

## Troops Will Aid Dictators In Greece, U. S. Threatens

— See Page 6 —

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# SWP Plays Truman Indonesian Policy

## State Dept. Undertakes Defense Of U.S. Aid to Dutch Imperialists

### Cannon Hits Evasions By Asst. Secretary Of State, Armour

NEW YORK, Aug. 13—James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, today released to the press his reply to Norman Armour, Assistant Secretary of State, who in a letter to the SWP had undertaken an official defense of the Truman administration's refusal to recall lend-lease equipment used by the Dutch imperialists in their total war against the Indonesian Republic.

Armour's letter of Aug. 6 was in answer to a protest, addressed to President Truman, that denounced U. S. aid to the Dutch rulers.

In his letter, Armour officially acknowledges that the Dutch have actually used lend-lease material against the Indonesians and furthermore that the lend-lease agreement does provide for recapture of such material by the U. S.

In view of these admissions, Cannon in his reply (see text below) emphatically repeats the demand that the Truman administration exercise its right of lend-lease re-

### TEXT OF PROTEST MADE BY SWP

July 24, 1947

President Harry S. Truman  
White House  
Washington, D. C.

According to official Dutch Army communiques as reported on July 22 from Batavia, Java, by the Associated Press, American munitions and planes—P-51 Mustangs and Mitchell reconnaissance planes as well as other fighter and bomber types—together with other U. S. military equipment are being employed to shoot down the Indonesian people who are fighting for their independence.

All this materiel was originally supplied to the Dutch government in the name of defending democracy against fascism. The Socialist Workers Party vigorously protests the use of this same materiel and equipment for the purposes of colonial enslavement.

We request that you, Mr. President, publicly demand of the Dutch authorities that they cease and desist from diverting American munitions, guns and planes to such evil ends against the Indonesian Republic; and further that you demand the immediate return of all this "lend-lease" materiel.

James P. Cannon  
National Secretary  
Socialist Workers Party

### TEXT OF REPLY BY STATE DEPT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 6, 1947

Mr. James P. Cannon, National Secretary,  
Socialist Workers Party,  
116 University Place,  
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Cannon:

I have received by reference from the White House your telegram of July 24, 1947, addressed to the President, in which you protest the use of American planes and other American military equipment by the Netherlands forces in Indonesia and request the President to demand the immediate return of this lend-lease materiel.

Your assumption that this materiel was originally supplied to the Dutch to assist in the prosecution of the war is correct. It is equally true that the Lend-Lease Settlement Agreement between the United States and the Netherlands Government reserves the right to each government to recapture any arms, ammunition and implements of war supplied under lend-lease. However, the agreement also contains a provision to the effect that each government has indicated that it does not intend to exercise generally its right of recapture of such articles.

The attitude of the U. S. Government to the situation in Indonesia is and has been to render all proper assistance both to the Republic of Indonesia and the Netherlands Government to reach a settlement of the points at issue between them on the basis of the Linggadjati Agreement which was signed on March 25, 1947. This Government has on several occasions urged both sides to reach a negotiated settlement in a spirit of good faith and compromise, and on July 21, 1947 publicly expressed profound regret that negotiation had been discarded as the means of achieving the voluntary association between the Netherlands and Indonesian peoples contemplated by the Linggadjati Agreement.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the Netherlands-Indonesian matter has been brought to the attention of the Security Council by the Governments of Australia and India, and the Council has called on both parties to cease hostilities and settle their disputes by arbitration or other peaceful means. Also, the United States Government has offered its good offices with a view to assisting the Indonesians and the Netherlands Government to compose their differences. This offer is in line with this Government's firmly announced policy of promoting a peaceful and equitable solution of the problem on the basis of a voluntary agreement between both parties, and with the action of the Security Council.

Sincerely yours,  
For the Secretary of State:  
(Signed) NORMAN ARMOUR  
Assistant Secretary

## Detroit SWP Runs Lerner For Mayor

DETROIT, Aug. 13—Howard Lerner, chairman of the Detroit Socialist Workers Party, yesterday filed as mayoralty candidate in the coming municipal election. Lerner was formerly a member of the UAW Ford Local 600 Executive Board, a chief steward in UAW Local 208 and a delegate to the Wayne County CIO Council.

In a statement to the press, the SWP candidate declared that if the labor movement had fulfilled its obligation to run a labor slate, he and his party would not now be in the field. If labor would yet run an active unionist for Mayor, Lerner said he would gladly withdraw his candidacy.

"Above all," he stated, "recent history shows that those who are not from labor's ranks cannot be relied on to fight seriously against squalid housing conditions, rising prices, racial discrimination and anti-labor legislation."

"The need of the hour is independent political action by labor. The greatest stress of our campaign will be on the need for an independent labor party."

### HITS THE NEEDY

Lerner struck sharply at taxation which hits the needy but not the greedy. The new three cents per pack cigarette tax and the three cents on the dollar food tax were singled out as the kind of taxes the SWP fights to repeal. "Place the burden where it belongs—on the rich," he said.

Action on the acute housing crisis is also required from the city administration. The shortage of homes, forcing 40% of the veterans to double up, is the direct responsibility of the real estate sharks and banks who rake in high rents and therefore oppose any effective action to improve the situation.

"Detroit must embark on a low-cost, low-rent housing program without delay," Lerner said. "Divert the money poured into war preparations! The city must house the homeless."

Lerner's statement also included a bitter attack on restrictive covenant provisions which serve to divide white and Negro workers and pit them against each other. Wiping out these provisions, he pointed out, is a necessary step in the united fight for decent homes for all.

Besides having a long and honorable record in the labor movement, Howard Lerner is an Army veteran. He served through six major campaigns and holds a silver and two bronze stars.

Workers of the World, Unite!

# THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

# LABOR PARTY CAN SWEEP COUNTRY, TOBIN ADMITS

Truman Doctrine - Dutch Model



## Could Rally 37 Million To Its Fold

A labor party, based on a unified trade union movement, could sweep the country. It could mobilize into its ranks a possible 37,000,000 members.

This is the frank admission of Daniel J. Tobin, president of the 900,000-member AFL Teamsters union, made Aug. 12 to the union's San Francisco convention.

His assertion carries all the more weight because Tobin is one of the most conservative union officials, a loyal servant of the Democratic Party and a bitter opponent of any third party movement. He boasted to the convention that he has fought the labor party idea for 41 years.

Tobin's statement is a striking confirmation, from the lips of a capitalist-minded labor leader, of what the Socialist Workers Party and union militants have claimed for many years. A labor party, based on the unions, would rally to its fold the greatest and most powerful political mass movement this country has ever known.

### GROWING SENTIMENT

Such an admission from a union leader like Tobin, one of the most powerful figures in the AFL, reflects the enormous growth of rank-and-file labor sentiment for a party of their own to smash the two-party political monopoly of Wall Street and wipe out the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law.

If labor could build a party anywhere near the size envisaged by Tobin—and it can—it could roll up a greater national vote than any party has ever done before. It could wreck Wall Street's Democratic Party of big city bosses and Southern Bourbons overnight and overwhelm Wall Street's Republican Party of avowed capitalist reaction.

With such prospects and with the repeatedly demonstrated anti-labor character of both major parties, why is no labor party immediately launched? The responsibility for this indefensible failure lies squarely and entirely on the shoulders of the top trade union leaders, AFL and CIO.

They would rather cling to their utterly bankrupt policy of supporting the Democratic and Republican parties—a policy that has led directly to the era of the Slave Labor Law—than to lead labor to political power in Washington and smash the rule of the billionaires.

Let labor's ranks rise up in their wrath and repudiate such craven and treacherous leaders. The labor party must be built—NOW!

## Clark Promises 'Probe' Of Price Conspirators

In a move to head off any new union wage drive inspired by rampaging prices, the Truman administration has made another gesture to convince the workers it is "doing something" to halt the soaring cost of living.

Attorney General Tom Clark announced on Aug. 12 that the Department of Justice will now "investigate" whether any "conspiracies" exist to maintain and raise present high prices in food, clothing and housing.

Truman pretends the cause of booming inflation is something unknown, requiring "study" and "investigation" before effective action can be taken. Then, if any "conspiracies" are detected by the Justice Department, it will get tough. It may even demand jail penalties.

But the conspirators are already known! And if the Justice Department meant business—which it

doesn't—it could double the prison population in 24 hours.

That's about all the time it should take to round up most of the government officials and Congressmen, the leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties, the officers and members of the National Association of Manufacturers, the owners and executives of all the big corporations and all the Wall Street financiers. To begin with, a nice little cell could be reserved for the U. S. Steel Trust.

### WAR COSTS FIRST

First of all, the inflation is being fueled by the titanic war debt of nearly 260 billion dollars, the still-to-be-paid price of American imperialist participation in World War II and the hundred billion dollars of war loot grabbed by the big corporations. It is being accelerated by the Truman Doctrine and its nearly 40 billion dollar annual federal budget, mostly for preparation of the Third Imperialist World War.

This inflation is being monstrously aggravated by the insatiable profit lust of the capitalists, aided and abetted by their government and all its departments, agencies and branches. Corporation profits are now running at a rate four and a half times greater than in 1939 and 70% higher than in the peak war profits year of 1943.

Remember—in July, 1946, a Democratic Congress passed and Truman signed a price decontrol bill giving a green light to the price-gougers. Truman followed up in September by lifting virtually all remaining price controls, and particularly on meat.

This year a bi-partisan Congress, with a Republican majority, has passed a whole series of special price-boosting measures, signed by Truman, such as the Rent Decontrol Bill, the Sugar Quota Bill, etc.

Just two weeks ago, the steel trust boosted steel prices, with U. S. Steel charging \$5 to \$10 a ton more for steel that costs \$18 a ton less to produce than in 1946. General Motors has lifted its prices again—for cars that have the same insides as those of 1941. There is no mention of "investigating" these price thieves.

Clark admits, in his statement, that the "gravest threat" lies in the "increasing concentration of power in the hands of a small number of

giant corporations." But fifty years of talk about "trust-busting" by Democratic and Republican administrations alike has not changed the trend an iota, as Clark himself states.

Despite this latest "investigation," the workers can expect this capitalist government to do nothing but whitewash the profiteers, protect the monopolists and sabotage any effective action against the capitalist marauders.

### Attention, Mr. Clark!

If Attorney General Clark means business about his "investigation" of high-price-fixing conspiracies, we can direct him to 46 centers of such criminal conspiracy, exclusive of the main center, Washington, D. C.

These are the capitals of the 46 states whose legislatures have passed laws prohibiting retailers from reducing certain prices! We refer to the so-called "Fair Practices" statutes that forbid, under penalty, the retail sale of certain commodities below prices fixed by manufacturers.

## Akron Rubber Bows Before Strike Threat

AKRON, Aug. 13—Confronted with a national tie-up of its plants by Saturday, the B. F. Goodrich rubber corporation today made a last-minute about-face and accepted the CIO United Rubber Workers demand for the negotiation of a company-wide contract instead of separate plant agreements.

Militant rubber workers in seven widely-scattered plants of the company were already moving into strike formation when Goodrich, one of the "Big Four" of the rubber industry, capitulated. Some 900 workers of the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) URWA Local 351 beat the gun by striking Tuesday, 48-hours before the national strike deadline.

The 15,000-member Goodrich Local 5 here, spark-plug of the strike movement, was all set to meet the company's arrogant challenge in its traditionally fighting fashion. It was scheduled to strike Friday mid-

night in a progressively spreading walkout.

The company's surrender was announced today by URWA President L. S. Buckmaster, who stated: "I am pleased to announce that the Goodrich Company has today advised me of its willingness to start negotiations on Monday, Aug. 18, and proceed promptly with such negotiations on a company-wide collective bargaining agreement."

The final decision to postpone the strike is to be made by the union locals' policy committee.

The Goodrich agreement should strengthen the union against the last "Big Four" holdout, Firestone.

# J. P. CANNON'S ANSWER TO ARMOUR

Norman Armour,  
Assistant Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.  
Dear Sir:

My telegram of July 24, 1947 requested President Truman to demand the immediate return by the Netherlands government of lend-lease equipment which is being employed in a war of conquest against the Indonesian people. Your reply of August 6, 1947 impels me to repeat this justifiable request.

In the name of the State Department you have acknowledged the following basic facts: (1) that Netherlands forces have actually employed, as they still do, lend-lease equipment against the Indonesian Republic; (2) that this equipment was originally supplied to the Dutch, under restrictive provisions, prohibiting its use in violation of the Atlantic Charter; and (3) that the lend-lease agreement provides, as you say, for the recapture of "any arms, ammunition and implements of war supplied under lend-lease."

