

# PRICE INCREASES WIPE OUT WAGE GAINS

## Wall Street Muscles into Indonesia

### UN "Intervenes" After Dutch Seize Objectives

By John G. Wright

After 15 days of savage warfare during which the Dutch colonial despots, using the blitzkrieg technique of the Nazis, achieved virtually all of their military objectives, the Indonesian conflict was finally permitted to come up before the Security Council, the body ostensibly charged with "maintenance of international peace." By a vote of 8 to 0 with Britain, France and Belgium abstaining—a resolution was solemnly passed requesting both sides to "cease hostilities forthwith."

The Netherlands government, whose Ambassador Kleffens had argued vociferously that the Security Council had no jurisdiction whatever in this issue, "complied" by issuing a "cease fire" order. The Indonesian government followed suit, after a few feeble protests that the Dutch troops should at least have been ordered to withdraw from the territories they had so cruelly seized. All this has been hailed as a great contribution to the cause of peace and a notable victory for the United Nations.

In reality, only another sordid chapter has been added to the all-too-sordid record of this organization which serves as a facade for imperialist power politics.

The initiative for invoking the Charter was assumed by Australia. But this step was not taken from any altruistic motives. Australia's self-interests were involved. The waterfront unions of Australia had tied up all Dutch ships, in protest against their war of Dutch imperialism.

The Laborite government found itself compelled to submit to this mass pressure, and the Stevedoring Commission, which is a federal body, had announced that no further permits to service Dutch ships would be issued, thus bringing to a standstill a trade that is very important to Australian economy.

Seeking for a way out of this impasse, the authorities apparently decided that invoking the UN Charter offered the easiest solution, if

## Philadelphia SWP Files Petitions For Its Candidate

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 4.—Nomination papers for Irene LeCompte, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Councilman for the 7th District, were officially filed today. Close to 2,100 signatures, more than double the number legally required, were obtained to place the party candidate on the ballot in the fall municipal elections.

The signature campaign was completed after an intensive two-week drive. Members and friends of the SWP who participated in the petition campaign were greatly heartened by the warm response of Philadelphia workers to the idea of an independent workers' candidate. Worker after worker expressed himself as favoring creation of a labor party and cleaning out the swamp of corruption in City Hall, dominated for years by the Republican machine.

The signatures for the greater part were obtained in the working class sections of the district. This is the same district in which John K. Rice ran as an independent Negro candidate for Congress last year. Many who signed remembered the SWP's support of Rice.

Since Councilman District 7 is predominantly a working class district, a good response is expected in the elections for the SWP candidate.

Plans for the fall campaign are proceeding. Workers interested in securing campaign literature and information about the candidate and the SWP program, can obtain it at the headquarters of the Philadelphia Branch of the SWP, 1303 W. Girard Avenue.

## State Senate Petitions Submitted in New York

NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—Nominating petitions for Robert Williams, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Senator from the 23rd Senatorial District, will be submitted to the New York Board of Elections tomorrow. Over 4,600 signatures were secured for the Williams' petitions, or 1,600 more than required by the election law.

Final plans for the campaign, which will extend from Sept. to Nov., are being worked out now.

## Attlee Tries to Unload Crisis Burden on Masses

Last week Prime Minister Attlee demanded of the English people still another installment on the fearful price they have already paid to keep England going as a capitalist concern. Two years of unremitting privations and toil by the masses have raised English production and exports sharply above 1938 levels. But insolvent capitalism had in the meantime brought the country to the brink of a national disaster.

The weakest segment of English capitalist economy today is its fiscal system. The four billion dollar American loan was supposed to have kept it stabilized at least until 1949-50, but already it is almost gone. Once the remaining billion is exhausted, it will be necessary to dip into the carefully accumulated gold reserve of some two billion, which would unavoidably entail an open declaration of bankruptcy.

### STARVATION RATIONS

In the name of propping up this hopelessly insolvent fiscal system, Attlee now demands that for an indefinite period the English masses subsist on starvation rations. The projected slash of foodstuff imports—almost \$50,000,000 a month or more than half-a-billion a year—will depress living standards to depths unknown in England either in peace or war.

Attlee does not even promise stable rations, all he offers is the ominous prospect that "if rations have to be reduced," as they must—"then the Government will introduce a differential rationing scheme designed to give preference to heavy manual workers." Some will starve



ATTLEE

at a slower rate than others, and that is all!

Meanwhile, the workers must work longer hours and harder than ever—to raise production and exports still higher. Even the five-day week established in the "nationalized" coal industry will be scrapped. The workers must "not press at this time for increases in wages or changes of conditions," Attlee warned.

To crown it all, this creature, who was placed in power by the workers to defend their interests, goes on to tell them that they will hence forward be frozen to their jobs and shifted like cattle, as they were in wartime. For whom? For what? Attlee in his speech omitted all reference to any "socialist" measures. This was not his only omission.

Stirred over deliberately was the

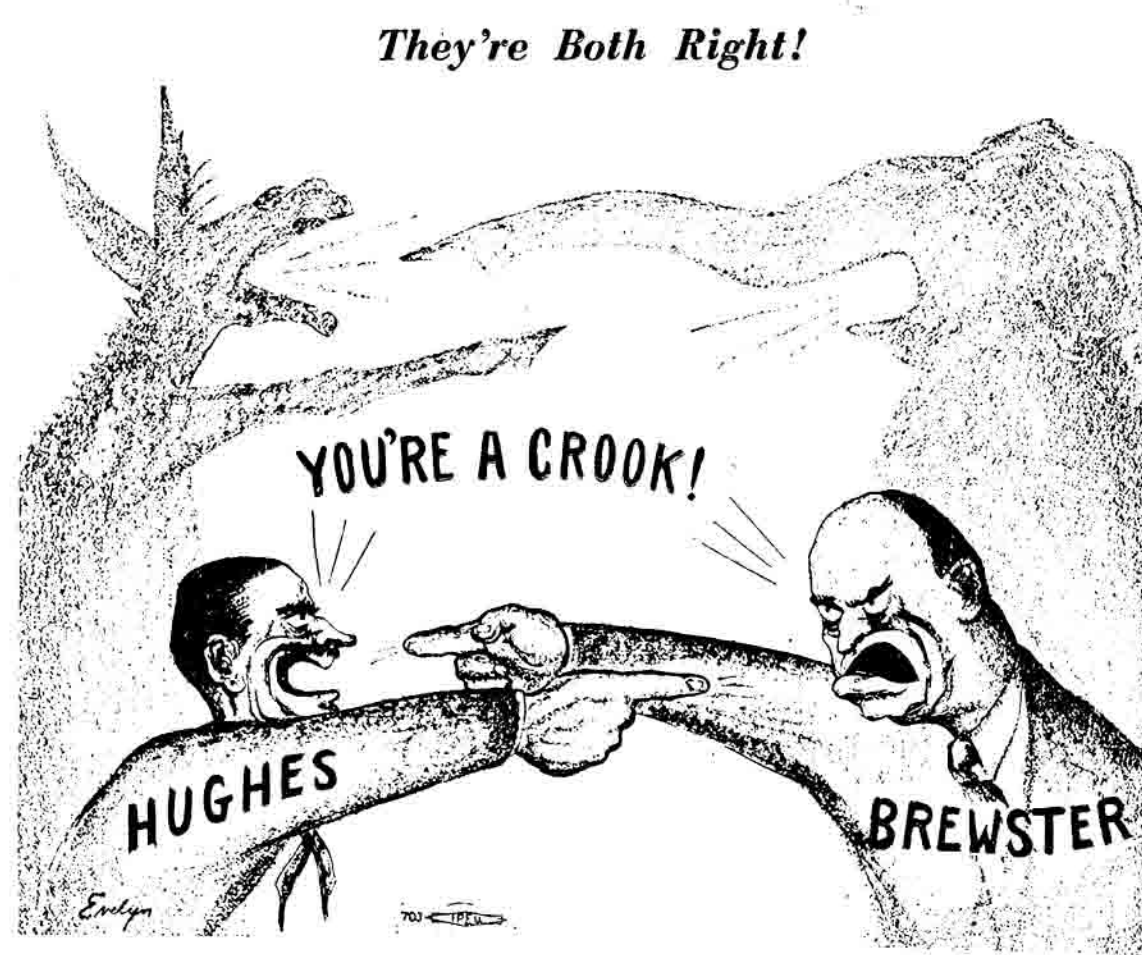
greatest single immediate drain on England's fiscal system—the monstrous burden of the imperialist military machine. More than 4 billion dollars annually are being spent to maintain the largest peacetime army, air force and navy in England's history.

Yet the cuts envisaged here are less than modest. From an army of almost 1,500,000, all that Attlee is willing to withdraw are "some 133,000" by the end of this year and not more than "200,000 by the end of next March." And this, in the face of an acute labor shortage!

The biggest drain of all on English economic life are the private owners of industry, who have not only kept the industrial equipment antiquated but who yearly drain off the lion's share of the national income. Bigger and better dividends have kept the London stock-market booming for seven years since 1940, a record to be envied even by Wall Street. When should these leeches be told to sacrifice if not in a case of a "national emergency"?

Why shouldn't they and their capitalist likewise be drafted just as labor has been? Or at least, why shouldn't a capital tax be imposed on them? Attlee did not even propose to keep down their profits. All he pleaded for was that "industry and commerce refrain from declaring high dividends." In plain words, don't display your huge profits too publicly!

Taking their cue from Churchill, the English capitalist press pretends to be critical of Attlee. The truth is: Attlee's policy was dictated by the capitalists, a policy no Tories would have even dared to propose.



They're Both Right!

## Strike Threat Forces Ford to Sign Temporary "No Penalty" Agreement

AUG. 6—Just nine hours before the strike deadline of 108,000 CIO auto workers, billionaire Henry Ford II today was forced to reverse his arrogant stand against any "no damage suits" agreement with the union.

The Ford Motor Company signed an interim agreement, which will extend from six up to 12 months, waiving all rights under the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law to sue the CIO United Automobile Workers or its officers and members for any alleged damages due to strikes.

### POLICY REVERSED

While Ford did not agree to make this a permanent feature of the contract, it was a clear-cut reversal of his previous refusal to yield in any way on the issue. This reversal was obviously dictated by the union's determination to go through with the strike voted by the UAW National Ford Council and approved by the international executive board.

Consideration of the union's demand for a permanent "no liability" clause will continue through a special four-man committee, with two members chosen by the union and two by the company. If the committee is unable to reach an agreement in three months, it will choose a fifth member and negotiate. If necessary, another three months. Then the question may be reopened for direct negotiation for another six months, provided both sides are agreeable.

## BLF&E PROGRESSIVES FIGHT ROBERTSON'S MACHINE-RULE

A sharp struggle is in progress at the crucial 35th Convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen & Enginemen, in session at San Francisco since July 14, between progressive forces of the Consolidation caucus and the machine of Dictator-President David Robertson, according to the report in the current Consolidator, organ of the Consolidation Committee of Enginemen.

Robertson has been "using foul play, bribery, terror and coercion unprecedented in the history of the American rail labor movement" to keep his machine in power, says the Consolidator.

The Consolidation Committee is a caucus fighting for democratic practices in the BLF&E and to achieve the merger of the dual BLF&E and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen (BLE).

So far the Robertson machine has been able to dominate the convention "by denying convention seats as well as the most elementary rights of Brotherhood membership to many leading rank and file delegates," the Consolidator says.

The progressives, early in the convention, were able to put through a resolution, against Robertson's opposition, to hear the cases of unseated delegates immediately instead of waiting to the end of the long

However, in return for this temporary protection from damage suits, the UAW negotiators, headed by UAW Vice President Richard T. Leonard, are reported to have agreed to continuation of the notorious "company security" clause. This permits the company to "discipline" by lay-offs and firing any local leader or member who engages in a so-called "wild-cat" or "unauthorized" strike.

### STRIKE STILL POSSIBLE

Although the immediate strike deadline was lifted by the union, Leonard stated that a strike is still possible because of the company's attempt to change the previously agreed-upon pension plan program. Ford, without knowledge or consent of the union, sent individual letters to all employees detailing the features of a pension plan with funds and benefits far below what the union plan called for.

