

Monarchistic Terror Sweeps Greece

See Page 3

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U. S. ARMS USED IN WAR ON INDONESIANS

Price Rises Continue As Profits Soar

Truman's Report Reveals Fear of Worse Inflation

Despite his boasts about "unprecedented prosperity," padded statistics and invocations to "free enterprise," Truman's Midyear Economic report, issued July 21, is laced with a red thread of fear and concern about the future of American capitalism.

The careful reader of his report, especially of the statistical tables, will find positive proof that U. S. economy is far from healthy. Truman's optimism is chiefly

propelled up by his claim that by July 1, 1947, civilian production and services "have surpassed previous high records," achieving a rate of \$225,000,000,000 annually. He claims further that employment has reached 60,000,000, and cheerfully notes that "month by month recession has failed to materialize."

But his figures on production are puffed up by inflation — they do not show the incipient decline in actual output. And his employment figures are belied by the evidences of growing unemployment and what Truman himself refers to as the "soft spots" in industry where lay-offs and shut-downs have been in progress.

Dominant in Truman's picture of the state of the economy is the decisive factor of prices — the recurrent fears expressed throughout the report about further inflation. (Continued on Page 2)

Elect Union Men, Says State AFL

SEATTLE, July 17—The Washington State AFL convention, being held here this week, has gone on record in favor of taking the lead "in organizing and mobilizing the state's labor forces for united and effective political action to elect members of Organized Labor to Congress and to other public offices (both national and state) in 1948."

The resolution was presented by Boxmakers Local 2635, of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union.

Chicago Tenants Resist Profiteering Landlords

CHICAGO, July 25—Thousands of tenants are organizing here to resist rent gouging, extortion of "bonuses," evictions and loss of services. Encouraged by the Rent Decontrol Bill, landlords throughout the city are using intimidation and eviction notices to extort rent increases.

Most successful of the tenant organizations is the North Side Tenants League launched last week at a conference where tenants of five large apartment buildings were represented. This organization is spearheaded by the Sterling Apartments Association, which recently won a complete victory against the landlord, Samuel Zerve.

He was compelled to refund \$4-450 in retroactive rent for having eliminated services and \$720 obtained in bonus payments. He was also forced to redecorate all the 100 apartments and to restore all eliminated services. This victory inspired tenants throughout the Northside to organize.

The next building organized was the Sherrie Apartments, where five veterans won repayment of \$1-550 bonus they had paid.

The Chicago Area Tenants Union on the West Side won a victory for 40 tenants in the building at 2639-43 W. Adams Street by forcing

the Rent Control Office of the OPA to order a rent reduction of one-third, retroactive to March 1.

In addition to the five buildings already organized, committees are being formed in five other buildings. Ten thousand copies of a leaflet: "To Guard, Tenants!" have been issued informing tenants of their rights and advising them not to pay any 15% increases. In response there came hundreds of telephone calls and visits from tenants in scores of buildings. They asked assistance and applied for membership in the North Side Tenants League.

The League has just issued another leaflet: "Tenants! The Ceiling Are Cracking—Keep the Roof over your Heads — Organize!" A mass meeting has been called for July 30, 7:30 p.m., at Clarendon House, Clarendon and Sunnyside. The speakers include Misha Rubin CIO Community Services Committee, Ed Aherns, chairman of the Education Committee of the AFL Chicago Federation of Labor, Attorney Edward Kane and Edith Zaslow.

Meanwhile, the packing profiteers are attempting to take advantage of the Slave Labor Law by instituting speed-ups, violating long-standing practices of labor procedure, and maintaining a general attitude of arrogance.

All-White Georgia Jury OKs Massacre of Eight Negroes

A Georgia prison-camp warden and seven guards who murdered eight Negro prisoners and wounded five others at the Anguilla Stockade two weeks ago were declared "justified in their action" by an all-white 23-man Glynn County grand jury in Brunswick last week.

Brunswick representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who investigated on the spot shortly after the killings, have revealed evidence that the wholesale slaying with sub-machine gun, shotguns and rifles was a deliberate massacre.

The national office of the NAACP, in its July 18 press release, reports that its Brunswick investigators had uncovered several details of a rather sensational nature which varied considerably from reports already published on the nation's latest anti-Negro outrage.

These findings belie the testimony of Warden W. G. Worthy, who fired the first shot, and his guards who fired a blistering fusilade into the huddled and helpless group of 27

UPWA Parley Renews Stand on Political Action

Packing Workers Urge Independent Candidates

CHICAGO, July 19 — Three hundred delegates at the National Conference of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers of America, held here this week, reaffirmed the policy of their recent international convention that called for support of "independent candidates to run for all offices" and to "work for the eventual establishment" of a party representing the interests of the working people.

The conference adopted a six-point program to combat the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. It voted to "shun any use" of the NLRB machinery set up under this law and bar any "no strike" clauses in future contracts.

A militant mood permeated the conference. The delegates expressed their determination to defeat the Republican and Democratic Parties responsible for the infamous Taft-Hartley Act.

Although the statement approved by the conference did not speak explicitly of a third party or a labor party, it was clear from the sentiments expressed by the delegates that they want labor to build a party of its own.

The conference implemented its political action policy by voting to recommend that each UPWA member voluntarily contribute one day's holiday pay, of the eight paid by the companies, to the CIO Political Action Committee. Only 50¢ of this amount is to go to the national organization. The remainder is to be retained in the local treasuries and to be used for the support of independent political candidates.

The conference program called for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and defeat of the congressmen and senators who voted for it; a campaign against high prices; community organization to combat the housing crisis; intensification of the fight against racial discrimination; and independent political action.

The conference statement described the Taft-Hartley Act "as part of the overall program of monopoly to destroy the living standards of the American people and to establish government control by big business."

It linked the skyrocketing prices of this big business program and declared the objective of the Taft-Hartley Act is to silence the labor movement, "the voice that has been raised most consistently and strongly in opposition to the NAM's program."

The statement noted that the meat packers are in the forefront "in the mad rush for profits." The very workers who produce the meat cannot afford to buy it.

Meanwhile, the packing profiteers are attempting to take advantage of the Slave Labor Law by instituting speed-ups, violating long-standing practices of labor procedure, and maintaining a general attitude of arrogance.

Auto Union Calls For United Labor Conference

DETROIT — The CIO United Automobile Workers, largest union in the country, has renewed its appeal to all labor unions to convene a National United Labor Conference for the purpose of formulating a program of joint action to fight the Taft-Hartley Act.

In the current issue of the United

Automobile Worker, the UAW's official organ, President Walter Reuther declares in a featured statement:

"The Congress of Industrial Organizations, the American Federation of Labor, the Railroad Brotherhoods and all bona fide independent unions must join together in united action because we hold the American future in common.

"We must join forces immediately

in a NATIONAL UNITED LABOR CONFERENCE (original emphasis) to plan common action on the legal, economic and political fronts...

"A national conference of labor could work out the broad framework for united action.

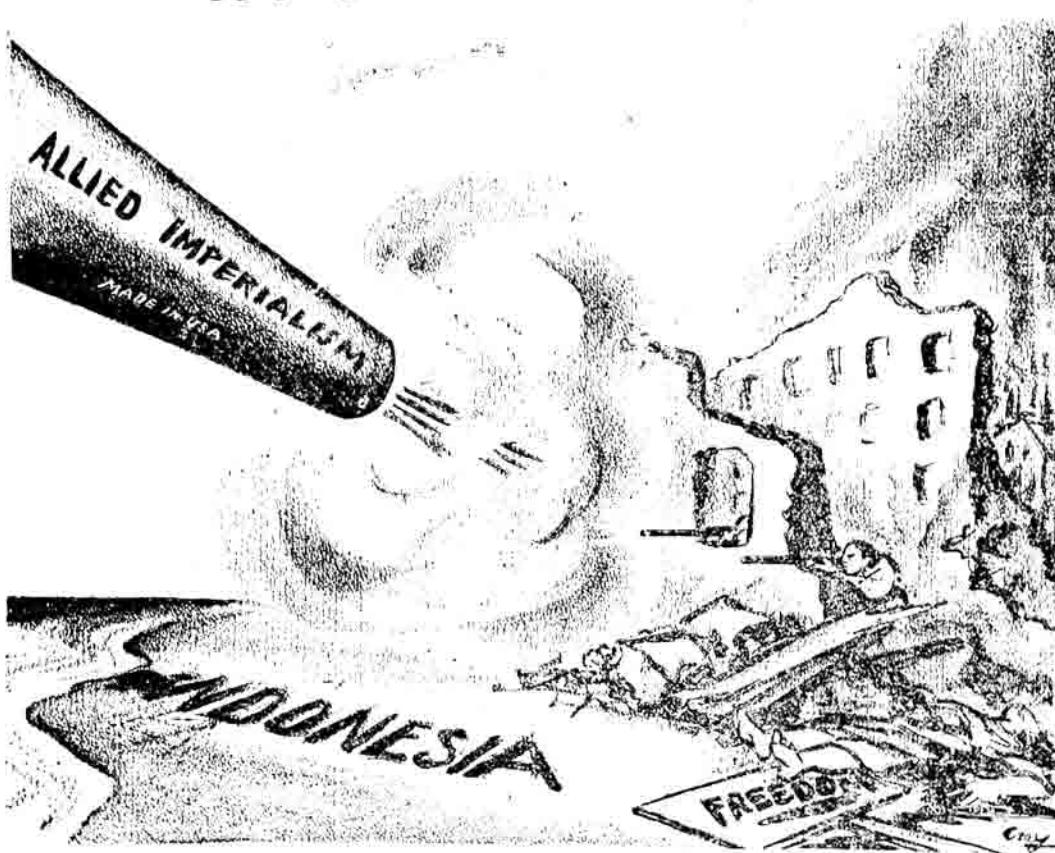
"To implement the program worked out thereby and to mobilize behind it the millions of American union members, similar conferences must be held at state, county and city levels.