These cannot be considered as mere "assumptions" on my part.

They are inescapable conclusions from both your own official assertions and the avowed policy of the State Department.

Yet your communication of August 6 cannot be construed otherwise than as a flat refusal by President Truman and the State Department to invoke the recapture provisions under lend-lease.

You base this refusal on the argument that these provisions are rendered inoperative by another clause in the agreement to the effect that the United States is pledged "not to exercise generally its right of recapture of such articles."

I cannot accept this argument. Involved here are not any "general" propositions, but a specific instance of a specific and glaring violation of the terms of lend-lease and the avowed aims of the Atlantic Charter under which it was extended.

If the recapture provisions do not apply in the case of this flagrant violation of the rights of the Indonesian people to independence, of their claims to freedom from colonialism and all other tyrannical



JAMES P. CANNON

rule, freedom from fear, and so on—then just when do these provisions apply?

Surely the State Department is not unaware that there is a growing body of public opinion that

views the Atlantic Charter and its oft-proclaimed lofty goals, as just another scrap of paper, no more seriously intended than innumerable other diplomatic pronouncements in wartime. The State Department's failure in the case of Indonesia to live up to its own solemn commitments further confirms this opinion.

Your assurances that the State Department is not standing aside with folded arms, but intervening actively in the Indonesian situation, are not enough. For this intervention is plainly unilateral—it gives aid and assistance not to the embattled Indonesian people but to the Dutch who seek by bayonet to reestablish their colonial rule there.

Only the other day the World Bank released a loan of \$195,000,000 to the Netherlands government. This action could hardly have been taken without the knowledge and tacit agreement of the State Department. The Indonesian people would surely be justified in viewing this loan as strengthening the hands of those who seek to enslave

them. I know of no plans whatever to extend any loans to the Indonesian Republic. Why not?

In the name of defending the "independence" of such notoriously despotic regimes as those in Greece and Turkey, neither the President nor the State Department hesitated long before asking Congress for hundreds of millions of dollars. By what logic are the Indonesian people, fighting to preserve their independence, excluded from all such aid, while substantial loans are being extended the Dutch?

This striking contrast, too, cannot fail to strengthen the mistrust in many circles, especially in the ranks of labor, of the government's foreign policy.

So long as the actions of the State Department continue to run directly counter to its public avowals, it will stand condemned in the judgment of the American people and of world public opinion.

Yours truly,  
James P. Cannon,  
National Secretary,  
Socialist Workers Party



# The Elemental Urge To Socialism

By J. R. Johnson

The Bolshevik Party is scientific socialism, conscious and organized. But like the unconscious, elemental drive of the workers, the structure, function and the discipline of the party are rooted in the nature of capitalist production itself.

Capitalist production as it develops, creates the most ruthless centralization of productive forces in order to discipline and exploit the constantly growing proletariat. But at the same time it socializes labor, brings more and more thousands of workers into one conscious collective cooperative process for the production of commodities. This collective, cooperative social process is proletarian. Bolshevism is its political expression.

In the early days of Bolshevism, one of its enemies hurried against Lenin the accusation that he wanted to build a party which would be nothing else but "an immense factory."

## LENIN'S REPLY

Lenin replied that the very word this critic used betrayed the mentality of a petty-bourgeois intellectual "familiar with neither the theory nor the practice of proletarian organization." The factory is a form of capitalist cooperation. But it contains within it socialist cooperation as well. Continued Lenin:

"It is precisely Marxism as the ideology of the proletariat trained by capitalism, that has been teaching unstable intellectuals to distinguish between the factory as an instrument of exploitation (discipline based on the fear of starvation) and as a factor in organization (discipline based on collective work, united under conditions of technically highly developed production). The discipline and organization which it is so difficult for the bourgeois intellectual to acquire are easily acquired by the proletariat precisely because of the factory 'school' he goes through."

This is the theory of the Bolshevik Party. Like every serious aspect of Bolshevism, it is built upon

the positive, anti-individualistic, anti-capitalistic, the proletarian and therefore revolutionary aspects of capitalist production, which capitalism to live, must create, and by creating inexorably creates within itself its own grave-digger.

## TWO KINDS

There is a capitalistic centralization of the means of production. It takes organized political form as fascism. There is a proletarian centralization which represents socialized labor. It takes organized political form as Bolshevism.

In that famous chapter, Chapter XXXII of Capital, Volume I, The Historical Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation, Marx writes that: Centralization of the means of production and socialization of labor at last reach a point where they become incompatible with their capitalist integument, i.e., the capitalist society which encloses them. The instinctive, elemental drive, the organic psychology of the workers is implanted there by the socialization of labor. The discipline and the centralization of the Bolshevik Party aim at giving this elemental drive its own politically organized, centralized character, based on cooperative collective work.

A proletarian, especially one trained and disciplined and educated by heavy industry, once he is attracted to Bolshevism, has no difficulty in grasping this, either in practice or in theory. Very different is the revolutionary intellectual. Watch his conception of a proletarian party and you will see that it is the result of a middle-class reaction against the capitalistic aspect of the factory and a substitution for this of parliamentary-democratic conceptions, perpetual talking, perpetual reconsidering, individualistic anarchy. Lenin knew this type well. Listen to him analyzing one of them:

"He thinks of the Party organization as a monstrous 'factory' and of the subordination of the part to the whole and of the minority to the majority as 'serfdom'... division of labor under the leadership of a center evokes from him tragicomic cries about people being turned into 'wheels and screws' (the most outrageous form of the transformation is considered to be the conversion of an editor into a contributor)..."

Any theory of party building or party organization which is not

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

based on the needs and desires and the experiences of workers striving for socialism within the organization of capitalist production is a lot of nonsense and dangerous nonsense. It is only too often the limitation of editors turned into contributors or contributors wanting to be editors, or (ditors who are dissatisfied with their contributions and don't know what to do about it.

Bolshevism, on the other hand, conscious of its roots, is constantly on the alert to examine and ponder over the slightest reactions of genuine proletarians to the concept of the party, the theory of the party, the experiences with the party, whether these reactions are favorable or not. These instinctive reactions to the party, sometimes badly expressed and often in bourgeois language, are of fundamental importance and revolutionary significance simply because they represent the unconscious historical process in contact with the conscious.

The fluent editorial gripings of literary revolutionaries represent an entirely different process. They represent always in the last analysis the inability of the conscious historical process to make any sort of contact, either theoretical or practical, with the developing movement of the proletariat.

## Stalinists Capture Posts In NMU Port Elections

By Art Sharon

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—In a nation-wide by-election to fill 20 vacant union posts, the well-organized Stalinist machine in the CIO National Maritime Union scored another victory. Just previously, they had won the key post of Vice-President, after a bitterly fought campaign against President Joseph Curran.

Of the 20 new officers elected, 17 are counted as supporters of the Stalinist machine. Four of these were elected to Port Agent and Port Committee posts, thus giving them seats on the important National Council. The election of the four merely confirms Stalinist control of

the union's leading body.

This second Stalinist victory comes on the eve of the NMU National Convention, which convenes September 22 in New York City. The Stalinists are waging an all-out smear drive against Curran in their campaign to elect delegates to this convention. Their objective is to control the convention and have it repudiate Curran and the opposition generally. The Stalinist machine would then be in a position to suppress the opposition spokesmen and once again throttle democracy inside the NMU.

Curran and his leading supporters up to now have been extremely reluctant to marshal the rank and file opposition forces. Except for Cur-

ran's weekly column in *The Pilot* and an occasional leaflet during the election campaigns nothing has been done to counteract the extensive Stalinist slander campaign.

This has led to considerable confusion and disorientation in the ranks of the union. The failure of the opposition to present a clear program has permitted the struggle to become clouded over with false issues. Naturally, the Stalinist machine welcomes that.

In a recent issue of the Stalinist magazine, *Political Affairs*, Al Lannon, maritime director of the Communist Party, boasts that they have regained the upper hand in the NMU internal struggle. This is true. But it is only by default.

## Return to Death Mine



A miner returns to the recently reopened pit at Centralia, Ill., where 111 died in an explosion due to the owners' greed and negligence. Survivors of the dead miners were mulcted by undertakers who moved in after the tragedy like vultures. (See story in adjoining column.)

Federated Picture

## Greed Trails Mine Victims To Graves

One ghoully aspect of the tragic Centralia, Ill., mine disaster that snuffed out 111 miners' lives, was brought to light in the Aug. 1 *United Mine Workers Journal*, in an article: "Funeral Costs of Centralia Victims Proves That Burying Dead Is 'Specialized Racket'."

The death of these miners because of the greed of the operators also "opened up a lucrative business for the undertakers." They took the surviving kin of the dead miners for funeral charges averaging \$732.78 per body. Only six of the ten burials cost less than \$500. 24 burials cost the victims' poor families more than \$900. The top fee was \$1,178.50.

The *Journal* charges that "unconscionable greed literally followed the victims to the grave and mulcted the surviving dependents of sizable sums from the Welfare Fund death gratuity and state compensation they received."

Comparable funeral services by a leading Washington, D. C., undertaking establishment is one half the fees charged the Centralia victims' families, the *Journal* reveals. It cites the testimony of W. W. Chambers, a millionaire Washington mortician, to demonstrate the profiteering from the grief-stricken, distracted Centralia families.

Chambers recently told a special Congressional sub-committee that the profiteering in burying the dead is "the most highly specialized racket in the world." He was consulted by the *Journal* and told the miners' paper that the typical Centralia funeral "should not have cost more than \$350 to \$400, or about half the actual average charge."

Labor costs of the funerals were almost zero. Hod Carriers Union members opened and closed the graves without charge.

## 6 Disappointed GIs Kill Selves

Eight American soldiers, while held in a Japanese Prison camp, formed a pact to commit suicide if they failed to find happiness after World War II. Six have already taken their own lives, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., reported Aug. 14, according to the Associated Press. No. 6 was Vanderbilt's secretary.

## TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

For the first time in seven years, AFL Teamster's Czar - President Daniel J. Tobin has called a convention of his union. It began August 11 in San Francisco. Tobin has a lot of head-aches; the ranks are seething with revolt against his machine-rule and strikebreaking policies. He has answered this revolt with wholesale expulsions, gangster terrorism and replacement of locally-elected officers by dictator-receivers in 40% of the locals. In a letter to local unions urging them to send delegates to the convention, Tobin reminded them, "Our next convention may not be held in five years."

As a result of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law and their realization of the need for labor unity, CIO and AFL steelworkers unions in the Buffalo, N. Y., area have signed a pact to outlaw jurisdictional disputes and have set up joint machinery to iron out any conflicts. The agreement, between CIO United Steelworkers District 4 and Local 576, AFL International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers, covers 125 plants in Western New York.

The Glenn L. Martin Company has cancelled its contract with the CIO United Automobile Workers at the Baltimore Martin plant, largest single aircraft factory in the world. An NLRB collective bargaining election will be held Aug. 20, between the UAW and the independent International Association of Machinists. The company has fought unionism bitterly. It stated that "neither organization has the right" to represent the workers.

The seven-billion-dollar American Telephone and Telegraph Co. recently withdrew recognition of the American Union of Telephone Workers (long lines) after the AUTW joined the CIO. AT&T, which was forced to sign a contract after a seven-week strike in May, now claims the AUTW doesn't represent a majority and is demanding a new NLRB election under the Taft-Hartley Act. The telephone trust's action comes as a \$4.40 weekly pay

increase, retroactive until May 9, is scheduled under the contract to begin Aug. 21.

The Aug. 1 Wage Earner, Detroit organ of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, writes with great glee about the Wayne County CIO Council, under Stalinist leadership, preparing to throw CIO support in the next election for anti-labor Mayor Jeffries whom the CIO fought bitterly in the election two years ago. But the ACTU organ isn't condemning Stalinist treachery. It claims "there never was any good reason for the CIO to embark upon its costly crusades against Jeffries in the first place." Jeffries, in his last campaign, had the support of the Ku Klux Klan, Christian Frontiers and G. L. K. Smith's America First.

U. S. Representative Ramey from Toledo, Ohio, has been expelled from the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL, by the international union, after he voted for the Taft-Hartley Act. He is another "friend of labor" from the Democratic Party who voted for the Slave Labor Law. However, the expulsion was based on a union provision excluding elected public officials from membership.

The Communist Party (Stalinist) has instructed its members in the CIO to cling to Philip Murray's coat-tails no matter how reactionary Murray's policies. Eugene Dennis, CP national secretary, in his report quoted in a recent *Daily Worker*, stated: "Much more serious discussion must be given to the difficult problem of maintaining and improving cooperative relations with the Murray forces in the CIO." Dennis complains that Murray has "capitalized on a number of key questions to reactionary pressure," has "not broken with the Truman Administration" and has "directly participated" in the anti-red drive. We don't think the Stalinists will discontinue bootlicking Murray even now that he has endorsed the Truman Doctrine of imperialist war preparation against the Soviet Union.