The same day the Ford workers were forcing a breach in the Taft-Hartley Act, they and all American labor were being knifed in the back by David Dubinsky, president of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

In violation of AFL policy, Dubinsky sent a memorandum to 450 locals and joint boards of the ILGWU, advising them to continue signing "no-strike" contracts. Only a few weeks before, Dubinsky himself had been a member of the special AFL national committee on

fighting the Taft-Hartley Act which advised all AFL unions "that no-strike provisions be omitted from all future agreements, written or oral."

### SHARPENS WEAPON

The ILGWU head at the same time instructed the union's affiliates to be prepared to file certifications with the NLRB, under the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Law, that none of their officers are "communists." This is likewise compliance with one of the most odious and dangerous features of the Slave Labor Act. Dubinsky proposed this action in spite of general agreement among all unions, AFL and CIO, to have no dealings with the NLRB and to refuse to subject their officers to "loyalty oaths" or recognize the right of the government to dictate the conditions for holding office in unions.

Dubinsky explained his instruction on the "loyalty oath" by boasting he has "cleaned out the Communists" from his union. He has also helped sharpen a legal weapon of the employers to be used against all labor.

## U. S. Steel Hikes Prices Despite \$18-a-Ton Less Production Cost

Big Steel — sometimes called "Big Steel"—last week added jet propulsion to the zooming price spiral. Immediately following U. S. Steel's announcement of another price boost of \$5 a ton, General Motors hiked its auto prices another two to six per cent.

This is only the beginning, admits the Aug. 3 N. Y. Times. "Prospects are for similar upward pressure on prices in a wide range of industry, 40% of which uses steel as an essential raw material."

Irving S. Olds, U. S. Steel's top executive, claimed his corporation was forced "reluctantly" to lift prices because of "added costs," specifying primarily the meager steel wage increase of last spring.

### BARE-FACED LIE

This claim of "added costs" is a bare-faced lie made in the face of contrary evidence of U. S. Steel's own official semi-annual report. This report is subjected to a searching and revealing scrutiny by I. F. Stone, in the New York daily PM, July 31.

Instead of U. S. Steel production costs going up, Stone discloses, "the cost of producing a ton of steel this year was almost \$18 a ton LESS than last year."

Even according to U. S. Steel's own figures on costs and production, the total cost, including taxes, to produce 10,000,000 tons of steel in the first six months of this year was \$940 million as compared with

## Inflation Slices Real Incomes to Levels of 1939

Price rises since March and especially in recent weeks have wiped out most wage gains and slashed purchasing power of the majority of wage earners below the reduced post-war levels of 1946.

In terms of what workers can buy, average incomes today are no better than those of the pre-war depression year of 1939, according to the latest conservative findings of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

While money wages averaged \$48.46 weekly for all factory workers in May, 1947, after tax deductions and allowances for higher living costs, weekly wages of the average worker with no dependents equalled only \$26.49 in 1939 purchasing power. The average worker with wife and two children got an equivalent of \$29.99.

This miserable wage level has been still further reduced by a new spurt in prices since May. And the upward acceleration of prices now under way will cut real wages down to bare subsistence levels, and even below.

Wholesale prices two weeks ago, according to Labor Department figures, stood 21% above the same week a year ago. And the week ending Aug. 2 registered a spurt of 3.1 points on the index in seven days, following six successive weeks of rises.

The basic commodity price index on July 25, before the new inflationary impetus of the steel price rises, stood at the all-time peak of 306.3—206.3% higher than the Aug. 1939 index of 100. The Bureau of Labor Statistics had admitted that retail food prices on June 15 were 96.1% over 1939; clothing, 101.6%; and house furnishings, 78%.

Scandalous food price rises of the past three months, headed by meat, cannot be attributed to the farmers. Their share of the consumers' food dollar has fallen from 56c in March, to 54c in April and 52c in May. Food processors, packagers and distributors are cleaning up at the expense of both the workers and small farmers.

After the slim wage gains of the spring, which ranged from 5c to 15c an hour and did not compensate for previous price rises, the American workers are again squarely confronted with an outright cut in living standards and the prospect of

### 'Whopping' 84% Rise In Profits Reported

Profits of U. S. industrial corporations in the three months ending with June "showed a whopping 84% increase over the year ago level," gloats the Aug. 2 Wall Street Journal. "First half-year profits were the highest ever."

This is based on the reports of 131 leading companies in 15 major industries whose overall "earnings" were \$427,697,150 for three months. This does not include the usual hidden profits in fake depreciation funds, etc.

These gains ran from a "modest" 7% for food corporations to 449% for the auto corporations.

steadily worsening conditions.

Twice within two years the workers have pressed wide-spread wage drives, whose gains were promptly wiped out by price rises. Today, living standards are worse than a year ago and rapidly falling.

Why have the workers lost so much ground despite their great struggles and wage increases?

Because (1) on the economic plane, the big monopolies have been able to slice real wages by forcing up prices. The union leaders have nevertheless opposed a fight for the incorporation in all union contracts of an escalator clause. Today the workers must conduct a determined struggle for a sliding scale of wages, with an irreducible basic minimum, that would raise wages automatically with every rise in living costs.

Because (2) by their opposition to a labor party movement, the union leaders have upheld Wall Street's political monopoly. This has allowed the capitalist government in Washington to introduce measures to intensify the inflationary trend and expand corporation profits while keeping labor shackled.

The workers can destroy Wall Street's political monopoly by their struggle for labor political power in Washington. They can achieve this power only through their own party and the advancement of a labor political program to wipe out existing inflationary and anti-union legislation.

## U. S. Steel Hikes Prices Despite \$18-a-Ton Less Production Cost

hidden profits in the phony depreciation fund are added. Compare this with its annual profits figures during the war, which ranged from \$71 million in 1942 to \$58 million in 1945. Or its 12-month profits report for 1946 of \$60,700,000.

Think what the profits will be with the latest steel price hike.

No wonder the Aug. 3 N. Y. Times, after telling how "displaced" the steel trust was with "earnings" this last quarter, can report that "the final half of 1947 looms as a most productive and profitable one for the industry."

## Lynch Mob Set Free In North Carolina

Seven white men who tried to lynch a Negro prisoner last May at Jackson, N. C., were set free by a Grand Jury on Aug. 5, despite the fact that one of the lynch mob had confessed to the crime.

Godwin Bush, the intended victim who made a daring escape from the mob after they had taken him from prison, had been arrested on a phony "rape" charge. The case against him was so fraudulent that the Grand Jury which freed the would-be lynchers had to drop the charges against him.

North Carolina Governor Cherry issued a demagogic statement that he did not consider the lynch case closed, but no one expects anything to come of this. Even known lynchers can still get away with murder in the South.



# The Elemental Urge To Socialism

By J. R. Johnson

During the war a Negro company, on reaching a base in Texas, was addressed by the Colonel on democracy. "This war," said he, "is a war for democracy. In Texas the white people believe in segregation. So we must respect their laws and customs. And on the base Negroes must not go to the Post Exchange."

The Negroes came from all over the United States, New York, Mississippi, California, Florida. But one thing they had in common. They detested segregation.

"Colonel," said one of them. "This military base is not part of the state of Texas. It is under the jurisdiction of the federal government."

"We must respect the views of the Texas people," said the Colonel. "And boys, you know me. I like the Negroes. Let's have no trouble."

## UNCLE TOM SPEAKS

The men called a meeting. The first speaker was an Uncle Tom, a non-commissioned officer, stooge of the Colonel, a man in his forties. "Boys," said he. "Let us leave the white people alone and they will leave us alone. We can get on if we go our own way. I managed to get on. What we have to do is to avoid trouble."

There was a murmur of approbation and some applause. Then arose a young Negro from Mississippi, a firm believer in Christianity, by the way. His speech was taken down by a stenographer in the group, as was the speech of another young Negro who followed him. I have heard them in full. They will be printed some day and they will live, both for their social significance and their oratorical splendor. The reader must have patience therefore and satisfy himself with this second hand account:

If they allowed segregation in the United States Army, then for them the war was lost. Then close down the churches and the schools in the South for they would have no meaning. The United States Army was teaching them to be brave on the battlefield. They could not be brave on the battlefield and cowards here. If they had to die for democracy, then this was the best place to begin.

## WENT FOR THEIR RIFLES

By the time the speakers were finished, the men were ready. They went for their rifles and they marched on the Post Exchange. This, mind you, in a camp in Texas with thousands upon thousands of white soldiers.

The leaders who had started this agitation had not anticipated any such prompt and violent action. But they had the sense and the revolutionary responsibility to realize that inasmuch as they could not stop the men, they had to go with the men. The Colonel heard and came rushing to the Post Exchange to stop them. He was told to get out of the way—or else. The Colonel got out of the way.

The men went into the Exchange and began to break it up. The few Military Police sent for reinforcements and ringed the Exchange with machine-guns. The men from inside opened fire. But it did not last. A peace was patched up.

The Colonel came back to the men. "Now, boys," he said. "You have shown that you are opposed to segregation. I am proud of you. Suppose we leave things as they are."

But things could not stay as they were. Because the Negro soldiers were not going to let things stay as they were. There was unceasing conflict.

One day a man, living around the camp, complained that his daughter had been raped by a Negro soldier. He had been present and could recognize the man. The Colonel lined up the company, and the Colonel, the complainant and some M. P.s walked down the line. The old man stopped in front of a Negro soldier and said: "This is the one." The Colonel told the soldier to step out and ordered the M.P.s to arrest him. A Negro soldier stepped out of the line.

"Men," he shouted, "Are you going to allow them to take him away?"

We don't know what they will do to him." "No," shouted the company and broke ranks. The Colonel, the M.P.s and the Texan fled for their lives.

## FOUGHT JIM CROW

The situation became impossible. The men fought Jim Crow every inch of the way. Finally, a high-ranking general was sent down to interview them. Twenty-one men were chosen as a committee to talk to him. He asked them to forget that he was an officer and to talk to him as one soldier to another. He need not have made the gesture. He would have heard plain speaking in any case. One of the twenty-one stepped out of the line and told him this:

"You want to stop the trouble here? Then stop Jim Crow in the U. S. Army. As long as you don't stop it, this trouble will continue. You can take me out there now and put me before a firing squad. Before they shoot, I will tear the handkerchief off my eyes and tell you just what I am telling you now."

"Do all of you think like that?" "All of us. General, some of us are from the East, some from the Jim Crow South. We come from everywhere and we differ on everything except on this. On this we are united."

"What is it you Negroes really want?"

"Nothing, except to live like other people. To do exactly as other people do, that's all. We are sick and tired of being pushed around."

"You want that in the South also?"

"In the South, in the North, everywhere."

"O. K.," said the General. "The Jim Crow will stop. I like Negroes. My father had two hundred of them working on his place, and I always got on well with them."

"That may be so, General," interrupted another spokesman. "But you told us to speak as man to man, and the Negroes who worked on your father's place have nothing to do with this one way or another. We want the Jim Crow in the U. S. Army stopped."

## AUTHENTIC STORY

A few weeks afterwards, came the

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process; namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist beginnings. 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

order from the War Department abolishing all discrimination on Post Exchange throughout the U. S. Army. What other occasions contributed, how the order was carried out, is beyond us here. But the narrative above can be vouched for. It is the written experience of one of our comrades. I can supplement it with dozens of other stories from other camps and from other theaters of war.