"Working together in this fashion to meet effectively the immediate problems that confront us, we can lay the practical and solid foundation for organic unity in the American labor movement.

"The time to perfect practical working labor unity is right now."

(See Editorial—Page 4)

Applying the "Atlantic Charter"



Western Bloc Squabbles Over Prize Ruhr Area

When the 16 capitalist powers of the Western Bloc adjourned their Paris Conference July 15 they hailed the Marshall Plan with one voice as the only salvation of Europe. For the sake of a common front against the Soviet Union, they appeared to have buried their rivalries.

But as Washington revealed some of the concrete proposals in the Marshall Plan sharp differences broke into the open. A few short days after the Paris Conference ended, Washington, London and Paris were baring their teeth at each other over control of the Ruhr, the industrial heart of Europe.

The cornerstone of the Marshall Plan is the strengthening of German capitalism. But Wall Street demands that American managers replace the British in the Ruhr.

The British complain that this means the "revival of former enemies and a certain depreciation of wartime friends." However, Wall Street has the British where the financial hair is short. The British are expected to concede, possibly holding out for a face-saving interim arrangement of "dual" control.

The French capitalists are eager to step up German coal production, but solely for the benefit of French capitalism. They insist that German coal be diverted from the German steel mills and handed over to the French steel barons as reparations.

The French have visions of taking over Germany's former iron and steel markets.

They argue that permitting the German steel industry to produce will constitute a threat to France's security.

The French even went so far as to threaten to blow up the "Cooperation Committee" set up by the Paris Conference.

A formal protest was lodged with Washington and French Ambassadors.

The British, however, happen to be in control of the Ruhr, Germany's key coal and steel region.

Consequently Wall Street has opened up a barrage against the British, declaring they have "botched

the job" of bringing up production.

Wall Street demands that American managers replace the British in the Ruhr.

If France is confronted with decisions it cannot approve, the negotiations in Paris could be greatly endangered."

The State Department conceded for the time being. Although the British had signed an agreement to step up production in the British and American zones, it was quietly pigeon-holed; and Marshall assured Paris no decisions would be announced without "prior consultation" with the French.

As the three Allied powers wrangled over the Ruhr, German industry continued to stagnate.

The principal victims of the Allies are the German workers, but all Europe is affected.

Only the genuine unification of European economy and the integration of industry on a continental scale can provide a foundation firm enough for recovery from the terrible wounds of the Second World War.

That unification, however, remains as distant as ever. The capitalists are incapable of organizing a United States of Europe.

That can be accomplished only by the European workers under the banner of revolutionary socialism.

The first amphibious landing

(Continued on Page 3)

Dutch Imperialists Launch Blitzkrieg On Young Republic

By Joseph Hansen

At midnight on Sunday, July 20, Dutch troops with fixed bayonets burst without warning into the Batavia radio station of the Indonesian Republic. They barked orders for everyone to remain

motionless. A Dutch major appeared presently, gun in hand, and ordered the Indonesians taken out at rifle point. While this raid occurred, similar raids were underway throughout the city on the many Indonesian government buildings.

With this midnight blitzkrieg attack in the style perfected by the Nazi and Japanese militarists, the Netherlands imperialist government launched its long-planned war of annihilation on the Republic that dared to challenge the centuries-old rule of the Dutch colonial despots.

Dawn revealed thousands of troops fanning into the countryside from the port cities seized by the Dutch. Almost two years after V-J Day full scale war was raging throughout Java. The blood soaking the soil of this colonial prize also stained the hands of the Truman Administration. The first military successes of the Dutch Generals were not only the fruit of a sneak attack. They were also the fruit of destructive sweeps on scores of defenseless Indonesian towns and cities by Mustang fighters (P-51s) and Mitchell Bombers (B-26s) which the United States government handed the Dutch imperialists in preparation for this colonial war.

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The Elemental Urge To Socialism

By J. R. Johnson

It is impossible to overestimate the importance all the great Marxists have given to the instinctive, elemental drive of the workers to revolution, to reconstruct the existing society. The Transitional Program, one of the great documents of the Marxist tradition, gives us a sharp example of it.

Trotsky is writing of the proletariat on a world scale in 1938. He says that for years the workers have been taking the road to the revolution, but every time they begin, their treacherous leaders push them back and maintain them under the domination of capital. He then takes three examples: the workers of Spain where the great revolution of 1931-1938 was still raging; the workers of France who had staged the stormy stay-in strikes of 1936, and the workers of the United States. The exact wording is as follows:

"The unprecedented wave of sit-down strikes and the amazingly rapid growth of industrial unionism in the United States (the CIO) is the most indisputable expression of the instinctive strivings of the American workers to raise themselves to the level of the tasks imposed upon them by history. But here, too, the leading political organizations, including the newly-created CIO, do everything possible to keep in check and paralyze the revolutionary pressure of the masses."

Here it is again. "The instinctive striving" not merely to form a union, not merely to do what Roosevelt did legally given them permission to do in the NRA. No. They were trying to raise themselves to the level

of the tasks imposed upon them by history. They were showing a "revolutionary pressure." And these striking phrases occur not in an article but in a programmatic document written by Trotsky who tolerated no looseness of expression and least of all in a program.

The basis of the thought is the firm, bold, conscious expression by Marx of the unconscious instinct to put an end to the exploitation and degradation of capitalist production itself. Many who took active part in the formation of the CIO in those tumultuous days of 1936 affirm that in the formation of the UAW, for instance, the struggle for wages played the smallest role. The men were determined to put an end to the remorseless speed-up, to gain some control over the way in which they worked, to have an organization of their own to resist the tremendous organization of the capitalist production machine.

The battle for union recognition therefore became more than a battle for the right to collective bargaining. It was for recognition of the right of the workers to protect and express themselves as a social force against capitalism. And to use Trotsky's phrases in another place, "the rapidity and the power" of "the explosion" which was the CIO, testified to the accumulated resentments, hatreds, and need for doing something else beside working for profits, which smoldered in the American proletariat before 1936.

The creative force of this deep-going insurmountable urge to tear themselves from the bloody capitalists' chaos is now receiving ample confirmation in a significant place—the nervous anxiety of American capitalism over the great series of

Socialist socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process; namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist beginning. These organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crises and wars.

—Leon Trotsky, 1940

strikes. Over and over again we meet the flat pronouncement: "It is not mere wages." And often enough "Wages is the least part of their discontent." On another occasion I shall give more detailed information of the vast amount of material issued by the capitalist class, all saying unmistakably that behind the very real struggle over wages and prices lies a vast surging desire among the workers to change the very conditions of their existence.

Perhaps the most remarkable is an article that appeared in *Colliers* of Jan. 18, 1947 by Peter F. Drucker, that devoted servant of capital. Probing into the unrest he came to the following conclusion. The old days when the struggle for the CIO was a sacred cause are gone. The formative days of the CIO gave a great deal more to the worker than promises of equal bargaining power, job security and higher wages. "They gave him a cause, a community, a sphere of action. The worker who was just a cog in a machine became a citizen with a voice, a chance to be heard, and a chance for rapid promotion to respected offices."

This petty-bourgeois intellectual cannot see everything. But he has seen much. But what he is seeing is only the expression of that tremendous urge to reconstruct society which permeates the great masses of the American workers. It is suppressed and corrupted and betrayed by, above all, the labor leadership. But those who, armed with Marxism, penetrate into the workers' milieu, are constantly amazed, overwhelmed and inspired by the clear indications of the mighty, socialistic instincts which simmer just below the surface of American capitalism today.

Now

is the concert season for the He-Done-Us-Wrong Choral Club.

For the unenlightened reader, we hasten to explain that the He-Done-Us-Wrong Choral Club is composed of union leaders who sing the blues this year about capitalist politicians they serenaded so passionately last year.

If you're a union leader who told the workers in November, 1946, to vote for this or that "friend of labor" on Republican or Democratic tickets and you are now forced to sing "he done us wrong"—you pass every qualification for charter membership in the "He-Done-Us-Wrong" Choral Club.

Some of the club's leading members have been concertizing in the past few weeks.