## 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 consumer 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!  
For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!  
Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

# What Hughes Scandal Revealed

By Art Preis

The capitalist press is trying to hocus-pocus the American people about the Senate investigation into the Hughes-Kaiser wartime plane contracts.

According to them, it was just a hot-weather carnival of mud-slinging between the Democrats and Republicans that revealed nothing more damaging than an undignified display of Senatorial ineptitude.

Indeed, the press paints up the accused, two of the richest capitalists, as high-minded, patriotic, hard-working industrial geniuses, who rose in heroic wrath and put the Senatorial inquisitors in their place!

The Democratic press dismisses the sordid spectacle as a mere "smear" to drag the name of Roosevelt in the dirt.

## NOT "EDIFYING"

The N. Y. Times, Aug. 9, concedes only that when Elliott Roosevelt "accepted lavish hospitality, however innocently" from a war contractor; that when such hospitality becomes "something of an accepted system;" and that when the Senator heading the investigating committee "has had even one free ride from persons interested in government contracts" — the net result is merely "unseemly" and "not edifying."

But, the Times hastens to assure its readers, there was "no evidence whatever of corruption."

Nothing could be farther from

the truth — as a survey of all the disclosures bears out. It is true that the investigation was started by the Republican-dominated committee as a smear. It is equally true that there was plenty of fact behind the smear. It is also true that the accusers came with unclean hands.

But it is precisely when thieves fall out, when contending capitalist cliques and their political agents start knifing each other, that some of the details of capitalist crimes leak out. This case is no exception.

Let us examine the chief performers in this "three-ring circus" and the admitted facts:

**HOWARD HUGHES:** Hughes inherited a million-dollar factory, the Hughes Tool Company in Texas, which he has parlayed up to a \$150,000,000 fortune. He received a total of \$200,000,000 in government war contracts and doubled his tremendous pre-war profits.

Together with Henry Kaiser, he wangled \$41,000,000 in war plane contracts through the direct intervention of Franklin D. Roosevelt and on the recommendation of Roosevelt's son over the objection of War Department experts.

The contracts called, among other things, for three super-cargo planes to meet a "desperate" war situation. Four years later, and two years after the war, the contract is discovered to have been changed for one experimental super-cargo plane — yet to be delivered.

Hughes and his "public relations" man Meyer admitted spending \$164,000, at least, for luxurious enter-

tainment and "gifts" to government officials, military advisers, etc. This, as Meyer testified, was strictly "in the line of business," to make "useful contacts." The monies thus spent, moreover, were largely tax-deductible. The public treasury paid for the imported liquor, female "entertainers," costly banquets, nylon stockings, etc.

**SENATOR BREWSTER:** As head of the Senate War Investigating Committee, this Maine Republican hasn't shown the slightest interest generally in uncovering war frauds of America's giant monopolies. But he saw the chance to make some Republican political capital by going after some Democrats.

Brewster's misfortune was that Senators don't dare bullyrag immensely wealthy plutocrats as they do ordinary folks at Senate hearings. Moreover, the capitalist press doesn't like capitalists shown up in a bad light. Added to that, like most Democratic and Republican politicians, Brewster doesn't have such clean hands himself.

In fact, Hughes was able to charge that Brewster was working for a rival air-line concern, Pan-American Airways, and fostering a bill to give that concern a complete monopoly in trans-Atlantic traffic.

## JUST FOR "FRIENDSHIP"

Brewster admitted that he had been "a few times" the "guest" of the head of Pan-American in Florida and elsewhere, that he received free luxury plane trips from Hughes, and his competitors. But this was all in the line of "sociability" and "personal friendship!"

**ELLIOTT ROOSEVELT:** The son of the late President put on quite a show as the noble defender of his father from evil traders. He did admit receiving lavish entertainment, a round of expensive night-club flings and a free wedding trip on the Hughes' expense account. The height of these merry-makings — listed at over \$5,000 — occurred in August 1943 when young Roosevelt was recommending a juicy \$41,000,000 contract for Hughes.

Elliott Roosevelt's main defense was that this was nothing but coincidence; his wife happened to move in Hughes' "social circles." Besides he "picked up his fair share" of the bills. Anyway it was all a Republican smear.

One further fact, of general nature, was brought out in the testimony. Hughes indignantly replied to charges about his lavish tax-deductible "entertainment" of "useful contacts" in the government, that "all the other corporations did more

of that than I did." Elliott Roosevelt accused the Senate committee of suppressing data about "millions and millions of gifts" to Army officials from war contractors.

What Hughes and Elliott Roosevelt tried to show — and what most of the press applauded them for was that there was "nothing wrong" with what they did.

What they really showed was that during the war, when workers were forced to "pull in their belts," when hundreds of thousands of American boys were dying in agony, the whole American capitalist class, together with its political and military agents, was indulging in an unparalleled orgy of luxurious living and pleasure.

Washington was the center of a

mad, riotous scramble for war wealth. Corporation dollar-a-year men, appointed by the Roosevelt administration to the chief war posts, spread their beneficence right and left among all the big and little government officials.

The Hughes investigation has been abruptly "recessed," on the grounds that one of the chief witnesses, Meyer, has suddenly vanished. The truth is, the whole business has gone too far for capitalist taste and comfort.

The full truth of this most sordid and corrupt period in all history will never be known so long as the capitalists and their political parties, Republican and Democratic, rule.

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By ART PREIS  
Labor Editor of  
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# The Labor Movement In Japan Today

By Robert L. Birchman

The majority of all non-agricultural workers in Japan are members of trade unions. By June 30, 1946 the total union membership represented 58% of the 8,282,400 paid non-farm workers employed. Coal miners were the most highly organized group, with 85% belonging to unions. In the transportation and communications industry, 82% were unionized. For all manufacturing 47% of the workers were union members.

The figures would be much higher today since for almost a year now union membership has been increasing at the rate of over 100,000 a month.

During the first three months of this year, there were 2,718 new unions organized and union membership was increased by 337,640, according to statistics of the Japanese Ministry of Welfare recently received here.

On March 31 of this year there were a total of 19,983 unions with a membership of 5,226,969. This figure does not include the membership of the All Japan Seamen's Union which had 74,185 members on February 1.

The total union membership on March 31 included 3,557,501 men (76%) and 1,252,870 women (24%).

## MORE THAN HALF

The conclusion of a number of major collective bargaining agreements during February, March and April brought more than half of all organized workers under recent agreements. During this period industry-wide collective bargaining agreements were completed for coal miners, seamen, port and harbor workers, Occupation Force workers, government railway and communications workers and teachers.

All of these master contracts include specific provision for supplementary local agreements.

All the contracts include acceptance by the employer of the principle that the worker should be guaranteed a minimum livelihood, although a wage system based on a sliding scale was provided only in the coal miners' agreement.

There is an increasing acceptance of the principle of the sliding scale of wages as a necessary implementation of a guaranteed minimum livelihood. On April 18 workers of the Oriental Economist concluded an agreement with the management, whose president is also Minister of Finance, which included a provision for a "minimum sliding scale basis salary."

The National Council of Coal Mine Workers Unions, representing the overwhelming majority of miners, and the Japan Coal Mine Operators Association, representing all mine operators, signed an industry wide collective bargaining agreement on April 12. The contract covered all workers in the coal mining industry—203,316 underground workers, 210,244 surface workers and 44,310 office workers.

## SLIDING SCALE OF WAGES

The contract provided for a sliding scale of wages based on the "cost of commodities" effective April 1. A committee was set up to administer the formula and effect wage adjustments accordingly. The agreement also provided for retroactive wage adjustments covering the first three months of the year.

More and more unions in Japan are organizing their forces on an industry wide basis. The All Japan

Type of Dispute	December, 1946		January, 1947		February, 1947	
	No. of Disputes	No. of Workers Involved	No. of Disputes	No. of Workers Involved	No. of Disputes	No. of Workers Involved
Strikes	52	60,954	30	17,491	52	28,101
Slowdowns	14	8,734	9	2,316	14	1,462
Lockouts	6	464	10	717	6	260
Production Control	19	4,988	26	6,243	24	5,037
Total	91	75,140	75	26,767	96	34,860
Not accompanied by act of dispute	10	1,433,770	16	1,436,780	22	1,444,381
Grand Total	101	1,508,910	91	1,463,547	118	1,479,241

Bank Clerks Union was organized on April 11, consolidating 54 unions with a membership of about 100,000.

Workers representing 148 plants of the Nissan, Toyota and Daihatsu Automobile Companies met in Tokyo on April 11 and established a preparatory committee for the organization of an Auto Workers Union. The meeting decided to launch an organizing drive and work for a master agreement covering union recognition, closed shop and regional wage minimums.

The trade unions were active on the political field during the elections last spring. Of the 32 non-political organizations registered by April 6 under the Imperial Ordinance No. 101 to engage in political campaign activities during the elections, 18 were labor unions. National and prefectural trade union officials won 23 of the 250 seats in the House of Councillors on April 20. Sixteen union leaders won seats in the 466-member House of Representatives on April 25.

The General Federation of Japanese Trade Unions, the National Congress of Industrial Unions and the All-Japan Council of Labor Unions issued a joint statement in April defining the relationship between labor unions and the workers cooperative movement. Cooperatives, it was decided, should be independent, self-financed organizations but should be organized by trade union leaders and should actively support unions in disputes with

funds, publicity and other means.

Over a million workers in Japan were involved in labor disputes in each month during December, January and February. The picture is summarized in the table printed above.

## OVER A MILLION

The most interesting item in this table is the one marked "Production control." The tactic of production control, while not the most widespread method used by the labor movement in Japan, is by far the most significant because it challenges all traditional ideas in the field of industrial relations and the entire institution of private property.

Soon after the occupation of Japan by the Allies, when a series of industrial disputes occurred, the workers, instead of striking and stopping production, locked out their employers and took over the operation of the plant.

While negotiations were going on, the workers continued production, bought raw materials and sold the manufactured articles without allowing the company officials either a voice in the enterprise or access to the premises. After the settlement, which usually resulted in a complete victory for the workers, the plant was returned to management.

In another article for The Militant we will present an analysis of the tactic of "Production control," as used by the Japanese workers.

# Washington Wants Ruhr Coal for Wall Street

Secret negotiations began last week in Washington concerning the final disposition of the Ruhr. British representatives are the only ones participating thus far, but the French have been likewise invited.

These negotiations center around the ownership of the Ruhr coal mines, and therewith the ownership of the entire Ruhr industries, for whoever controls the coal controls the whole Ruhr. The English government, now in the saddle in the Ruhr, is committed to a program of nationalization for these coal mines. Washington is determined to retain private ownership. A great deal more is involved here than appears on the surface.

## WHO OWNS THE TRUST

Major holdings in the Ruhr coal are formally in the hands of the Stinnes Trust, which, according to the weekly Business Week, Aug. 9, "controls 'something close to 85% of the top-grade coal in the Ruhr.'"

# German Trotskyists Hold First Post-War National Conference

## Socialist Party Has Major Split In Southern India

By M. Usman

BOMBAY, July 21—A major split has occurred in the ranks of the Kerala (South India) Unit of the All-India Socialist Party. Entire branches in Cochin and Malabar have dropped out of the organization, and many prominent SP members in Travancore have resigned from the party. Among them is the treasurer of the Kerala Unit, who financed practically all of the SP's activities in the south from his own pocket.

He is now in touch with the Bolshevik Leninist Party of India (Trotskyists) and states that a number of these disillusioned SPers are eager to form a branch of the Fourth International party.

The Malayalam daily, Mathrubhumi, reports that the split was occasioned by a speech by the leader of the South Kerala Socialist Party, Dr. K. B. Menon, in which he denied that the Kerala SP had or could have any existence apart from the All-India Party.

It is further stated, however, that the splitters disagree with the SP leaders' "neutral" attitude to the Mountbatten Award and with their decision to break from the Stalinist-controlled All-India Trade Union Congress and from separate unions under SP control.

## Brazil Workers Fight Fare Rise



After bus and street car fares were raised in San Paulo, Brazil, workers protested. Then these mounted police were ordered to open fire on the crowd. When the smoke lifted, two persons were killed, many injured.

