need of the workers. They are permitting narrow, organizational interests and differences to blind them to the urgent necessity for united labor action now.

But the AFL workers cannot afford to permit their leaders to keep labor divided in the face of the present critical threat to the entire union movement. They have no special interests to keep them from joining the CIO and other union workers in united action to block anti-labor laws.

It is imperative that the ranks, regardless of union affiliation, put the heat on the top union leaders and force them to call a National Conference of Labor to meet in Washington, on the very door-step of Congress.

In every locality, the example must be set by the local unions. Without waiting for the top leaders—who will not move without pressure from the ranks—the local unions must get together and prepare for united action.

Such local unity will pave the way for national joint action. The time is short—the need is pressing. Act now!



# New Opposition In Stalinist Party

In recent issues *The Militant* has reported evidence of a growing internal crisis convulsing the Communist Party (Stalinist). This crisis has been most clearly reflected in a new wave of bureaucratic expulsions.

What is unique about the present situation is that for the first time in 16 years such expulsions are meeting organized resistance.

Several groups of expelled members, all tossed out for criticizing the opportunist, pro-capitalist policies of the CP leadership, are trying to continue an organized campaign against these leaders and policies.

They are issuing bulletins and documents addressed to the CP members, bitterly denouncing the Stalinist leaders and calling for an organized opposition. There is clear indication they are finding support within the CP ranks.

Publications and documents of several of these dissenting groups have come into our possession. They throw new light upon the betrayals and corruption of the Stalinist leaders.

These documents show further that within the working-class layers of the CP there is a genuine desire for a revolutionary Marxist pro-

gram and a party that will lead the workers to socialism. At the same time, this opposition, steeped in the falsifications and miseducation of Stalinism, is terribly muddled and confused. Their claim is that they are fighting for "genuine" Stalinism against the "distorted" and "falsified" version peddled by the present CP top leader, William Z. Foster, and his expelled predecessor, Earl Browder.

One of the opposition groups calls itself the New Committee for Publications. This group, functioning since last March, is circulating inside the CP a regular bulletin, published in New York, called the *NCP Report*. Its purpose, as stated in the first issue dated Oct. 28, "is to bring about the establishment of a real Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist party in the U.S."

Another document, called *An S.O.S. To All Communists From The P.R. Club, C.P.*, is being widely circulated in printed form in New York City. The P.R. Club was previously described by the CP's New York State Organization Secretary as the party's "best club in the Bronx."

This statement, signed by the club's Executive Committee, reveals that a large section of

the club has been expelled for refusing to expel a member who directed a letter of criticism to the CP State and National Committees "for opportunism, bureaucracy and outright dishonesty."

In San Francisco a group of CP members drew up a programmatic criticism of the party's municipal election campaign in the fall of 1945 and the subsequent bureaucratic blows rained on them for daring to criticize the party's support of capitalist politicians.

Another San Francisco document, issued by a group of machinists whose CP club was ruthlessly "liquidated," is in some respects the most revealing of all and shows how the main blows of the party's top bureaucracy are falling on the proletarian sections of the CP.

It describes how the CP tried to break the strike of Local 68, International Association of Machinists, last fall in San Francisco. "After issuing perfunctory approval of the strike demands as 'just,' the CP began to break the strike. It issued leaflets and had articles published in *People's World* openly advising the machinists that they couldn't win the strike and urging them to go back to work."

The CP machinists were directed to "attack the strike leaders as Trotskyite, which was a damned lie as usual, and to demand a rank-and-file committee to lead a back-to-work movement."

When these CP workers refused to act as strikebreakers, "the branch was liquidated in the usual smart manner." At the very end of a meeting, "the liquidation of the branch was announced, with a ruling: 'There will be no discussion of this.' Expulsions came thick and fast."

The substance of the criticism made by all these groups is that the American Stalinists are "not fighting for socialism," they are continuing the "revisionism of Browder," they play ball with the capitalist parties and refuse to campaign for a labor party. The dissenters usually dig up obscure, early quotations of Stalin to prove their points.

But it is clear that the workers in the CP are finding it ever more difficult to stomach the dirty, treacherous chores the party leaders are assigning them.

This is the first in a series of articles on *The Crisis in the Communist Party*.

## Why Labor Cannot Expect Justice From The Courts

By Joseph Hansen

Before Roosevelt, the reputation of the courts as strikebreakers became so notorious that Congress conceded to public pressure in 1932 and passed the Norris-LaGuardia Act limiting the use of injunctions. During Roosevelt's day, Wall Street relied primarily on the executive and legislative arms of government to fight labor. Under Truman, the executive branch has lost so much authority that Wall Street has again brought the courts to the fore.

Thus the labor movement is once more confronted with the need to defend itself against the black-robed champions of Wall Street. Union militants are asking: "How shall we cope with this menace?"

First of all, it is necessary to understand what gives the judiciary its power. Judges are able to deal murderous blows against labor mainly because union bureaucracy and professional betrayers of the working class like the Communist (Stalinist) Party cover up the real role of the courts and bolster up the superstitious awe in which many uninformed people hold the courts.

LEWIS' LETTER

John L. Lewis, for instance, tried to justify the way he called off the strike by painting the nine Wall Street politicians on the Supreme Court as a benevolent power.

In his Dec. 7 letter Lewis declared: "The Supreme Court is, and we believe will ever be, the protector of American liberties and the rightful privileges of individual citizens." He did not — and could not — indicate how the Supreme Court was different or better than the other courts whose rulings the miners had challenged.

When a single judge in a lower Federal court decided that the Lea Act making the musicians "a class separate and apart from all other employees" violated the First, Fifth and Thirteenth Amendments to the Constitution, James C. Petrillo said: "Thank God for the Federal Courts, where they preach and practice democracy..."

## Los Angeles Hires Big Hall To Try Pickets

By Al Lynn

(Special to The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 8 — The police strikebreaking drive here has caused an overflow in the city courts. The Board of Supervisors found it necessary to streamline this anti-labor activity by hiring a large auditorium, named Patriotic Hall, to handle 875 arrested pickets.

All but three of the pickets were studio workers hauled in during the mass raids in which well over a thousand have been arrested so far. Two were AFL printing workers who were arrested several months ago for picketing Pacific Press. The other was Phil Connolly, CIO Council secretary, who is appealing a 60-day jail sentence imposed for participation on a CIO electrical workers' picket line at U. S. Motors last January. The line was broken up by police attacks and Connolly was charged with "inciting to riot."

The studio arrests are for violating injunctions which limit picketing, showing that the city administration here is right in step with the federal government in use of strikebreaking injunctions.

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**BROOKLYN**  
Cabaret Nite  
Saturday, Dec. 21  
Entertainment  
Food Dancing  
Socialist Workers Party  
635 Fulton 8:30 p.m.

## More Violence Against Pickets



At the Allis-Chalmers plant, in West Allis, Wis., another worker is dragged away from the picket line by cops, as terror against the strikers continues. CIO United Auto Workers Local 248 is still on strike after months of company refusal to arbitrate.

## Red-Baiting Resolution Passed By Jersey CIO

NEWARK, N. J. Dec. 13 — The 9th Annual State CIO Convention adjourned its two-day sessions last Sunday, its positive work marred by a heated debate over red-baiting and the adoption of an anti-Communist resolution.

Over 600 delegates, representing 250,000 CIO members in the state, adopted resolutions to press for increased wage standards; step up organization of the unorganized; push for adequate housing and a bonus for veterans; intensified legislative activity for improved social security and establishment of state sickness compensation.

The Convention further voted a strong condemnation of government injunctions against the miners; further possible support for the miners was shelved when news came that Lewis had ordered a return to work.

Throughout its sessions, both rank and file delegates and state and national CIO officials stressed the need for solidarity of the entire labor movement to meet the threats of government attack. Speaker after speaker urged unity and common defense, pointing out that attacks against the miners today would be broadened out against the CIO in the future.

But this underlying theme of labor unity was shattered by sharp debate over an anti-red resolution which, in addition to endorsing the recent National CIO Convention's condemnation of Communist interference, declared its proponents will "resist and fight, in democratic fashion, any and all attempts of the Communist Party and its adherents in or out of the CIO to foist their policies on our organization."

## St. Louis Strikers Victimized By AFL Teamsters Czar Tobin

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 11 — One militant shop steward has been suspended by a closed "kangaroo" trial board, four others face trials and from 30 to 50 other members of operators to fire participants.

Tobin's men went so far as to publish a page-length ad in the local newspapers, headed "Not A Strike—A Conspiracy!" publicly threatening strikers with expulsion and black-listing.

Hunt has likewise announced that 30 to 50 "insurgents" will face expulsion as a result of the protest stoppage against the expulsion of Bishop. Some 37 men are reported already fired on Hunt's instigation.

Bishop's trial, it was revealed by an international union official, was the opening of a campaign by Tobin to "crack down on wild cat strikes." Tobin, sitting on a \$16,000,000 treasury, last month warned members that they could not draw strike benefits unless he "authorized" their strikes.

## CIO Proves 25% Pay Rise Is Possible

(Continued from Page 1)

represent 2,350,000 members. The following day the wage policy committees of the steel and electrical workers unions go into session to determine the precise demands they will submit to the major steel and electrical equipment corporations.

The CIO is thus immediately taking up the challenge of Big Business and its government, which has been emboldened to even greater resistance to labor's wage demands since John L. Lewis called off the mine strike without gains.

### MUST PREPARE

To be successful in its new wage offensive, the CIO must be prepared to meet the most savage and determined opposition by a united mobilization of corporation and government forces.

The outcome will be determined in large measure by the nature of the demands the CIO raises to inspire the ranks and the program of action it adopts to compel the corporations to yield.

As indicated by the auto union's wage demands, the CIO leaders do not contemplate going beyond the request for flat increases that will merely compensate for the increased cost of living since the wage gains of last spring. This makes no allowance for the continued rise in prices which can quickly slash any flat wage gains. What the

## War's Still On—Against Labor!

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12 — (U.P.)—President Truman today said the recent soft coal strike had made it impossible to declare the war formally at an end now. He said he thought if it had not been for recent strikes, he might have been able by now to have declared the war at an end.

workers want to know most is how to meet this urgent problem.

The answer is the demand for a sliding scale of wages, in addition to the general increase in basic wage rates. All the CIO workers could be mobilized and inspired by one central demand: For the inclusion in all CIO contracts of a clause providing for automatic wage increases, above the basic scales, for every rise in living costs.

Such a clause has already been won by the CIO Oil Workers Industrial Union in its contract with the Sinclair Refining Co. Under a sliding scale of wages, wages rise with living costs, but cannot go below the established rate, including the new basic increases.

The assurance that the CIO will win its demands lies in its program of action. It would be folly to place any reliance on mere "economic persuasion"—an appeal to reason on the basis of the irrefutable economic facts—to bring the corporations to terms. Nor would another labor-management-government conference, such as Murray is reported to be contemplating, bring any better results than the similar farce held in October 1945.

The CIO must enter the battle prepared for a showdown. It must let the employers and government know from the start that it means business.

Every practical step must be made for a united, militant fight. Plans must be worked out for striking simultaneous, coordinated blows against the major corporations. A combined CIO "war chest" must be raised. Every CIO local must be placed on a fighting footing.

The CIO workers want no more divisive "one at a time" strategy. They want to hit together and hit hard.