AFL President William Green and AFL Secretary George Meany gave a refund last week.

Tobin's is the counsel of submission and slavery. If the slave doesn't revolt, the master won't lash him. If the slave submits willingly to the slave-owner's dictates, then he won't be thrown into irons. He'll also remain a slave.

It was because the corporations and the Republican - Democratic agents of Wall Street could count on the Tobins in the labor movement to sabotage any effective, militant resistance to anti-labor laws that Congress dared to push through the Taft-Hartley Act.

While Tobin berates the workers for "inviting" the Taft-Hartley Act by defending themselves against the employers, he is silent about a major phase of his own activity in this past period.

He says nothing about his notorious racketeering, his \$30,000 salary plus "expenses," his bleeding of heavy dues and fees from the membership, his gangster violence against them, his bloody jurisdictional raids against other unions.

Tobin called on the bosses to fire workers trying to get a nickel more in pay, but he didn't mind "antagonizing the labor situation" by sending his armed thugs into a score of cities to try and coerce CIO brewery drivers and warehousemen into paying dues to Tobin.

These were the activities of Tobin that gave the bosses the pretext for some of the most vicious Taft-Hartley Act restrictions against the unions. And it is no accident that the only section of this Act that Tobin saw fit to attack directly was the section barring so-called "jurisdictional" strikes.

In his "Notebook of an Agitator" (*The Militant*, May 17), J. P. C. wrote that Tobin had outstripped all other labor bureaucrats in earning the title of "The Mad Dog of the Labor Movement." His latest attack on militant labor shows Tobin didn't earn the title by default; he's ready and able to defend it against all claimants and contenders.

He has an unbroken record of fighting the militants in his own union with club and gun and hired gangsters. He has used the \$14,000,000 in his international treasury not only to line his own pockets — which goes without saying — but to finance savage warfare against any opposition group inside the Teamsters that has dared to fight for its rights either against the bosses or Tobin's totalitarian rule.

Today, Tobin's union is honeycombed with revolt. That is the real inspiration for his slanderous charge that the Teamsters' militants "played into the hands" of the Taft-Hartley gang.

The extent of that revolt is shown by the fact that forty percent of the IBT locals are ruled by dictator-receivers appointed by Tobin after he ruthlessly expelled the local officers elected by the members.

These expulsions have followed a series of so-called "wild-cat" strikes throughout the country. The IBT has had more strikes than any other union in the past year. Virtually all of them were opposed by Tobin.

Tobin's claim that the Taft-Hartley Act was "invited" by an "epidemic" of strikes is an attempt to justify his wholesale strike-breaking, gangster terrorism and brutal expulsions.

But it is more than that. It is an attempt to ingratiate himself with the employers by hiding the fact that their greed and viciousness, their mortal enmity to organized labor dictated the Taft-Hartley Act. And it is an attempt to whitewash the role of union

Strikebreaking Attempt Fails



Attempts by the Remington-Rand Co. to revive the infamous strikebreaking trick used in 1936 proved a dud at Ilion, N.Y., when 2,000 pickets of the CIO United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers turned away a company-sponsored "back-to-work movement."

Federated Picture

Union Leaders Now Sing the Blues About Some Old "Friends of Labor"

Now is the concert season for the He-Done-Us-Wrong Choral Club.

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does not say. Suffice to state, that not even the most politically blind can claim that today. Hence, the refrain, "Warren is not impartial. He done us wrong."

One of the strangest developments of the past week, however, was the initiation of a rival organization to the He-Done-Us-Wrong Choral Club. This is the He's - Not - Such - A - Bad - Egg After - All Club. Its chief sponsor is A. F. Whitney, President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

A year ago, when Truman broke the railroad strike and called for a bill to draft strikers into the Army, Whitney publicly threatened to raise a \$2,500,000 union fund to defeat Truman in November, 1948.

On July 20, Whitney discovered that Truman isn't such a bad egg after all and that his last-minute and fruitless veto of the Taft-Hartley "vindicated him in the eyes of labor." Truman, according to Whitney, is "more acceptable" than any Republican. Some people prefer hanging to drowning.

All we need now is a song from the CIO leaders on the candidates they supported last November who have since "done us wrong." That's part of the record they appear shy about disclosing.

Yes, the air is full of political blues-singing. These moaners seem to be working overtime. We suggest they might be able to sing more cheerful tunes if they stopped plugging for candidates of the Big Business parties and called for real independent labor political action by building a labor party and running labor candidates.

Green warbled keen "disappointment" in Ives who helped put over the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. He moaned low when sang "he done us wrong" in connection with Senator Irving Ives, the Republican whom AFL leaders backed last November as a "friend of labor."

Green and Meany, at union conventions in New York State, hit High C when they sang, "he done us wrong" in connection with Senator Irving Ives, the Republican whom AFL leaders backed last November as a "friend of labor."

But even in his warnings about the dangers of "further inflation," Truman is cautious and indirect, speaking of "recent developments which revive some fears of another upswing of inflation."

That "upswing" is already in full swing and none of Truman's pleas to the better nature of the capitalists will avert it by an iota.

"Soaring grain prices build a new boost for tomorrow's grocery bill," proclaims the July 22 *Wall Street Journal*.

"Steaks, chops, butter, milk, poultry — they are all 'manufactured' from grain. Wheat-product bran, a prime feed for chickens and dairy cattle, has jumped \$20 a ton, or about 35% in three weeks. Corn is at a new peak above \$22.00 a bushel; it sold as low as 40 cents a bushel in 1939. Long Island's big duck farms, growing millions of birds for U. S. dinner tables, now pay \$100 a ton for feed which cost only \$55 a barrel two months ago. Dairyman say the price of milk will have to be boosted"

HIKES ON EVERYTHING

Legislation which the sugar trust hopes to push through Congress soon, the reiteration of the hard-bitten capitalists to please curb their appetites just a little and "refrain" from pushing prices up higher and higher.

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PROFITS GO UP

According to an analysis being readied by the Department of Commerce, reports the July 20 *N. Y. Times*, when price factors are taken into account, production, national income, everything except PROFITS, have registered a sharp decline since the 1944 peak.

Based on the 1935-39 values, the boasted 1946 national income of \$178,200,000,000 was actually only \$15,000,000,000. "Gross national product" — figured in terms of goods and not inflated dollars — registered instead of a rise, a sharp decline from 1944 to 1946.

The charts buried in Truman's own report show that the monthly output index that stood at 239 in 1943, fell to 159 in May, 1946, rose to 190 last March, and dropped by June to 183. In the durable goods industry — the key to U. S. economic stability — output fell from 360 in 1943 to 220 last month.

Profits — and here is the foundation of the soaring price structure — are reaching toward the stratosphere. Auto profits, at their wartime peak in 1945, were \$243 million. For the first half of 1947, they ran at an annual rate of \$896 million. The food, beverage and tobacco industries rose from \$148 million in 1946, to \$356 million in 1947, to an annual rate of \$412 million this year. Iron and steel raked in a juicy \$283 million last year; this year, the rate is \$496 million.

The corporations have advanced other record wartime profits after taxes of \$10 billion in 1943, to the peacetime total of \$12 billion in 1946 and an estimated \$17 billion this year.

SLURRED OVER

These facts about profits Truman slurred over in his report, as he concealed all the basic factors for the raging inflation that is sweeping like a conflagration through the American capitalist system.

That conflagration is being fed with the gasoline of Truman's basic program of titanic federal expenditures for war preparation. It is fanned by the gargantuan war debt of \$260 billion.

For every dollar the people spend, 50 cents of it is going to government — federal, state and local — through direct and hidden taxes. And the load becomes heavier as inflation "eats" away the declining incomes of the low-wage earners.

What Truman warns against as merely the symptoms of a mild case of measles, are in reality the signs of an all-pervading malignant cancer in the capitalist economy.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

The Taft-Hartley Act has struck an immediate blow at unionization of foremen. Following passage of the Act, Ford Motor Company foremen were forced to call off their seven-week strike without gaining recognition. Company promises to rehire all strikers "without discrimination" were violated last week, when 32 foremen were fired for alleged "violence and terrorism" during the strike. The United Mine Workers has discontinued efforts to get recognition for its AFL United Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Employees Union, affiliated with its District 50. The UCTSE will be liquidated July

Germany 1947

IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU TOO

By Ernest Germain

We have tried in the preceding articles to give a faithful picture of what is going on in Germany today. We have described the situation, and also pointed out the potentialities in it. The reader may have been affected at times by the atmosphere of an inferno lying heavy upon this picture. Now we want to speak to the reader's reason, to his imagination, in order to make him understand what this picture involves for himself.

The terrible catastrophe, which has hurled the most advanced country of Europe decades back, which has driven its industrial production below that of Belgium and its average level of consumption below that of India — this catastrophe — struck the country which most resembles yours, American worker. The men and women who are living today in this horrible misery are men and women like you, accustomed to a standard of living like yours.