Federated Picture

# Rio Conference Forges U. S. Imperialist Links

An inter-American conference opened near Rio de Janeiro on August 15. Ostensibly called to establish "mutual hemispheric defense," the conference is designed, in reality, to forge another link in the Wall Street chain to bind the Latin American people to the Yankee imperialist war machine. Just as the Eighth Pan American Conference, held in Lima in 1938, was organized for the purpose of mobilizing the natural and human resources of Latin America in preparation for World War II, so the Rio conference is sponsored by Washington in preparation for World War III.

American imperialists are thinking not in terms of defensive measures but, on the contrary, in terms of imperialist aggression and military offensive. Broadly speaking, this is Washington's main aim. The conference is calculated to further Wall Street's policy of domination and imposition—not only in Latin America but on a world scale.

## NOTHING IN COMMON

As far as the people of Latin America are concerned, their interests have nothing in common with the interests of American imperialism. Wall Street is trying through all kinds of maneuvers, one of which is the present conference, to subject the countries of Latin America to its exclusive economic, political and military control.

Although Washington is attempt-

ing to limit the Rio de Janeiro conference to military questions, some Latin American governments are insisting that other problems be placed on the agenda. It is quite likely that questions of an economic, political and social nature will be discussed either formally or informally.

Economic problems, especially in view of the deep crisis that has already struck some Latin American countries and that menaces others, will play an important role in the deliberations, despite Washington's objections. There are indications that Cuba consented to attend only on the condition that Washington agree to take up the economic problem. Some observers say that Brazil will insist on discussing the question of communism.

## UNDER OTHER CONDITIONS

Social contradictions are accumulating very rapidly in Latin America. The southern part of the Western Hemisphere isn't what it used to be. A mounting revolutionary and nationalist tide is sweeping through the countries. Because of this native Quisling of the feudal-bourgeoisie are finding it increasingly difficult to "explain" their deals with American imperialism. In a number of Latin American countries popular movements directed against Yankee imperialism are growing stronger day by day.

Argentina, where due to particular economic and geographic conditions native capitalism was

able to attain a higher degree of development than in any other South American country, will most likely again play its traditional semi-independent role. But it will do so under different circumstances and within the framework of a different relationship of forces.

Argentina's position has not yet been clarified; it depends largely on the degree to which Peron is prepared to establish a *modus vivendi* with American imperialism. However, everything seems to indicate that Argentina will agree to a "mutual hemispheric defense plan" on the condition that Argentina is favored over any other country—especially Brazil. On the other hand, reports are current that Brazil has demanded that Washington guarantee her parity of arms with Argentina.

The Latin American people have no interests in common with Wall Street, no matter how the latter dresses up its designs in terms of "mutual defense." However, the Latin American feudal-bourgeois rulers, who maintain themselves in power through undisguised dictatorship or semi-dictatorial means, are profoundly interested in Wall Street's armament plan. It will reinforce their position of authoritarian domination over the masses who are daily becoming more and more restive, more and more conscious of the need to fight against the prevailing system of social relationships.

It is hard to foresee to what extent Wall Street will be successful at the Rio conference in its attempts to mobilize the resources of Latin America for the war it is planning to direct against the Soviet Union.

But even if Washington doesn't accomplish all of its objectives during this conference, Yankee imperialism will continue to press through every diplomatic, economic and political channel at its command for victory in future hemispheric meetings. Washington expects to deal with the broader aspects of the Latin American question at the Ninth Pan American Conference scheduled for January of next year in Bogota.

Of one thing we can be certain: in the end Wall Street's schemes will fail. Sooner or later the masses of Latin America will learn how to break the chains of oppression and suppression with which Wall Street in collaboration with the native feudal-bourgeoisie has bound them.

The masses will defeat and destroy both their native and foreign oppressors. The struggle for national and social emancipation is growing in intensity. It is becoming part of the consciousness of the masses. Here lies the hope of Latin America and not in conferences nor in pacts between American imperialists and the native Quislings.

The security and hope of the Latin American people lies in the building of a socialist society in the Western Hemisphere. This fact is being recognized by an increasing number of Latin Americans. This trend will be augmented by the economic crisis which is rapidly approaching. A new society will arise based upon the Socialist United States of Latin America, a part of the world socialist society.

BERLIN, Aug. 6—The first national conference of German Trotskyists since 1933 met "somewhere in Western Germany" last month. Delegates representing local groups in many parts of the country took part in the discussions which aimed at the reorganization and centralization of the forces of the Fourth International in Germany.

The conference met after months of intensive preparations and despite unimaginable difficulties and obstacles. The first steps toward the establishment of a unified organization acting under the centralized direction of an elected leadership were successfully carried out.

The agenda consisted of four points: an international report, a report on German perspectives and tasks, a discussion of the Russian question, and an organizational report.

For the first time, the German Trotskyists received a comprehensive report of the developments in the Fourth Internationalist movement since 1933 and of the situation today.

On the question of perspectives and tasks, a thorough discussion took place, in which the difficulties as well as the opportunities facing the Trotskyists in present-day Germany were gone into. A platform to guide the action of the German section of the Fourth International is in preparation and will be submitted to further discussion, both national and international, before adoption.

The Russian question was discussed in the light of the experiences with the Soviet occupation forces. Great interest centered on this question, but the shortness of time did not permit the delegates to conclude the discussion, and it was decided to continue it within the local groups for further elaboration before a definitive position is adopted.

The conference adopted the old pre-1933 name of the organization, "International Communists of Germany, Section of the Fourth Inter-

## F. I. Analyzes Crisis Of British Imperialism

A timely and informative article on "The Crisis of British Imperialism," by Doric De Souza, appears in the July-August Fourth International, just off the press.

The article gives a rounded picture of the struggle of British imperialism for its very existence, in which are involved its economy, its military and political might, and its colonies as a rich field for exploitation.

The author points out that the full maturing of this crisis may be delayed a while longer, but cannot be indefinitely staved off.

Single copies 25 cents, yearly subscriptions \$1 can be obtained from Business Manager, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

"national." A provisional National Executive Committee was elected, representative of the main regions in Germany.

The conference also decided to publish an official organ, *Unser Weg*. An editorial board of three was elected to publish the paper. Other measures to extend the organization, to tighten contacts and to penetrate the mass movement, were adopted.

The first national conference of the reorganized section of the Fourth International in Germany is an achievement of which the entire International can be proud. In spite of the greatest difficulties and hardships, Trotskyism has once again taken its place as an organized force in the great industrial heart of Europe after the long years of fascist reaction, war and foreign occupation.

# Indo-Chinese Trotskyists Discuss Tasks in France

PARIS, Aug. 7—During the second anniversary of the August 1945 Viet Name revolution, the Indo-Chinese Trotskyists in France—workers, soldiers and students—held their first national congress here.

For several days they discussed the problems facing revolutionaries of both the colonies and the imperialist countries, especially the problems of the Viet Name revolution.

After several reports on the group's past activity and on the international situation, the conference made a careful study of the important theses: Balance Sheet and Perspectives of the Indo-Chinese Revolution.

This document analyzes the development of the revolution in Viet Nam, and the role of Stalinism which, by use of the Viet Minh, damned up the revolutionary flood under the false pretext of preserving national unity with the bourgeoisie and sought within Viet Nam an impossible peaceful cohabitation with imperialism.

The conference also adopted several resolutions on the group's tasks, press, education and organization. It was greeted by delegates from a number of sections and the International Secretariat of the Fourth International. The conference sent a message to the Trotskyists in Indo-China and to Natalia Trotsky.

Since 1942 the Trotskyist militants have played an important role in the large Indo-Chinese emigration in France, among whom they won considerable influence. But the fruits of their political activity were limited by failure to consolidate this work into a strong revolutionary organization.

The Indo-Chinese events show the need of a strong revolutionary party, without which victory is impossible. The conference decided the Viet Name emigres in France must not postpone fulfillment of this need until their return to Indo-China; they must begin to fill the role of a party within the framework of the emigration now.

Furthermore, the Indo-Chinese emigration in France is not a small closed circle but a mass emigration comprising militant proletarian elements. This emigration has its own important problems and tasks requiring a revolutionary leadership operating not as the inspiration of the moment but according to a developed internationalist program.

The complete success of the conference gives promise of an encouraging development along these lines.

# Laborite 'Lefts' Wilt; Retain Cabinet Posts

Prime Minister Attlee succeeded last week in jamming through Parliament his program of labor conscription in peacetime and of enforced poverty and hunger for the masses in order to save the bankrupt capitalist system in England.

The shabbiest role of all was played by the self-styled Laborite Left Wing, under the leadership of Minister of Health Aneurin Bevan, Food Minister John Strachey and Minister of Fuel Emmanuel Shinwell. Seeking for a fig leaf to cover up this stark betrayal of labor, these "left-wingers" have been pleading for a promise that the Labor Party would at least not abandon the nationalization of the iron and steel industry scheduled for the fall session of Parliament.

When the "showdown" came on Aug. 11 at a session of the Laborite Parliamentary fraction, this opposition wilted. A motion to defer decision on this question until the next parliamentary session was carried by 4 votes, 81 to 77, with almost 100 abstentions.

This shabby maneuver could have been easily thwarted had any one or all three of these leading "leftist" lights thereupon resigned from the Cabinet (as they reportedly had threatened to do).

grinding down the workers' living standards for the benefit of the monopolists.

## POLITICAL CAPITAL

The arch-reactionaries, led by Churchill, are meanwhile making political capital. They are now palming off as the fruits of "socialism" Attlee's "emergency measures" which have been adopted under the dictation of England's capitalist class. The Tories are, of course, delighted by Attlee's entire course. They alone stand to profit.

If their rule was in the slightest endangered, the new legislation would never have passed, as it did, by a whopping majority of 178 to 63 in the House of Lords, where the Tories are completely in the saddle.

Meanwhile it is equally certain that England's economic crisis will not be resolved by any measures short of the complete abolition of capitalism. The economic crisis must worsen in the next period.

Concurrently, the political crisis now convulsing the Labor Party has not been averted but postponed, only to recur in a far more virulent form in the near future.

## TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETINGS

### NEW YORK

Speakers:  
GEORGE CLARKE  
Organizer, N. Y. Local  
ROBERT WILLIAMS  
SWP Candidate for State Senator  
In 23rd Senatorial District  
Chairman: C. THOMAS  
MILITANT CHORUS  
Wed., Aug. 27, 8 p. m.  
Beethoven Hall  
5th St. & Third Ave.

### SEATTLE

"Trotsky and the Coming American Revolution"  
Speaker:  
CHARLES TAYLOR  
Sat., August 23, 8 p. m.  
1919 1/2 Second Ave.

### PHILADELPHIA

Speakers:  
HOWARD LE COMPTE  
IRVING ORCHANT  
Friday, August 22, 8 p. m.  
Militant Labor Forum Hall  
1303 W. Girard Ave.

### FLINT

Hear the recorded speech of  
LEON TROTSKY  
Also  
William F. Warde  
SWP National Educational  
Director  
"Socialism, the Only Hope for Humanity"  
Friday, August 15, 7 p. m.  
215 East 9th St.

### CHICAGO

Showing of  
Eisenstein's Dramatic Film  
"THUNDER OVER MEXICO"  
Speaker:  
M. TERBOVICH  
Thursday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p. m.  
777 West Adams St.

### YOUNGSTOWN

Friday, Aug. 15, 8 p. m.  
35 1/2 South Ave.

### NEWARK

Speaker:  
ALAN KOHLMAN  
Friday, Aug. 22, 8:30 P. M.  
423 Springfield Ave.

### LOS ANGELES

Speaker:  
MYRA TANNER WEISS  
"The Struggle for World Socialism"  
Chairman:  
C. CURTIS  
Sat., Aug. 23, 8 p. m.  
North Hall  
Embassy Auditorium  
843 South Grand Ave.

## International Notes

BRITISH ANTI-SEMITISM: Anti-Semitic terrorism in England appears to be under the organized direction of a fascist center. This became obvious when anti-Semitic bands attacked not only Jewish-owned buildings but also Labor Party and Communist Party headquarters in the Bethnal Green district in London.

The rise of the new fascist movement in England is directly linked to the growing crisis in the economic situation, a phenomenon similar to that observed in Italy and Germany after the first World War.

The labor movement is beginning to appreciate this danger.

A resolution condemning the attacks and calling for action to combat it has been adopted by 20,000 workers in the big Metro-Vickers works at Manchester.

GREEK FRAMEUP: With great fanfare the Greek government announces the release of 1,100 people deported to the island of Icaria for participation in a so-called communist plot to overthrow the government. But 8,900 are still left on the island, and thousands more are held elsewhere.

Those released were not even asked about the "communist plot," indicating what a frameup the whole charge was.