## TRADE UNION NOTES

Union demands for wage increases are growing. The CIO Textile Workers Union is seeking 15 cents an hour more for 100,000 cotton textile workers in the South; 20 cents for 85,000 northern workers in the woolen industry and 18 cents for 38,000 in synthetic yarn plants. . . . 80,000 members of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers in the New York area are seeking a 20 per cent cost-of-living increase. . . . A boost of 30 cents an hour in 1947 will be sought by the CIO Transport Workers Union, according to President Michael Quill.

CIO United Rubber Workers representatives opened negotiations on Dec. 6 with the "Big Four," Goodrich, Goodyear, Firestone and U. S. Rubber, for a 28-cent an hour general raise.

A contract covering 11,000 workers of the Cudahy Packing Company, one of the "Big Four" in the meat industry, has been concluded, according to an announcement last week by Ralph Helstein, President of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers. Wage increases of 7 1/2 cents an hour are provided, retroactive to Nov. 1. Geographical wage equalization adjustments of 2 1/2 to 8 1/2 cents are also included. Helstein said a similar contract will be sought from Armour, Swift and Wilson.

Original demands of the union called for a minimum wage of \$1 an hour, a guaranteed annual wage, general hourly increases of 12 to 22 cents and a regularly adjusted cost-of-living bonus to meet price rises during the course of the contract. The Cudahy contract provides for reopening wage clauses twice before termination on Aug. 11, 1948.

The Chicago Committee for Railroad Unity, composed of 38 representatives of rail unions in the Chicago area, has called on officials of the 21 railroad unions for a simultaneous "all-out campaign" for "higher wages, shorter hours and reopening of the fight for rules changes."

This committee is working to end the disastrous disunity and craft division in the rail unions so tragically revealed in the railroad strike last May.

A meeting of the committee on Nov. 30 expressed the solidarity of the railroad workers with the striking miners, backed the miners' demands and condemned the government's injunction. Its resolution called "for unity between the AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods to stand shoulder to shoulder in this fight."

CIO's southern organizing drive is having rough going against vicious opposition of employers and local political officials. But Van A. Bittner, chairman of the CIO Southern Organizing Committee, last week in Atlanta where the committee met, strongly denied "rumors that the CIO southern campaign is being relaxed." He declared emphatically that "our campaign in 1947 will be more concentrated." CIO by Dec. 4 had won 266 NLRB elections in the South since drive began last summer, lost 43.

AFL southern policy board also met in Atlanta last week. It announced a legislative program which was said to "stand a very good chance of approval by Legislatures in the South because it is generally noncontroversial."

By "noncontroversial" is meant legislation that does not "offend" the Jim-Crow feelings of the Southern bosses. No labor legislative program in the South is worth anything which does not include at the top of the list measures to wipe out the Jim-Crow system that divides white and Negro workers and deprives the Negro of all rights.

The AFL Federation of Teachers may rescind its 30-year-old "no strike" policy because of present "economic conditions," President Joseph F. Landis said in Newark on Nov. 30. The executive board, which has been studying the question since August, will make a recommendation late this month to be submitted to the teachers' convention next summer. Meanwhile, the "no strike" policy is being voted out all over the country by teachers who are hitting the picket lines for more pay, or threatening to strike.

The Daily Worker has been trying to defend the Stalinist policy at the recent CIO convention when CP members supported the red-baiting resolution that "resented and rejected" the "interference of the Communist Party." Now the full significance of this resolution is beginning to be felt.

One of the first moves of the Murray machine has been to send a letter to all local and state CIO councils to "discontinue forthwith all fund-raising, membership solicitation and other work in support of" the National Negro Congress. The letter by John Brophy, CIO Director of Industrial Union Councils, states that NNC policies are "in variance with the policies of the CIO" and councils may only work with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Since the NNC is Stalinist-dominated, this is obviously a move against the CP. More significantly, it shows how the new restrictive rules deprive local councils of their former right to work together with other organizations without dictatorship and interference from the CIO top bureaucracy.

Ominous notes of forthcoming "cold purges"—quiet suppression of "communists" through reorganization of receiverships over local CIO councils—are struck in the latest issues of CIO organs like *Textile Labor* and *Steel Labor*.

The November *Textile Labor*, for instance, in an editorial on "The Communist Issue," advises "sincere rightists" who did not think the CIO convention went "far enough" that it "is on the administrative level that the Declaration of Policy, the preamble (to CIO constitution) and the new industrial union council rules will be implemented."

It adds: "We have no doubt whatever that . . . to the confusion of those who would use the CIO to foster alien objectives (read oppose CIO leaders' policies) such implementation will be swiftly evident."

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## Wages, Prices and Profits

Labor's Defense --  
The Sliding Scale

By Warren Creel

In the pamphlet, *The Death Agony of Capitalism*, Leon Trotsky ranked high prices along with unemployment as two basic economic afflictions which are the chief immediate problems for the workers under the conditions of disintegrating capitalism.

For the workers only one defense against inflation has a solid foundation in economic science, and that is the sliding scale of wages. Other names for it are a cost-of-living clause or an escalator clause in union contracts.

A union contract with a sliding scale or escalator clause sets a guaranteed minimum wage. This is the standard rate and pay cannot go below it. In addition the contract provides for a cost-of-living adjustment, or bonus, which will increase, automatically whenever prices go up.

Thus if the cost of living goes up ten per cent in two months after the contract is signed, then a cost-of-living bonus of ten per cent of the basic wage is added automatically. If the cost of living goes up five per cent more in the next month the bonus rises five points more to fifteen per cent. In some contracts the bonus can go down again if the cost of living goes down, but pay cannot go below the standard contract scale, which is the guaranteed minimum.

The employers prefer to use government figures to measure changes in the cost of living, such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics index, but these are not accurate. Contracts should specify that cost-of-living figures of the AFL or CIO Research Bureau be used as the standard.

Without the sliding scale the workers continually get concealed pay cuts in the form of rising prices. They have to go through strikes and struggles for more money wages, year after year, merely to stay in the same place, without any real gains in their standard of living.

The sliding scale in a contract means that the contract wage will be the same real wage at the end of the year as at the start. Thus the union will be in a position to bargain for higher real wages in the next contract. It will not have to use up its bargaining and fighting power merely to get back again to an old standard won long ago.

Employers don't want a sliding scale because they would rather make gains from inflation. They want to collect higher money prices without paying higher money wages. That gives them super-profits, such as they are making this year. But the employers never want to grant any wage increases, the unions have to get them through strength in bargaining, and that's the way the workers can get the sliding scale.

The sliding scale is not even an abnormal wage under capitalism. In the long run the workers get the value of their labor-power as wages, on the average. When the cost of living goes up, money wages have to go up too, in the end. This doesn't come automatically, it comes as a result of bargaining and struggle, because the workers must struggle to maintain their standard of living. But in most periods of rising prices the rise of wages has been slower than the rise of prices, and the employers have made extra profits from this delay.

Under conditions of disintegrating capitalism, when prices may rise sharply to new levels during a single year, there isn't time for delay. The sliding scale in a union contract eliminates the delay. The sliding scale as a labor slogan concentrates labor's bargaining power on the best answer to the immediate problem, and therefore makes labor's bargaining more effective.

All the substitutes that have been proposed for the sliding scale serve only to waste labor's energy by turning the struggle into blind alleys.

One such substitute is government price control. The workers were told to spend their effort on postcards to Congress for a better OPA instead of fighting for higher wages to meet rising prices. This ended in worse than nothing. It didn't keep prices down but it did turn the unions away from a united fight for the correct answer, higher wages. Price control by militant consumer committees can do good work in opposing price rises, resisting rent increases, preventing evictions in renter's strikes, and so on. But it is a waste of postage stamps to turn to a capitalist Congress which has promoted inflation for years and beg it to hold down the price rises that come from its own inflation. And it's a criminal waste of labor's strength to fritter it away in such tactics.

The workers have their greatest organized strength in the factory, at the point of production, where they bargain for wages. The best battle-ground against inflation is the ground where the workers are strong. Labor can make its best fight against inflation in the wage bargain, through the sliding scale of wages.

This article concludes the series on Wages, Prices and Profits.

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Workers' Action To Overthrow Franco  
Is Opposed By All U.N. Spokesmen

By George Breitman

The United Nations General Assembly again debated the question of Spain last week, and again adopted a resolution on Franco's fascist dictatorship. But during the debate neither the imperialists nor the Stalinists offered a program which could lead to the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship in the interest of the Spanish masses. And after the resolution was adopted Franco was as securely seated on the backs of the Spanish workers as ever before.

The resolution, termed a compromise, recommended that the UN members recall the chiefs of their diplomatic missions from Spain, barred the Franco government from participating in any UN functions and told the UN Security Council to take up the matter again if Franco was not replaced "within a reasonable time" by a more acceptable government.

The U. S. and British spokesmen were not enthusiastic about the resolution which they considered too strong, but finally voted for it when provisions calling for a complete diplomatic break were withdrawn. Their proposal was merely to recommend that Franco "surrender the powers of government" and that the Spanish people "peacefully restore self-government in Spain."

Who can point to a single instance in this country or Britain where the Stalinists have urged the workers to take independent action through their unions to help the Spanish workers overthrow the fascist dictatorship?

The world has already been given an instructive example of what would happen in Spain if the Stalinist program were carried out.

That example is Greece, bled white by a dictatorial monarchist regime which was imposed, and is supported by British troops and American dollars.

France might be ousted by Washington's and London's intervention in Spain, but under their domination the Spanish masses would enjoy no more democracy than the workers and peasants have in the crowded jails, concentration camps and exile islands that cover unhappy Greece today.

The truth is that the Stalinist reliance on the imperialists to fight Franco has just as paralyzing and demoralizing an effect on the Spanish workers as does the imperialists' more or less open support of Franco.

The only way that the fascist regime can be replaced with a government in the interest of the masses is for the Spanish masses themselves to overthrow it. But they will not do it so long as the Stalinists lead them to believe the imperialists will do it for them.

**NEED SUPPORT**

And the Spanish masses cannot do this job by themselves alone, which means that the world labor movement must be mobilized in their support.

Such support must include strikes, boycotts, refusal to handle supplies for the fascists, political demonstrations—that is, independent labor struggles.

It does not and must not include appeals for intervention by imperialism, which has consistently demonstrated for ten long years that it prefers Spanish fascism to a revolution that would overthrow fascism.

## International Notes

By a two-thirds vote the United Nations General Assembly last week adopted a resolution upholding India's charges that South Africa was practicing racial discrimination against her Indian population, urging compliance with the UN Charter and asking both governments to do something about it in the coming year.

Both the U. S. and British members voted against the resolution, which is not surprising considering their handling of their own racial minorities.

The vote was a black eye for the South African government, but leaves it plenty of room for maneuvering without granting genuine equality to her 200,000 Indians.

Nothing was done about the even harder discrimination against the Negro people of South Africa, who number seven million out of the total population of less than ten million.

Following talks between Truman and Bevin about measures to strengthen the repressive Tsaldis government of Greece, which is now faced with a powerful partisan opposition, the U. S. State Department has appointed an economic mission to Greece. The mission is headed by Paul Porter, given the rank of Ambassador as a reward for his services as OPA administrator in granting thousands of price rises to American Big Business.