The immense natural resources of the land, the high cultural level of the people, the technical and organizational skills of the workers — all these remain intact. These people are technicians; engineers, highly skilled workers — and for two years they have been trying in vain to clean up the rubble in their cities with only shovel and pick! These people who see their children dying and can't do anything about it were yesterday producing the most complex medicines in the world — and are capable of doing it again tomorrow.

NOT SOMETHING SPECIAL

The cataclysm that has struck these men and women is not due to something special in their nature, something national or racial or "criminal," something different from that of other peoples.

These German people have conducted scores and hundreds of strikes against their capitalist masters just like the strikes you have launched during the past year against the rapacious American trusts. They and their fathers and their grandfathers have carried on a greater struggle for socialism and the fraternity of all, than the people of any other country.

Every family has a son or nephew who went through Hitler's concentration camps for his anti-fascist activity, or who, during and after the first war, was in prison or a "penal regiment" for his anti-war activity.

These men and women are simply men and women of the people, with the same qualities and the same faults of the workers and their wives in the United States, and with the same determined will to work for a better life and society than we now have.

The ruins that cover their land, the hunger that strikes at their children, the degradation that casts them into the abyss — these are the result of the prolongation of the capitalist regime beyond its legitimate historical limits. Germany today is a symbol of the barbarism to which capitalism will reduce every country — unless the proletariat succeeds in destroying capitalism first. Your country, too, American workers!

Do you think this could never happen in America? Imagine New York or San Francisco after an

The Last In A Series Of Articles

atom bombing. Imagine the gas and electricity cut off for three months, food and goods all gone up in flames, water infested with deadly bacteria dropped from stratospheric planes, epidemics breaking out . . .

PICTURE OF NEXT WAR

This isn't a vision of the apocalypse. It is a very mild picture of what the next war will be like.

It is a picture of only a small fraction of the disasters your own capitalists will bring upon you if you don't wrest the power from them.

Look around you, observe, reflect. Do you remember how the capitalists burned millions of tons of food after 1929, while millions of unemployed and their families went hungry? Don't you think these hyenas are capable of starving your own children tomorrow just as ruthlessly as the sharks of the German black market are starving the German children today?

Remember the photographs and the stories of the lynchings. Don't you think the men who use these barbaric methods against the Negroes could use them tomorrow against you — as they are being used today against the German workers?

Look at the street cars and buses and trains in the South of your country. Aren't there special sections set apart for the Negroes, like the special sections for the Jews under Hitler, and like the special sections for the Germans under the military dictatorship of the Allies today?

The ones who are responsible for the famine and the oppression of Germany are your own generals and your own capitalist politicians, who tomorrow will unhesitatingly use the same methods against you in order to prolong the rule of their class.

MUST LIVE BY DESTRUCTION

Having become a constant obstacle to progress, the capitalists can no longer maintain themselves in power except by steadily destroying all that human civilization has won in the past decades. This will happen in your country, just as in Germany, if you don't sweep capitalism out of the way.

When you have understood that this can happen in America as well, you will understand better than before what your duty is toward the German workers and their poor exhausted wives and their children with rickets. You will understand that to defend your German brothers today is to defend yourself.

WHEN YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE CONTINUING MISERY AND OCCUPATION AND OPPRESSION IN GERMANY, YOU ARE FIGHTING TO PREVENT THE SAME MISERY AND THE SAME OPPRESSION STRIKING DOWN THE AMERICAN WORKERS ON THE MORROW.

That is why you must tirelessly tell the truth of what is happening in Germany, to everyone around

you — in your factory, in your trade union, in your neighborhood, in your house, in your family, among your friends.

You must demand that they join with you in the fight to have your American boys recalled from Germany and to prevent them from becoming expert hangmen's assistants.

You must warn your comrades, all the American workers and their wives, that to tolerate the crimes your masters are committing in Germany today is to expose all of you, collectively, to the same danger tomorrow.

When you eat your breakfast which is still ample despite the high prices, think of the German workers who go down into the mines after "breakfasting" on a few carrots.

When you try on your new outfit, think of the German workers who are around wrapped in a blanket for want of an overcoat.

When with fond pride you watch your children playing, singing, reading, think of the millions of little martyrs living in cellars or in rotting wooden shelters — and never forget:

It depends on you to see that this never happens in America!

(This series was translated from the French by Duncan Ferguson.)

U.S. Arms Used in War On Indonesian Republic

(Continued from Page 1)

with the British entrenched in key places.

The British then withdrew as the Dutch capitalists organized an expeditionary force of some 120,000 troops equipped from the arsenals of America.

STRATEGIC AIM

The strategic aim of Dutch imperialism was to smash the Indonesian Republic and re-establish the despotic rule that enabled them to keep the Indonesian people bled white generation after generation. In carrying out this aim the Dutch followed the traditional tactics of imperialist rulers. They promised anything to gain time while they consolidated their armed forces in preparation for the bloody showdown.

They even went so far as to recognize the Indonesian Republic, to agree to its freedom by January 1, 1949, and to arbitrate disputes on which agreement could not be reached.

Finally, when they thought their armies were sufficiently strong, the Dutch began serving a series of ultimatums on the Indonesian Republic. Every demand was aimed at undermining the Indonesian government and depriving it of sovereignty. If the Indonesians conceded, it meant a big gain for the Dutch. If the Indonesians refused, the Dutch construed the refusal as a pretext for launching war.

The Indonesian officials made concession after concession. But as soon as agreement had been reached, the Dutch made fresh ultimatums. The final ones were as follows:

FINAL ULTIMATUMS

(1) The Indonesian Government must cease all propaganda unfavorable to the Dutch. This was a demand to relinquish freedom of speech. The Dutch, naturally, said nothing about stopping their lying propaganda against the Indonesians.

(2) The Indonesian Government must order its armed forces to withdraw six miles from present positions. This was a demand to give up without fighting while the invaders moved forward.

(3) The Indonesian Government must order its armed forces to cease firing. The Dutch, meanwhile, would continue firing on the poorly-armed Indonesian people who were trying to defend their homes.

The Indonesian Government found itself unable to comply with these three demands. And when the deadline passed, the Dutch imperialists struck.

Their plan now, apparently, is to slice up Indonesia into at least three segments, and then move in and digest these segments at their leisure.

NOTE OF REGRET

The Truman Administration reacted to the outbreak of this major war by a note of "regret" to the Netherlands Government. There is no doubt that Wall Street would prefer to avoid the unfavorable publicity falling on it for its share in the bloody attempt to suppress the Indonesian Republic. Wall Street no doubt finds the great risks involved distasteful; for a successful struggle by the Indonesians can set the entire colonial world on flame and give a mighty impetus to the struggle of the working class for socialism.

But the record shows that the Truman Administration has consistently backed the Dutch capitalists. The arms the Dutch are using are Lend-Lease. Under Lend-Lease provisions the Truman Administration can "recapture" these

International Notes

The world food shortage so acute last year will not be alleviated this year. Among the greatest sufferers are the colonial peoples of the East. To the millions that have died so recently from famine in India, other millions are about to be added. Abhayankar, Indian delegate to the World Food Council, has stated that India faces this year an unprecedented food-shortage.

Indian government officials have been advising the masses to tighten their belts still another notch. The already meager rations in Madras and Bombay have been slashed.

The government of Nicaragua is resorting to naked terror in order to maintain itself. A July 13 decree announces that "all communists or persons suspected of acts of terrorism will be summarily shot."

The Russian propaganda machine has resumed its campaign to glorify Stalin as a "universal genius." According to the Moscow radio, the Generalissimo has turned architect and has "personally" drawn up a plan to rebuild Moscow as a "harmless architectural creation expressing the noble ideas of Communism."

Food rationing is becoming extremely difficult in the Eastern zone of Germany. According to the latest reports from Berlin, an especially tense situation exists in Thuringia. The Food Minister of that province has announced in the Landtag that the grain collection service has arrested 373 farmers for the non-fulfillment of their quotas. Heavy fines have been imposed; 270 farms have been placed under

Heroic Greek Trotskyists Listed Among Royalist Terror Victims

By Jean Paul Martin

Wall Street's Helping Hand



The monster raid which took place on the night of July 9 has been extended over practically the entire territory of Greece controlled by the reactionary monarchist government of Maximos Tsaldaris. It has entailed the arrest of thousands of militants, workers of every political tendency — Stalinists, socialists, trade-unionists, Trotskyists — as well as of some elements belonging to the democratic bourgeoisie opposition.

For days on end the gendarmerie and police in the service of the Athens government has continued its reign of terror, unequalled in the past, in practically every town and village in the country. (By July 22 the number of arrested was reported as 16,000—Ed.)

Information received from Trotskyist militants in Athens, who suffered numerous losses, gives evidence of an unprecedented brutality with which the government, maddened by the rapidly spreading revolt among the people, is proceeding with arrests and its campaign of terror. According to these reports, all the crimes committed by the Metaxas dictatorship and the Italo-German occupation pale beside the barbarism unleashed by the proteges of Truman and Marshall.