AUSTRIAN CP LOSES GROUND: A substantial decline of Communist

Party representation for factory councils is reported from Austria. According to the Graz Chamber of Labor, the Socialist Party won 65% of the total factory council posts in some 25 different industrial enterprises, while the CP received only 14%, "United Lists" (CP, etc.) 11%, the People's Party 3%, and "non-politicals" 5%.

In the Elin Works in Vienna, for instance, the new factory council consists of five SP representatives and one from the CP, whereas before it consisted of three from each.

A joint meeting of the SP Executive Committee and SP union leaders has decided to reject "United Lists" with the CP everywhere and to put up their own candidates for all posts.

BIG BELGIAN STRIKE: Antwerp port workers—11,000 stevedores and 14,000 shipyard workers—have struck, and so far all attempts at arbitration have failed. The stevedores' strike broke out against the will of their bureaucratic union leaders, just as last winter.

These bureaucrats have made several attempts to break the strike by means of cooked-up referendums, but with no success. The shipyard workers, however, got their strike recognized by the union and are receiving strike benefits.



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"Capitalism will not disappear from the scene automatically. Only the working class can seize the forces of production from the stranglehold of the exploiters. History places this task squarely before us."

Leon Trotsky

## State Dept. Indicts Itself

On Page 1 of this issue we publish the exchange of correspondence between James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, and the State Department in connection with the war in Indonesia. This correspondence is highly instructive.

It is not often that capitalist politicians feel obliged to reply publicly to the charges of minority parties, especially those of the working class.

If the State Department decided in this case to take official cognizance of Cannon's protest of July 24 about its conduct in the Indonesian events, it was least of all a result of Washington's devotion to "democratic procedure" where vital questions of public policy are involved.

As the imperialist character of Washington's world role becomes more and more apparent, these statesmen who serve Wall Street feel more and more in need of covering up their tracks and allaying the growing mistrust of their foreign policy generally, and their role in Indonesia in particular.

The issue in Indonesia stands squarely posed. On the one side are the Indonesian people determined to preserve their independence, under a government of their own choosing. Arrayed against them are the Dutch capitalists who seek to restore colonial rule by bayonet.

If any people are entitled to aid, including arms, it is these fighters against colonial enslavement. If any are to be condemned—and disarmed—it is the Dutch enslavers. This is the gist of Cannon's telegram to Truman and his reply to Assistant Secretary of State, Norman Armour.

On the other hand, the public explanation offered by Armour for the State Department is in reality a self-indictment. No amount of diplomatic double-talk can cover up the fact that the State Department has aligned itself with the Netherlands government, aiding and abetting the latter for reasons that it dares not make public.

Clearer of all from this correspondence emerges the fact that not alone the Dutch but the State Department have trampled underfoot all the war-time promises to "defend democracy," to guarantee the "independence of small countries," and so forth and so on.

The conduct of the State Department in the Far East is only a counterpart of the so-called Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan in Europe. In both cases we see the same results: blows at the masses, aid to the forces of reaction.

## Democracy and Hypocrisy

The next time the State Department starts beating its breast about undemocratic elections in Eastern Europe, remember what happened in the Democratic primaries in Mississippi this month and you'll see that their indignation is as phony as a \$4 bill. Examine their tears over Europe in the light of their indifference about Mississippi, and you'll see that their tears are strictly crocodile.

In Mississippi, as in some of the Stalinist-controlled countries, you cannot vote if the ruling party does not want you to. The dominant Democratic Party has ruled that no one can vote in the primary elections without first expressing opposition to federal anti-lynch, anti-poll tax and Fair Employment Practices Commission legislation. The following story, reported by the NAACP, was typical of what transpired when Negroes tried to vote.

Two Negro war veterans living in Pass Christian, Miss., went to the City Hall to vote. They were told they would have to answer a few questions first. The questions, asked by white officials, and the answers given by the two veterans were as follows:

Q. "How do you intend to vote, Democratic or Republican?"  
A. "Democratic."  
Q. "Do you believe in communism or fascism?"  
A. "No."  
Q. "Are you in favor of FEPC?"  
A. "Yes."  
Q. "You boys are disqualified."

What goes on in Eastern Europe may differ from this in form, but not in essence. The result in both cases is the "election" of governments and officials who do not represent the people any more than Hitler represented Germany.

The Democratic Administration works itself up into a lather over the suppression of democratic elections in Europe, but when it comes to the crimes in its own backyard, it remains as calm as an actor posing for a man-of-distinction whiskey advertisement. And the Republican Party, which lines up again and again with the Southern Democrats and cynically plays politics with legislation demanded by the Negro people, is no better.

Beware the man or the party that can denounce tyranny only when it is a long way off! Look closer and you will generally find that they themselves retain power only by the most undemocratic methods. It is time to put an end to both hypocrisy and the suppression of democracy in this country—and a labor party is needed to do the job.

## Fight Against Rent Sharks

Every day America's housing shortage becomes more acute. Every day hundreds of families are being evicted by ruthless, rent-gouging landlords backed by the law.

Reports from all major cities reveal how ominous the situation has become.

So far in the month of August, evictions in New York City have leaped 25% over last month's, which were 10% higher than a year ago. There were 6,709 residential evictions just in July.

At the same time, only 5,805 new dwelling units were completed in the first six months of this year, while 23,496 were demolished in 1946.

In Philadelphia, some 8,700 evictions are pending within three weeks, and new cases are piling up at the rate of 1,500 a month. Detroit workers face several thousand evictions. And so it goes everywhere in the land.

Millions of low-income tenants are being caught in a merciless squeeze. Private real estate and construction interests, aided by a government dedicated solely to profit interests, have blocked low-cost, low-rent government housing. They have deliberately maintained housing scarcity in order to boost housing costs and extort unconscionable rents from helpless people in decrepit hovels and tenements.

The situation for tenants is desperately bad and will rapidly become worse. Protection from the real estate sharks can come only from the organized mass action of the tenants themselves.

In every city, the tenants must be mobilized and organized for action. This is a job that can be done above all, and best of all, by the organized labor movement.

Here and there, local politicians are making gestures of "doing something" to protect tenants from being hi-jacked by landlords or thrown on the streets. Most of the measures they propose are full of loop-holes for landlords.

What is needed are airtight laws and ordinances, backed by the enforcement power of mass organization.

The only kind of ordinances that will fully protect the tenant are those providing complete prohibitions against ALL evictions and ALL rent increases, with jail penalties for landlords who attempt to evade such laws.

## Political Bankruptcy

The political bankruptcy of the American trade union leaders is sharply illustrated by recent actions of New York State CIO officials.

When Republican Gov. Dewey issued a Labor Day proclamation claiming great concern for labor's rights, President Louis Hollander of the New York State CIO heatedly denounced Dewey for "the greatest hypocrisy ever issued by any responsible government official."

Then, in the words of the CIO Union News Service, Hollander "pointedly ignored" Dewey when issuing invitations to the forthcoming state CIO convention. He as pointedly invited New York City's Democratic Mayor as chief speaker, lauding O'Dwyer as "the outstanding political figure in New York State."

Here's the record of this "outstanding political figure":

He doubled the city sales tax, borne mainly by the workers.

He tried to smash the AFL tugboat workers' strike and shut the city down for 16 hours.

He sent huge police forces against the CIO Western Union strikers and ran scabs through their lines.

During the past month, his police have brutally assaulted CIO pickets in the strike at the Brooklyn Trust Company, whose president is a leading Democratic campaign contributor.

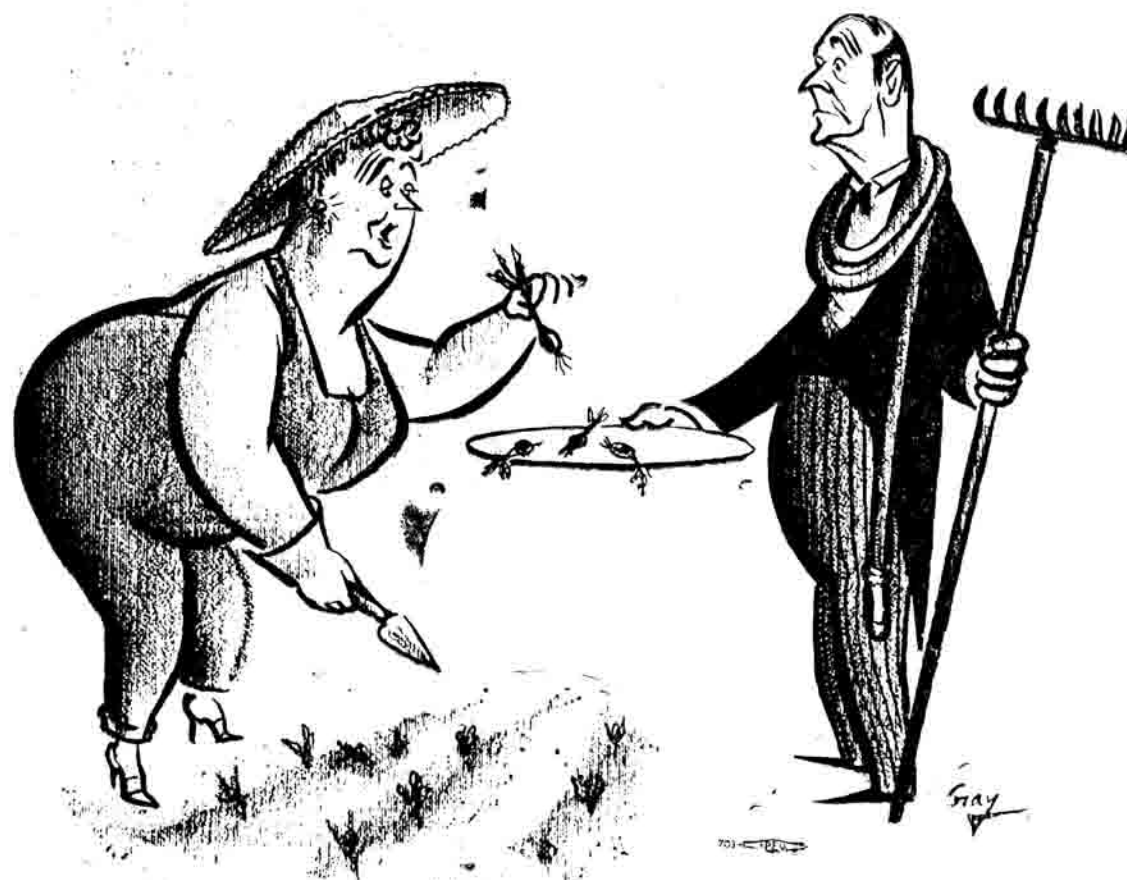
He "outlawed" the Queens bus strike, mobilized scabs and used his police to escort scab-driven busses.

He has called for higher subway fares in the interests of Wall Street bondholders.

This strikebreaking Tammany politician and bankers' stooge is the best the CIO leaders can offer as an "outstanding political leader." Why?

They are determined to keep labor tied under the two-party political monopoly of the capitalists. They are aligned with Wall Street's Democratic political wing. Thus, they must paint up a rotten capitalist politician like O'Dwyer as a "friend of labor."

This policy of supporting either Democrats or Republicans has always meant, and will always mean, deception and treachery by the union leaders and political subservience for labor.



"They ought to be ashamed. Always asking for higher wages. With a little initiative they could grow their own food."



## AMERICA'S NEEDS & RESOURCES by J. Frederic Dewhurst & Associates, Twentieth Century Fund, 811 pp., 1947, \$5.

This volume is a comprehensive survey of the present human and industrial capacity of the United States as well as an estimate of its future potential. It is a valuable fact book of the American economic system and is illustrated with an abundance of charts and statistical tables.

The project was directed by Dr. Dewhurst, economist for the Twentieth Century Fund, a privately endowed foundation. The Fund professes utter impartiality. It "takes no stand on survey findings and has no platform or program to promote." The forward to the book reiterates this claim: "The authors of this survey have confined themselves to facts and to projections of fact. They have left the implications strictly to the reader."

But even accepting these facts at their face value, there are implications of staggering proportions. They are a damning indictment of the capitalist system.

The major theme of the book is the stupendous productivity of American labor. The authors take the year 1944 as the base for their calculations. In that year the gross output of nearly 200 billion dollars in goods and services was achieved—more than twice the 1940 dollar volume. In this peak "war effort" year the U. S. accounted for nearly 45% of the armament output of all warring nations. One-fourth of America's total productive power went into the manufacture of combat armaments, more than 40% to meeting total war needs and about half to supplying total government requirements.

Even with all this, the survey

shows, American civilian consumers were "sustained at not far from the highest pre-war levels ever achieved." Some major goods such as autos and sugar were scarce or unobtainable. But these dislocations did not alter the picture of great productivity.