Three national Japanese labor groups—the General Federation of Labor, the Nippon Congress of Industrial Organization and the Japan Congress of Labor Unions—were reported to be planning a nation-wide series of mass rallies on Dec. 17, aimed at overthrowing the Yoshida Cabinet. On that day Socialist members of the Diet will present a non-confidence motion. The union demands include a minimum wage, a reconstruction

Secret Armament Pact  
With Britain Exposed

Washington has reached agreement with Great Britain and Canada on standardization of armaments. Behind the back of the American people and without consulting the Senate, the Truman government has in effect concluded and already begun to put into effect a military alliance that will have a dominant influence over foreign policy.

This secret pact is aimed against the Soviet Union, according to Konni Zilliacus, Labor MP. In a charge made in the British House of Commons, he revealed that it consisted of the following four points:

Standardization of land weapons and material and naval guns over a ten-year period; adoption of a uniform military training manual and standardization of training methods; interchange of officers; pooling of shortwave and all other military intelligence.

The U. S. State Department denied that the aim was war against the Soviet Union, but its feeble denial confirmed the facts about the military alliance. It admitted that "there have from time to time been informal exchanges of views on standardization of arms" with the British, because the exchange of arms in World War II "made this logical." Similar statements came from London and Ottawa.

**THIN EXCUSE**

The State Department denied having a "political or military alliance with Great Britain aimed at anybody." What then was the purpose of standardization?

"Economy," said the State Department with a straight face. "The American people are particularly interested in economy and in reducing the cost of government."

This touching display of interest in saving the taxpayers' money would be funny if it didn't deal with such a tragic subject. And somebody somewhere in the world might believe it if it did not come from an administration spending 18 billion dollars a year, the highest peacetime military budget in history.

Apparently, economy like patriotism is supposed to serve as a shield for covering a multitude of crimes, including the crime of preparing a war that may wipe out civilization.

The secret deal with Britain and Canada is an extension of the standardization deals the brass hats have already initiated with Latin America, China and the Philippines. These deals offer U. S. arms and military advisors to the above governments, enabling them to suppress all opposition in their countries and making them adjuncts of the U. S. military machine.

Already the Roxas regime has made clear that it asks only for "certain limitations" and that not even these limitations should be considered as "insoluble."

Wall Street's military plans for the Philippines show once again how methodically American imperialism is preparing for another world slaughter.

French Police Assault Rally  
Of Colonial Workers In Paris

(Special to The Militant)

PARIS, France, Dec. 7 — The French police last night brutally assaulted Indo-Chinese, Algerian and French workers at an open air protest meeting called by the Trotskyists after the police had banned a big indoor rally. Seventeen of the demonstrators were arrested and held over night, many were beaten, two so seriously that they were hospitalized.

The Trotskyists (PCI) had appealed last week for a united front protest against the outbreak of new massacres by French imperialism in Indo-China. When no other organization responded to this appeal, the PCI arranged the meeting in the Salle Wagram for last night. A meeting of the Algerian Peoples Party on Dec. 3 called on Algerian workers in Paris to attend the PCI meeting as "a duty toward their Indo-Chinese brothers."

The street in which the meeting hall is situated was crowded with colonial and French workers last night. But the doors of the hall were shut and guarded by hundreds of police. Thousands of Algerian, Indo-Chinese and other colonial workers were shoved back into the subway stations and not permitted to come anywhere near the hall.

The PCI speakers immediately organized in a public space near the hall a meeting to condemn this reactionary attack on the workers' elementary rights. Marcel Beaufre and Albert Demaziere addressed this meeting, which was attended by 1,000 workers, chiefly Algerian, who had broken through the police cordon.

The audience then formed itself into a demonstration and

U. S. Still Holds  
96,000 Troops  
In Philippines

Secretary of State Byrnes officially admitted before the UN General Assembly Dec. 13 that 96,000 American troops are still garrisoned in the Philippines. This is more than two-thirds the size of the active standing army in the United States in the interval between the two world wars.

Why is Washington holding these huge forces in the Philippine Republic a half year after the declaration of Philippine "independence"?

One objective is to threaten the Philippine people with Wall Street's armed might if they attempt to carry forward the rebellion against the native landlords and capitalists that reached heroic heights during and after the Japanese occupation.

Another obvious objective is to make sure Wall Street retains its imperialist grip on the islands' economy.

The day before Byrnes admitted the enormous size of the garrisons in the Philippines, the press reported Washington "has been pressing for a dozen first-rate military and naval bases in the Philippine Republic."

## MILITARY WEB

These "major positions" would be tied together with a network of smaller stations, converting the islands into a tightly woven military area for operations throughout the North Pacific and the Asiatic mainland.

Establishment of such a military web in the Philippines cuts so deeply into the sovereignty of the Republic that even the Wall Street-backed Roxas government has been forced to protest. This resistance, naturally, will crumble at the first threat of economic reprisals.

Already the Roxas regime has made clear that it asks only for "certain limitations" and that not even these limitations should be considered as "insoluble."

Wall Street's military plans for the Philippines show once again how methodically American imperialism is preparing for another world slaughter.

## Against Chiang Kai-shek



Over 50,000 Chinese men and women demonstrated in Shanghai recently against the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek. Club-wielding cops tried to break up the crowd as this picture was taken.

Meanwhile the government, armed by the U. S., is spreading civil war throughout China as its hand-picked stooges go through the motions of adopting a constitution in order to provide a "democratic" cover to the dictatorship.

—Federated Pictures

Occupied Germany--  
A Fools' Paradise

By K. Manfred

The commander-in-chief of the British occupation forces in Germany, Air-Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas, and Minister Hynes, have just announced that the famine in the British zone has worsened in a truly alarming manner. The British socialist author, Victor Gollancz, published

photographs that he took in Germany, portraying the indescribable misery which reigns in this country, administered by a control commission composed of military bureaucrats. Aside from that, all goes well . . .

Because of the ingenious system of the occupation zones, provisions from eastern Germany are not arriving in western Germany. For the same reason, coal from western Germany is not arriving in Berlin where, for several days, electricity was almost completely cut off. As a consequence the lives of four million people are in danger of becoming virtually paralyzed.

## FORMER SS MAN

And "the denazification"! What rubbish! . . . M. Eckert, communist minister for the denazification of Baden, has resigned because the French authorities had opposed their veto to the project of the denazification law worked out and approved by the German authorities in Baden.

In the American zone, it is revealed that the president of the denazification tribunal in the

Correction On  
Polish Resolution

The Fourth International's resolution on The Situation in Poland contained a typographical error in its third paragraph, as printed in the Dec. 7 issue of The Militant.

The sentence incorrectly printed said: "It (the Fourth International) fights for the immediate withdrawal of the occupation troops by propagating fraternization between the Polish masses and the Soviet troops." It should have read as follows: "It fights for the immediate withdrawal of the occupation troops while propagating fraternization between the Polish masses and the Soviet troops."

**REMAIN THE SAME**

The Americans have succeeded in "democratizing" the police of Frankfurt by taking away their blue Prussian uniform and replacing it with the uniform of the New York police . . . "The more things change, the more they remain the same," the German workers are thinking.

The Americans forbid a revolutionary party, but they have sanctioned W.A.V., the neo-fascist group of Doctor Lortz, which resembles the Common Man Party of Giannini in Italy. Lortz has already begun to act like an aspiring dictator. (He even imitates Hitler's hair comb.)

Here, dear readers, you see the many benefits of this magnificent occupation of Germany, in which the (Belgian) troops of M. Defraiteur are participating with not a little pleasure and at your cost . . .

(Translated from "La Lutte Ouvriere," Belgian Trotskyist paper, Nov. 16.)

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



"Fascism in the United States will be directed against the Jews and the Negroes, but against the Negroes particularly, and in a most terrible manner."

—Leon Trotsky

## What Road Now?

No facts stand out so starkly from the mine crisis as the capitalist class character of the government and the political helplessness of organized labor.

In previous great labor struggles, it had been possible for the conservative union leaders to blame the anti-labor actions of the government on this or that particular agency, the administration, or Congress, or the courts.

Thus, they were able to conceal the truth that the entire government is an instrument to defend the interests of the capitalist class.

The mine strike laid bare, as no other labor battle in many years, the real class nature of the government. It exposed the myth of the non-class character and impartiality of the government. It left no room for doubt that this government is pro-capitalist and anti-labor through and through.

At Wall Street's command, every agency of government, not only nationally but on a state and local scale, unitedly lashed out at the miners. The two major parties of Big Business, Democratic and Republican, closed into one political fist to smash at labor. Their spokesmen vied in hurling threats and slanderous abuse at the workers.

The whole federal government was mobilized as one striking force against the miners. Truman openly directed the offensive. All the leading government departments, including the War and Navy, joined in the demand for an illegal injunction against the mine strike. Congressmen of all political hues, from the most hard-bitten reactionaries to the most vociferous liberals, publicly egged on the government's assault. The federal courts, discarding all pretended judicial impartiality, swung the legal club.

This was done in the interests of a tiny handful of wealthy parasitic mine operators. This was done while the leaders of 15,000,000 organized workers, the mightiest force in the land, could only respond with feeble complaint and protest. For labor had no say in the government. It could only plead with the very agents of its worst enemies who run the government.

This latest demonstration of labor's political helplessness has become a further goad to political reaction. No Democrat or Republican today in Congress talks about opposing anti-labor laws. They differ, if at all, only over the most effective measures to curb labor, deprive it of its rights, place it at the mercy of the capitalist exploiters.

What must the workers do now? Shall they continue to follow the bankrupt and treacherous political policies advocated by the union leaders? Is all this gigantic power of labor, so effective in the struggle on the picket lines, to be dissipated on the political arena through continued support of Wall Street's parties and politicians?

Along that road lies disaster for the American working class. It can lead only to the bleakest desert of political reaction.

The mine strike sounded a strident warning. It is time for American labor to turn sharply in another and opposite political direction. It is time to forge the machinery of a labor party and to hew out a new road that will lead to political power.

Build the labor party now! That is the most crucial lesson taught by the mine strike.

## "Columbians, Inc."

Three indictments have been returned in Atlanta, Ga., against various leaders of the fascist "Columbians, Inc." The indictments charge "usurping police authority," "riot," and "unlawful possession" of five sticks of dynamite.

It would be a most serious error to dismiss these leaders as nothing but criminals or crackpots. They are anti-labor politicians of the most dangerous type.

Emory C. Burke, president, and Homer L. Loomis, Jr., secretary, are said to have been trained in New York's native fascist circles. They went to Atlanta, obviously because they considered that city the most promising to begin building a mass fascist party.

Two members, Ralph Childers, 17, and Lan-

ier Waller, 21, turned state's witnesses. According to them; the "bible" of the outfit was Hitler's book, *Mein Kampf*; there were about "50 Nazi doctrine" books in the office library; and Loomis had "letters" from Germany.

Whether or not this is exaggerated, it illustrates how carefully the organizers of American fascism study what their European predecessors did.

"Columbians, Inc." wore a circled thunderbolt as insignia on their brown-shirt uniform. They followed iron-clad discipline and made heavy demands on the members. Waller, for instance, contributed his savings of \$156—no small item for a disabled veteran. Evidently to instill a fanatical outlook, Loomis tried to shape the personal lives of his followers, telling them to give up smoking and drinking.