U.S. SHOW OF FORCE

However, the failure of the conference of the "Big Three" in Paris and the continued opposition of the USSR to the American proposals in the Security Council at Lake Success, which aim at establishing permanent control of the Northern frontiers of Greece, has incited the United States to persist in its policy of show of force in Greece and even to accentuate it.

The Athens government acts merely on orders from Washington. The latter are determined to demonstrate by such actions that they will not tolerate any Soviet influence in Greece and will not shrink back from any measures to prevent it.

The real tragedy of Greece is that in the present international

conjuncture it has become an arena where the USSR and the USA face each other and maneuver against each other.

But the Greek people, the peasants and the workers who are fighting in the mountains or languishing in the jails of the reaction have aspirations entirely their own and are genuinely out to win their own struggle. The world proletariat, in active solidarity with the Greek proletariat, owes support to the latter in its present struggle. Thereby alone, can it be shown the only practical perspective — the European and world socialist revolution.

In the press, in the unions, in the factories — everywhere — the bloodbath into which Greek reaction is attempting to drown the people must be denounced and castigated. A storm of protest must arise from the workers' organizations addressed to the Greek and American authorities. This is imperative if the arrests and death sentences are to cease, if democratic rights are to be reestablished in the country.

Moral and material aid must be organized systematically among the workers' organizations, to sustain the Greek partisans.

Athens Dictators Spread Brazen Lies As Cover for Their Reign of Terror

The American people are being fed on a steady diet of lies so far as Greece is concerned.

To begin with, as a cover for the reign of terror it has unleashed at home, the Athens government has raised a hue and cry about an alleged invasion of the country by "an international brigade," descending from the mountains of Albania and operating in the Epirus region around the town of Yannina.

The news of this "invasion" was first released by General Napoleon Zervas, Minister of Public Order, who while touring the Epirus region phoned Premier Maximos to report that "many of the guerrillas wore red jackets, others red armbands, with the hammer and sickle, and yet others the Soviet star."

This hoax was almost immediately exploded by the UN investigation committee which happened to be on the spot and which found itself obliged to announce that it had received "little first hand evidence" to substantiate the charges of "foreign invasion."

A spokesman of the Greek General Staff went even further. He corroborated that there were no indications whatever of an international brigade.

On July 22, the UN Balkan subcommission likewise found "no evidence that an international brigade took part."

Although cognizant from the outset that the invasion report was a brazen falsehood, the metropolitan press in this country played it up sensationalistically. In the Senate it was used as one of the pretexts for the passage of the \$300,000,000 loan to the despots and hawks in Athens.

Supplementing the invasion hoax, these same gentlemen have dished up another hoary old standby — an "imminent communist revolution."

The mass arrests still in progress have been based on an alleged uncovering of a plot — "Plan F and Order Gamma for the arming of the reserve ELAS and a rising in the urban centers."

Thousands of those arrested had no connection whatsoever with any mythical "rising" in the cities or with the Greek Communist party.

This is confirmed by a July 22 dispatch of the N.Y. Times correspondent in Athens: "Evidence has accumulated that a large number of persons arrested has nothing to do with the Communist party."

Meanwhile British troops still remain in Greece. A British squadron is reported heading for Greek waters. And Washington is rushing military supplies along with the military mission it delegated to "advise the Greek army."

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The Class Struggle Under the First Republic

by Daniel Guerin

Author of: "Fascism and Big Business"

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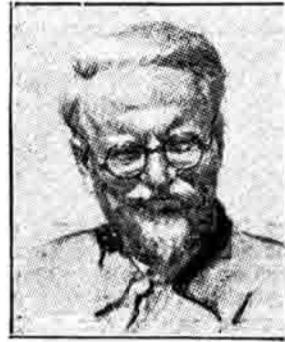
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"Today it is no longer a question, as was the case in the nineteenth century, of simply assuring a more rapid and more healthy development of economic life; today it is a question of saving mankind from suicide."

Leon Trotsky

"There Is No Peace!"

The second anniversary of V-J Day is barely a month away, yet the world is still torn by war.

The Dutch imperialists have launched an all-out attack on the Republic of Indonesia. The dispatches telling about the thrusts of the Dutch army read like the early dispatches of the Nazis, except for the use of American arms.

But the attack on Indonesia is only the latest spectacular outbreak. Indo-China still writhes under the hobnails of the French imperialists who launched a war of annihilation on the Viet Nam Republic.

And in China civil war rages as the hated regime of dictator Chiang Kai-shek, bolstered by American dollars and American arms, seeks to maintain itself by butchering the masses.

India smolders while the British, in agreement with the native capitalists, attempt to carve up that sub-continent into a welter of weak rival states.

In Palestine, British armed forces maintain concentration camps where Hitler's former victims are held under the Union Jack and the imperialist oppressor cold-bloodedly continues the traditional policy of ruling by dividing, trying to set Jews against Arabs and Arabs against Jews.

In Greece, ex-bandits in charge of royalist armies, generously supplied with arms and dollars from America, hunt down political opponents in a nationwide witch-hunt; and recklessly toss the blazing torch of war in the Balkans.

Throughout the rest of Europe an uneasy truce holds. How long it will last no one knows. Allied troops still occupy the strategic areas of the continent. Under the war-mongering Truman Doctrine, Wall Street is lining up the capitalists of western Europe in a reactionary bloc in preparation for World War III.

Far from achieving peace, the Allied powers have brought only conflict and bloodshed. Two years after the second imperialist war to "end wars," the world still shuns the tread of marching boots.

What happened to the Atlantic Charter? What happened to the Four Freedoms? Of what purpose is the United Nations? Where is the shining post-war world the capitalists promised if only victory was won?

When the war with Japan came to a close, *The Militant* declared, "There is no peace!" There can be no enduring peace, we said, until the workers and farmers put their own government in power and set out on the road to world socialism. The crackle of machine guns and the explosion of bombs half way round the earth today give terrible confirmation to that warning.

A Law Against Thinking

On July 15 the House of Representatives considered a bill bearing the attractive title "Loyalty" Act. Some Congressmen, however, objected to its passage. Sabath of Illinois called it "the most drastic and far-reaching bill affecting the rights of Federal employees ever to reach the floor in my 41 years of service."

This stalwart of the Democratic Party went even further in his denunciation of the measure: "In the palmiest days of the Czar of Russia or in the heyday of Hitler there were no worse restrictions on the right of Government employees to express their thoughts — ay, to think."

Nevertheless, Democrats and Republicans joined to pass this police-state measure by a resounding majority of 319 to 61.

The purpose of the bill, according to its backers, is to weed out "disloyal" persons among the 2,000,000 people on the Federal payroll. What it actually does is tear up that part of the Constitution guaranteeing the basic civil rights won in the American Revolution.

It empowers the Attorney General to designate any organization or group of people he chooses as totalitarian, Fascist, Communist, or subversive."

Then any Federal employee having so much as "sympathetic association" with a group on the proscribed list can be summarily dismissed as "disloyal." A person attending certain public meetings, reading certain books or publications, or expressing views opposed by the Committee on Un-American Activities could be described as having "sympathetic association."

The victim is presumed guilty — it is up to him to try to prove his innocence to the board that in-

vestigates, tries, convicts and hears his appeal from its decisions, if he cares to appeal.

The board does not disclose its evidence. It does not reveal the identity of witnesses who may have testified against the victim. Thus a victim of the witch-hunt cannot even cross-examine his unknown accusers. He may be condemned on hearsay, rumors, or a frame-up. He has no redress in any court.

Furthermore, according to an analysis prepared by the National Lawyers' Guild, "the employees of any large industry in the United States which under one or another of the powers of the Government could come under Government control or operation, would come within the provisions of this bill."

Why did the House pass such a fascist-like law? The reason is not difficult to find. The current red-baiting drive is part of Wall Street's assault on the labor movement and its preparations for World War III.

In behalf of the Democratic Party, Truman took the lead in this red-baiting drive with his March 21 Executive Order for a purge of "disloyal" government workers.

That left the Republicans behind in the red-baiting competition. The House "Loyalty" Act is designed to close the gap. It's their way of showing Wall Street they're just as good as the Democrats any day of the week when it comes to a witch-hunt.

Lots of Talk--But No Action

It is to the credit of the CIO United Automobile Workers that it has been the union to call most consistently for the convening of a National United Labor Conference to combat the Taft-Hartley Act.

The proposal for such a conference was first raised in the UAW during the General Motors strike. The latest issue of the *United Automobile Worker* again puts it forward, in a statement signed by UAW President Walter Reuther. (See Page 1)

Unfortunately, Reuther is more adept in giving verbal endorsement to progressive proposals than he is in pushing them forward into realization. He has picked up not a few good ideas which he has used as propaganda and to make a name for himself, but on which he took no real action.

The proposal for the National United Labor Conference is a case in point. Reuther talks about it occasionally, and writes a statement on it in the UAW paper, but that's as far as he goes.

If Reuther meant business he could do a great deal toward bringing a united labor conference about. He is the head of the largest and most dynamic union in the country. He can swing a lot of weight in the CIO and can gain the ears of millions of workers in the AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods.