The reader cannot fail to be struck by what this immense productive capacity could have yielded for this country and the world in the form of food, clothes, housing, automobiles, etc. had it not been diverted into the imperialist war for profits.

The survey shows that net output of U. S. economy was 27 times greater in 1944 than in 1850. Yet it was turned out by a labor force only 8½ times larger, working only 47 hours a week as against 70, and utilizing 343 times as much mechanical energy. Because of the vast machinery and the high techniques possessed by this country, an American worker today produces more in an hour than a worker anywhere else on earth or at any other time in history. Yet even this impressive record, the survey states, may well be increased by 18% or more during the decade of 1950-1960. And this does not take into account the incalculable leap in productivity that could be achieved through the use of atomic energy.

Employers constantly harp about the need for longer hours, speedup, increased "efficiency," etc. But this sweating of labor has nothing to do with economic progress; its sole purpose is to wrest more profits from the labor of the working man and woman.

Although the authors try hard not to collide with these capitalist propaganda lies, the evidence they present does so despite their wishes. The survey establishes that the "efficiency" of the individual work-

er is a minor element in the productivity of the labor force. The most energetic shoemaker, working long hours with the hand tools of a century ago, could not remotely approach the productivity of today's semi-skilled operative, working with the aid of automatic power-driven machinery. "Over the past century we have achieved a fabulous increase in output per man-hour, not by working harder or more skillfully, but by constantly devising new and better machinery to augment human effort by the use of vast amounts of inanimate energy."

The authors themselves are faced with the contradictions of capitalist economy, although they approach them from a negative standpoint. They admit that the improvement and increased introduction of machinery means "technological unemployment"—a vast amount of human suffering. They cannot advise a policy of destroying the machinery by which man progresses, thus advising that society be hurled backward. And they dare not advise that the private ownership of the means of production be abolished, for that is socialism. Thus they are forced to conclude: "It is only through technological unemployment that material progress is possible."

This is the most obvious falsification in the book. Material progress is not possible without taking into account the greatest of all productive forces—man. The truth is the world can no longer progress under the capitalist system, as is amply demonstrated in the facts presented in this book. The author's real theme is to try to demonstrate factually that there is a great future ahead for American capitalism. Their facts, however, prove just the opposite.

—Evelyn Atwood

## Experts Hide Real Views On Coming Depression

Washington's top-notch economic experts have been conducting themselves in a devious manner of late. There are ample grounds for concluding that they are hiding their real views, while permitting highly misleading information to circulate for public consumption.

It will be recalled that they had persistently warned against the disastrous effects of further price rises. On their advice, President Truman has submitted official reports, transmitting these warnings publicly on several occasions this year.

### NOTHING TO SAY

Yet when the Steel Trust, ignoring these warnings and Truman's pleas, boosted steel prices, thereby making another general price rise unavoidable, these experts had nothing whatever to say. When approached by reporters, Edward G. Nourse, Chairman of Truman's Advisory Economic Board, announced that there would be no comment by the board.

Meanwhile, however, optimistic forecasts from Washington were permitted to appear unchallenged in the press. These have been disseminated most assiduously by Wall Street's foremost organs. Thus on Aug. 6 *The Journal of Commerce* featured on its front page, a dispatch to the effect that these economic experts had shifted their former views. The weekly *Business Week*, July 26, summed up the gist of Truman's mid-year report as a postponement of "the recession" into a rather indefinite future.

At the same time, it is reiterated

that this hazy "recession," when and if it does materialize, would not be anything serious, signifying merely a mild "readjustment" after which the economy would enter a protracted period of prosperity. Bullish items, such as repeated releases of "record employment" of above 60 million jobs, have featured Washington dispatches since May.

### DIFFERENT VIEW IN PRIVATE

Yet it appears that an entirely different set of views is making the rounds in private. Columnist Drew Pearson on Aug. 2 released the text of a communication to Sen. Taft by Dr. John Clark, member of Truman's Economic Advisory Board, warning against any anticipation of a brief and moderate recession.

According to Pearson, Clark flatly warned Taft that a future decline will be "anything but brief and moderate."

Clark is further reported to have informed Taft that it is erroneous to compare the present situation with that following World War I. After pointing out some of the major changes that have occurred since 1920-21, Clark goes on to conclude:

"The danger in easy optimism about a 'moderate recession' lies in its tendency to create a reluctance on the part of the people and their representatives to institute public policies which are uncomfortable, but are needed to forestall forces which threaten our continued prosperity. We know they will accept—nay, even they will demand—Government action of far more serious import if we suffer a depression."

"But it would be folly to let matters take their course in the expectation that if business turns downward it will be only a mild and

short affair, or that if it grows into a depression we will then take care of it."

While Dr. Clark, presumably together with his colleagues on the Advisory Board, is thus pleading in private for "government action," the very "folly" he inveighs against continues to be the guiding policy of the capitalists and of their government in Washington. They are determined to "let matters take their course," that is, to rake in as huge profits as they are able, regardless of the terrible price the mass of the people will have to pay in the end for their profiteering.

If Dr. Clark and his fellow experts had at heart the welfare of this country, as they pretend, they would not lose a moment in making their real views public. But they serve loyally only their real paymasters in Wall Street, and therefore they act and speak as they do.

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## Ruark's Expose of Army Life in Mediterranean

In a series of articles from Italy, Robert C. Ruark, Scripps-Howard staff writer, has pulled aside the curtain covering the facts about the shocking conditions under which U. S. enlisted soldiers live in the Armistice Mediterranean Theater of Operations.

In this command, lorded over by Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee who won ill fame as boss of the service and supply forces in Western Europe during the war, Ruark found abuses "that make any of the wartime caste-system howls mighty puny."

"There has been and continues to be a lavish waste of tax money."

"There is a really frightful misuse of the privileges of rank."

"There is brutality and consistent degradation and humiliation of the men..."

"Many of the men are ill-housed and badly fed. Many are employed as flunkies, servants and helpless targets for officer conceit." And the officers, who never had it so good, live like feudal princes.

All in all, Ruark doubts "if the German army was rougher on its personnel" than Lee on his.

### BACKED UP WITH FACTS

And Ruark backs up this statement with facts, plenty of facts and plenty of details. These facts will strike home particularly to former servicemen who they ought to be made known also to anybody who has fallen for the Army's bunk that abuses of GIs are a strictly wartime phenomenon, never under any circumstances to be discovered in the peacetime army under the command of the professional brass hats.

Ruark's expose is shrewd journalism, especially while bitter memories of the Army are still vivid for millions of veterans. But Ruark claims another and more altruistic purpose. He says he is writing the articles in the hope that Eisenhower will do something about these "outrageous violations of personal integrity" which can "wreck all we're trying to do to build a strong, competent Army." At bottom, therefore, Ruark contends it is not the Army caste system which is at fault, but "abuses" of that system.

This contention is fraudulent from beginning to end. Everybody in the Army in Western Europe knew what kind of general Lee was during the war, and that includes Eisenhower, who appointed him to his present post. What, therefore, can or will Eisenhower do about Lee?

### CRUDITY EMPHASIZES SYSTEM

Lee is only carrying out to its logical conclusion the basic concept on which the Army is built—namely, that there are two classes in the Army, the officers and gentlemen on top, and at the bottom the enlisted men, whose duty is to obey orders and who have no democratic rights officers are compelled to respect.

Lee acts crudely, but his crudity only serves to emphasize the fact that enlisted men are nothing but flunkies under the caste system. But are they anything but flunkies and nursemaids, to use Ruark's own terms, in other sections of the Army, where the generals behave more "moderately?"

Veterans and the labor movement—who unlike Lee's GI slaves are at least able to voice their opinions—should let loose such a roar of protest against conditions in the Mediterranean Theater (and elsewhere) that Eisenhower will be forced in self-defense to remove Lee (and his less notorious counterparts in Germany, Japan, Korea, etc.).

But an even more powerful demand must be raised against the caste system itself—the system which enables men like Lee to commit such outrages against the most elementary democratic rights of men in the armed forces.

## Bank Boosts Loan Rates: Credit Structure Shaky

Last week the metropolitan press carried an obscure item that caused a considerable flurry in the "financial community." It was the action of the National City Bank hiking interest rates on various broker and dealers loans. The *N. Y. Times* referred to it as "a surprise move." Other large banks reserved comments, permitting the press to draw the rather unlikely conclusion that "they had no immediate plans for any revision in the rates of their securities loans."

The National City Bank's increases are not large, amounting from ¼ to ½%. But what is important here is not so much the immediate increase as the future implications. If other banks follow suit, as they most likely will, this will mark the beginning of the long-awaited and much feared—tightening of credit, which would in turn have the profoundest repercussions in the economy as a whole.

Underlying the post-war boom has been an unparalleled expansion of credit. The inflation of credit has outpaced even the inflation of prices. Commercial and agricultural loans now stand at 12 billion dollars, an increase of 3 billions over a year ago, and almost double the 1941 average. In recent weeks business loans in the New York area have spurted again.

In the field of consumer credit the same conditions prevail. In June consumer credits rose close to 11 billion dollars, climbing at an annual rate of 2 billion over last year. This swift rise has occurred despite the restrictions on installment buying, which will be discarded on Nov. 1 and thus add impetus to the inflationary credit spiral.

Despite these huge injections of credit, retail sales are sagging. So are the sales of manufacturers, whose shipments have been dipping steadily since March, but who have taken up this slack by building up their inventories—borrowing from the banks to do so.

The wholesalers, who have trimmed their inventories, report their sales unchanged but add the tell-tale news that the credits they must extend have likewise been sharply increased, almost 40% more in "accounts receivable" than last year. This, too, is being sustained by bank loans.

Moreover, the credit structure is showing signs of strain even in a sector that has hitherto appeared almost invulnerable, to wit, agriculture. Since 1929 the trend in farm mortgages has been steadily downward, especially so during the war years. A sudden reversal has taken place. In 1946 the number of farm mortgages soared 26% above 1945. The first part of this year has witnessed a further rise, spurred by unbridled speculation which has sent land prices to within 5% of the inflationary peaks recorded in the frenzied land speculation of 1920. Farm prices have already almost doubled since pre-war days. The threat here is obvious: When the agricultural price structure starts to crumble, the land prices will fall even more precipitately.

At every key point we thus find the existing credit structure top-heavy, with the strains becoming more and more intolerable. Meanwhile the rate of bankruptcies continues to leap, increasing fourfold since last year.

Credit curbs of sizable proportions would entail distress liquidation of huge inventories and cutbacks in production which is at present dipping downward at the rate of 2% a month. Continuation of easy credits, on the other hand, threatens an even greater disaster in the end.

Faced with this dilemma the big bankers have apparently decided that their self-interests are best protected by beginning to clamp down on "easy money." They have thereby raised another dark cloud on the already ominously overcast economic skies.



# 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.

## How Much Longer Will We Take It?

Editor:

What with so many things on my mind, I just did not realize that my sub had run out.

This sure is a wonderful town we are living in, my husband and myself. We received an eviction notice and we have to vacate our apartment by Sept. 4. I guess we'll be sitting out on the street somewhere, furniture and all.

We have been living at this present address for almost three years. My greedy landlord is using the excuse that he wants to move his son in here with his dry-cleaning business.

The very alderman that served us with our notice is also running for City Council in this town. The other Allentown aldermen refuse to serve them.

I was told that this same alderman, named Shockor, was forbidden to practice in Pottstown or Pottsville, Pa., because of his dirty work, but in this town if you're in with the racketeering real estate interests and landlords, you can get away with anything.

Enclosed you will find a dollar to renew my sub for another year. I will let you know my new address, if I have any.

I wonder how much longer the workers of this country and other countries are going to take the housing shortage and the rising cost of living without doing something about it. If every worker was as tired of it as I am, something would have been done long ago.

Mrs. P. Schlicher  
Allentown, Pa.

## High Prices Shrink Value of War Bonds

Editor:

I see from the ads that they are still selling those war bonds, under the name of U. S. Savings Bonds now, and touting them as a big bargain. You get \$4 back for every \$3 you invest, where can you get higher interest, and so on.

Technically speaking, I don't suppose you can sue the Treasury Department for misleading and unethical advertising. But in fact that is what their ads are.

I had to sell most of the bonds I was pressured into buying before and after going into the Navy. Naturally, I didn't get the benefit of the interest as I would if I had held them for ten years. But what burned me up was that as a result of inflation the money I got for

turning in my bonds was worth only about HALF AS MUCH as when I bought them—in terms of what I could get with that money.