The aim of the organization was to conquer political power. Their method was to split the masses along racial lines, creating a national scapegoat as did Hitler. Their main target was the Negro people. Next the Jews, then the Chinese and other minorities.

In their tactics, "Columbians, Inc." imitated Mussolini and Hitler. They beat Negroes. They incited Negro-haters to violence. They are specifically charged with bombing a home at 333 Ashby St., Atlanta.

According to seized lists, Loomis built up an active membership of 200. Some 800 additional Atlantans paid the \$3 initiation fee. This is a strong beginning for a terrorist political grouping. It shows how real the danger of fascism is in America.

Loomis is said to have worked out an ambitious time table. He counted on ruling Atlanta in six months.

It is not clear whether Loomis had money behind him. But Big Business is on the lookout for ruthless politicians of the Loomis type. Sooner or later Big Business backs them in order to smash the labor movement. Fascism can then grow with great speed as was shown in Italy and Germany.

The labor movement must carefully heed the formation of "Columbians, Inc." It is another warning that unless the workers devote their utmost energy to putting a Workers and Farmers Government in power in Washington, America will go down under the heel of native fascism.

## New Threat

If the U. S. Supreme Court upholds the conviction of the United Mine Workers and John L. Lewis for "contempt of court," it will place in the hands of corporation-dominated judges a new crushing legal weapon to smash strikes.

In pronouncing sentence of a \$3,500,000 fine on the miners for failing to heed an illegal injunction, the federal district court judge argued that the miners committed a "crime" merely for refusing to obey him, whether he acted legally or not.

Should this principle be upheld, any judge can issue an injunction in violation of the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Law, which will then become the basis of contempt proceedings to break a strike.

This is how Wall Street's government proposes to get around the Anti-Injunction Law's clear prohibition of all injunctions in labor disputes.

When workers go on strike, a corporation-minded judge will issue an injunction against the strike. The workers will be told to obey the injunction and wait for a higher court to decide their appeal. If they don't end the strike, they will be punished for "contempt." While the strike is broken, the workers will have the consolation of knowing that some day—maybe in a year, maybe in three—the Supreme Court may declare the injunction illegal.

That's the air-tight scheme the legal harpies of Big Business have devised to circumvent the law and smash any strike by judicial means. That's the scheme labor must fight against with every power at its command.

## Real Courage

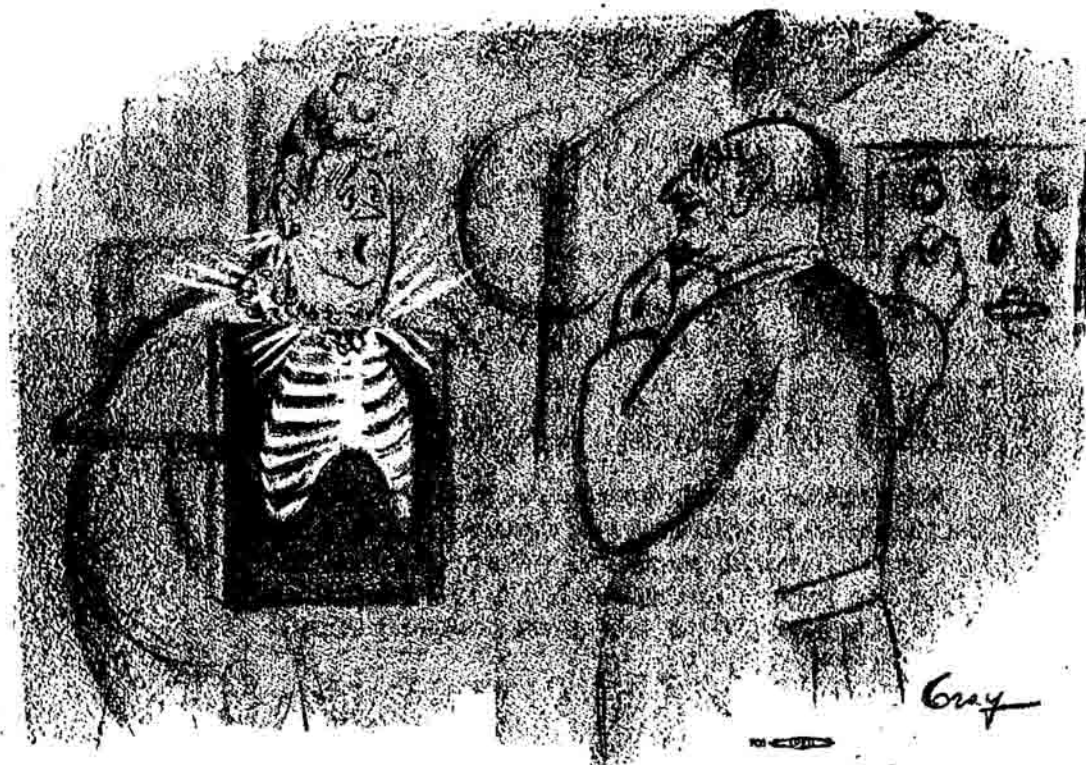
One of the most encouraging symptoms of the growing militancy of the Negro people in defending their rights is the way witnesses testified at the Jackson, Mississippi, hearings on Theodore G. Bilbo's activities in the 1946 primary election.

It took real courage and energy to appear against Bilbo, acknowledged member of the Ku Klux Klan and hero of the lynch-minded Bourbons. Bilbo's friend and fellow-Democrat, Allen J. Ellender headed the Senate Committee. There was not the slightest hope this committee would do anything but whitewash Bilbo. Ellender confined the hearings to Jackson, forcing voluntarily witnesses of the state-wide violence to travel to the hearings at their own expense. Ellender refused to subpoena witnesses, since that would have given them a measure of defense from the vengeance of lynch-minded circles in their home town. Ellender arranged the hearings so that only a few of those brave enough to testify could actually be heard.

Yet more than 300 registered their names with the committee. They were headed by Negro veterans who want to bring to Mississippi a little of the Four Freedoms the Government said they were fighting for in the Second World War.

These witnesses succeeded in utilizing the committee to publicize some of the shocking details of the terror and violence used to prevent hundreds of thousands of Negro citizens from exercising their constitutional rights at the ballot box.

These witnesses, who risked economic reprisals, beatings, torture and even death, are to be hailed for their courage. They represent the new spirit of the Negro people in the South. They show how bright the possibilities are of organizing the Negro people in the very stronghold of the Bourbons for militant defense of their long-denied rights.



"With all the malnutrition that's going around, I felt I owed it to myself to get a check-up!"

## Workers' BOOKSHELF

HIROSHIMA by John Hersey, Alfred A. Knopf, 118 pp., 1946, \$1.75.

The most bestial war crime of all is described in this moving little book, which tells the stories of six individuals who survived the atomic bombing of the city of Hiroshima.

There was no warning given to the hundreds of thousands massed in the area when the bomb was dropped. There was no alert siren to send people hunting for protection, no drone of planes overhead to make them cautious, no sound even from the monster itself—except that heard by people 20 miles or so from the center.

There was only a flash of light, brighter than any brightness anyone had ever experienced. Then the shaking of the earth, the collapse of buildings, the hurtling of bodies, the shattering of glass, wood, stone, the plunging into chaos and annihilation of all that had been built up through generations of toil.

In utter bewilderment, almost disbelief, each of the few survivors picked up life again as he was able. They went about in a dazed silence doing what they could. Their simple nobility, their human solidarity, was expressed in the way they helped one another and the mute patience with which they endured their intense suffering.

Each one's life was visited by catastrophe in one form or another—by outright death, by strange illnesses that resulted from radio-activity, by loss of family or portions of one's body, by homelessness, hopelessness, destruction of all means to livelihood. Not one fully understood the magnitude of the man-made horror which doomed them within a matter of seconds.

The author does not attempt to analyze the nature of a social system which manifests its death agony through a frightful convulsion of this kind. Neither does he name the U. S. imperialists—most powerful and savage of the capitalist rulers within the capitalist system—who coldly calculated and coldly carried out this monster-crime.

The author confines himself to warning the world what this new death weapon can mean for mankind everywhere. What happened there can happen here. His story is a preview of horror depending upon an American city—upon any city.

The reader can draw only one conclusion: the capitalist system must die if mankind is to live.

—Ethel Dondore

MASTERPIECES OF LABOR HUMOR. Contemporary Publishers, Winnipeg, Canada, 1946, 92 pp., 25 cents.

Workers throughout the world aim their best jokes against the bosses; and though the cartoons, stories and rhymes in this anthology are very different from each other, they have the same theme—the Upper Classes versus Life on Poverty Row.

Famous cartoons by Art Young and excerpts from Finley Peter Dunne's "Mr. Dooley" stories are among the older selections from U. S. labor and socialist sources. Recent cartoons have also been reprinted from the CIO News, Justice, Labor, and the radical press.

Other selections came from Canadian, British, Italian, Argentine, Spanish, Mexican, and Soviet papers.

Every worker will enjoy this collection, and want to pass it on to his shopmates. Better get two!

—Ruth Benson

CITIZEN TOM PAINE by Howard Fast, Bantam Books, 351 pp., 1946, 25 cents.

This is the story of the life and work of the plebeian revolutionist, Tom Paine. English-born, he played an outstanding role in the making of the bourgeois American Revolution of 1776. This first American revolution broke the chains of English colonial rule, and cleared the road for the rising American capitalist class.

Although Paine is probably best known as the author of *Common Sense*, he was more than just a writer. Not content to sit on the sidelines and write pamphlets expressing the needs of the hour, Paine joined the Continental Army and fought and suffered with the soldiers of the revolution.

With the outbreak of the French Revolution, Paine went to France. There he wrote *The Rights of Man* and later, *The Age of Reason*.

Fast's book presents a different picture of what Paine called "the times that try men's souls" than is given in the modern history textbooks which are used to miseducate young people in American schools. For no sooner did the capitalist class conquer its independence through the blood and sacrifices of the heroic plebeian army, than it tried to forget its revolutionary past and with it the revolutionary leaders like Paine. He became despised and slandered.

In similar fashion the revolutionists of today are also scorned and persecuted. But this will not prevent them from carrying forward their historical obligations in the coming working-class revolution.

—Winifred Nelson

## NAM Wolves Put On Some Sheep's Clothing

At the recent three-day convention of the National Association of Manufacturers, some 4,000 millionaires swarmed into New York's swanky Waldorf-Astoria to cook up new schemes in union-busting. This year they decided to dish up their anti-labor poison in a "liberal-reform" stew which they hope to induce the American workers to swallow.

Earl Bunting, NAM's new president-elect, publicly vowed to take a liberal policy toward labor and claimed the "abandonment of prejudices some of us in the past have held." He even confessed that "management has been as dumb as it is possible to be" because it has not been "frank and honest to labor and the public."

This determination to be "frank and honest" reflects the real motives for the claimed "reform" of the hard-bitten pirates of the NAM. They have become so discredited as undisguised union-busters that they feel it expedient to wear a "liberal-reform" halo while handing out their anti-labor propaganda.

They feel especially secure in donning this "liberal" disguise because they know that Congress can be depended upon to push their real program for destroying labor's rights. Clarence R. Randall, vice-president of the Inland Steel Co., advised them to "rest content to outline broad objectives, let Congress determine how to achieve them." (*Time* magazine, Dec. 16.)