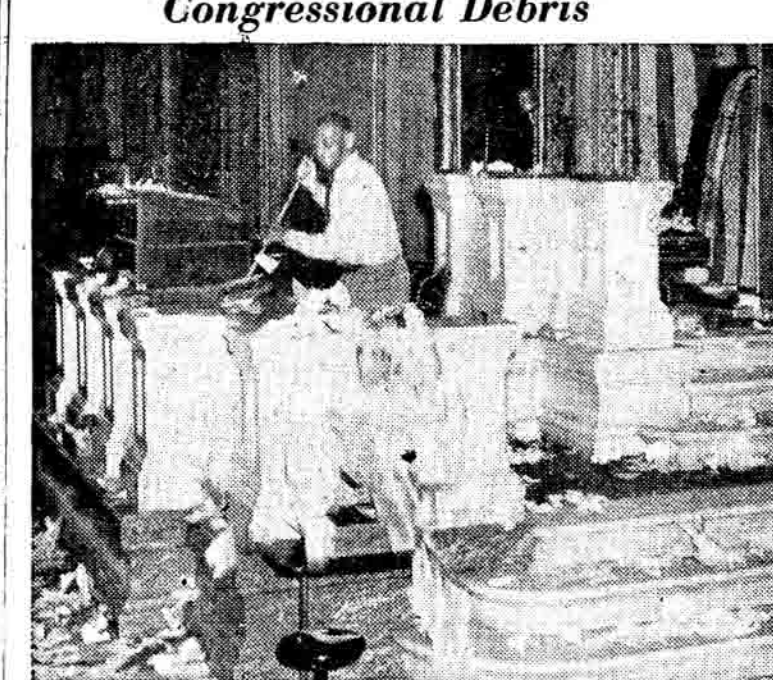
The Army had given the Negroes organization; and the sense of solidarity and arms in their hands drove them to prodigies of revolutionary action. They fought an unceasing civil war with the Army authorities and with Jim Crow-minded white soldiers.

The company in question was broken up. Man after man was transferred elsewhere. One of them, the Missouri Christian, was petty-bourgeois, of great intelligence, absolutely fearless and a fine speaker. The men respected him. His superiors feared him. I am told that many of the boldest agitators came from the deep South.

## REVOLUTIONARY MATERIAL

Somehow the revolutionary movement has to bridge the gap between ourselves and these men. Only a superficial view can see them merely as fighters for Negro rights. Once they see and understand, they will be among the most desperate fighters for revolutionary socialism that our generation will know. But to reach them, we must believe in them more than they believe in themselves. I have heard a Negro sharecropper say, without passion, almost casually: "If only the whites will join us, we could tear this country to pieces."

That is what the revolutionary passion of the Negro is waiting for, a force that means to tear this bloated, monstrous, tyrannical, inefficient imperialism to pieces and looks as if it can do it. The revolutionary road to the Negroes is not easy. Far more is required than mere knowledge of the Negro. It is not at all accidental that the men who saw most deeply into the Negro question in the United States were the greatest contemporary masters of scientific socialism, Lenin and Trotsky.



A porter cleaning up the rostrum of the House of Representatives after the adjournment of Congress. For the rest of the country, the scattered waste paper represents unfinished business on housing, prices and shadows of economic collapse and war.

Federated Picture

# Painters Union Gains Wage Rise in New York

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—The new administration in AFL Painters District Council 9, headed by Secretary-Treasurer Martin Rarback, chalked up its first victory by wresting an agreement from the Master Painters which includes a 15% wage increase and other gains.

In the elections a month ago Rarback and his group drove out the Weinstock regime after ten years of Stalinist misrule in the union.

The new agreement raises wages to \$80.50 a week from the former \$70 a week scale. Wages for scaffolding men are increased to \$91 a week. Overtime and shift-time, a sore point in dispute, is to be divided equally among men in the shops.

## FPC REVIVED

The Fair Practice Committee, a body composed equally of union and employer representatives, which settles questions of discrimination on the job, firing and related matters, will cease to be a dead letter and will meet at least once a month. The Weinstock administration had practically scuttled this committee, which had met only two or three times during the life of the last agreement.

The new agreement will terminate in one year as contrasted with the two and three-year agreements signed by the Stalinists in the past.

Although Weinstock had blustered after his defeat that the Rarback administration was through if it failed to win the 6 hour day and a 75 cents hourly wage increase, none of the leading Stalinists even dared to speak against the new agreement, let alone vote against it. In the entire District Council, which counts some 10,000 members, only twelve votes were cast against the agreement. Weinstock had received over 2,000 votes when he lost to Rarback in the last election.

The Stalinists had been so thoroughly discredited in the last few years that they were unable to make their customary demagogic speeches against the agreement. The Weinstock regime had bankrupted the union. It had permitted the industry to become non-union

## SUP to Fight for Union Hiring Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 5.—In defiance of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law the Sailors Union of the Pacific last night went on record to notify the west coast shipowners that they will reopen their contracts which expire Sept. 30. The members indicated that they will not tolerate any tampering with their closed shop agreement. With memories of the open shop days before 1934 still clear in their minds, they indicated their willingness to conduct a life and death struggle to maintain union control of the hiring hall, an issue none of the maritime unions can compromise over.

While preparing to carry on the fight against the repressive legislation, Harry Lundberg, SUP leader, has announced in advance his abandonment of political action. By doing this he continues to weaken the struggle against the anti-labor drive of Big Business, which accomplished on the political field what it was unable to do on the economic field.

Meanwhile the new administration is laying its plans for a large-scale organizing drive. As a first step in this direction it has re-established harmonious relations with other painters locals in the metropolitan area and has returned to membership on the New York Building Trades Council. These vital relationships had been criminally disrupted by the Stalinist Weinstock regime.

In Europe there is a vast army of more than 150,000 Displaced Persons. In 1946 there were more than 100,000 babies born and registered as illegitimate. 100,000 innocent children, born without passports to normal childhood, branded by bigotry for the "sins of their parents."

Justice Wise Polier, Justice of the Domestic Relations Court of New York, discusses this problem in a startling article in the August *Woman's Home Companion*.

In 39 states of this supposedly enlightened nation, hapless children born "out of wedlock" are branded on their birth-certificates. 24 states allow the stigma of illegitimacy to be lifted from a child only if the father acknowledges paternity, marries the mother and then legally adopts the child. In 24 states a legally born child may be declared illegitimate if his parents' marriage is annulled. In only eight states is a child given a simplified birth certificate stating

**Fight the Rent Hogs**  
The national CIO office sent out last week a letter to all CIO councils advising that tenants should organize to resist 15% rent increases and unjust evictions.

# We the People

By Marvel Scholl

The two most elemental urges of man are said to be the preservation of life and the desire to propagate. Yet around those elemental urges is hung an impenetrable curtain of superstition, bigotry and ignorance.

Three articles in the August issues of *Scope*, *Woman's Home Companion* and *Reader's Digest* dare to lift that curtain slightly. They are recommended reading.

In an article in *Readers Digest*, Harold Isaacs casts a balance sheet between the old and new methods of sex education.

The old method is knowledge garnered in whispered conferences behind the barn, "dirty words" treasured for their mysterious implications, misinformation which terrifies or "scientific jargon which no one understands."

The new method is simplified courses such as are now being included in the curriculum of the public schools in Los Angeles, Kansas City, Mo., Pittsburgh, and Newark Valley, N. Y., where sex education is included naturally in all related subjects.

It is impossible here to adequately summarize the article, but it is certainly a subject worthy of deep study by every intelligent parent.

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**GIs and "Prosperity"**  
GI trucking firms are being forced out of business faster than all other types of the little government-financed ex-soldier enterprises. As of May, there had been 1,412 bankruptcies, while 3,118 others were behind in payments.

## 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 strike-breaking!  
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!  
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Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

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# Henry Wallace Pulls a Fast One

By Art Preis

Henry Wallace devotes the major portion of the Aug. 4 issue of his *New Republic* magazine to an evaluation of the 80th Congress. His aim, as he indicates, is to demonstrate that the hope of progressives lies not in some new party but in "reform" of the old Democratic machine.

His fraudulent method of demonstrating this, however, affords a devastating commentary on Wallace himself. In fact, this self-styled "man of the people" deliberately tries to pull a fast one on the American workers and other progressive elements.

The big feature of the issue is a box score of the vote of every member of the House and Senate on ten selected issues. Then the "progressive" votes of the Democrats and Republicans are tabulated and totalled separately.

The results are included in a summary table of "Possible Vs. Actual Progressive Votes on Ten Major Issues." And what do you know? Wallace finds, according to his method, that 62% of all Democratic votes in the House on the ten selected issues were "progressive," while only 20% of the Republican votes could be so designated. In the Senate, the Democratic "progressive" vote was 60%; the Republican, 22%.

The conclusion which the reader is left to draw is that the Democratic Party is more progressive than the Republican—indeed, that

the Democrats are over 60% "progressive" while the Republicans are only about 20%.

## SLEIGHT OF HAND

This sleight-of-hand is performed by selecting ten measures and issues in which the votes of the Democrats on all the measures together would appear heavily weighted on the "progressive" side in contrast to the Republican votes.

The real test of this Congress—and the decisive test—came on two chief measures. However any member of Congress may have voted on other measures, their true position was unambiguously stated on these two key issues.

One was the Truman Doctrine of imperialist aggression, war preparation and aid to foreign capitalist dictatorships against "communism." This policy was embodied in the bill for U.S. financial and military support to the Greek monarchy and the Turkish military dictatorship. Wallace himself has built his recent reputation by denouncing this policy as imperialistic.

How progressive were the Democrats on this key issue? Out of 226 Democratic votes on this bill in the House and Senate, 203 were for the bill—a 90% reactionary vote. And many of the 10% of Democrats who voted against it did so not for progressive reasons, but as isolationists, like ultra-reactionary Senator O'Daniel of Texas. Yet this vote of many men like O'Daniel on this issue is recorded in the "progressive" column by Wallace.

## SECOND MAIN QUESTION

The other, and equally conclusive, test was the vote to override Tru-

man's last-minute veto of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Bill. Here again a majority of Congressional Democrats joined hands with the Republicans to enact the most savagely anti-labor law in American history. Out of 225 Democratic votes in Congress on this issue, 130 votes, or a 58% majority, were cast to shackle American labor and cripple its organizations.

Thus, on the two questions that counted above all others, the Democrats voted reactionary overwhelmingly.

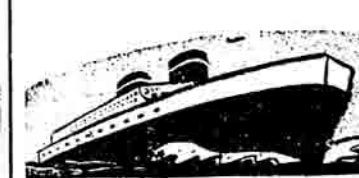
Wallace's box-score would have had a different result also if he had not excluded certain important issues and included others which he falsely labels "progressive."

He does not include the vote on the Portal-to-Portal Act, sponsored by the Truman administration, which denied millions of workers the right to collect back wages due them in portal-to-portal pay and which cut the heart out of the Wages and Hours Law. The overwhelming majority of Democrats voted for this bill to swindle American labor.

On the other hand, Wallace labels as progressive the vote for the "Voice of America" foreign radio broadcasts—one of the chief mediums for spreading U.S. imperialist propaganda throughout the world and for lining up forces for an eventual war against the Soviet Union.

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# SIX MONTHS OF INDO-CHINA'S WAR

According to a communiqué of the Viet Nam General Staff, reproduced in Bulletin 20 of the Viet Nam Republic Information Service in Paris, the Indo-Chinese forces in the last six months have inflicted the following casualties on the French colonial army: 16,605 dead, 13,947 wounded, and numerous prisoners.

As for war material, the French have lost 3,554 rifles, destroyed or captured, while the Indo-Chinese troops have lost 1,268.

The communiqué continues: "We have destroyed 1,027 machine guns and lost 256. We have destroyed 22 cannon and 45 mortars, as against 2 Viet Nam mortars lost. French bazookas destroyed or captured—18, as against 2 Viet Nam. French airplanes shot down or destroyed on the ground—33. French tanks destroyed—94. Trucks destroyed—487. French locomotives destroyed—7."

## EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

A glimpse into the conditions in Indo-China is provided by an eyewitness account from Hanoi by Walter Briggs, special correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor, Aug. 1. The country-side is covered by gutted villages. The French garrisons are hemmed within the cities while the rest of the country remains under the control of the insurgent and armed population. According to correspondent Briggs:

"Tens of thousands of peasants, led by a few score intellectuals, are fighting for independence from France. They have contained French troops in a few major cities, some scattered strongholds; have blown up convoys and waylaid patrols. They hold the great bulk of the country."

In reprisal the French have razed entire villages whose charred remains dot the countryside "like an archeologist's resurrection of the past. Another village with roofs gone, walls crumbled. Almost every village is scarred."

## DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE

The suburbs of Hanoi look "like a Chinese village after a Japanese wartime visit. Destruction everywhere. Down its half mile of main street (the reference here is to the suburb of Giam) we see no living thing. Not even a dog."