He could get the ball rolling — if he wanted to. He could take the initiative, through the UAW, in calling such a conference or pressuring the CIO into calling it. He could set the UAW locals into motion throughout the country to call joint action conferences on a local scale as a build-up for a national conference.

But Reuther, despite his pretensions as a progressive labor leader, does not dare to make a move on anything without the nod from CIO President Philip Murray. Murray's good-will seems more important to Reuther, the opportunist union politician, than the crying needs of the workers.

The UAW can do a mighty job in achieving a National United Labor Conference if the UAW leaders would transform their words into action. Let them launch a big campaign on the issue in the labor movement. Let them send resolutions on it to every other union. Let them organize joint conferences wherever immediately possible on a local and regional scale. Certainly it can be done in Michigan, the auto center.

An ounce of action is worth tons of talk!

Wall St's Aid To Greece

The Greek monarchy is today adding the bloodiest chapter to the annals of its dictatorial misrule of that unfortunate land. It is clear that the Athens regime enjoys even less popular support than in the days of the notorious Metaxas dictatorship before the war.

Mass resistance to this hated regime is growing. Partisan activity far from being suppressed is spreading. This is proved by the government's recently publicized project to greatly increase the size of its armed forces. This is proved by the unbridled reign of terror it has unleashed throughout the country and by the flood of lies now emanating from Athens.

There is no other way for this completely discredited and arch-reactionary regime to maintain itself. But all its bestial repressions would avail nothing if the support on which it really rests was removed.

This support comes from abroad. It used to be supplied by the British imperialists. It is now supplied by none other than Washington.

The \$300,000,000 loan, the U. S. military mission, the U. S. "advisory" commissions, the promise of more millions and more munitions — this is what maintains the Greek despots.

American dollars pay for the upkeep of Athenian jails, concentration camps and exile islands in the Aegean Sea, now crammed with thousands of victims. Each new lie broadcast from Athens is sped on its way with American dollars. And so is each bullet fired by the Athenian execution squads.

This suits perfectly the plan of American capitalists. By bolstering reaction abroad they pave the way for extending the sway of reaction at home.

The American workers, too, have a great stake in what is happening in Greece. They must demand the withdrawal of all "aid" from the Athenian butchers and jailers.

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Furthermore, according to an analysis prepared by the National Lawyers' Guild, "the employees of any large industry in the United States which under one or another of the powers of the Government could come under Government control or operation, would come within the provisions of this bill."

Why did the House pass such a fascist-like law? The reason is not difficult to find. The current red-baiting drive is part of Wall Street's assault on the labor movement and its preparations for World War III.

In behalf of the Democratic Party, Truman took the lead in this red-baiting drive with his March 21 Executive Order for a purge of "disloyal" government workers.

That left the Republicans behind in the red-baiting competition. The House "Loyalty" Act is designed to close the gap. It's their way of showing Wall Street they're just as good as the Democrats any day of the week when it comes to a witch-hunt.

Lots of Talk--But No Action

It is to the credit of the CIO United Automobile Workers that it has been the union to call most consistently for the convening of a National United Labor Conference to combat the Taft-Hartley Act.

The proposal for such a conference was first raised in the UAW during the General Motors strike. The latest issue of the *United Automobile Worker* again puts it forward, in a statement signed by UAW President Walter Reuther. (See Page 1)

Unfortunately, Reuther is more adept in giving verbal endorsement to progressive proposals than he is in pushing them forward into realization. He has picked up not a few good ideas which he has used as propaganda and to make a name for himself, but on which he took no real action.

The proposal for the National United Labor Conference is a case in point. Reuther talks about it occasionally, and writes a statement on it in the UAW paper, but that's as far as he goes.

If Reuther meant business he could do a great deal toward bringing a united labor conference about. He is the head of the largest and most dynamic union in the country. He can swing a lot of weight in the CIO and can gain the ears of millions of workers in the AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods.

He could get the ball rolling — if he wanted to. He could take the initiative, through the UAW, in calling such a conference or pressuring the CIO into calling it. He could set the UAW locals into motion throughout the country to call joint action conferences on a local scale as a build-up for a national conference.

But Reuther, despite his pretensions as a progressive labor leader, does not dare to make a move on anything without the nod from CIO President Philip Murray. Murray's good-will seems more important to Reuther, the opportunist union politician, than the crying needs of the workers.

The UAW can do a mighty job in achieving a National United Labor Conference if the UAW leaders would transform their words into action. Let them launch a big campaign on the issue in the labor movement. Let them send resolutions on it to every other union. Let them organize joint conferences wherever immediately possible on a local and regional scale. Certainly it can be done in Michigan, the auto center.

An ounce of action is worth tons of talk!

Wall St's Aid To Greece

The Greek monarchy is today adding the bloodiest chapter to the annals of its dictatorial misrule of that unfortunate land. It is clear that the Athens regime enjoys even less popular support than in the days of the notorious Metaxas dictatorship before the war.

Mass resistance to this hated regime is growing. Partisan activity far from being suppressed is spreading. This is proved by the government's recently publicized project to greatly increase the size of its armed forces. This is proved by the unbridled reign of terror it has unleashed throughout the country and by the flood of lies now emanating from Athens.

There is no other way for this completely discredited and arch-reactionary regime to maintain itself. But all its bestial repressions would avail nothing if the support on which it really rests was removed.

This support comes from abroad. It used to be supplied by the British imperialists. It is now supplied by none other than Washington.

The \$300,000,000 loan, the U. S. military mission, the U. S. "advisory" commissions, the promise of more millions and more munitions — this is what maintains the Greek despots.

American dollars pay for the upkeep of Athenian jails, concentration camps and exile islands in the Aegean Sea, now crammed with thousands of victims. Each new lie broadcast from Athens is sped on its way with American dollars. And so is each bullet fired by the Athenian execution squads.

This suits perfectly the plan of American capitalists. By bolstering reaction abroad they pave the way for extending the sway of reaction at home.

The American workers, too, have a great stake in what is happening in Greece. They must demand the withdrawal of all "aid" from the Athenian butchers and jailers.



"It's such a problem to find something to invest all my tax refunds in!"

Congressmen At Work

The Specter Haunting Congress

Few have less confidence in the future of the capitalist system than some of Wall Street's outstanding political representatives. They feel themselves tossed in a wild sea of troubles. This was brought out with crystal clarity in the Senate on July 12.

Joseph C. Mahoney (D., Wyo.) took the floor that day to oppose the tax-reduction bill. Since he enjoys considerable authority in the Senate as an economist, an unusual number of Senators came in from the cloak rooms and committee bull sessions to hear what he had to say.

Unfortunately for Wall Street, the American bulwark of world capitalism is itself far from healthy.

"I have here what I call the 'fever chart' of the capitalistic system."

This chart the Senator explained, contains three lines.

One line shows Federal receipts

year by year since 1910. They never reached \$50,000,000.

The second line shows the national income for the same period.

It dropped as low as \$38,000,000,000 in

1933.

The third line shows the national debt — a debt that has reached a pinnacle that is beyond the imagination of man to describe, a national debt which could easily have the effect of being a time bomb under the capitalistic system.

This national debt, greater than anyone in the United States ever dreamed possible 5 years ago, can easily destroy the whole system of private property . . ."

The interest alone on the debt,

said O'Mahoney, in 1947 was \$4,500,000,000.

But in 1939 "the total receipts of the Government from income and profit taxes . . . were \$2,188,757,289.

In other words, the interest upon

the national debt last year was about

twice as much as the total receipts of the Federal Government from income and excess-profits taxes in 1939."

Now suppose a depression occurs

and national income takes a precipitous decline. Federal receipts will likewise decline. "The red line showing the national debt proves to everyone who has eyes to see that if we permit a crash now, the only result will be the repudiation of the debt. If the bonds which have been issued to the banks, the insurance companies and the people of the United States are repudiated, if they cannot be paid, that will put an end to the system of private property. There is the story. We cannot endure another crash."

Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) then took the floor to describe the danger of another depression. "As

has been so well said by the Senator from Wyoming, the private-enterprise system in the world trembles today upon the very kind of destruction and collapse. The truth is that we do not yet know whether

we are going to save the private-enterprise in

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.

Predicts Re-Grouping Of Auto Union Ranks

Editor: Only chains and more chains are being forged for labor. On every front an attack has been launched: on a national scale — the Taft-Hartley Law; on a state scale — the Callahan Law. And in the shops — drives to speed up production and undermine the unions.

The top leadership of the UAW-CIO, like the heads of the rest of the unions, have been pussy-footing. In spite of militant rumblings among the ranks, they have failed to take concrete action, have sabotaged breaking clean with both Big Business political parties.

This leadership should take heed. In their failure to unite labor's forces for independent political action, in their failure to launch a Labor Party, they will find themselves opposed by the ranks. Militant workers will regroup their forces. A new caucus will arise in the auto union — a third group, a left-wing group. Though unorganized now, it is in process of crystallization.

Auto Worker,
Detroit, Mich.