But the labor policy finally adopted by the NAM, despite its professions of "liberalism," reads almost word for word like the program it has pushed so vigorously in the past. It calls for revision of the Wagner Act to make unions subject to damage suits for alleged "violation of contract." It calls for the outlawing of mass picketing, the closed shop, sympathy strikes. It wants to protect the "right" of scabs to vote in union elections, prohibit strikes "against the public interest," etc. In short, to place the unions at the mercy of the employers and their government.

Several congressional investigations since 1903 have disclosed how the NAM operates through a vast system of bribery and corruption of public officials, a multi-million dollar propaganda machine and open strikebreaking.

Now the NAM hopes to gain public favor and influence by playing "liberal," while its Congressional tools carry out its anti-labor program through harsh laws to deprive the workers of their hard-won rights.

## "Daily Worker" Tries To Cover Up Its Tracks

The *Daily Worker*, organ of the Communist (Stalinist) Party is trying to make capital of John L. Lewis' retreat in the mine strike. The most bitter enemies of the miners during the war, the Stalinists now would like the miners to believe that the CP's war-time strikebreaking was for the miners' own good—because the Stalinists foresaw that Lewis would capitulate in 1946!

This cynical "justification" won't convince anyone. Everyone knows that in 1943 the Stalinists ordered their members to scab when the miners walked out. Leading Stalinists went to the coal areas—in vain—to beg the miners to surrender. The Stalinists alone in the entire labor movement, endorsed Roosevelt's draft-strikers bill to crush the workers' struggles.

When the miners again struck in 1945, the *Daily Worker* demanded government seizure of the mines because "No matter what Lewis thinks or would like the miners to do, he knows and the country knows that the coal miners will not strike against the government." But the miners struck. And the Stalinists again were the most infamous finks in the labor movement.

The derelictions of Lewis do not mitigate the strike-breaking crimes of the Stalinists against the miners and the whole working class.

## "New Leader" Applauds Company-Minded Letter

The ultra-reactionary *Readers Digest* this month gave a big splash to "An Open Letter From a Labor Leader to his Union," by Walter Cenerazzo, president of the Watch Makers Union. This tiny, independent group is of little significance to the labor movement. Cenerazzo's "open letter" is nothing but anti-labor, anti-strike, pro-company bilge, with its emphasis on a demand for more production to beat foreign competition.

Cenerazzo wants the workers to "contribute to the company's kitty—the kitty for the stockholder, for management." Then maybe out of the extra profits, the boss will toss the workers a penny "for your own next wage-hike." He howls that "Swiss watch workers get less than half your wages," and that "Free enterprise now has to be saved by unions as well as by management," so that nothing will stop the flow of profits.

No one will be surprised that this employer-sponsored propaganda was accepted for full-page ads in the *N. Y. Times*, *World-Telegram*, and the rest of the avowedly capitalist press in the very midst of the government's strikebreaking assault on the miners. But the workers should take notice of what happened in the Nov. 30 *New Leader*, the organ of the Social-Democrats.

These yellow "socialists," who have led the pack inside the labor movement in red-baiting, and who are whooping it up for Wall Street's war drive against the Soviet Union, not only published the full-page fink ad. They threw in a laudatory editorial for good measure.

The *New Leader* "applauds those responsible, progressive labor leaders and unions who preach and practice labor-management cooperation," it said. And they repeat the boss lie that "wage rises, without growing productivity, are apt to mean higher prices."

But there was one "small point" in Cenerazzo's ad that embarrassed these "socialists." He included the British Labor Government in his attack on "foreign competition (that) is more and more socialist." After approving 99 per cent of his NAM-inspired poison, the *New Leader* mildly begs to disagree with this one per cent. They hurriedly explain that what THEY want is "the kind of social democracy that the British Labor Government is working toward," which means no socialism at all. Meanwhile they'll stick to American imperialism, which "with all its faults, is superior" to the economy of the USSR.

These shameless apologists for Wall Street and purveyors of company propaganda are especially vile because they try to cover their treachery with a "socialist" label.

## Our Program:

- 1. Defend labor's standard of living!**  
A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!  
Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!  
Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers' control!
- 2. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!**  
For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!  
Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!  
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
- 3. Against all anti-labor laws and government strikebreaking!**  
No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!  
No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
- 4. Build an independent labor party!**
- 5. Tax the rich, not the poor!**  
Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!  
No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
- 6. An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!**
- 7. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!**  
End Jim-Crow! End Anti-Semitism!
- 8. For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!**
- 9. A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.**  
Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!  
Against capitalist conscription!  
Abolish the officer caste system!  
Full democratic rights in the armed forces!  
Trade union wages for the armed forces!  
Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
- 10. 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!
- 11. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!**



# 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.

## Political Refugees Recognize 'Militant'

**Editor:**  
A comrade who delivers The Militant to the newsstands here in Los Angeles had a very interesting experience which testifies dramatically to the international character of our movement.

The owner of the stand told him that two political refugees who had come to the United States to obtain visas, requested some radical papers. Both were Anarchists, and anti-fascist fighters, who had fought in the Spanish Civil War. When they were shown The Militant they immediately recognized it and said, "This is what we want."

## Phila. Survey Shows Trend To Third Party

**Editor:**  
A survey by the Philadelphia Bulletin reports that 17 per cent of the voters here would vote for a Third Party. The question asked was: "If a Third Party is formed in this country by Henry Wallace, Claude Pepper, the CIO and other labor groups, do you think you would vote for that party?"

The high "yes" vote confirms the opinion of many progressive trade unionists that industrial workers, white collar and professional workers, and small business men are getting tired of both capitalist parties. In addition to the 17 per cent who favored a third party, there were 20 per cent who were undecided, having no opinion. But it is obvious also that they don't favor the Democratic and Republican Parties of Big Business.

A Labor Party with a program to meet their problems could win most of these voters easily.

## Workers Defend 'Militant' Distributor

**Editor:**  
This week I distributed The Militant at a Steel Workers Union meeting. As I stood in the lobby of the union hall, I saw several of the men begin to read it as they walked upstairs, and stop midway to continue reading with more concentration. Some turned back to ask me for another copy for a friend.

Then one man came along and tried to eject me from the building. I demanded freedom of speech and the rest of my democratic rights, including freedom to have him keep his hands off me. Another worker intervened and told me to go ahead and finish the distribution.

This incident increased the

interest as I finished distributing my Militants. I heard one worker say, "Some girl from the Communist Party is distributing." Another replied, "That's not the Communist Party; The Militant is a Trotskyist paper." They all agreed to defend me if I was bothered again. It is clear that more and more people are recognizing The Militant as a paper that fights for the workers.

J. C. Chicago, Ill.

## Veteran's Baby Dies Of Starvation

**Editor:**  
A veteran's two-month old baby starved to death in this wealthy resort town last week. The father, Theodore Everington, had been in the Army for four years. He has been going from one New Jersey town to another hunting for a job and a home for the family. When they couldn't pay their rent or even buy food, they applied for relief. The "welfare" agencies said no — because they hadn't lived in Atlantic City long enough to qualify.

When the police investigated the baby's death, they found the other Everington child, an 18-month old girl, sleeping under a single blanket in the unheated flat. She was suffering from undernourishment and cold.

That's the capitalist fulfillment of the promise "Freedom from Want!"

Subscriber  
Atlantic City

## Want To Correspond With Young Workers

**Editor:**  
I am writing to you from Holland to know if you could help me find a girl pen friend. I am 23 years old and I like dancing

and swimming. I am a constant reader of your ever-popular paper, The Militant. I get a copy from the Labor Party here in Dublin.

I would like to know if I could write a letter for your paper regarding the conditions of the working class people here in Ireland, which are not good. Our government is in the interests of big corporations and not in the interests of the working class. It is on this point I wish to write my letter.

D. F. Dublin, Ireland

**Editor:**  
It is one of my greatest pleasures to say how happy I feel when I read The Militant. I will feel happier yet if you advertise me as a pen friend, seeking to know and correspond with a few American pen friends. I am 18 years old, and I am interested in most things.

I like socialism, reading, swimming, cycling, physical exercises, lawn tennis, cricket, stamp-collecting, hunting, and I am a film fan. I would like to exchange books and newspapers. The art of photography I like very much, and exchanging of photographs. I would like to correspond with both sexes from 14 years to 26 years.

C. S. British Guiana, South America

**Editors' Note:** Young readers of The Militant interested in corresponding with the above readers in Ireland and British Guiana should send their first letters to them in care of The Militant, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y. We will forward them.

We invite D.F. and all other readers to write to us about conditions of the working class. We will be glad to publish them in the columns of the Workers' Forum for the information of Militant readers.

## ROBERT ZEICH

MILWAUKEE — While the 12th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party was in progress and the fighting spirit of revolutionary socialism was being marshaled for the future, Robert Zeich, 61, passed away on November 15 from an ailment resulting from injuries as a soldier in the German Army of World War I.

A worker all his life — iron miner, millwright, janitor — Comrade Zeich joined the SWP last December at the age of 60, inspired by the devotion and optimism of its youthful members.

"Zeke" had been waiting many years to find our party. He had seen at close range in his native Germany the degeneration of Social-Democracy and he had learned of the betrayal of communism by Stalinism. He came to the SWP because he found it to be an uncorrupted party and because he wanted to do something about the terrible world his eight sons and daughters faced.

We appreciated Bob Zeich because he was an example to other "tired-out" socialists at 40! And proof of the perseverance that flows from socialist convictions despite age, hardship and defeat!

— Helen Burns

# SWP Branches Report Generous Response In First Week Of \$20,000 Fund Drive

By William F. Warde

Emergency Fund Campaign Director

First returns on the \$20,000 Emergency Fund for the Socialist Workers Party total \$836.

The outstanding event of the past week in the money-raising activities of the SWP locals was the banquet held on Sunday, Dec. 8 by the Akron branch in its new headquarters to mark the launching of its fund campaign. In generous and enthusiastic response to toastmaster A. Jones' appeal to support the work and program of the SWP, the audience over-subscribed the Akron quota of \$400 with cash donations and pledges.

Farrell Dobbs, editor of The Militant, spoke on the lessons of the mine strike for the American working class. "The coal strike has once more revealed the determination of the Wall Street monopolists and the administration which serves them to try to smash the union movement. It also revealed the tremendous power, solidarity and will to struggle in the ranks of labor. At the same time it exposed the main weakness of the present labor movement: its lack of a courageous leadership with the social outlook and program of action needed to defeat the offensive of the monopolists. The task of our party is to help train such leaders among the union militants themselves."

Before hearing Dobbs' speech, the members and friends of the SWP present enjoyed a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings and then a special satirical entertainment staged by the Akron branch members.

The Buffalo branch is out in front of the competition with 31 per cent of its \$700 quota on hand. Buffalo, where Arthur Drummond is Campaign Director, writes: "We are hoping that this puts us at the head of the list. We will try to send in the balance as soon as we can."

Together with its initial payment of \$25 on its pledge of \$800 toward the \$20,000 Fund, Dan Roberts, Seattle branch organizer, comments: "The whole amount has been pledged and we now have to get to work collecting it. A large share will not come in until the end of the drive. Our members and friends themselves have to work hard to earn it."