The way prices have gone up the same thing will hold true for those people who are able to hold onto their bonds for a full ten years. Even with that wonderful interest, the real value of the money they get for the bonds will be less than it was when they bought them. If that kind of advertising is honest, so was Hitler.

N. J.  
Buffalo, N. Y.

## Wants Reviews Of More Movies

Editor:

I am only 17 years old, which is probably a lot younger than most of your readers, but I want you to know how much I enjoy *The Militant* and how much I learn from it. I still have one more year of high school to go, but I don't learn one-tenth there of what I have learned in the last eight months by reading this paper.

There is one thing I would like to ask. Why don't you print more movie reviews—not only of the exceptional movies, but of all the popular ones which do so much to spread capitalist propaganda and to get the minds of the people off their real problems?

L. G. H.  
Washington, D. C.

## The Rights of Small Nations

Editor:

The other day when I was reading one of the later adventures of Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn and the Negro friend Jim (Tom Sawyer Abroad), I came across a section which seems to me pertinent now that everybody is again hailing the United Nations for its role on Indonesia.

Tom is talking about a fancied insult in Egypt to the American flag and sounding off about how those guilty of such an act would have to apologize and pay an indemnity on top of it too. Neither Huck nor Jim understand what an indemnity is, so Tom has to explain. Then Huck, who is telling the story, continues:

"It was a new business to me, and I asked Tom if countries always apologize when they had done wrong, and he says:

P. L.  
Chicago, Ill.

## Purpose of Marshall Plan Explained in Fourth International

"The Marshall Plan represents the most finished and thought-out scheme of American imperialism to bend ruined and prostrate Europe to its needs, to exert further economic and political pressure to him in Russia, and to realize hegemony of the continent," begins an editorial in the July-August *Fourth International*, just off the press.

The article points out that the Marshall Plan represents the break between Washington and Moscow, and the scrapping of the Potsdam Agreement. Everything went wrong with the imperialist scheme behind the Potsdam Agreement which attempted to carve up the European continent between the three major powers—the U. S., England and the Soviet Union, with a bone tossed in for France. The attempts to rehabilitate the collapsing economies of England and France failed. Germany, "torn from all sides by four ravenous wolves," was in danger of expiring and dragging the rest of Europe into the abyss.

Threatened with the loss of its objective—world empire—the U. S. imperialists "sat down to appraise the situation . . . The result is—the Marshall Plan."

Single copies 25 cents, yearly subscription \$1 can be obtained from Business Manager, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

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PHILADELPHIA—1302-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily, Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

## The State Department And Standard Oil

Editor:

An editorial in *The Militant*, Aug. 4, tells how the State Department sent a note to the Republic of Indonesia before the Dutch started their latest hostilities expressing "grave concern" over possible destruction of American property there, particularly the oil fields where Standard Oil flies its house flag.

This is not the first time the State Department has indicated its paternal interest in Standard Oil's Indonesian holdings.

Almost 7 years ago, on Nov. 13, 1940, Associated Press reported: "Japan's oil supplies from the Netherlands Indies will rise from 494,000 tons a year to 1,800,000 tons under an agreement announced today. United States and British companies will act as importing agents for the Japanese."

Tokyo was at that time stockpiling war materials in preparation for entry into World War II. This now forgotten deal with the Mikado "was worked out between Netherlands colonial and oil company officials and Tadaharu Mukai, chairman of the Japanese Mitsui interests and representatives of Japanese oil companies. However, the Standard Vacuum Oil Company and the Rising Sun Petroleum Company, Japan subsidiary of British Shell, will serve as importers to Japan . . .

Since World War II had already started and Roosevelt was preparing to take America into the conflict, you might think the State Department would stop this deal. But, if you care to check back in the N. Y. Times files to Nov. 16, 1940, you will find evidence that the State Department took just the opposite course. Sumner Welles, acting Secretary of State, on that day, declared that this deal had "no direct relation to any policy that the United States Government has carried out."

The final paragraph of the Times dispatch shows what close ties existed between the State Department and the oil monopolists: "Mr. Welles, in response to a further question implied that before the agreement was initiated the companies had consulted with the State Department . . ."

So you see that the State Department's "grave concern" over Standard Oil's interest in Indonesia is not something new, but simply a continuation of an imperialist government's natural interest in the welfare of one of America's biggest monopolies.

R. H.  
New York

## Like Castor Oil In Childhood

Editor:

Referring to last week's *Youngstown Vindicator*, I see where Congress is thinking of creating a job for all ex-presidents, by putting them in the Senate as members-at-large. Now I believe in aiding by the majority, that is when a politician is defeated he is not wanted, so why should Congress, a minute group, create a job of this kind that is not authorized by the vast majority. It reminds me of my childhood, having castor oil forced down my throat.

Joe.  
Youngstown, O.

## Mine Operators Incite Race Hate In Move to Put Over Speed-Up

Coal production in the Monongahela Valley returned to normal following the miners' holiday which had begun with wildcat walkouts protesting the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. Within two weeks two events, not of importance in themselves, but of great significance as indications of what is to follow, occurred in the Scotts Run area of Northern West Virginia.



The first took place in a notoriously Jim Crow mine. The foreman had been calling for more production, speeding up the work of the miners. "If you don't start getting out more coal, I'll bring in a gang of niggers." A rank and file miner thought a while and then replied: "Go ahead and bring them in. They're some of the best union men we've got."

In the second incident at another mine, a white miner quit in disgust; he claimed that his work had been speeded up so much that he couldn't take it any longer. It was generally feared that the bosses were making it tougher on the whites than on the Negroes. Good union men, both white and colored, are watching this strategy fearfully, remembering the days when the operators used first one group and then the other to scab against each other.

These events were unrelated but strikingly similar. It was no mere coincidence that they were so similar and took place so soon after the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act. Behind them is the whole story of the class struggle of 1947: a struggle which at this period in the decay of capitalism is being fought most bitterly at the point of production itself.

## COMPETITION LOOMS

Pierce competition among the coal operators is in the offing. Last year 613,000,000 tons of coal were dug in the United States, the second highest tonnage in history, and this in spite of two major strikes in the industry. Ninety per cent of the exported coal went to Europe, and coal operators realize that with the rehabilitation of European mines, a great part of this market will be eliminated. This fact, plus the approaching American depression which will curtail the domestic demand for coal drastically, recall to the operator the 20's and 30's when coal was known as the "sick industry."

As always, the operators pass their troubles on to the men. More production, more tonnage per man is what the bosses want. Already more and more miners return to the five-day week which, as every miner knows, does not mean that production is cut by one-sixth. But the main weapon of the operators is the speed-up.

Older men hired during the war are being weeded out. Many are eliminated by the company doctor (of the company, for the company—but paid by the men) who suddenly pressures or a lung condition which he had overlooked somehow when he examined them for employment during the war. That cynical threat, "the war is over now," has rung

in the ears of more than one old timer as he toiled at his labor.

## TO AID SPEED-UP

To aid the speed-up new machines are being introduced. Whole sections of mines and whole mines are getting new equipment. Shuttle-buggies are being introduced at several mines as it is believed that they can speed up the work of the men and disperse with the labor of the track men. Naturally, the larger the mine, the more money can be spent for the mechanized speed-up.

That is why the larger companies, and especially the captive pits, signed the new contract with so little reluctance, showed in fact a readiness which surprised the miners and embarrassed some of their fellow operators. They realized that the five-day week with their super speed-up put them in a position to drive their small competitors out of business.

Just now all of the operators are using every old trick they know to speed up the crews. Everything from prizes of a package of cigarettes to each man of the high production crew, from the instigation of competition (unremunerated this time) between crews or between shifts, to the greatest weapon that the bosses have learned to rely on—race-hatred.

Many of the miners realize that this is all part of the boss offensive against labor. Many see the relationship between the Taft-Hartley

Slave Labor Act, the speed-up, the coming depression, the government's drive to break the United Mine Workers, and race-hatred fostered by the bosses. They know that it is all part of a bitter battle that has been going on between the capitalist class and its government on the one hand and the coal miners on the other for five years now. They have been tense for month after month, uneasy, waiting for the showdown.

All these things point to the need for the miners to stick together and defend their union. Jim Crow at the mines must be destroyed or the operators will use it time and again to speed up the work by intimidation and break the UMW with non-union men, just as they did in 1922 in Scotts Run.

The speed-up must be stopped. It can only make more profit for the bosses at the expense of the miners. To the latter it will mean that the old timers will lose their jobs, the work will be even harder, the labor force will be cut down, and there will be less pay.

The men know how to fight this speed-up. Before the contract expired in June, the foremen were trying to speed the men up, but with little success. As one veteran miner expressed it, "Every time he comes around trying to jog us up, we just slowed down all the more. There are more ways to kill a dog than by choking him to death on fat meat."

## Scene at West Coast Camp



## West Coast Camp-School Opens 3d Season Sept. 6

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 8 — West Coast comrades and friends of the Socialist Workers Party greeted with anticipation the news that for the third successive year the Los Angeles section is running the West Coast Vacation School for Workers. The camp this year will run for nine full days, opening Saturday morning, Sept. 6, and ending Sunday evening, Sept. 14.

The Vacation School will be situated at the Workmen's Circle Camp in Carbon Canyon, San Bernardino County, California, 32 miles from Los Angeles. With such beautiful surroundings, well equipped site and modern facilities, the Camp Committee is able to promise a vacation that will be long remembered.

Classes, with attendance on a voluntary basis, will be held in two class periods each morning. One will be on Marxism in the United States, an elucidation of the basic theories of Marxism as tested and verified in the most highly developed capitalist country in the world, and an answer to all opponents of Marxist theory. This class will be given by C. Curtis.

The second class period will offer a choice of three classes. 1. Introduction to the Program of the Socialist Workers Party. 2. Historical Materialism. 3. A Discussion of Marx's Capital.

Forums on such popular subjects as: Medicine and Socialism, The Crisis in the Sciences, Grievance Procedure in the Plants, The Role of Hollywood in Capitalist Culture, The Negotiation of Contracts, The Current Literature on the Negro Question, and other subjects will be led by qualified speakers from each field of work.

A many-sided program of recreational activities, including outdoor sports such as swimming, baseball, basketball, tennis, volleyball, ping-pong, chess and checkers, and social affairs, dancing, campfires, song-fests and movies will round out the camp program.

Reservations for the full nine days or for part time registrants are now being accepted. Those who plan to attend the camp are asked to register early. Anyone wanting further information is asked to communicate with the West Coast Vacation School at 316½ W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

## WEST COAST VACATION SCHOOL Workmen's Circle Camp

Carbon Canyon, San Bernardino County

September 6 through 14

Adults: \$25 for 9 days, \$4 a day

Children: \$15 for 9 days, \$2 a day

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

WEST COAST VACATION SCHOOL, 316½ West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles 15, Calif.

Reserve accommodations for below from . . . . . to . . . . .

Family ☐ Couple ☐ Single ☐

List all who will attend:

Name . . . . . (Mr., Mrs., Miss)

List of Children and Age . . . . .

Name of Applicant . . . . . (Please sign)

Address . . . . .

City & Zone . . . . . State . . . . .

## NEWARK

Second Annual Picnic

RAHWAY PARK, N. J.

Sunday, August 31

11 a. m. - 8 p. m.

For reservations, phone

Bigelow 3-2574

from 8 to 10 p. m.

## THE MILITANT ARMY

## Tri-City Penn. Picnic Yields Aid to Militant



Youngstown, Pittsburgh and New

Castle readers of *The Militant* held

a joint picnic near New Castle late

in July, realizing proceeds of \$27.06

which were sent to *The Militant* to

help keep the paper in publication.

"The picnic was enjoyed by all

the comrades who were able to at-

tend," wrote M. Jones, *Youngstown*

literature agent. "In fact, some

comrades think we should have dis-

tributed all the refreshments, the

*Youngstown* and *Pittsburgh* com-

rades donated a bottle of French per-

fume and a silk babushka as prizes."

Youngstown also sent an addition-

al dollar donated by a reader, along

with a batch of new and renewed

subs.

While summer vacations slow

down the organized sub-getting work

of branches, individual readers

throughout America and abroad

continue their enthusiastic local

plugging of "the only newspaper in

this country that tells the truth

about labor's struggles for a better

world." Members of the Socialist

Workers Party use their vacation

outings to make new friends and in-

terest them in our paper.

Readers not only renew their own

subscriptions but send in new subs

for their friends and fellow workers.

The last week's mail includes subs

from Washington, Oregon, Califor-

nia, North Dakota, Illinois, Massa-

chusetts and India, besides most of

the large cities where the SWP has

branches.

Militant Booster J. D. of Kewanee,

Ill., sent in three new subs. The

Kewanee list grows very encourag-

ingly week after week, proving what

one or two enthusiastic readers can

do when they set themselves to it.