The cities themselves are depopulated. Hanoi is virtually deserted. "Two years ago Hanoi's population was about 200,000. Now drained by refugees from the fighting, it is about one-fifth that. A once-thriving French commercial community has dwindled to about 50."

The side streets remain barricaded amid the unclean wreckage of the fighting. The French authorities live in a constant state of alarm, being "not wholly unaware of the hatred in the eyes of the Viet Nam population. They realize the dan-

ger of guerrilla infiltration and live in expectation of incidents."

## TROOPS ARE BRUTAL

The troops conduct themselves brutally to civilians. Briggs reports seeing two soldiers topple over a ricksha carrying a Viet Name woman. As they walked off swearing at her, the weeping victim, fortunately unhurt, appealed to the American correspondent sitting in the car with an American flag. When Briggs advised her to appeal to the military policeman, directing traffic on the next corner, she shook her head. "Pas de justice," she said. "No justice."

The correspondent cites this as obviously expressing the universal cry of the Viet Name: "No justice here!"

# De Gaulle Propagandizes For Dictatorial State

PARIS, July 30.—The majority of the city government of Rennes refused to allow General de Gaulle to hold a public meeting in one of the town squares. De Gaulle therefore made his speech on a private lot in the Breton capital. This speech was aimed essentially at the French Communist Party (Stalinist). He declared that "national unity" was in danger "because of a group of men whose leaders place service to a foreign power above all else."

Seeking first of all to explain why he himself had placed Stalinist ministers in his government, he used against the Stalinists everything which has characterized their attitude concerning maneuvers, polemical and lying methods, and shifts dictated by purely opportunist motives. He then launched into a diatribe about the danger of the Red Army. It is no longer "the boches so many kilometers away from Paris" but "the Slav bloc" only "two days' bicycling distance" from the French frontier.

Naturally, de Gaulle was careful not to speak of the workers, of their demands which the Stalinist party betrays. He avoided mentioning strikes. He limited himself to speaking in contemptuous terms of the French state, presenting himself as the champion of the "strong state," to a capitalist class which was just going on vacation.

Political circles, especially the MRP and the Socialist Party, regard this demonstration by de Gaulle

## Berlin Worker Earns More By Sleeping than by Working

BERLIN, Germany, July 28.—Living conditions in Berlin are illustrated by a true story making the rounds here. According to the story, an employment bureau wanted to put one of the registered unemployed to work. The latter rejected the job offer, offering the following reason:

"I am not lazy, I am not ill, but I am also not stupid. I sleep every day till noon. Thus I dispense with breakfast. That means I can save a loaf of bread every week. This loaf I sell every Saturday on the black market. I receive for this loaf an average of twice the weekly wage I would make by working. Why should I work when I can earn twice as much by sleeping? Not to speak of the tax I would have to pay if I worked!"

The average wage in Berlin is 43 marks a week. Less taxes of all kinds, that leaves a net wage of 35 marks. Average bread rations per week amount to 2,800 grams. If one saves 1,000 grams of the bread ration, it can be sold on the black market for 60 marks. Black market operations are subject to penalty, of course, but are so widespread as to be normal, and the risk is therefore "fair." The calculations of the jobless man in the story are therefore flawless. His case merely epitomizes a state of affairs.

class-collaborationist policy.

The workers of France, who in relatively large numbers have recently come to understand that they can fight for themselves only in by-passing the Stalinist direction, must also by-pass the Stalinists in order to crush the nascent fascism of de Gaulle.

# Wall Street Muscles into Indonesia; UN Acts after Dutch Gain Objectives

(Continued from Page 1)

slaveholders against the Indonesian peoples.

Wall Street has long been waiting for a propitious moment to elbow aside the British who have been Holland's senior partners in the exploitation of the fabulous wealth of the East Indian Empire.

Wall Street had remained on the sidelines while the English, armed with American "lend-lease" equipment, reinstated the Dutch in Indonesia, after the native people had driven out the Japanese.

Wall Street had to sit by again while Britain served as "mediator," forcing the infamous Lingardjati agreement last October upon the young Indonesian Republic, and thus enabling the Dutch to consolidate at leisure their military forces for the eventual onslaught.

But when the Netherlands government once again called upon Britain to "intervene" a few days before the issue was finally brought up before the Security Council, Wall Street decided it was time to call a halt.

On July 31 Washington officially proffered Holland its "good services." This was a public proclamation that henceforth Washington would insist on the final say over "mediation" and the fate of Indonesia.

On the next day, the Security Council adopted the resolution, drafted jointly by the U. S. and Australia. It contains a carefully worded provision which opens wide the doors for America's new role in Indonesia, so painstakingly prepared in the meantime behind-the-scenes. This provision reads that both sides must "settle their disputes by arbitration or by other (read: Washington) peaceful means."

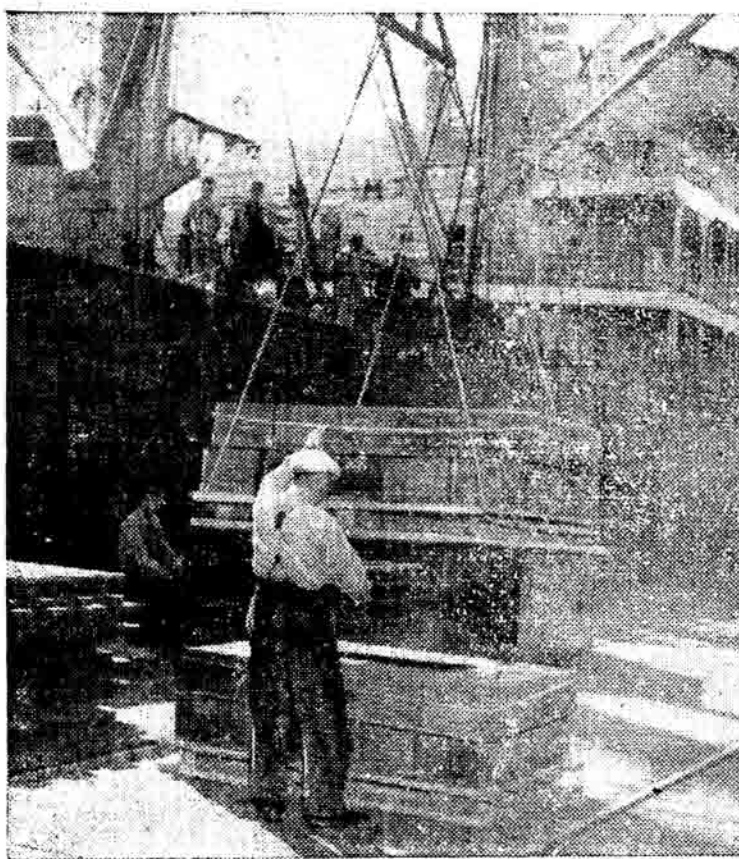
The Dutch quickly complied. An AP dispatch from Batavia, Aug. 3, notes with glee that Dr. Van Mook, Governor General of the Dutch East Indies, "emphasized that the Netherlands had accepted the good offices of the U. S. to bring about a settlement of the conflict."

The most official seal of all—the seal of the dollar—has been affixed to this bargain struck at the expense of the Indonesian peoples. On Aug. 5, the World Bank announced that it would release a loan of \$175,000,000 to the Dutch.

Newspapers hitherto "critical" of the Dutch suddenly changed their tune. Thus the N. Y. Times now coolly announces that far from seeking to establish their rule by bayonet, the Dutch appear "to have really kept their campaign within

# Pogroms Sweep Palestine Leap Over to England

## Wall Street Sends Arms for Chiang



The first 750-ton shipment of U.S. ammunition being sent free for use by Dictator Chiang Kai-shek's armies in the civil war which has brought misery and suffering to China's millions, is loaded aboard the SS Washington Mail.

Palestine last week witnessed a reign of terror against the civilian Jewish population that matched the goriest pogroms staged by the Nazis. Almost simultaneously, these anti-Semitic abominations leaped over to the "tight little island" itself, setting the stage for events that have not transpired in England since medieval times. The English Jews who were so confident that such things as happened in Germany could not possibly happen on enlightened English soil are now face to face with stark reality.

In Palestine the main assault took place in the all-Jewish city of Tel-Aviv, where according to UP and AP dispatches from Jerusalem, squads of British soldiers and police manned "approximately eight armored cars" and stormed the center of the city "firing wildly and sending shots into shops and movie houses."

Passengers on a crowded bus were caught in a cross-fire and suffered the brunt of the casualties. Passers-by were assaulted by armed troopers and policemen. Store windows were smashed and looted. There are reports of hand grenades being used in addition to clubs and guns. As a result of this pogrom in Tel-Aviv on July 31, five were killed, 18 wounded, with two women reported among the dead.

Jerusalem, Haifa and other cities witnessed similar scenes.

On the next day, the funeral procession accompanying the victims of the previous day's massacre served as an occasion for another brutal assault in Tel-Aviv. According to eye-witness reports, an armored car manned by British police drove headlong into the funeral procession of 5,000 approaching the synagogue. Three separate bursts of gunfire poured into the defenseless mass, wounding 33 Jews.

The British authorities have disclaimed responsibility for these outrages, depicting them as "spontaneous" reprisals for the hanging of two British sergeants by the Jewish terrorists of Irgun Zvai Leumi. These hangings were in their turn reprisals by the terrorists for the execution by the British of three Jewish youths implicated in organizing the Acre Prison break of May 4.

The denial of the authorities cannot be taken at their face value, any more than the original denials of both the police and the army that none of their men "were implicated in the affray which turned the streets into a veritable shooting gallery for several hours."

The method of "reprisals" deliberately inspired from above happens to be a favorite tactic of colonial "pacification." Far from being strangers to its use, the British have applied it on numerous occasions, in particular, during the 1836-39 uprisings of the Arabs in Palestine.

In any case, thinly veiled threats to employ this tactic had been made several times. Gen. Sir Allan Cunningham, British High Commissioner for Palestine, is reported to have told the head of the Jewish Agency that "the British had reached the end of their patience, and would not endure further insults, kicks, bullets and bombs 'without reprisals.'" This statement, made after the pogroms in Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa, hardly requires comment.

The fountainhead of the anti-Semitic outbreaks in England itself is quite clear. The incipient fascist formations there, headed by Mosley's scum, seized the opportunity to organize assaults upon the Jewish communities in London, Liverpool, Manchester and other cities. The most ominous note here is the apparent absence of popular resistance to the hoodlums.

A Jewish-owned factory was set ablaze in Liverpool. In Manchester thugs invaded the Jewish area, attacking passers-by, smashing store windows and inciting onlookers to loot. Synagogues in many cities, including London, were the targets for vandals who invariably raised the cry: "Down with the Jews!"

The extension to England of these fascist-like attacks on the Jews is not a passing episode. Jews in England provide as convenient a scapegoat for unbridled reaction as they did in Germany, as they will on the morrow in the United States as well. This is inherent in the decaying capitalist system, which breeds the most bestial reaction regardless of how "democratic" the traditions of a particular country may be. The English pogroms are merely the latest verification of this inexorable truth. Whoever tells the Jewish people otherwise is leading them blindfolded to the same horrible fate they have already suffered on the European continent.

The events in Palestine and England serve once again to underscore the utter futility of Zionism as a solution for the terrible plight of the Jews. The Militant has repeatedly warned that by its policies Zionism could not help but prepare a bloody trap in Palestine for the Jews who have been duped into believing they could find their salvation there.

The pogroms in Palestine, the anti-Semitic outbreaks in England, are an anticipation of what capitalism has in store for the Jews wherever they still survive.

## Latin American Notes

**COLOMBIA CP SPLITS:** A deep split took place in the Communist Party of Colombia during its recent national convention, according to a July 24 UP dispatch. One section, led by Gilberto Vieira, continues to call itself the Communist Party, while the other, led by Augusto Duran, constituted itself as the Communist Workers Party. After the split, each faction met separately.

It is hard, on the basis of the dispatch, to say what issues were involved in the split, but in view of the treacherous policies of the Stalinist Parties, it is reasonable to believe that there were deep political issues at play, even though they may not have taken clear-cut form at the present stage of development.