Thanks to a special \$100 contribution, Minneapolis steps into second place on this first report. Flint sends along ten per cent of its quota. "New York Local has swung into action on the \$20,000 Emergency Fund," reports Duncan Conway, Fund Director for the city, "with a sum of \$475 already turned in to the National Office. Our \$6,000 quota has been divided among the branches as follows: Central, \$1,100; Chelsea, \$3,200; Brooklyn, \$500; Bronx, \$500; Harlem, \$300; East Side, \$400. Central branch deserves special mention for having so quickly collected \$275, which is one-fourth of its quota!"

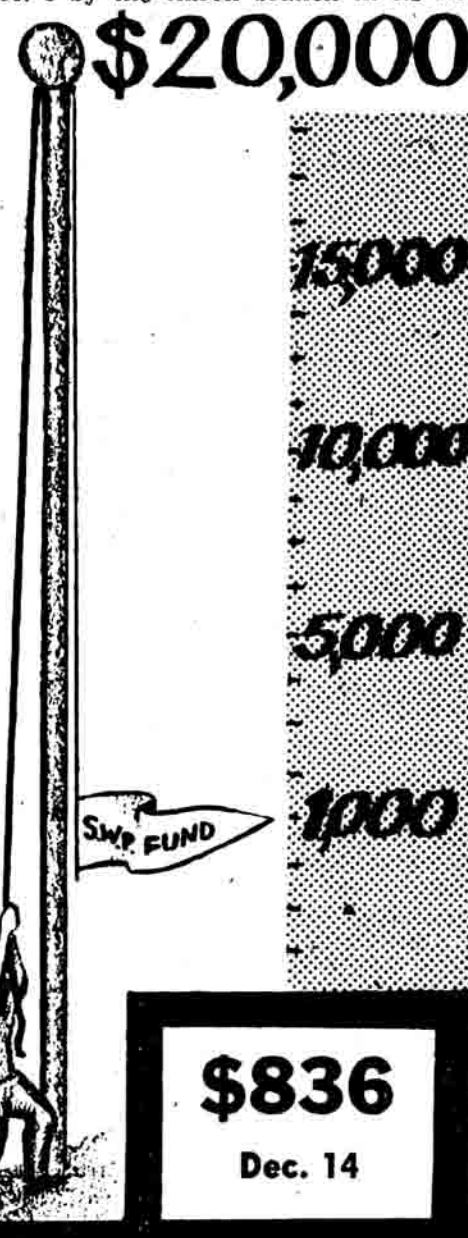
"Scoreboards are being prepared for each branch headquarters, showing the percentage standings of all branches from week to week. In this way every branch can see how it is moving along in relation to the rest of the city."

"We are going to make a special effort to reach every one of our sympathizers and friends for a contribution to this important party fund. One supporter has given us \$10 and another has made a pledge of \$200! And we have only just begun to contact our friends."

"We are confident that even with the high quota of \$6,000, we will top it before the close of the campaign."

That's the spirit that will keep the SWP Fund banner flying higher each week!

Readers of "The Militant" can send their contributions to William Warde, Campaign Director, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.



## SCOREBOARD

BRANCH	QUOTA	PAID	PER CENT
Buffalo	\$ 700	\$215.00	31
Minneapolis	700	100.00	14
Flint	200	21.00	10
New York Local	6000	475.00	8
Seattle	800	25.00	3
New York Youth	50	0	0
Akron	400	0	0
Akron Youth	10	0	0
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	0	0
Baltimore	20	0	0
Bayonne	50	0	0
Boston	400	0	0
Chicago Local	1500	0	0
Chicago Youth	25	0	0
Cleveland	300	0	0
Connecticut State	120	0	0
Detroit	1000	0	0
Houston	25	0	0
Los Angeles Local	1500	0	0
Los Angeles Youth	25	0	0
Milwaukee	200	0	0
Newark	300	0	0
Oakland	250	0	0
Philadelphia	500	0	0
Philadelphia Youth	25	0	0
Pittsburgh	150	0	0
Portland	150	0	0
Reading	150	0	0
Rochester	75	0	0
St. Louis	50	0	0
St. Paul	300	0	0
San Diego	100	0	0
San Francisco	1250	0	0
Tacoma	100	0	0
Toledo	300	0	0
Youngstown	500	0	0
General	1700	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$836.00</b>	<b>4%</b>

## Three Chapters Of ACEWR Raise \$1,700 For Relief

Saturday, Dec. 7 was an evening of great activity for American Committee for European Workers Relief chapters in New York, Los Angeles and Boston.

The New York chapter held a gala bazaar and carnival which so far has netted over \$1,000. The Los Angeles bazaar, which continued a second day, has made over \$800, according to incomplete reports.

In Boston, where the ACEWR chapter had a showing of the Eisenstein film, *Thunder Over Mexico*, a highly successful affair was reported. The house was sold out in advance and approximately 150 people attended. The Boston ACEWR director, Augusta Trainor, reports that the net proceeds will reach over \$100.

The financial success of these affairs and the promise of affairs to be held in the future helps to guarantee that the ACEWR will be able to continue sending vital needed packages of food, clothing and medicine to European workers. More than that, it will enable the ACEWR to aid the hundreds of new people whose names are being sent to the committee from hunger-

If you want to send packages to your friends or relatives in Europe, the American Committee for European Workers Relief will gladly furnish information as to postal and shipping regulations and what items are most needed.

European anti-fascists are suffering cold and hunger. Do your part to help them. Make a donation today. \$10 puts 29 pounds of food on the table of a European family. \$154 pays the postage on an 11-pound package. Make all checks and money orders payable to ACEWR, 197 Second Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.

"We are making it a point to follow the newspapers, particularly the Negro press, to learn of meetings to be held. Literature is no longer a financial problem — we order a few hundred pamphlets, sell them and re-order, paying as we go." The letter included an order for \$25 worth of books and pamphlets.

Los Angeles Branch likewise sold pamphlets at a mass meeting for Henry Wallace. While two comrades distributed 2,500 election broadcast leaflets for the California SWP campaign, two others sold 10 copies of the Manifesto of the Fourth International World Conference of last April. Only Victorious Socialist Revolutions Can Prevent the Third World War, and 10 copies of Build a Labor Party Now, by

## THE MILITANT ARMY

### Conn. Branch Campaign Gets Off To Good Start

The campaign of Connecticut State Branch to help increase circulation of The Militant got off to an excellent start. During the first week the comrades sold 22 subscriptions. "We expect to increase the momentum in the weeks to follow," writes James White, "Pearl Spangler is in the lead so far..."

"In addition to selling subs," continues Comrade White, "we plan to build up the sales of the paper at one of our newsstands. We have issued a leaflet to be stapled to a sample copy of The Militant which will be distributed in the area where the store is located. For this we will require 300 additional copies of the paper."

Total subscriptions for November dropped to 382 because branch sub-getters were attending the 12th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago. First reports for December, however, show promise of a quick return to our pre-convention subscription record.

For instance, Paul Shell of St. Paul writes: "Enclosed are five subs which should help our quota for December. I obtained four of them in my shop and the other is from J. J. in packing. One of these subs is interesting in that it was volunteered and he also bought a sub for his friend..."

I liked some of the suggestions for filing of The Militant subs from Milwaukee. We are going to use some of them."

Almeda Kingsley, Cleveland: "Here are five more Cleveland subs. The comrades are really beginning to get busy."

J. Lang, Pittsburgh: "Am enclosing our first sub for December. There'll be many more sent in during the month."

Pauline Ryder sent in seven subs obtained by the Philadelphia comrades during the first week in December.

S. Brooks of Boston forwarded eight subs sold by the comrades there.

A. Arbelter sent in six subs for St. Louis and Belle Rosen mailed in five for Chicago.

El Snyder sent in seven subs to be credited to Flint Branch and reports plans for intensified sub work: "We started going out on a mobilization basis for subs last week and are going to keep it up for awhile. Therefore we will be able to reach our goal of 35 subs. It seemed hard to get started on our sub-getting this month, but I am sure we will make up for it in the coming weeks."

## PIONEER NOTES

Literature is no longer a financial problem to the Chicago Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, according to Leon Forth, literature agent. Here is his explanation of Chicago's sales methods.

"It goes without saying that one can't sit back in the party library and expect to sell vast amounts of literature. True, we do sell a goodly amount from our library-store, both to comrades and to the many visitors that we have."

"But our mass sales result from mobilizing at various meetings and demonstrations. At the recent Wallace meeting, for example, in spite of the fact that the Stalinists were giving away their literature, we sold 200 copies of Build a Labor Party Now, and several people asked to be put on the mailing list."

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Larene Simkins reports for Calumet Branch in Hammond, Ind.: "One of the subs was sold by my husband, in the steel mill, where he is employed. The other subs were obtained by comrades from Calumet and Chicago who were doing work last week and in Terre Haute, Ind. The comrades came back with many interesting stories about their Militant sales. It probably would interest you to know that three of the subs are from one family group."

"Comrade Stanley Sherman should be commended for his quick thinking, and butting-in on another comrade's sub-sale. He pointed out how economical it was to get the combination Militant and FI sub, so the subscriber readily agreed and took it... It does my heart good to see subs coming from Terre Haute, as it happens to be both Eugene V. Debs' and my home town."

May Manning of Los Angeles writes: "As you know, we have been distributing The Militant at the CIO Council every week for some time. Last week we tried to sell the paper for the first time. Comrade Rose of the East Side Branch, who has been doing this work, was very successful. She sold 17 copies of the paper. This is concrete evidence that our paper is well-known and desired by many of the most militant unionists."

Militant boosters are in there pitching to help build up circulation.

Belle Montague of Cambridge, Mass., tells us about the 50 extra copies of the Oct. 26 issue of The Militant, which she ordered: "The Howard Street article has had the good effect that I hoped and believed it would. Many subscribers as well as non-subscribers declare that 'It seems so good to see some neighborhood news' in The Militant."

A subscription letter from Los Angeles indicates that our old friend, Comrade K., is still boosting The Militant: "Your publication has been recommended to me by K. as an excellent paper regarding the many and varied issues involved in labor. I should like very much to subscribe."

Again we hear from Sam Taylor, a consistent sub-getter in Madison, Wis.: "Another sub for the paper. The popularity of The Militant is increasing steadily. If the response in this neck of the woods is any indication, The Militant ought to be heading toward that 100,000 circulation soon. Here's hoping (plus sub-getting!)"

George Clarke (each 10c). May Manning, literature agent, reports, "One of each pamphlet was sold to a Stalinist literature distributor, who said he wanted them to prove that we have the wrong program. He is beyond doubt studying our program in an honest manner."

Send for free price list or order these pamphlets direct from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

### Youth Activities

AKRON. — Socialist Youth Club meets (Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing, 8 South Howard St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO. — Youth meeting Fridays at 8 p.m. Discussion on pamphlet Socialism On Trial. Games and refreshments. 777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES. — Socialist Youth Club meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Educational after every meeting. Refreshments served.

NEW YORK. — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Open Forum: Every Friday, 8 p.m., at 116 University Place. Dancing, refreshments.

Sundays, 3 p.m.: "What Is Socialism?" 116 University Pl.

PHILADELPHIA. — For information call ST. 4-5820, from noon to 6 p.m.

## Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers At these Local Activities of The Socialist Workers Party

AKRON — Visit The SWP, 2nd floor, 8 So. Howard St., Akron 8, O. Open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays: Current Events Discussion, 8 p.m. followed by social. Admission free. Sundays, 7 p.m. Public Speaking class.