Words of Douglass Still Hold True

Editor: While sitting listening to the radio programs on this date, July 4, I recalled some of Frederick Douglass' writings. He wrote in the days of slavery; but let's see what he had to say and how much of it holds true today:

"Fellow citizens; pardon me, allow me to ask why I am called upon to speak here today, the Fourth of July. What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us? And am I, therefore, called upon to bring our humble offering to the national altar, and to confess the benefits and express devout gratitude for the blessings resulting from your independence to us?"

"What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him more than all other days in the year the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious pride and solemnity, are to him mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety and hypocrisy — a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour."

"Go where you may, search where you will, roam through all monarchies and despotisms of the old world, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practice of this nation, and you will say with me, that, for

revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival."

**J. A. B.,
New York**

Trotskyist in Germany Reports on Conditions

Editor: The end of the war and the military defeat of fascism have enabled us to take up the struggle for the revival of the labor movement. In 1945 all the conditions for such a course were at hand and the masses were ready to march in this direction; but today we witness the spread of great discouragement because the existing political parties, in the first instance, the working class parties, refuse to carry out their historic mission.

Unless we succeed in uniting the masses with the economic foundation, that is, economic security, their desperation will make them prey again of a new nationalist philosophy.

The recent Berlin elections for delegates to the Free German Union demonstrate that the great mass of the trade union members did not participate and stayed away; so that in effect the proposed candidates voted for them-selves.

At some of the meetings less than 2% participated in the elections. The working masses feel that their interests are not being furthered by the unions and that they have nothing to say about their fate, especially in the East (the Kremlin-occupied zone).

But we are no longer as isolated as before; friends have grouped themselves around us and the problems are being discussed in intense gatherings.

**A Trotskyist,
Germany.**

What a Mother Finds In "The Militant"

Editor: I am the mother of a seven year old boy and I am an avid reader of **The Militant** because it speaks for a better world for my child. I don't want his life crippled with the restrictions of the present society. He is healthy and intelligent and I want him to stay that way.

The schools and other adult leaders will teach him many ways of dividing the world . . . into Christians and Jews and Muslims and Hindus and Buddhists and Christian Scientists. Or Germans and Italians and Greeks and Russians and Frenchmen.

I want him to know that we are all just men and women. We could be citizens of the world. No barriers, no boundaries, no prejudices, no alliances, no secret treaties.

Someday, when the men and women of the world realize that there are only two divisions of the present system: Capital and Labor — bourgeois and proletarians — they will know that this is the only barrier to break down.

It is so simple; it is so powerful a truth; and it is so well hidden.

**L. B.
Los Angeles, Calif.**

Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers at these Local Activities of

THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

AKRON—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open Mon. through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 2 to 4 p.m.

BOSTON—30 Stuart St. Open Saturday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m.

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

CHICAGO—77 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily, except Sunday. Phone Dearborn 4767. Library, book-store.

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

DETROIT—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—215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

LOS ANGELES—Militant publishing Assn., 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.

SAN PEDRO—Militant publishing Assn., 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

LYNN, Mass.—44 Central Square, Room 11. Discussion every Tuesday 7:30 p.m.; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA—1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily. Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5830.

"Moralist" Eastman And Lenin's Testament

Editor:

I read in an article by Max Eastman that when he revealed the existence of Lenin's Testament for the first time in the United States, Trotsky disavowed both the article and the existence of Lenin's Testament. Is this true?

Eastman is, I understand, a moralist and I would be of the opinion that Trotsky was lacking in elementary political honesty were I to believe that he did this.

**Alexander Szostak,
New York**

Editorial Note: Shortly before his death, Lenin wrote a letter which among other things warned the Communist Party to beware of Stalin. This letter came to be known as "Lenin's Testament."

Eastman published this Testament without permission of the Left Opposition. The timing injured the struggle against the Stalin faction. Trotsky signed a document forced upon him by the majority of the Political Bureau, which while saying nothing about a letter did deny an "official" Testament existed.

Trotsky's final words on this question were written in 1940 when it was raised once more by a new crop of moralists:

"The new moralists quote, I heard, my terrible crime concerning Eastman and Lenin's Testament. What despicable hypocrites!"

"Eastman published the document on his own initiative in a moment when our faction decided to interrupt all public activity in order to avoid a premature split. Don't forget it was before the famous Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee and before the Chinese Revolution, even before the appearance of the Zinoview opposition. We were obliged to maneuver in order to win time."

"On the contrary, the Troika (Zinoview-Kamenev-Stalin) wished to utilize Eastman's publication in order to provoke a kind of opposition abortion. They presented an ultimatum: Either I must sign the declaration written by the Troika in my name or they will immediately open the fight on the matter."

"The Opposition center decided unanimously that this issue at this moment is absolutely unfavorable, that I must accept the ultimatum and sign my name under a declaration written by the Politburo.

"The transforming of this political necessity into an abstract moral question is only possible for petty-bourgeois fakers who are ready to proclaim: Great murkiness, flat judicial! (The world can perish, long live justice!) but who have a far more indulgent bookkeeping for their own daily procedures. And these people imagine that they are revolutionaries! Our old Mensheviks were real heroes in comparison with them." (In Defense of Marxism, pp. 159-160.)

The "moralist" Eastman, as is well known, turned renegade to socialism and during the Second World War ended up in the camp of Wall Street.

**Pass This Copy
Of THE MILITANT
To Your Neighbor**

Wall Street Dons Rosy Spectacles; Economic Outlook Remains Grim

By John G. Wright

The business world has suddenly recovered its optimism. After jittery months, Wall Street has staged an eight week rally that sent stocks zooming back to this year's highs, with the speculators obviously hoping to reach last year's record levels.

Truman's economic advisors, who have thus far been distinctly pessimistic, are reported to have revised their estimates of a 1947 "recession," seeing now rose petals where yesterday they were able to discern only sharpest thorns.

At all events, the stress from the official agencies in the last period has been almost exclusively on the brightest colors in the economic picture. Where before they sought to minimize the depth of an unavoidable economic "readjustment," the trend today is to deny that any such developments are in prospect.

The newspapers and business periodicals have by and large followed suit, playing up heavily all "record" statistics — record employment, record dollar volume of retail sales, "revival" of the slumping textile industry, and so on.

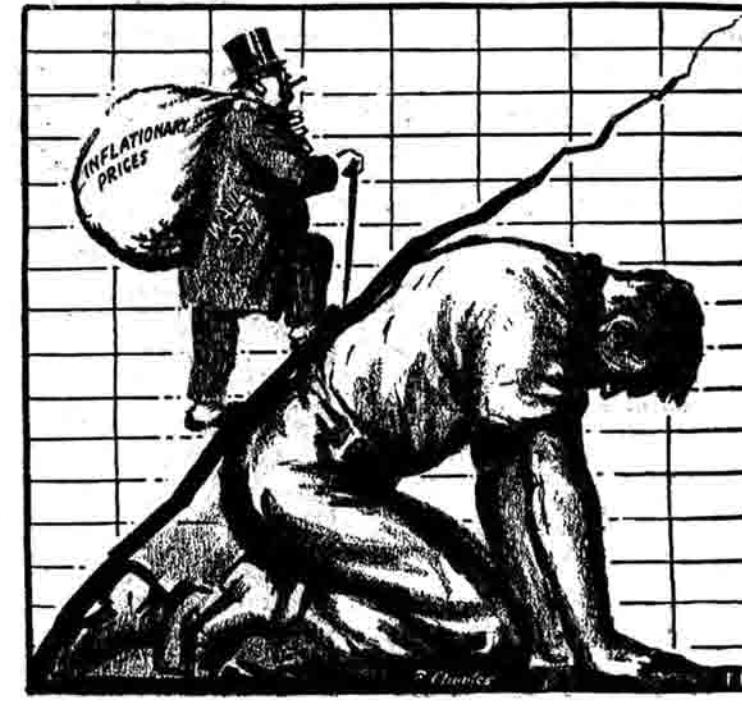
More and more capitalist experts are confidently predicting that instead of previously encouraged "readjustment," this country's economy will keep merrily rolling along at current levels.

Individual branches of industry, they concede, may slump, but this will take place without seriously affecting the over-all situation. It is as if these gentlemen were determined to prove that they are organically incapable of understanding the operations of their own system. They have learned nothing, they have forgotten nothing.

PREVIOUS MISCONCEPTIONS

For the most part the current optimism arises from the previous misconceptions of the capitalists and their forecasters as to what is actually happening. Capable of thinking only in mechanical terms, they expected a repetition of previous post-war developments. In 1920-21 the bottom fell out of the economy in the space of a few months. May 1920 marked the breaking point.

May 1947 has come and gone, and although a definite decline in production had set in by April, no



immediate disaster followed. Since their worst expectations had not been fulfilled, they then proceeded to jump to the other extreme. June and July have witnessed an upswing in the stock-market, and optimism now appears to be as unbridled as was yesterday's pessimism.