**CRISIS IN CUBAN CP:** A split has also taken place in the Stalinist ranks in Cuba, directed mainly and basically against the treacherous policies of what has come to be known as the Browderist leadership of the CP of Cuba, which is headed by Lazaro Pena. The split-off forces constituted themselves as the Socialist Revolutionary Movement and are now going through a process of political re-orientation, not only on national but also on international questions.

In this connection, it is worthwhile to mention that the Cuban Communist Party is one of the most corrupted Stalinist organizations in Latin America. It is so directly linked to the Cuban state apparatus that it applies even Moscow's new policy in relation to American imperialism in an extremely timid manner.

## Greek Monarchy Asks For U. S. Troops

The Greek government is asking Washington to send U.S. troops to Greece as "a symbolic force" and in order to "intimidate" the guerrilla fighters against the Greek dictatorship. D. A. Schmidt reports from Athens (N.Y. Times, Aug. 6).

In addition, the Greek Cabinet has cabled an urgent request for the speeding up of arms deliveries and an increase in their numbers.

A contributing factor in the split is the so-called national economy of Cuba. The first storm clouds of this crisis could be seen in the proposition made by some American capitalist interests, to establish a quota for Cuban sugar. What happens to the sugar market is of initial interest to Cuba for this is the main source of national income.

**UNREST IN BOLIVIA:** Other Latin American countries are also getting a sharp taste of the coming depression. Last week the press announced that the Bolivian government had given the Patino mining interests permission to lay off some 7,000 workers. And this is only the beginning.

Bolivia is also a one-product country; mining forms the main basis of its so-called national economy. The general conditions of the Bolivian working people are bad enough "normally," and everything indicates that they will become worse. There is deep unrest among the miners and also among the Indian peasants.

This situation is already giving the jitters to some representatives of American imperialism. One of them, Lynn Taylor, who just returned from Bolivia, was quoted by the July 30 Los Angeles Times as saying that "labor troubles in the mines have doubled and tripled during the past few years. Native Indian miners, led by agitators, are openly advocating the seizure of the mines and their operation by the miners."

The "agitators" Taylor refers to are mainly members of the Bolivian Section of the Fourth International, who as true representatives of the exploited masses are at the head of their daily struggles.

**SITUATION IN CHILE:** Chile is suffering from the elements of both an economic and a political crisis. President Gonzalez Videla admits it may soon be impossible to pay even the salaries of government employees. The Chilean Cabinet has been reconstituted in the form of a new "technical cabinet" composed almost exclusively of members of the Radical Party, but that solves nothing. Meanwhile, strikes are on the upsurge.

## Greek Tyrants Arrest More Trotskyists

ATHENS, July 23.—Numerous members of the Greek Trotskyist movement were among those arrested in the last wave of terror launched by the Maximos-Tsaladaris government, which has brought about the arrest of more than 16,000 people throughout Greece.

Thirteen Trotskyists have now been deported to the desert islands of the Aegean Sea. Three others, two of whom are girl students, will undergo trial on the charge of having been present at an "illegal meeting."

For several weeks now there has been no news of Comrade Stinas, one of the leaders of the Greek Trotskyist movement, and it is feared that he has been assassinated by members of the fascist "X" organization.

The Greek Trotskyists have issued a moving appeal to the militant workers in all countries to come to their material and moral aid.

The International Secretariat of the Fourth International is asking all sections to intensify their campaign against the regime of terror imposed on the Greek people and for the defense of the thousands of imprisoned and deported Greek militants. It is also asking for the collection of funds to help the embattled Greek Trotskyists.)

## TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETINGS

NEW YORK	FLINT
Speakers: GEORGE CLARKE <i>Organizer, N. Y. Local</i>	Hear the recorded speech of LEON TROTSKY
ROBERT WILLIAMS <i>RWP Candidate for State Senator in 23rd Senatorial District</i>	Also William F. Warde <i>RWP National Educational Director</i>
Chairman: C. THOMAS MILITANT CHORUS	"Socialism, the Only Hope for Humanity"
Wed., Aug. 27, 8 p. m. Beethoven Hall 5th St. & Third Ave.	Friday, August 15, 7 p. m. 215 East 9th St.

## Dutch Unionists Advocate Boycott On War Material

AMSTERDAM, July 24.—Immediately after the Dutch imperialist attack on the Indonesians, the Revolutionary Communist Party of Holland, Dutch section of the Fourth International, issued a manifesto entitled "The Enemy Is in Our Own Country," and calling for a total boycott by the workers of Holland and the world against any shipments by the imperialists to Indonesia.

The trade unions composing the Eenheids Vakcentrale, although under Stalinist influence, have taken up this slogan and ordered the boycott of every boat sailing for Indonesia.

The Dutch capitalists, however, with the complicity of the other capitalists, especially the Yankee, British, French and Belgian imperialists, will doubtless permit their ports to be used for the Dutch war effort.

For this reason, all stevedores and all seamen should follow the example of their Dutch brothers and boycott any imperialist shipments to Indonesia.

# American Stalinism and Anti-Stalinism

by JAMES P. CANNON

15c

PIONEER PUBLISHERS NEW YORK



What is the real employment situation? Truman's figures don't tell us the truth. But it is evident that unemployment is considerably worse than the government admits. And it is further evident that the jobless trend leaves no room for any optimism.



# 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.

## Her Eyes Opened By Indonesia War

**Editor:**  
I worked in a war plant during the war. I gave a considerable part of my wages to buy war bonds. I did this because I hate fascism and imperialism and wanted to help destroy them. I did not agree with your paper that my work and my money were being used to aid Big Business.

Well, now I have had my eyes opened, and so have many others. Part of the ammunition I helped to produce is now probably being used to kill innocent people in Indonesia who have the same ideas about fascism that I have. And part of the money I lent for war bonds may have been used by the government as a loan to the Dutch government to help finance them in this terrible war.

I also want to tell you that my husband, who is of Dutch descent and volunteered for the U.S. Army partly because he wanted to free the Dutch people from Nazi rule, feels exactly the same about this matter as I do. And I am sure that the majority of the Dutch people feel the same.

Houswife and Worker  
New York City

## Questions Analysis Of Economic Trend

**Editor:**  
In *The Militant*, May 24, John G. Wright, whose articles on the economic situation I found quite informative, analyzed the behavior of the stock-market and concluded that it must of necessity go down, "downward at an ever dizzier pace." Instead, as you know, the stocks actually rose to this year's highs. Wasn't this prediction therefore obviously wrong? And don't you think the readers of *The Militant* have an explanation coming to them?

J. V.  
Boston, Mass.

## Explanation Offered By John G. Wright

**Editor:**  
If I left any reader with a misconception that my comments on Wall Street's behavior in May were designed to forecast the concrete movement of stocks in the next few weeks, then I have no choice but to apologize for not having made my meaning more clear. It was—and is—further from my mind to forecast market fluctuations over any short-term period. This belongs to the field of crystal-gazing and not of scientific analysis.

My purpose is to determine future trends of the economy as a whole and in this particular instance I merely sought to depict these trends as they are reflected in the gyrations of the stock-market, which mirrors the movement of economy as a whole, even if in a highly distorted form. The article cited by J. V. analyzes the bearish moods prevalent in May and concludes with the following statement: "This will determine its (Wall Street's) general trend, amid minor fluctuations, in the next period, namely: downward, and at an ever dizzier pace."

Upward movements, sharp and moderate alike, in a declining mar-

ket are as common as temporary downswings in a bull market. Early this year there took place a rather pronounced upswing, yet even Wall Street's most optimistic prognosticators did not view this as a reversal of trend, which, since the sharp break in May, 1946, has been distinctly bearish, despite such fluctuations as the recent eight-week "bull market."

The latter development can hardly as yet be construed as a definitive reversal of this trend. This is especially interesting in view of the general consensus of authoritative opinion that the "recession" envisaged by the capitalists themselves will not take place this year. If that is so, then why doesn't the market, which is supposed to discount future trends, vigorously push up beyond the 1946 highs?

Moreover, with the hiking of steel prices we are now amid a general price rise. Yet the market is still extremely hesitant to reflect this upward movement of prices in terms of stock quotations.

The correct answer is, in my opinion, the lack of confidence of the capitalists themselves in their own system and their inability to decide just what course they should pursue. I have tried to show in my articles what are the deep-going economic reasons for this persistent pessimism. And since the economic trends are distinctly downward, I am still of the opinion that the most likely variant for Wall Street is still "downward, and at an ever dizzier pace."

For the reasons why I think, in the light of the latest developments, that the bear market will be ridden to the bottom, I refer J. V. to my article "Wall Street's Epic Tuesday" (*The Militant*, Aug. 4).

John G. Wright  
New York

## Appreciated Series By Ernest Germain

**Editor:**  
Let me offer my thanks for your excellent series on Germany, 1947 by Ernest Germain. I happen to have a certain interest in Germany because I spent some time on her soil as a soldier during the recent war. Ever since coming home, I have continued to read various reports about conditions there and I must confess that your series was the best, most graphic and revealing of all I have come across. I am glad to see that I am not alone in urging that the German people should not be punished for crimes committed by the German rulers (and rulers of other countries).

I also enjoy the articles by Joseph Hansen, James P. Cannon, Art Preis, Theodore Kovalevsky, William E. Bohannon and Grace Carlson.

S. G.  
Florida

## Pins All His Hopes On Henry Wallace

**Editor:**  
I would like you to discontinue sending me your paper. If we are to get anywhere, the workers have to unite, not fight each different clan. A man like Wallace is the best we can hope for at this stage of evolution.

David Noller  
Oakland, Calif.

## Don't Cast Your Vote For the Atomic Bomb

**Editor:**  
I want to say that any man who votes for the two old parties, the Democrats and Republicans, is voting for the atomic bomb.

The rulers who dropped the atomic bomb on two cities, killing innocent people, cannot be trusted. They will not spare the people who vote for them.

It's not Stalin they're after in the Soviet Union but what little is left the Russian people of the gains won in Lenin's and Trotsky's day.

L. B. Courts,  
Hamilton, Ohio

## Jobless Family Kicked From Pillar to Post

**Editor:**  
Enclosed is a clipping from the local press about the suffering of the Brink family, which attracted considerable attention here. The situation of this family of 11 people seems to me symbolic of the life of the poor under the capitalist system.

Here is a family which has been knocked from pillar to post. Five years ago they left their Oklahoma farm for a better life in California. Work on orchards and farm was found by Mr. Brink. With the end of the war, however, work became scarce and the family was forced to apply for county relief.

They were accepted and given \$278 per month. In addition, their application for admission into the Baseline Housing Project was accepted, and they moved there. The family managed to eke out a miserable existence even with the help of misfit county clothing.

Preparing for the coming depression, the Los Angeles County relief administration decided to adhere to the California law, which states that no person is eligible to receive relief unless he or she has been a self-supporting citizen for three years in California.

A month ago, the Brink family was given the alternative of returning to Oklahoma or having their relief cut down to \$126 per month. The family was cajoled and hounded by the press and the county relief authorities until they decided to go back to their farm land in Oklahoma.

They ran out of funds on the way. And when they got there, the supposed farm land turned out to be a mirage. It had been sold for lack of tax payment. The family applied for relief in Oklahoma and was turned down on the ground they were citizens of California! They then applied for aid from the Salvation Army.

Especially now, when a new depression is being prepared, the sufferings of the Brink family should be a warning for the labor movement. Unemployed workers should not be left to shift for themselves and become victims and weapons of the employers fighting against the employed workers.

The trade unions should form unemployed committees and meet in a general labor conference to fight for trade union wages for the unemployed, for opening the idle factories, and for reduction of weekly working hours without any reduction in weekly take-home pay.

Harry Thompson  
Florida

# THAT'S WHERE MY MONEY GOES

By Albert Parker

I began to study my pay check after I got home tonight, but I got demoralized when I tried to figure out how the family was going to get along on it next week. Seeking to get my mind off that question for a while, I started thinking about the amount of money cut off my pay by my loss in his secondary capacity as Uncle Sam's relentless tax collector. They had taken away \$420, not counting social security payments, or more than a dime out of every dollar I'd made.