BALTIMORE — For information write Box 415, Baltimore 3, Md. Monthly forums.

BAYONNE — SWP headquarters, 62 W. 23rd St. Open house 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

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

BUFFALO — Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone Madison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday.

Open house and current events discussion every Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Admission free.

CHICAGO — Visit SWP 777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore. Sat. night, open house.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall, 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Park Ave.).

DETROIT — SWP, 6108 Linwood Ave. phone TY. 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.

FLINT — Visit SWP and Militant headquarters, 215 E. Ninth St. Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

LOS ANGELES — Visit Militant

Publishing Assn., 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.

Friday, 8 p.m. — Militant Workers Forum, 466 E. Vernon.

SAN PEDRO, Militant Publishing Assn., 1008 S. Pacific. Room 214.

MINNEAPOLIS — Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Sunday Forums, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN — Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open Mon., 7:30-9:15 p.m.

Fridays, 8:15 p.m.; 1st and 3rd each month, open forum. 2nd and 4th, round table discussion.

NEWARK — Visit SWP headquarters, 423 Springfield Ave. Phone Bigelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.

Friday night forum, 8:30.

NEW YORK — CITY HQ., 116 University Place. GR. 5-8149.

HARLEM: 103 W. 119 St. Rm. 23 MO. 2-1866.

Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave. 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.

Reading room open Mon to Fri., 7 to 10 p.m.

Current events discussion, Fridays at 8.

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.

CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

OAKLAND, Cal. — Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351.

PHILADELPHIA — SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

PITTSBURGH — SWP headquarters 1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor. Round table discussions, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month. 3:30. Phone: Court 6080.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Write to Socialist Workers Party, c/o C. M. Hesser, P.O. Box 3711, Portland 8, Oregon.

SAN DIEGO — Headquarters 623 Sixth Ave., open 3-9 p.m. daily.

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 4:30 p.m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1928.

SEATTLE — Visit our Headquarters, 1919 1/2 Second Ave. Open Monday through Saturdays noon to 6 p.m. Tel SE-0543.

Library, Bookstore.

Friday forum — 8 p.m.

ST. LOUIS — Headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

ST. PAUL — 540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2. Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30.

TACOMA, Wash. — Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Oddfellows Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.



## This Is Our Christmas Pay

By Theodore Kovalesky

Red and I were pushing our way silently through the snow drifts on the way to the gate. Our collars were turned up, and the flaps of our caps were pulled down over our ears, for we had just come from the shower that is so necessary after a day's work on the furnaces.

For a while we plodded along without speaking, except, perhaps, for a curse now and then as one of us slipped into a puddle of brown slush. But speech wasn't necessary, really. We both knew what we were thinking about. We were thinking that the pay we were working for was our Christmas pay.

My mind drifted out over the wire fences of the steel plant and into the shopping section of the city. I saw a picture of windows, wonderful windows lining the streets, great crystal windows framing displays of beautiful, colorful things that could be bought. There were bottles of perfume that looked like gems, cut into prisms of amber, ruby, blue or emerald. There were fur coats that glowed with warmth and softness. There were sets of china in graceful shapes and skilfully blended colors, washing machines that take most of the labor out of the week's wash, large, roomy refrigerators. And a thousand and one bright little things to decorate a house. I thought about these things as I plodded through the snow, and I felt that Red at my side was thinking about them also.

Finally he said, "What are you getting the wife for Christmas?"

I told him, and then he told me what he had for his wife.

"What the hell!" he muttered. "With prices the way they are nowadays, what can a man do?"

I thought of the big windows, the beautiful commodities displayed in them . . . and the price tags.

"You get a good woman," Red said, "and she sticks with you, why, you want to do nice things for her. You want to buy her nice things, the kind of stuff that women want, dresses and perfume and all that. She don't say nothing about it or let on she wants the things . . . But, hell, a guy can tell!"

A woman washes your clothing, I thought. She feeds you and rears your children. She shares your life and gives you hers. When the winter winds at the steel plant blow pneumonia into your sweat-widened pores she nurses you back to health. She gives you refuge from your troubles and brings forgetfulness when you worry. When you work on the night shift, and the ambulance howls through the town, she stiffens in her bed and listens fearfully, and you find her in the morning, hollow-eyed from a sleepless night. When you're on strike, she watches the pennies, brings your heavy socks to the union hall, encourages you, and perhaps takes a turn on the picket line sometimes.

"You couldn't ever repay a woman on Christmas, Red, for all she does for you," I said.

"Hell, no! But dammit, when you see all the things in the stores, you want to get them for her . . . only you can't."

We crossed the last railroad tracks and said goodnight at the gate. As Red turned I noticed the neatly sewn patch on the rear of his pants below his mackinaw. Then I turned the other way toward my house.

## The Negro Struggle

## The Record Of The Courts

By William E. Bohannon

The mine strike proved that no section of the government is neutral when it comes to a fight between Big Business and the working people. The White House made breaking the strike its main job; not a single member of Congress had a word to say in behalf of the miners; and the courts were the main weapon in this drive.

Maybe some people were surprised at the way the courts acted in the mine strike, because after all a great deal of time and effort are spent to build up the reputation of the courts as super-impartial. But those who are acquainted with the long struggle for Negro equality had no reason to be surprised at all. Anyone who pays any attention to the Negro struggle knows that the courts are and always have been the willing instrument of the ruling class. This was true 100 years ago when the slaveholders were the American ruling class and it is true today when Big Business runs the country.

Just look at the news of the last month or so: The South Carolina police chief who confessed to gouging out Isaac Woodard's eyes is

freed by a jury deliberating for 15 minutes. Lloyd Kennedy, innocent Negro sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Columbia, Tennessee riot case, is denied a new trial by the prejudiced Circuit Court Judge Joe Ingram.

The Louisiana police chief who turned over John C. Jones and Albert Harris Jr. to a lynch mob so that Jones was murdered and Harris beaten and left for dead last August, is exonerated by the court with the approval of the Attorney General.

The Georgia landowner, who held numerous Negroes in involuntary servitude by getting them arrested on false charges and released when they promised to work out the fines on his farm, is freed by a jury deliberating less than an hour. Chicago Negro veterans trying to move into their homes are threatened with violence and showered with stones. But no judge thinks of punishing the Jim Crow mobs responsible for such outrages, or the Big Business crowd whose propaganda inspires them.

This little list is like a drop in the bucket of court injustice to the Negro people. The only time we should be surprised about a court decision is when it is not directed against Negro or white workers.

## The Common Cold

By Grace Carlson

Although its victims may feel that they are suffering in a most uncommon manner, the "common cold" is well named. It is a very common affliction — and, because of this, it is the most expensive disease that we have.

The common cold puts the average person to bed two to three days a year. This amounts to 220,000,000 lost work days a year — worth at least a billion dollars. Now, if one adds in the doctor bills and the cost of medicine, we find that the common cold is costing us two billion dollars a year!

Cold vaccines are useful weapons against this enemy but they have a limited effectiveness. There are at least two types of the common cold just as there are two or more types of influenza. One kind starts in the nose, developing 24 to 48 hours after exposure. The other begins with a sore throat, five to seven days after exposure. Having one kind of cold does not build up immunity or resistance to the other kind. At present, only the sore throat kind of a cold can be successfully prevented through use of a cold vaccine.

But cleaning up the air in public places — destroying the bacteria, which are floating in the atmosphere — offers immediate hope of conquering the common cold. Colds are spread from person to person through the air that we breathe. A single sneeze may launch 20,000 mois-

ture droplets, which later evaporate and leave cold-producing bacteria in the air. Bad weather may make the body more receptive to attacks of air-borne cold germs, but it doesn't cause colds.

The rest of us should start demanding that buses, trains, movies, factories and offices be equipped with ultra-violet light. A society that can afford to spend two billion dollars to perfect such a weapon of destruction as the atom bomb should be forced to put a small fraction of this sum into the constructive fight against the common cold.

Ultra-violet light has been found to be very effective in killing the cold-causing microbes in the air. Some wave lengths of ultra-violet light cause sun tan; others produce Vitamin D in the skin; some have germ-killing action.

Tests have been made in schools, which have shown that ultra-violet lights strung around the schoolroom ceilings have had a marked effect upon absences due to colds and other respiratory diseases. In a "protected" room in a school in Flattsburg, N. Y., there were 219 absences in a year; in an "unprotected" room, there were 625 day-absences — three times as many. These striking results were obtained despite the fact that the children were not protected by ultra-violet lamps in movies, street cars and other public places.

Ultra-violet lamps to protect the average schoolroom cost \$125 to \$200. Parents should begin demanding that their children should be protected from the cold-producing germs by the installation of ultra-violet lamps in schoolrooms.

## Notes of a Seaman

## The Four-Watch System

By C. Thomas

The demand for a six-hour day is pushed to the fore in the maritime industry today. Unemployment has increased tremendously since V-J Day. The wartime peak of 250,000 seamen has now fallen to 120,000 and this number will be cut in half within the next year.

Modern ship construction has produced faster ships which make a quicker turn around and cut down the number of ships required. For example, the Cities Service Company recently announced that its fleet of nine tankers, "although less in number than the prewar thirteen tankers . . . will be capable of moving more oil."

In addition, "rationalization" has further cut the manning scale aboard ship. The result has been a keener competition for jobs as men pile up on the beach, making shipping tough in the seamen's hiring halls. The only solution to this problem of unemployment is to increase the manning scale aboard ship by reducing the number of hours worked.

The six-hour day aboard ship means the four-watch system. At present the crew is divided into three watches of eight hours each. The six-hour day, or four-watch system, would add another watch to each ship. While the union leaders have periodically advanced the slogan of the four-watch system, no real effort has been made to wrest this concession from the shipowner-

government combine. Until now it has been one of those "progressive" slogans that have been raised but never seriously fought for.

In fact, the slogan has been muddled and confused with contradictory slogans. For example, the National Council of the National Maritime Union, meeting recently in New York, drew up a set of demands to be submitted to the shipowners. First on the list is: "The 40 hour week and the 4-watch system to put the standards of seamen on a par with those of shoreside workers."

To tie these two demands together is to fail to recognize the significance of the slogan for a four-watch system, or to merely pay lip-service to a progressive slogan. The seamen have already won the 40-hour week in port. At sea they work 56 hours with the payment of eight hours overtime for Sunday. Therefore, the demand of the NMU Council for a "reduction of hours to the 40-hour week" must refer to the work week at sea.

At sea the men now work an eight hour day, or 56 hours a week with the payment of eight hours overtime for Sunday. The straight time work week is 48 hours. But the four-watch system means the 6-hour day at sea. On the basis of the current work week this would mean the 36 hour week with the payment of six hours overtime for Sunday, or a total of 42 hours. What the NMU Council has done is to mix up the demand for a four-watch system with the eight-hour day, five-day week ashore. We will discuss the reason for this in another article.

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## THE MILITANT

NEW YORK, N. Y.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1946

## NEW YORK TENEMENT COLLAPSES, 37 PERISH

By Evelyn Atwood

NEW YORK, Dec. 18—Murder for profits last week snuffed out the lives of 37 men, women and children in one of this city's worst disasters in recent years. Today only wisps of smoke, scattered piles of rubble and the gaping cavern of half a building remain of the rotten tenement house at 2515 Amsterdam Avenue. The building, occupied by working-class families, mainly of Italian extraction, collapsed in a thunderous roar just after midnight on Thursday.