Analyzing the situation in June 1947 **Fourth International** we pointed out that there were no grounds whatever to expect a simple repetition of the 1920-21 experience. Furthermore, we pointed out that it was impossible to determine in advance "the exact rate of (the economy's) decline in the immediate period ahead."

In this connection, the subjective factors are decisive, and in particular the policy followed by the capitalist class who while powerless to halt or reverse the basic economic processes are nevertheless in a position, by manipulating all the governmental and economic levers which they control, to either retard or accelerate the decline.

On the surface it appears as if the capitalists and their government in Washington have very wisely done everything in their power to check the downward cycle, whose opening phases became apparent in April. But this is not at all the case.

The downward cycle of economic

life has been neither reversed nor halted. Production today is from six to eight points below the levels of the first quarter. The sagging soft-goods sector, especially textiles and shoes, far from recovering former levels is, at this stage, headed for further declines. The durable goods sector is tending to "soften" more and more.

The "record" employment figures for May and June have been arrived at by arbitrarily adding almost three million persons to seasonal jobs in agriculture, summer resort trade and other non-productive fields. In reality, factory employment has continued to drop in many industries. By autumn it will be impossible to cover up this "hidden unemployment" by means of such statistics.

MAIN OUTLETS

The main avenue of outlets for industrial surpluses has been inventory accumulation. The retailers have drastically cut down their buying. Meanwhile, the wholesalers have actually reduced their inventories. The reduction is slight, but it is nonetheless significant. Manufacturers' inventories continue to go on, but at greatly reduced rates. Inventory accumulation has been proceeding over-all at a rate of a billion a month; a suspension or retardation of this process in the months ahead must cause a further sag in production.

The next most important outlet for industry has been foreign trade. Here the capitalists are obviously prepared to "prime the pump" in the shape of credits to Europe under the Marshall Plan. This will undoubtedly serve to cushion the decline. But neither the scope nor the nature of these credits are clear as yet. Decision has been postponed at least until fall. Meanwhile foreign trade is beginning to taper off, while the condition of capitalist Europe, especially England, France and Italy, continues to grow more and more critical. It is by no means excluded that Wall Street's "aid" in this field may come too little and far too late.

DOMESTIC MARKET SAGS

The conditions are most adverse in the main outlet of U. S. industry — the internal market. Here it is necessary to create new purchasing power in order to absorb the colossal output of industry. The main channel for this new purchasing power under capitalism is the construction industry which remains deep in the doldrums.

Concurrently, the high prices instead of levelling off have tended to continue sharply upwards. On top of this, the removal of rent ceilings has still further slashed into the already low purchasing mass power.

With the new moods of optimism among the profiteers every pretext is again being utilized to hike prices. And if, as appears certain, the higher fuel prices (coal and oil) are accompanied by boosts in steel, another general upward price spurge must ensue.

For this new and necessarily short-lived spurt in the speculative boom, the direst consequences will follow for the masses. As for the economy as a whole, the higher the price spiral goes, all the harder will be the inescapable fall.

Far from brightening, the economic picture remains as grim as in April.

Los Angeles

Series of Lectures

Fridays, 8 p.m.

August 1—

"TAFT-HARTLEY BILL AND WHAT IT MEANS TO THE WORKERS"

by Steve Roberts

August 8—

"HAS THE DEPRESSION ALREADY BEGUN?"

by Myra Tanner Weiss

August 15—

"THE AMERICAN WORKER, A SURVEY OF THE WORKING-CLASS PARTIES IN THE U. S."

by Murry Weiss

1653 Longwood Ave.
(Near Venice Blvd., 2 blocks east of LaBrea)

THE MILITANT ARMY

Branches Report Plans On Annual Celebration



Advance reports show that plans are under way in many branches for the Annual Militant Anniversary Celebration. This nation-wide celebration to be held by all Socialist Workers Party branches during November is to raise funds for **The Militant**.

Milwaukee Branch is planning a dance with entertainment, possibly a buffet lunch, maybe a raffle. The comrades suggest that "perhaps the best Militant salsagirl of the year could be Queen of the **Militant** Ball."

The Twin Cities aren't able to make definite plans, but if Minneapolis and St. Paul have a joint affair, the tentative plan is a dinner or banquet followed by a movie and social evening.

Boston is planning an "Annual Militant Benefit Affair" in the headquarters.

San Diego's Annual Militant Celebration will be "probably a dance." The specific plans will be discussed at the next branch executive committee meeting.

San Francisco will hold a cabaret-style social at its headquarters. Barbara Jay explains: "We are planning a very good affair and I hope the rest of the branches are following up the same way."

The Los Angeles Local campaign brought in 39 new subscriptions to **The Militant** this week. Westside Branch, San Pedro, and Los Angeles proper account for ten subs each. Pauline Lodge of Westside

An Accordion and Life in General

By Theodore Kovalesky

There are a million irritating or painful things about being poor. Some are tragic, like not being able to give your kids the right kind of food or the kind of education that you'd like them to have; or like waiting and waiting until the last moment before calling a doctor.

But most things about our lives aren't tragic; our lives rise to a climax of tragedy only at intervals, and the time between them is a long gray plain of monotony and irritation, a long succession of little things that annoy and bother and worry.

It's no tragedy not to own an automobile. It could be one if you had to make an emergency run to the hospital, but in general it's just an annoyance. It means you can't save money by shopping at places where the prices are cheaper. It means that you can't escape the sultry Sunday afternoon heat of the steel town and ride out into the country.

An ice box doesn't bring tragedy to your house. It means that you can't store your food very long, that you can't keep it as cold as you could in a refrigerator, that you have to keep emptying the pan of water beneath it so it won't get all over the kitchen floor. But that's certainly no tragedy.

It would be nice to wear good clothing, to be dressed like the pictures in the magazines. We're not. We don't look anything like them; but we get along all right with our ready-made suits that we keep year after year until it's impossible to wear them on the streets any longer.

In times like these we don't go hungry. Day after day in the plant we eat sandwiches. We get sick of them; sometimes in the hot weather we throw them out or take them back home again untouched, but in general we eat them. There's no tragedy there.

The Negro Struggle

Jim Crow and "Melodrama"

By Albert Parker

A great many professional and amateur book reviewers jumped on Sinclair Lewis with both feet for his latest book, *Kingsblood Royal*. For the most part these people did not like the book because it spoke some plain truths about race prejudice and Jim Crow. For them such truths were "melodrama" and "sensationalism."

They particularly disliked the end of the book where the hero, shortly after discovering he had a remote Negro ancestor, is forced to defend his home, gun in hand, against a white supremacist mob trying to drive him from a "white neighborhood." "The end of the story is straight melodrama," said one reviewer. And another, an ecclesiastical scoundrel who is now whooping it up for peacetime conscription, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, condemned the book as "a threat to good race relationships in America" because "A man is not justified in stirring up our most evil social passions unless he has a better conclusion than the mob violence in his last chapter."

One of the truths Lewis has stated in this book is that the "Negro question" is filled with dynamite, with violence. Is that "melodramatic" or is it true? Every Negro in the country knows it is true. Where they cannot keep the Negro down by their laws and "customs," the white supremacists never hesitate to use force. Just two weeks ago *The Militant* printed a dispatch from Chicago telling how white mobs were attacking and stoning the homes of two Negro families because they dared to move into a "white neighborhood." Was that a case of melodrama too?

Lewis not only shows that there is violence di-

But here's the thing that made me think of all this: It's a little thing, something that doesn't really matter at all. I knew a man who went into a pawn shop one day about fifteen years ago and picked up an accordion for a few bucks. He was a friend of mine, and sometimes at his house I used to take the accordion and squeeze a couple of songs out of it. It wasn't hard to pick out melody.

Now, all my life, for some reason or other, I've wanted to own an accordion. It's fun to sit down and play some instrument when you've got a few minutes to spare. I like to think of Joe Hill sitting outside a bunkhouse playing an accordion while the workers sang "Pie in the Sky" or "Casey Jones, the Union Scab" or some of his other rebel songs. I don't know if Joe Hill ever had an accordion, but I like the picture.

Only, I'll never have an accordion. If there are a few dollars that don't have to go to the grocer or the butcher (both of them in the same chain store nowadays) or the landlord, then they have to be set aside, because the landlord or the store or the doctor or someone else will be wanting them sometime in the near future. And I don't NEED an accordion the way I need a house or a meal or a suit. So I won't get the damn thing, although I guess I'll always have a yen for one.

And isn't it the same with you? Isn't there something you've always had a desire for, that you know you'll never have?

That's one of the irritations of being poor, and it's an irritation that's always with you, like a nail in your shoe that digs in every step you take. I never heard of anybody dying from a nail in his shoe, but I never heard of anybody who liked it. And I won't die if I don't get an accordion, and you won't die if you don't get whatever it is that you feel that way about . . . but damn it, it does make you sore, doesn't it!

The Negro Struggle

Jim Crow and "Melodrama"

By Albert Parker

Striking members of the CIO United Office & Professional Workers outside the Brooklyn Trust Company defend themselves against the police who tried to break up a mass picket line. At right is Harvey Frankel, injured Union man.

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