What happened to that money? Who got it, and what was it used for, and did they need it more than I? At first I played with the idea of writing the U.S. Treasury and asking for an accounting. But having nothing else to do at the moment, I decided to do it myself. It might not be as accurate down to the last fraction of a cent as if it was prepared in Washington, but it would probably be a lot clearer, in a political sense.

So I took the daily newspaper, a pencil and a sheet of paper, and here is the list I drew up.

Something like one-third of the budget is being used to get ready for a new war. Of course, one-third of my \$420 wouldn't pay for more than a few bullets, but I prefer to think that this sum is broken up, perhaps in this way:

### SHIPPING ARMS

A dime is being used toward the cost of transporting \$35,000,000 worth of arms now on the way to Greece, with a lot more to follow. When those arms get there, they will be used to help the Greek monarchy shoot down the guerrillas in the North and to arrest the workers in the cities because they have the nerve to ask for some of the four freedoms.

A nickel will be used in Turkey to pay the carfare of a government official going down town to close up one of the opposition newspapers because it wrote something about the desirability of free elections.

Another nickel will go to pay the salary of the U.S. Military Governor in Germany who threatened to apply the death penalty to any German workers guilty of participating in demonstrations for something to eat.

A dime to help provide at reduced prices the liquor ration of the officers in the military mission in Brazil to promote the Truman "arms standardization plan," even though Congress has not yet authorized it.

A dime for the ribbon of the typewriter in MacArthur's office in Tokyo which will be used to prepare more anti-general strike decrees.

A nickel to contribute to the flying pay of an officer sent to China to train troops to uphold the regime of the butcher Chiang Kai-shek.

A dime for the new law "unifying" the armed forces which will result in even more red tape, duplication and waste in the Army, Navy and Air Forces than before.

Fifteen cents for the production and stockpiling of more atomic bombs.

A nickel toward the expenses of Nazi scientists brought over here to help in the development of bacteriological warfare.

A dime to cover the extra costs resulting from separate Jim Crow training and quarters for Negro troops.

Fifteen cents toward the cost of printing a new manual teaching troops how to take care of "riots" by striking workers.

A dime toward the pension of Colonel Kilian, commander of the Litchfield prison camp.

A nickel toward the production of Victory Medals for millions of soldiers, sailors and marines.

## Minneapolis SWP Holds Successful Outdoor Festival

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 3—Close to 150 members and friends of the Minneapolis Branch of the Socialist Workers Party gathered at the Tenth Annual Raspberry Festival held here last Sunday. A traditional summer event of the Minneapolis Branch, this year's festival was celebrated at a beautiful picnic site on the bluffs overlooking the Minnesota River.

Under the direction of the Social Committee, a full program of games and sports events was arranged for the picnicers. Baseball and volleyball games attracted the adults while the children enjoyed beanbag throwing, quoits and other playground games. Another feature of the festival, which was popular with the children of all ages, was the hot-dog, ice cream, pop and candy stand.

A picnic supper of potato and macaroni salads, sandwiches, raspberry sundaes and coffee was served to all late in the afternoon. Members of the Social Committee, which arranged the 1947 Raspberry Festival, were Ila Stone, Prentice Stone, Evelyn De Boer, Harry De Boer and Bill Curran.



And finally, to make up the \$140, or one-third of my tax deduction, a full 25 cents toward the propaganda being put out by the War Department to convince me and other American citizens that we need peacetime conscription.

### TO PAY FOR LAST WAR

That took care, partly, of the next war. But there is still the last war to be taken care of, and we will be paying on that one for decades to come. So:

Sixty cents toward the price of World War II. (This includes the production of large amounts of guns and planes and ammunition which are now being used by the Dutch and French imperialists to mow down Indonesian and Indo-Chinese fighters for independence.)

That brings the total to an even \$2 and leaves \$2.20 to be divided for expenses on the home front:

A dime each for printing the following pieces of Congressional legislation: Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Bill; the 15% Rent Increase Bill; the bill to end portal-to-portal pay and cut the guts out of the Wage-Hour Law; the bill endorsing the Truman Doctrine. (All of these bills were enacted into law.)

A nickel apiece toward printing bills on the following subjects: Low cost housing; a 65 cents minimum wage law; equal pay for women; abolition of the poll tax; a federal anti-lynching bill; outlawing of discrimination in industry; ending Jim Crow in the armed forces; authorization of an effective flood control program; adequate funds to promote education; admission of 400,000 displaced persons during the next four years. (None of these was passed.)

A dime toward paying the wages of the distinguished jurists on the U.S. Supreme Court who upheld Truman's strikebreaking injunction in the coal strike last winter.

A nickel to support the Department of Justice for whitewashing the election frauds in Kansas City.

A dime toward the 24 million dol-

lars needed for Truman's witch hunt to establish "thought control" among government employees.

A nickel for the FBI so that it can continue its failure to do anything resulting in the conviction of known lynchers in the South.

A dime to help pay the \$49,000 annual salary and expenses of Theodore Bilbo, even though as a result of mass protest he was never seated in the Senate.

A nickel to help provide free postage service enabling members of Congress to write their constituents and explain that killing price controls is not responsible for price increases.

A dime toward the persecution of the Communist Party and its front organizations—six cents for the House Un-American Committee and four cents for the federal courts.

A nickel toward financing the union-crippling activities of the new "labor czar" and National Labor Relations Board.

A dime toward the costs of electricity in the Senate when a filibuster is going on.

A nickel for the purchase of kerosene to be poured on "surplus" potatoes; a dime to per-ade farmers not to grow too much food.

Fifteen cents toward the financing of another presidential committee on economic affairs which will assure us not to worry because there isn't going to be another depression this year.

A nickel to help keep the nation's capitol running on a strictly Jim Crow basis.

That leaves exactly 25 cents out of my original \$420. And all of that, I like to think, is going to be used toward the payment of the life-long \$3,376 a year pension to be paid to ex-Representative Andrew J. May, who has just been sentenced to jail for accepting bribes in connection with war contracts when he was chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee.

These are thought-provoking things to ponder over on pay day. They should be equally thought-provoking on election day.



## Gratitude Shown for ACEWR Relief Items

NEW YORK, Aug. 4—The following letter, sent to the American Committee for European Workers Relief, is typical of the pathetic joy with which relief packages are received in Europe. Dear Friends:

I can't tell you about our joy when we received your two packages of clothing—and I send you and the committee the most heartfelt thanks. We can use everything very well since we have to start from scratch with everything since we have nothing left. There is a lot of talk here about "reconstruction" but we have been waiting for this for two years. After all, we have to eat up the soup the fascists cooked for us. You can buy absolutely nothing here.

NEEDS BABY CLOTHES

Our greatest worry these days were shoes for our little girl, and we were talking about how to get a pair of very sturdy ones for her.

It would be possible to make it from old laundry, but this unfortunately is non-existent. All we own for instance so far as bed linen is concerned is one set, and this is breaking down from constant washing and quick drying. So we are in a bad fix, out of which you can help us, perhaps.

As far as my health is concerned, I feel a little better and will soon get treatment in a sanatorium. Now I close with fraternal greetings.

J. B. Frankfort, Germany. The writer of this letter suffers from tuberculosis. The ACEWR has undertaken to send him regular food packages high in fat content to help him on his road to health.

In the name of this man, the ACEWR asks for contributions of baby clothing, oils, talcum powder, safety pins, vitamins, and most particularly, castile soap. Any such contributions may be sent to local chapter offices or direct to the national office at 130 W. 23rd St., New York 11, N. Y.

## LOS ANGELES Series of Lectures Fridays, 8 p. m.

August 15—  
"THE AMERICAN WORKER, A SURVEY OF THE WORKING-CLASS PARTIES IN THE U. S."  
by Murry Weiss  
1259 1/2 S. PLYMOUTH BLVD.  
(Near Pico Blvd., 3 blocks West of Crenshaw)

## WEST COAST VACATION SCHOOL September 6 through 14

Operated on a cooperative basis to provide friends of THE MILITANT a vacation at reasonable rates and an opportunity to study the problems of the labor movement.

Recreation, stimulation, in a unique and comradely atmosphere, with all modern facilities.

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Rates: \$25 for 9 days; \$4 a day for adults; \$15 for 9 days; \$2 a day for children under 15.

Includes board, lodging, classes, swimming pool and all camp equipment.

Write for reservations and information to:

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## THE MILITANT ARMY

## Seattle Nets 15 Subs First Week of Campaign

Seattle's campaign to get Militant subscriptions netted 15 subs during the first week. Irene Joyce reports for the branch that their "sub-getting luck was bad the second Sunday; only four subs were obtained." She says, however, that the comrades "hope to send more subs next week."

The San Pedro Branch of Los Angeles Local mailed in 9 subscriptions. Results of the week's sub-getting have not been received from the other branches in the Local as yet, but San Pedro's 9 will help boost the total.

The Boston comrades are following-up on all the expired Militant subs in their area, making sure that they get renewal subs from all those people who want to continue reading the paper. They sent in 9 renewal subs today. Rena Breshi reports that "some of the comrades who went out on renewals have asked the subscribers how they feel about the 15% rent boost. Most of the persons asked this question put up quite a protest against the new law."

The comrades in Connecticut State Branch are likewise concentrating on getting renewal subs from those subscribers who want to continue reading *The Militant* every week. Gene Abel, Literature Agent, says: "In our discussions with

readers whose subs have expired, we are getting a clearer picture of their reaction to *The Militant*, to the Socialist Workers Party program, and to socialist ideas."

"Just a few lines to state that I'm the new Militant Manager for the Milwaukee Branch in the coming term. I hope that I'll be able to function in as efficient a manner as Fred Martin has in the past." This note is from Carol Andrews. We welcome Milwaukee's new Militant Manager.

J. W. C., a Militant booster in Kewanee, Illinois, has set himself up as a one-man sub-getting team. He sent in four one-year subscriptions this week, which makes a total of 8 new readers who can thank this booster for introducing them to *The Militant*.

D. H. B., a Militant booster in Santa Monica, Calif., sent in a one-year sub for a friend in Baltimore.

W. T. Y., of Cincinnati, Ohio, renewed his subscription for one year, stating: "I like *The Militant* very much because it prints the truth. I could sell a number of papers if I had them."

The help of this friend in getting other workers to read *The Militant* is more than welcome. We urge all Militant readers to get their friends to subscribe to the paper.

## PIONEER NOTES

## A Vital Book on the Jewish Question

Pioneer Publishers announces the opening of a campaign to solicit funds from sympathizers for the publication of the book, *The Materialist Conception of the Jewish Problem* by A. Leon.

New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party has organized a committee to work on this fund-raising project and already over \$100 has been collected from friends and contacts who have expressed through their generous contributions their interest in seeing this important book published. SWP branches in Chicago, New Haven, San Francisco and Minneapolis have also begun contacting sympathizers for contributions.

It is Pioneer's aim to reach those friends and sympathizers of the Socialist Workers Party who would have a particular interest in this publication. A specially inscribed copy of the book will be given to everyone who contributes \$10 or more. Advance orders for the book, which will sell for \$2, will be taken during the course of the campaign.

### HEROIC FIGURE

The author, A. Leon, was one of the great heroic figures of world Trotskyism. National Secretary of the Belgian Trotskyist party and one of the leaders of the Fourth International in Europe during the dark years of the war, he never let up his work for a moment during the Nazi occupation of Belgium and France, tirelessly continuing the fight for international socialism in illegality and under the most dangerous circumstances. He was arrested by the Gestapo in Belgium in June 1944 and died a martyr's death in the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz—at the age of 26!

Leon's book, which has already been published in French but is unavailable in English, is a first-rank addition to the great literature of Marxism. Readers of *Fourth International* already acquainted with chapters from the book published in that magazine's issues of Oct. and Dec., 1946, and Mar., Apr. and June of this year, have commented with enthusiasm on Leon's brilliant analysis of the Jewish "enigma" and his historical explanation of the rise of the Zionist movement. The tragic events now taking place in Palestine, combined with the terrible plight of the European Jews, are leading to a crisis in the nationalist movement. Leon's book points the way to the solution of the Jewish problem.