The decayed 5-story multiple tenement stood next to an abandoned Knickerbocker Ice Company plant. First reports from survivors charged that a terrible explosion accompanied by fire in the ice plant rocked the neighborhood. The ice plant wall fell over, striking the tenement. The rear section of the building crashed down in a mountain of bricks, debris and human bodies.

For three days and nights firemen and rescue squads, directed in some places by the moans of entombed victims dug bodies out of the rubble. Many died before they could be reached. Today 80 survivors are scattered around the city in hospitals, makeshift homes and shelters.

Rapacious real estate and landlord sharks are primarily responsible for this disaster. There are 450,000 families in New York City today living in tenement death traps because they have no place to move. Capitalist greed has blocked the erection of government housing projects.

City officials, whose local housing promises remain on paper, are now scurrying around to clear themselves of responsibility. Denying there had been an explosion, they blamed two small boys who started a fire with rubbish on the roof of the ice plant. This fire was extinguished by the Fire Department.

The big fire that destroyed the ice plant broke out later.

The working people of the city are asking grim questions. What caused the crash, if not an explosion? Why were two 550-gallon gasoline tanks buried in the ice house, from which fumes could escape into the ground? Why is a dangerous plant permitted adjacent to a multiple dwelling? Why no inspection for at least two years, particularly after other fires had been reported and extinguished?

Deputy Commissioner Morris C. Conner stated that regular inspections had been neglected because of the manpower shortage. Investigations have disclosed that similar gas tank seepage caused explosions 15 years ago and 10 years ago in garages in New York. But no measures of precaution were taken in this area, despite city laws and the lessons of previous disasters.

In the Amsterdam Avenue death trap, adjacent sections of the building that still stood after the crash revealed huge cracks, creating hazards even for the rescue squads digging out the victims. Fire Commissioner Quayle said that the fronts of these sections might cave in at any moment.

Today, however, despite this grim warning, Arthur J. Belline, Manhattan Superintendent of the Department of Housing and Buildings, declared after a personal survey that 2519 Amsterdam Avenue—an integral section of the devastated building—was "legally" habitable, except for a six-room tier on the southeast corner!

## 2,000 Los Angeles Homeless Ousted From Shabby Hovels

By Al Lynn

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 8—More than 2,000 men, women and children in this city have just been evicted from their homes of "packing crate jungles, warehouses without sanitary facilities, open shacks, and floorless garages," by the City Health Department.

They have no place to go but back into similar hellholes. It is no secret that the situation is getting worse, despite the fact that building permits issued in the city this year amounted to an all-time record of 190 million dollars, or 10 million more than New York for the same period.

An analysis of the figures reveals that less than one third of the building structures are for residential purposes, and almost entirely in the higher-priced brackets.

The report of the Health Department made very obvious the reason for the 100 per cent increase in the incidence of diphtheria mentioned in the same report. A four-year old boy, for example, died of this disease in a rat-infested 14-room building which housed 71 persons.

Over a dozen people were found living in an eight-room "hotel" constructed of music-box packing crates. Single auto garages without floors contained as many as 10 persons and five beds. A one-room corrugated iron building, formerly a horse hospital, housed up to 60 or 70 people.

Private builders have neither the desire nor the ability to meet the drastic needs indicated by even this brief survey. The profit motive is obviously not enough to tempt them, especially when the greatest profits are not in the field of low-rent housing.

The terrible housing conditions here underline the correctness of the Socialist Workers Party's demand for an 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing.

In his early days, a dynamic strike leader—beloved by the strikers in the Paterson and Lawrence textile mills and the miners of the Mesabi range in Minnesota—Tresca was editor of the Italian language journal, *Il Martello* (The Hammer), at the time of his assassination.

## Griffin Leads In Youngstown Steel Election

(Special to The Militant)

YOUNGSTOWN, Dec. 12—James P. Griffin, supported by the militant and progressive unionists of this area, secured 13,522 votes for Director of CIO United Steelworkers District 26 to the vote of 7,154 for James Quinn, incumbent director. These figures, released today by Griffin Headquarters, are reported to include the vote of all but several small locals.

Although not yet official, these returns are based on reports of the locals themselves. Quinn yesterday issued a statement claiming a lead of 300 votes. This claim has no basis. Most steelworkers and local officials here know Griffin won a large majority because the vote of almost all the locals has been established. The official count begins in Pittsburgh after Dec. 20.

A strong feeling of opposition to the policies and actions of the incumbent district director marked the election campaign and vote. Quinn utterly failed during the entire period of his administration to provide a militant district-wide policy of leadership.

Quinn was supported for reelection by a combination of the local reactionaries and Stalinists. Griffin, by contrast, had the support of the overwhelming majority of the militants. He ran on a progressive program which, in addition to local planks, endorsed the sliding scale of wages.

Quinn demagogically sought support among Negro workers by belatedly appointing a Negro organizer to the staff. This obvious campaign gesture only outraged the Negro militants, who voted overwhelmingly against Quinn.

The campaign saw several open red-baiting references to "Trotskyism" in its closing week. The Youngstown Vindicator, which wears the collar of the steel companies, stated in an editorial last Monday that union officers in this region are held by "Communists—and still worse—Trotskyites." One of Quinn's Stalinist supporters in a radio broadcast last Sunday referred to the Griffin backers as "these Trotskyites." The vote has shown that the steelworkers were not fooled by this red-baiting.

## Chicken-Coop Home Burns, Baby Dies

By Julie Miller

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 14—The following article appeared in the local press this week: "Flames swept a flimsy chicken shack, which served as a home for an overseas combat infantryman and his family of four, and burned his three-month-old daughter to death."

The Home, Sweet Home of which Benjamin Hazleton dreamed during 34 months' service in the Pacific, turned out to be a remodeled chicken house which became a charred and blackened sepulchre for his baby.

The tragic story of Benjamin Hazleton and his family is another in the long list of crimes committed against the returning serviceman. It is one more proof of the bankruptcy of the capitalist system that spends billions on destruction, yet cannot provide decent shelter for the workers.

## Hear Warren Creel On Teachers' Strike

ST. PAUL, Dec. 12—Speaking on "The Meaning of the St. Paul Teachers' Strike," Warren Creel, former business agent of the Duluth Teachers Union, addressed an attentive audience last night in the local headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party.

Creel, who was candidate of the SWP for Congress in the recent elections here, gave a militant defense of the St. Paul teachers in their fight for higher wages and better schools. Tracing the history of the local teachers' movement, he described the support given to the organization of teachers by the railroad shopmen in this city.

## Caused By Greed



View of a section of tenement which remained standing after the collapse of rear section, in which working class families, asleep in their beds, were hurled to death in a mountain of ruins.

Federated Press

## 1-Door Shack Burns, Family Homeless Again

By Winifred Nelson

(Special to The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Just because a working-class family lives on Prosperity Avenue, doesn't mean they're on the road to Easy Street. A St. Paul veteran and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Pasluk, know that better today than ever before.

Fire struck this month at the Pasluk "home," a 4-room shack with just one entrance at 1400 Prosperity Ave. Only because of the quick thinking of Mrs. Pasluk were her life and the lives of the two children, Frank Jr., 4, and William, 3, saved. All their clothing, furniture and other possessions went up in smoke — along with their savings of \$25. Brownie, month-old collie pet of the two boys, died in the blaze.

Tonight I talked with Mr. and Mrs. Pasluk, who are finding temporary shelter in his parents' overcrowded home. This is the story they had to tell:

Mrs. Pasluk was dressing William, the younger boy, in the bathroom Monday morning, while Frank, the older boy, already dressed, was playing about the house. Suddenly she heard him scream. Rushing to the kitchen, she found the walls ablaze. Frank had, it seemed, been playing with some paper near the gas range, and when it caught fire, he threw the paper away. It landed in the wood box near the stove.

"Flames were all around the kitchen and spreading fast," Mrs. Pasluk said. "We seemed to be engulfed in the blaze."

Quickly she had carried the two boys outside, and called to the dog. "Brownie wouldn't leave because he thought the children were still in the house," she said.

"If we had been a minute later, we would have been trapped by the flame. I'll never live in a place with only one door again!"

The father, who was at work at Northern Malleable Iron Co. at the time of the fire, went on to tell what a fire-trap the Prosperity Avenue shack really was. "The wiring was defective," he said, and told of uninsulated wires placed alongside the wall board. "The place should have been condemned long ago. But it was the only place we could find to live. It wasn't worth the \$23 rent we paid for it, and we knew it."

"But what can you do?" he added. The young couple had hoped to get through the winter somehow, and maybe build later. "We were just trying to get a start again," he added.

Pasluk, who was released from the Army a year ago after two years of service overseas, and his wife are beginning to question the kind of a life that denies adequate housing to people who work hard for their living.

"We thought we were beginning to make out," the father continued, "and now we're back further than where we started."

## Assail Official Silence On 1943 Murder Of Carlo Tresca

NEW YORK — "The great official concern about the unsolved Joseph Scottotriggio slaying offers a curious contrast to the official attitude when Carlo Tresca was murdered almost four years ago."

Norman Thomas, chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, said this week.

"When a month had passed without a solution of that deliberate killing, there was no order for a drastic police shake-up from the then Mayor (Fiorello LaGuardia); no transfer of officers from the West Side to the 'sticks' in Brooklyn by the Police Commissioner (then Lewis Valentine); and no plea by District Attorney Hogan for 'tightening up of law enforcement' in the district where Tresca was shot. And Governor Dewey, who has been outspoken about the election-day murder of Scottotriggio, a Republican campaign worker, never raised his voice about Tresca's death, which also bore the earmarks of a political crime."

"We sincerely hope that Scottotriggio's slayers will be found. But it remains to be seen whether they ever will be brought to

justice. We are skeptical, for good reason. We lack specific knowledge of Police Department procedure in the Tresca case, but we do know that the District Attorney's office made a slipshod investigation of that murder."

Meanwhile the memorial committee is preparing to commemorate the Tresca tragedy, on Saturday, Jan. 11, fourth anniversary of the crime, with two meetings at the murder scene, northwest corner of 15th Street and Fifth Ave. One, with brief speeches, will be held at 1 p.m., when workers are coming from their jobs. The other will be 9:40 p.m., exact minute of the killing, when friends will drop red carnations on the spot where Tresca fell . . . If there should be snow or rain or bitter cold, the day meeting will be in a nearby hall. But the evening ceremony is to take place regardless of weather.

"This time," Mr. Thomas explained, "our committee decided

to meet at the crime scene because we felt it necessary to bring home sharply to the public—and to the responsible authorities—the deplorable fact that this four-year-old murder remains unpunished. It is important that people in the streets be reminded of that, as well as for Carlo's friends to protest against official neglect."

Carlo Tresca's vigorous fight against fascism and reaction in all parts of the world won him the hatred of the American fascists. His opposition to the Moscow Trial frameups, his activity in the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky, his support of the Civil Rights Defense Committee which aided the defendants in the Minneapolis labor trial of 1941, earned him the enmity of the Stalinists.

In his early days, a dynamic strike leader—beloved by the strikers in the Paterson and Lawrence textile mills and the miners of the Mesabi range in Minnesota—Tresca was editor of the Italian language journal, *Il Martello* (The Hammer), at the time of his assassination.