In this country, Wall Street's all-out war against the American labor movement is bound to be accompanied by the growth of fascist tendencies and new waves of vicious anti-Semitism, which will impel more and more of the Jewish people here to look for a fundamental solution. This solution is presented in Leon's book in clear and comprehensive form—the solution of international socialism.

The American edition of the Leon book will include both a biographical introduction and a summation by his comrade and collaborator, Ernest Germain.

You can help make possible the publishing of this vitally important book by sending your contribution, no matter how small, to PIONEER PUBLISHERS, 116 University Place, New York 3, N.Y. A \$10 donation entitles you to a free inscribed copy.

**LYNN**  
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August 4-18  
149-A Franklin St.  
Aspirates:  
American Committee for  
European Workers Relief

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

AKRON.—Socialist Youth Club meets Fridays, 7 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing. 8 South Howard St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO.—777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.

NEW YORK.—116 University Pl., Tele. GR. 5-8149 for information. Class in Marxism, Wednesdays, 8 p. m. Fridays Open Forums, 8 p. m. Sundays Hikes, Beach Parties.

For information about Queens Youth Group, write Mr. Kevin, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3.

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

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List of Children and Age

Name of Applicant

(Please sign)

Address

City & Zone State

## 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 Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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

CHICAGO—777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Phone DEarborn 4767. Library, bookstore.

CLEVELAND—Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Pock'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., 316 1/2 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.

MILWAUKEE—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St., open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Phone MAin 7731. Library, bookstore.

Sunday Forums, 3:30 p.m.

NEW HAVEN—Labor School, 835 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sunday forums, 2nd and 4th of month, 8:30 p.m.

NEWARK—423 Springfield Ave. Phone BIdgLow 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. 110 St. Room 23. MO. 2-1866. Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

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

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



# The Gentlemen Aren't Kidding

By Evelyn Atwood

For two years atom bombs have been piling up every hour of the day and night. Nobody knows how many hundreds are already stacked away in secret hideouts. And nobody knows at what moment the Wall Street profit-manias are going to let loose with these bombs to blast out of existence big chunks of the planet inhabited by millions of human beings.

Nobody knows these things except that tiny Wall Street murder-clique, their top servants in Washington and their Big Brass. "Top secret," they cynically repeat to the millions of working men and women, after stealing the billions of dollars in taxes to pay for these bombs out of their shivering pay checks. It's done the same way in slaughter houses — they skin the hides off the cattle before chopping them up into beef.

But now, after two years of lullabies sung by Wall Street's propagandists to the effect that "war will be so horrible no nation will dare to go to war," the mask is beginning to slip. These Gentlemen of Finance aren't kidding! They are so serious that they don't care very much whether you know it or not. Wall Street is galloping toward World War III.

Maybe you once joked about the caves and mines that the rich would begin to inhabit in this Atomic Epoch. But the War Department wasn't joking in its

report issued August 4. "Army Seeks Caves, Mines, for Underground Plants," ran the headline over the statement by Secretary of War Royall. The War Department wasn't talking about plants to provide peacetime goods. It meant more and bigger factories where atomic and other explosives could be produced while millions of people above ground were perishing amid smoke and flame and poison gas.

In the War Department and Wall Street they are practical gentlemen, and they are proud to tell you so. As Royall points out, they've already got "retention in standby" of 60 "complete industrial plants, including pre-war installations, costing \$2,301,348,000." A worker with a \$25 weekly paycheck will be comforted to know that it will cost only another 25 million dollars a year to maintain these 60 plants. Then there are 71 additional government-controlled plants costing only \$1,394,000,000 which are for sale or lease with a proviso that the War Department may take them over on 120 days' notice in the event of an "emergency."

They've got all kinds of plans for this Big Time Underworld. "Embraced would be arsenals, proving grounds" and all kinds of special projects including, no doubt, a nice big dugout for the FBI to take care of the "troublesome" elements on the home front, like the masses of people opposed to war.

Yes, they are, practical men, these planners of the Underworld for Domsday. They've got everything of value protected in nice, safe caves — and that doesn't include you, your wife and babies. These are expendable. Let the literary hacks, the priests and the politicians lie about "peace" while capitalism remains. The War Department is telling you the truth: Wall Street "is facing the situation realistically."

## The Negro Struggle

### Political Uncle Tomfoolery

By Albert Parker

Most of the Negro press is as silent as a clam about the need for Negroes to support a new political party in this country. Like the top union leaders, they find themselves forced to condemn the records and activities of the Republican and Democratic Parties. But after doing that, they stop short and refuse to draw the logical conclusion that another party is needed to replace them in the seats of power.

It's like a doctor diagnosing a case and then refusing to tell his patient what kind of medicine he needs. The picture is no better among the few Negro editors willing to discuss the question of a new party, for almost all of them, being connected in one way or another with the two capitalist parties, are dead set against the creation of a new party to challenge the political monopoly of Wall Street's parties. Most of these editors even go to the lengths of telling the Negro people that the capitalist parties aren't so bad after all. That's like a doctor telling his patient to just keep on doing whatever it was that made him sick in the first place.

To prove that this is no exaggeration, we call attention to the front page editorial, entitled "Don't Be A Sucker," in the Aug. 2 issue of the *Detroit Tribune*. This editorial expresses the belief "that there is hope for the Negro citizen in America under its present parties. We believe that at no time has the future looked so bright and the picture more promising than it does at the present time."

Such rosy statements need some evidence to back them up, at any rate before a Negro audience. But all the *Tribune* editors can offer is this: "For the first time since Reconstruction, many

southern states are seeing Negro voters go to the polls en masse. Northern states are seeing a stream of appointments in strategic and well-paying positions of qualified Negroes such as never happened before.

"Yet, there are those impatient, wild-eyed individuals, who would tear down the whole foundation just because Rome cannot be built in a day. The salvation of the Negro race does not lie in deserting the present parties for a third. The way to progress, success, and victory lies not outside dominant ones but within them."

This is what we call whitewashing the Jim Crow parties with a vengeance. It is also an insult to the intelligence of the Negro people. If more Negroes are voting in the South today, it is no thanks to the Democratic Party which is using every dirty trick at its command to keep them disfranchised. And as for this so-called "stream of appointments" in the North, it certainly has escaped the notice of the great majority of the Negro people who are still at the bottom of the economic heap and the first to be hit in the coming depression.

Most insulting of all is the reminder that Rome wasn't built in a day. Of course it wasn't, but the Negro people's experience with the betrayals of the two capitalist parties hasn't lasted just a day, or a year, or a generation either. As a matter of cold fact, it has lasted 70 years now and there is nothing impatient about Negroes beginning to add up the score and to realize that their "Rome" isn't being built at all. Even now the Negro people aren't impatient; they are just fed up. And we suspect they will be just a little more fed up after reading the *Tribune's* kind of political Uncle Tomfoolery.

## Little Thieves and Big Thieves

By Art Preis

Reading the August 1 *Wall Street Journal* to get information on the state of the nation right from the horse's mouth, I was attracted to a leading front-page article entitled "Thriving Thieves."

Naturally supposing that this had to do perhaps with the Hughes-Kaiser investigation, price-gougers, rent-sharks or the profiteering element in general, I applied myself to the lengthy text.

I sagely nodded my head in agreement with the opening sentence, or come-on: "Thieves are thriving in these days of 'full employment.'"

But the *Journal's* indignation about thievery was not directed toward the crooks I had in mind. "Little thieves are stealing more. Big ones are too." But this distinction was between "the man caught lifting a dozen diapers in an Omaha Woolworth Store to the 'crackers' who tapped a private safe for \$100,000 in Pennsylvania."

Not a word about bankers, industrialists, landlords, merchants or government officials. It was all about the thieves who get pinched and put in jail—the peanut-snatchers whose total take is in the millions. Billionaire thieves are not the subject of surveys in the *Journal*.

All the *Journal's* moral fervor about thieves, I discovered, came from the sad fact that insurance companies which paid out 18 million dollars in 1945 on burglary and theft insurance policies, had to fork out 27 millions last year. And they complain the trend is still upward.

What is the cause of the rise in petty thievery that so arouses the ire of the *Journal*? A Wichita, Kansas, police captain supplies a hint: "During the war years a man could earn better pay than now and could easily satisfy himself, his

wife and children. Children, too, found employment easier. The increase in shoplifting by women and children is directly traceable to less spending money. More poverty, more petty stealing. So the problem is, what to do about poverty?"

I couldn't find anything in the *Journal* on that subject. Because a realistic approach to the problem of poverty takes us immediately to the question of the real big thieves — who form the *Journal's* paying clientele.

I speak of the 250 largest corporations who got 113 billion dollars of war contracts and tripled their net average profits. I refer to those 250 corporations that got most of the government-built war plants for a song, the shipping companies that were handed billions in new ships for the price of junk, the corporations that since the war have boosted their total profits to 17 billion dollars this year, or almost double even the best annual wartime total.

My indignation, unlike the *Journal's*, is directed to outfits like U. S. Steel, which has just raised steel prices another 15%, while its unit cost of production has declined, or General Motors, which has added another price boost for cars that have the 1941 insides, but some more chrome finish on the outside.

Morals seem to vary according to the class of the moralist. I can have only pity and sympathy for the poor woman who steals a pair of Woolworth stockings so her daughter can be well dressed in school. That's the kind of stealing that has the *Wall Street Journal* yelling, "Call out the FBI!" As for the thieves that get me boiling, the capitalist robbers, the *Journal* is disturbed only that their "profits outlook" is not as bright as hoped for.

## Notes from the News

**AMERICAN BENEVOLENCE:** For the first time in 50 years, syphilis has been reported among the natives of Greenland. Authorities state the disease was brought to Greenland by U. S. servicemen during the war.

**PAINTED IN BLOOD:** Alfaro Siqueiros, Mexican Stalinist, who admitted participation in the attempt to assassinate Leon Trotsky in May 1940, is preparing to have an exhibition of his art works at New York's Museum of Modern Art. As Victor Serge points out from Mexico City: "It will be interesting to see if he includes among them a portrait of Robert Sheldon Harte," Trotsky's American secretary who was murdered in the May 1940 attack.

**CONFUSION ON THE MARCH:** The American Socialist Party pleads with its Dutch comrades to oppose the Dutch war against the Indonesian Republic because this war will harm "the cause of democracy, peace and the success of the Marshall Plan."

**SMALL PERCENTAGE:** The Justice Department was given 400 war contract fraud cases, reports Secretary of War Royall. In only 71 of these cases were

indictments returned. No report is given on the number of corporations actually punished in these 71 cases.

**WHAT PRICE FREE SPEECH:** The Rev. J. A. Rabbin has been fired as pastor of the McRae (Georgia) Baptist Church, formerly attended by Herman Talmadge, because he spoke against Talmadge's "white supremacy" bill last February.

**THE UNFAITHFUL:** The Communist Party is whooping it up for Wallace to replace Truman in 1948. Yet in 1940 the Stalinists worked for the defeat of the Roosevelt-Wallace ticket, and in 1944 they voted for the Roosevelt-Truman ticket.

**NOT COUNTED:** Another Negro was lynched last week but the "official" lynching records won't show it because the unarmed victim, Versie Johnson, was shot to death in Mississippi by a sheriff and two deputies.

**NEW WDL SECRETARY:** Morris Milgram, secretary of the Workers Defense League for many years, has resigned and been replaced by Rowland Watts.

**PRODUCING MORE:** Man-hour productivity for the last quarter of 1946 rose from 5 to 10% above 1945, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

PAGE SIX

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1947

# HICKMAN CASE VICTIMS TELL TRAGIC STORY TO 'MILITANT'

By Robert L. Birchman

CHICAGO, Aug. 5.—In an interview with this reporter at the County Jail, James Hickman, 44 year old steel worker, related the background of the tragic events culminating in his arrest and possible indictment by the Grand Jury on a charge of murder. On July 16 he shot the landlord whom he held directly responsible for the death of his four youngest children in the disastrous tenement house fire at 1733 Washburne Ave. last Jan. 16.

Other parts of the picture were filled in by Mr. Hickman's wife, Anna, at their home in the Ashburne Veterans Housing Project. The Hickman family had toiled as day laborers near Tunica, Mississippi in the land of Bilbo and Rankin, and were unable to become even tenant farmers. In 1944, after being rejected for service in the Navy, Hickman came north and worked in the steel mills in Gary for 11 weeks. He returned to Tunica where he worked for another five months.

In June, 1945 he came to Chicago, seeking a job that would enable him to bring his family north, where he hoped the opportunities were available to provide them with a decent home and educational facilities. Seven months later the family arrived in Chicago.

Because of the housing shortage, and the restricted areas in which Negroes could live, they were forced to double up with a married daughter. After nine months of searching for a place they could call home, Hickman came into contact with David Coleman in August, 1946. Coleman promised him a four room flat on the second floor at 1733 Washburne Ave. The flat was not vacant at the time.

Hickman paid \$100 for two months rent in advance and was promised two rooms until the flat was available. Instead, he, his wife and seven children were forced to live in the attic room, 14 by 16 feet, with no water, no gas, no lights and only one small window. The rent for this cubby hole was \$6 a week.

The landlord promised to provide an oil stove for cooking and to furnish lights. He did not do so. Hickman had to buy his own stove and to use kerosene lamps for lights. He was promised he could have his \$100 deposit back any time he asked for it, if the second floor flat was not available by Sept. 18.

Then in January came the horrible fire in which four of the Hickman children, aged 3 to 14, were burned to death.

Testimony at the coroner's inquest indicated that the fire might have been deliberately started. It was shown that Coleman had tried to evict the tenants so he could get more rent by converting the flats. The coroner's jury denounced the owner of the tenements for the dangerous firetrap conditions existing there.

Mrs. Anna Hickman, a little woman with tears in her eyes, told me this story as we sat in the living room of their home. She said: "I have been in grief for my four children for the last six months, and always will be."

Mrs. Hickman was in the hospital for five days after the fire, as a result of the injuries she suffered when she jumped after being unable to any longer hold on to the brick wall to which she was clinging. She still suffers from those injuries. Her son, Willis, was in the hospital for ten days and still suffers from the injuries received when he jumped from the fourth floor.

Mr. Hickman told me of his love for his children, and how he constantly was seeking a suitable home. It wasn't a question of money. He and the boys were working. But restrictive covenants had intensified the housing shortage for Negroes to the point where the miserable attic cubby hole in the rat-infested firetrap tenement building was all they could find.

Coleman never returned the money as he had promised to do. Hickman, still suffering from grief at the loss of his children, contacted Coleman on July 16, seeking the return of his money. He told me that Coleman confessed to him that he had set fire to the building. Firmly believing him to be the murderer of his loved ones, he shot Coleman, and the latter died in the hospital four days later.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hickman asked me to express their thanks to all of their friends and people in the community who are working on the organization of the Hickman Defense Committee.

**THE QUESTION IS POSED**  
The question is now posed: "Will the State of Illinois add further to the grief of a family already overwhelmed with grief, by sending a fifth member of the family to his death?" The Hickman Defense Committee is determined to mobilize public opinion and support to see that this case is not decided on petty points of law. Full recognition must be given to the fullness of a father's love for his children, to the justifiable hate Hickman had for the man he considered responsible for the death of his children.

No one has been brought to trial for the death of the four Hickman children but he now has to face judgment because he shot the man he thought was guilty. We pose the question: "Who should stand before justice and be judged—Mr. Hickman, or the society responsible for the conditions that led to this tragedy?"

## Telephone Paper Says Labor Must Build Own Party

By S. Foster

MILWAUKEE, Aug. 3.—Telephone union leaders, recently rated as conservative, today give indications of rapid advancement in their political thinking. In a strongly worded editorial of WISCONSIN DIVISION 23—C. W. A. NEWS, they sound this warning:

"No legislation can stop the progress of labor. The enactment of anti-strike legislation will only mean the application of new methods that will have Mr. Employer begging for a good, decent, old-fashioned strike."

The editorial notes that "under the economic system prevailing in the United States, there has been an ever-constant conflict between two groups of people, capital and labor," and appraises the actions of both Democrats and Republicans as "attempts to outdo each other in serving the wishes of the Manufacturer's Association."

It then urges that "labor build its own political organizations free from control or association with capital."

"We await the final outcome of such a conflict," the editorial concludes, "for we know that as the struggle progresses, it will be ever clearer that if we are to enjoy the full fruits and beauties of this nation, it will be necessary to rebuild our economic system, from one that makes fortunes for the few while leaving the many in insecurity, into an economic order in which the resources and pleasures of our nation will be applied for the good of the people... all of the people."

## Unionists Picket Dutch Consulate In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 1.—Protest against the barbaric rape of Indonesia by Dutch imperialism was registered yesterday by a picket line of Indonesians and trade unionists. Invading the heart of San Francisco's financial district at noon, the pickets marched before the Mills Tower Building in which the Dutch Consulate has its offices.

Called under the auspices of the American Committee for Indonesian Independence, over 250 pickets responded. Represented on the line were members of the National Maritime Union, the Marine Cooks and Stewards, Longshoremen, Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party.

With the red and white flag of Indonesian Independence at the head of the line, a large delegation of Indonesians formed the main body of the pickets. Placards carried charges of murder and brutality against Dutch imperialism. Another stated: "Nazis ravaged Holland in 1940—Dutch ravage Java in 1947." Leaflets handed out called for the boycott of all Dutch ships carrying ammunition and weapons of war.

When the picket line was at its height, a delegation of Indonesians and trade unionists went up to the Dutch Consul's office to lodge their protests.

The Socialist Workers Party in supporting the picket line put out a statement calling for the return of all U. S. arms lend-leased to the Dutch, a boycott of all shipments to Dutch imperialism and full aid to the struggle for Indonesian independence.

## Fewer New Homes In 157 Key U. S. Cities

Almost 40% fewer new homes were started this spring than last, sharpening the already acute housing crisis, according to a recent AP housing survey of 157 of the nation's largest cities. The number of families evicted amounted to more than 13 times the total of new dwellings erected.

While the need for new housing has been estimated as high as 10 million units, only 37,514 new homes and apartments were started in these cities in the first quarter of 1947. This compares with 61,795 new units under construction in the same period last year. The average construction cost — which is going up — is already up 23%.

# THE MILITANT

## Survivors of Mine Tragedy



These three escaped with their lives from the mine disaster at West Frankfort, Ill., July 24, two months after a United Mine Workers local safety committee charged the company with not making an effort to eliminate hazards which caused the explosion that killed 27 mine workers. Left to right: Frank Casper, Tom Kirby and Charles Smith. Federated Picture

## Angry Tenants Demand Philadelphia Rent Control

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 4.—Rent-gouging landlords here are squeezing tenants for all the traffic can bear. The Office of Rent Control reports over 3,000 evictions threatening tenants within the next 30 days. And these are only the beginning, as the city's landlords prepare to take full advantage of the new federal rent laws.

The Republican city administration, up for reelection in the fall, has been forced to put up a show of concern about the menace hanging over the 380,000 families who rent their homes.

The administration has proposed a law called the Maxman Ordinance. Played up in the press as a rent-control law, it actually will neither prevent rent increases nor stop evictions.

The facts were brought out clearly at a five-hour public hearing on rent control held last Wednesday by a City Council committee headed by Councilman Maxman. The inadequate hearing room was jam-packed with representatives from all walks of life. Tenants' representatives, including women with children in their arms, told pitiful tales of profiteering landlords and eviction threats.

On the whole the hearing was a field day for the landlords, the Real Estate Board, the local Chamber of Commerce, and the large commercial hotels. They took up the greater part of the hearing, attacking even the inadequate Maxman ordinance as communist legislation to shackle free enterprise, and defending the "divine right" of landlords to evict their tenants. Labor and tenant representatives were squeezed in between the long speeches of the defenders of rent-gougers and evictions.

The spokesman for the Philadelphia Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, Max Goldman, although one of the first registered on the speakers' list, was the last called to speak. While landlords and their lawyers had had unlimited time, Goldman was given only three minutes to present the SWP rent control program.

"The Maxman ordinance falls entirely short of its avowed purpose—rent control," Goldman declared. "It fails to protect tenants from rent increases, will not prevent evictions. All talk about the 'unconstitutionality' of a law with real teeth to protect tenants from rent increases and evictions, is an evasion of responsibility. It is up to the City Council to draw up and pass an ordinance to meet the emergency."

"The 8,000 families facing eviction in the next 30 days, and the 380,000 renter families already harassed by the soaring cost of living, are not interested in a lawyer's argument over the legality of a rent control act. They must have immediate relief from the pressure of unscrupulous landlord. They must have assurance against rent increases and evictions."

Goldman concluded by expressing the SWP's support of the program presented earlier by Herbert C. Moyer, Secretary of the Philadelphia CIO Industrial Union Council: "All rents to be frozen as of June 30, 1947; a moratorium on evictions; prosecution of all landlords violating an ordinance incorporating the above measures."

An encouraging feature of the

## New Jersey Cops Uphold Jim Crow

Race-hating policemen of Fort Lee and Cliffside Park, N. J., vied with each other last week in making the most arrests to carry out the Jim Crow policy of the Palisades Amusement Park, which bars Negroes from the park's swimming pool. Men and women were brutally beaten for protesting the discrimination. Eleven, all white, were thrown behind bars; seven in Cliffside Park and held on \$100 bail, four into the Fort Lee jail and held on \$10 bail.

This is the second week of police

violence to enforce Jim Crow in the park. Last week Samuel Scott, member of the Committee of Racial Equality, was blackjacked and thrown aboard a bus bound for N. Y. Ferry for participating in a similar protest action. He was jailed and held in \$100 bail. This week he returned with 40 members of his and the Modern Trend organizations to solicit support in a boycott of the park.

A suit for violation of the New Jersey Civil Rights Law was filed against the park several weeks ago by the inter-racial group.

## Anti-Jim Crow Demonstrations Have Strong Effect at Rockaway

ROCKAWAY BEACH, N. Y., Aug. 3.—Shouting "Down with Jim Crow," approximately 75 pickets, both Negro and white, today marched in their second successive weekend picket line before the notorious Park Inn Bathhouse, located on the boardwalk at 115th Street, Rockaway Beach.

Aroused by the management's discriminatory refusal to sell Negroes tickets to the public bathhouse, members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People organized the picket line, which has trade union backing and the support of the American Jewish Congress, the Catholic Worker, the Siloam Presbyterian Church, the Committee on Racial Equality, and other organizations.

The pickets assemble each Saturday and Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, with banners and literature. The crowds also begin assembling on the boardwalk then, to watch, generally to encourage, and occasionally to join the pickets.

**SOME SNEAK IN**  
The Park Inn Bathhouse is the "fanciest" on the boardwalk, usually catering to thousands of bathers on a normal day. The persistent pickets have cut down its take to a mere few hundreds. Even those who go in, sneak past the picket line in a shamefaced manner, ducking their heads to try to ward off the cry: "Shame! Shame!"

On the other hand, when people walk up to the ticket window before

an arrest! We demand an arrest!" The policeman in charge asked the Negro captain if he wanted the manager arrested. "I certainly do," was the answer. "On what charge?" he was asked, and replied: "On the charge of discriminating against my color and against the uniform of the U. S. Army."

At this point some bright boy in the management's menage woke up to the seriousness of the charge, and the Negro was allowed to enter "as the guest of the management." However, two Negro civilians who subsequently tried to buy tickets were refused.

**ASKING \$500 DAMAGES**  
Three Negroes have started civil proceedings against the Park Inn Bathhouse management, as being personally aggrieved, and are asking \$500 damages. A criminal court proceeding has also been begun, on charge that the management has violated the New York State Penal Code. In addition, pressure is being brought on the State Commissioner of Licenses, to revoke the license of the Jim Crow management of the Park Inn Bathhouse.

In the meantime, the picketing continues unabated, each weekend, during the "busy" hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Co-ordinating Committee for Social Action has invited all opponents of Jim Crow to join the protest action next Saturday or Sunday morning.