From Portland, Oregon, S. M.

sent four new subs besides a renewal

of his own, all for a year each. He

further comments: "Grace Carlson's

articles on various topics are of

great interest. More power to her

and to those who aid her in her

struggles for publishing the Truth.

Here's to a bigger and utmost suc-

cessful *Militant* paper and thanks to

all of its direct cooperators and all

those who aid in its works."

Public libraries are more and more

feeling the public demand for *The*

*Militant* and other literature of the

Socialist Workers Party. For a time

*The Militant* sent free samples to

many libraries throughout the coun-



# The Day the Spell Was Broken

By Theodore Kovalsky

When you were a kid probably somebody read to you about giants and witches, about spells that were cast over people. Well, one time I saw a spell that was broken. A thing happened, and everything was suddenly changed all around, everything was different. Here's how it was:

It was a machine shop, not a very big place as shops go, one that hired about a hundred men including clerks and bosses. It was an old shop. In the morning Harry, the foreman, would pull a switch turning on the shop's power, and all the pulley belts would start flapping. It was a noise that I'll always remember. All day long we'd hear the belts. There was a main drive shaft coming from a huge motor up near the ceiling at the rear of the shop. From that line belts looped down to the machines along the middle of the shop; and from it other belts reached out to turn other lines of pulleys that ran parallel to it, and from these lines the belts looped down to the machines under them.

And all day long all these belts flapped as the pulley wheels whirled. At quitting time Harry pulled the switch again, and the motor moaned slowly down. The belts flapped more slowly, more weakly, and finally were still, drooping down to the quiet machines as though they, like us, were exhausted after the day's labor.

They say the speedup is a comparatively new thing in industry . . . and that is true in the scientific sense. Newer and newer ways are ever being developed to make the workers produce more and more in less and less time. Ways are being found to lay off more and more workers to produce the same amount of work.

But in those old days we had our own speedup. It didn't work as well as the one at Ford or G.M. today, but it worked. It was simple. There were no elaborate time and motion studies. There were no charts and tables. There were Harry, Louie, the straw-boss, and Mr. Wicker, the superintendent, whom we saw only at certain terrible intervals dur-

ing the day. That's all they had, just three men for their speedup; but those three men held in their hands not whips, not guns, but something far more deadly: the power to say, "You're fired!" And when they said, "Hurry up," or "You gotta do more work than this," we hurried up and did more work.

So that's the way it was every day. The pulley belts flapped and flapped with a strange dull slapping sound that is like nothing else than pulley belts. And all day long we worked steadily, worked fast, and felt Harry and Louie, and sometimes felt the terrible presence of Mr. Wicker at our backs. All day it was that way, and every day.

But one day there was a thunder storm so loud and furious that we could hear the thunderclaps even over the roar of the machines and the flapping of the belts. And suddenly, early in the afternoon, the motor at the rear of the shop moaned down to a stop. The belts flapped more slowly, more faintly, and then were still.

There we were in the shop in the middle of the day, but a magical thing had happened. Something had broken the spell and set us free. For a moment there was a heavy, dead, all-pervading silence. We stood at our machines and looked up at the quiet belts. We stared with our eyes a little out of focus, for we had been looking steadily at the work held in our machines.

Then we realized what had happened. We had been set free. We began to talk, to laugh, to shout jokes from one end of the shop to the other. Even the bench hands who needed no pulley belts for their work stopped with the rest of us and wouldn't go back to work even when Harry came and blustered at them.

For ten minutes it lasted. For ten free minutes we substituted our own happy noise for the dead sound of the belts.

But then, like a siren with a hoarse bass voice, the sound of the motor went spiraling up again and the belts began to flap as they always did. We stopped talking and laughing. We stopped smiling and went back to work without even a word from Harry or Louie.

That was the first time such a thing had happened, and I don't think it ever happened again.

## The Negro Struggle

### Admiration for the Indonesians

By Albert Parker

Look far and wide, North and South, in the colleges and in the cotton fields, and you will still find it difficult to discover a Negro in the United States who is not passionately sympathetic to the struggle of the Indonesian people for independence.

The reason is simple. Oppressed and exploited themselves, the Negro people understand how the Indonesians feel about imperialist oppression and exploitation. Segregated, discriminated against, denied the full benefits of citizenship themselves, the Negroes in this country feel in their very bones the justice of the Indonesian cause.

If you probe deeper, however, I think you will find something more than sympathy and admiration for the Indonesian struggle among American Negroes. I think you will also find some envy, certainly among Negro militants.

Yes, envy, because the Indonesians, despite the great obstacles they must overcome, are at least in a position where they can fight effectively and to the finish against their enemies. Because the Indonesians found the opportunity, during the twists and turns of the war, to come to grips with their foes, out in the open, in a dramatic and inspiring struggle which can be prolonged but not defeated.

In many ways the Negro struggle for equality is more difficult and disheartening than the struggle in Indonesia. The Negroes here are a minority, while

the Indonesians are the overwhelming majority in their country and the American capitalist class is far more powerful and resourceful than the Dutch. Here not only the Negroes must be aroused and organized — that isn't so hard — but also their allies among the white workers, many of whom are still drugged and duped by Jim Crow propaganda.

But let's not exaggerate the picture, or we will end up by discouraging ourselves at a time when we have every right to be confident and optimistic. Millions of Negroes who today seem apathetic or resigned to their fate are just waiting for the time when they too can come to grips with the enemy. When that day comes, they will show the same spirit of heroism and self-sacrifice and audacity as their Indonesian brothers and sisters. And once the white workers are awakened politically, no power on earth, not even Wall Street, will be able to stop them.

Meanwhile, the task is to prepare for that day. This preparatory work is less inspiring than the final struggle will be. It takes the frightened ones, the men and women who can see the distant goal even in the sometimes routine day-to-day work of organizing and selling pamphlets and holding meetings, the people who are patient and stubborn and have confidence in the future they are preparing for.

We have the right to envy the Indonesian heroes battling for a better world half-way round the globe. And we have the duty to follow their example and prepare for the coming struggle here.

## Health for All

By Grace Carlson

Most promising of all of the recent developments in public health have been the labor-sponsored health programs. In the past few years, scores of trade unions have won the fight to have the employers finance health programs for union members.

By means of health and security clauses in their contracts, the United Mine Workers, the St. Louis CIO Wholesale and Retail Clerks Union, the New York City AFL Painters Union, the Philadelphia International Ladies Garment Workers Union and others have established flourishing health programs for their members.

But the staggering problem of supplying medical care to all American workers who need it can be met only through federal funds and federal legislation. That is why the official AFL and CIO movements have endorsed the National Health Insurance and Public Health Act of 1947, successor to the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill of 1945-46. But even this mild form of socialized medicine has met with violent denunciation by the vested interests of private medicine — the spokesmen of the bureaucratic American Medical Association.

Instead, the AMA is supporting an opposition measure — the Taft Health Bill. Introduced by the reactionary Taft of Ohio (of Slave Labor Law ill-fame) and the equally reactionary Ball of Minnesota, the Taft Bill would "provide hospital services, surgical services and medical services for all those families and individuals in the State having insufficient income to pay the whole cost of such." Trade union spokesmen, representatives of cooperative health groups, and members of independent physicians' organizations have attacked the Taft Health Bill both because it is based on a charity concept and because it provides for doctor-control of public funds.

On the other hand, the National Health Insurance

Bill proposes to broaden the Social Security Act to include compulsory health insurance. Those eligible for care would include all employed or self-employed persons, recipients of old-age or survivor benefits, and those on relief — if the premiums are paid by the relief agency. Provision is to be made to have 3% of earnings to be paid into a national insurance fund. Additional funds are authorized to be appropriated from general taxation for hospital construction, etc.

The services, as outlined in the National Health Insurance Bill, include diagnostic and therapeutic care by a physician of the patient's choice (provided the physician is qualified under state standards). General practitioners are to be paid according to methods chosen by a majority of physicians in the area. Specialists will be paid by a method agreed upon by them and the insurance officers. Hospitals will be paid full cost of service.

Despite its many, many inadequacies, the National Health Insurance Act is being supported by trade unions because it represents a forward step on the road toward better health for the workers. But organized labor should take the next step and demand that these tremendous health insurance funds be placed under the control of the trade unions. Many trade unions have already demonstrated their ability to win the support of forward-looking medical men and to operate impressive health centers. Other unions could — and would — do as well if they had the necessary financial resources.

In a socialist society doctors will be freed from the fetters of private profit. They will be able to apply the benefits of modern science to all who need medical care — and in the measure in which each one needs it. But in the socialist society, health will not be merely a negative thing, i.e., the absence of pain or disability. In the Anglo-Saxon origin "health" means something positive. It is wholeness. It means a long, rich and productive life. Socialist medical science will find the way to bring health to all!

## Notes from the News

**LONG LIFE AND SOUR:** Pearl L. Bergoff, who made a big business of strikebreaking for Big Business for 35 years, kicked the bucket at the age of 68 last week.

**JIM CROW AT FBI:** Negro applicants for clerical jobs are getting the brush-off from the FBI, the NAACP declared in a protest against that department's "illegitimate hiring policy."

**WITHOUT BLUSHING:** The day after Hitler attacked the Soviet Union, Senator Harry S. Truman said: "If Germany is winning we ought to help

Russia, and if we see Russia is winning we ought to help Germany." (N. Y. Times, June 23, 1941, reprinted in W. L. White's new book, *Report on the Russians*.) Three years later the Communist Party helped to elect him Vice-President.

**THOUGHT CONTROL:** The so-called "loyalty" check of all federal employees is expected to swing into operation full blast this week. Truman asked for \$25 million to carry through the purge, and Congress gave him \$11 million to start with.

**THE DEBS STORY:** A biographical novel about Eugene V. Debs, *Adversary in the House* by Irving Stone, will be issued by Doubleday next month.

# THE MILITANT

PAGE SIX

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1947

# TROOPS WILL AID DICTATORS IN GREECE, U. S. THREATENS

By John G. Wright

Simultaneously with the arrival of the American "aid" mission in Athens, the Truman administration propelled this country closer to the "shooting phase" of the next world war by voicing openly the threat to send U. S. troops into Greece.

This threat was contained in

a speech made on Aug. 12 by Herschel V. Johnson, deputy U. S. representative on the Security Council. Johnson's "very strong speech" was interpreted by the N. Y. Times as the beginning of a "series of drastic steps" which might "culminate in the use of armed forces by the United States and other countries."

Preliminary steps are already on the way. A dispatch from Washington, Aug. 14, reports "discussions between the State and War Departments" with a view to expediting the departure of "U. S. troops (which) may ultimately have to be dispatched to Greece." This means that the stage for action has already been set, pending the final orders.

## WAR SPECULATION

There is speculation in the metropolitan press that American soldiers may be fighting in Greece by the end of this year.

A Reuters dispatch from London discloses that Washington is moving in prior agreement with the Attlee government.

It is an open secret that discussions of American armed intervention in the Balkans have been going on for weeks, with the Greek monarchy pressing for such "aid." On Aug. 5 Athens sent out an "urgent plea" for a "symbolic force" of American troops and planes.

No official request has been forthcoming because, as the N. Y. Times explained on Aug. 7, "Greece cannot formally and officially ask for American troops until all efforts to obtain security through the United Nations have failed."

This flimsy obstacle has now been removed by Washington's expressed determination to by-pass the U.N. It is already accepted as an accomplished fact in Athens, from which Aug. 13 dispatches carry the news that Johnson's speech "was hailed almost universally as an American



pledge [to] defend [Greek] integrity even to the point of sending troops."

The Truman administration is moving so swiftly to tear up its own promises not to send troops to Greece, because no aid short of military intervention can long keep the incumbent Athenian despots in power.

Despite their reign of terror, Premier Maximos and his cabinet find their position more precarious than before. They are reported to have told the U. S. State Dept. that unless armed assistance is forthcoming they must resign in the face of the "ever rising tide of guerrilla activity." (N. Y. Times, Aug. 7.)

The international crisis now precipitated reproduces in many of its features the developments that preceded the outbreak of World War II, with Greece today taking the place of Spain, and with the U. S. and England in place of Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany.

By betraying and forcibly opposing the struggle for a Socialist Greece, the monstrous Stalin regime is repeating the same criminal role there that it played in Spain, in the fateful days preceding the formal outbreak of World War II.

By his policies Stalin paves the way for another world slaughter just as he did in Hitler's time.

The warmongering character of the Truman Doctrine is now clearly revealed. The steps now envisaged in Greece are its logical outcome.

## ONLY THE BEGINNING

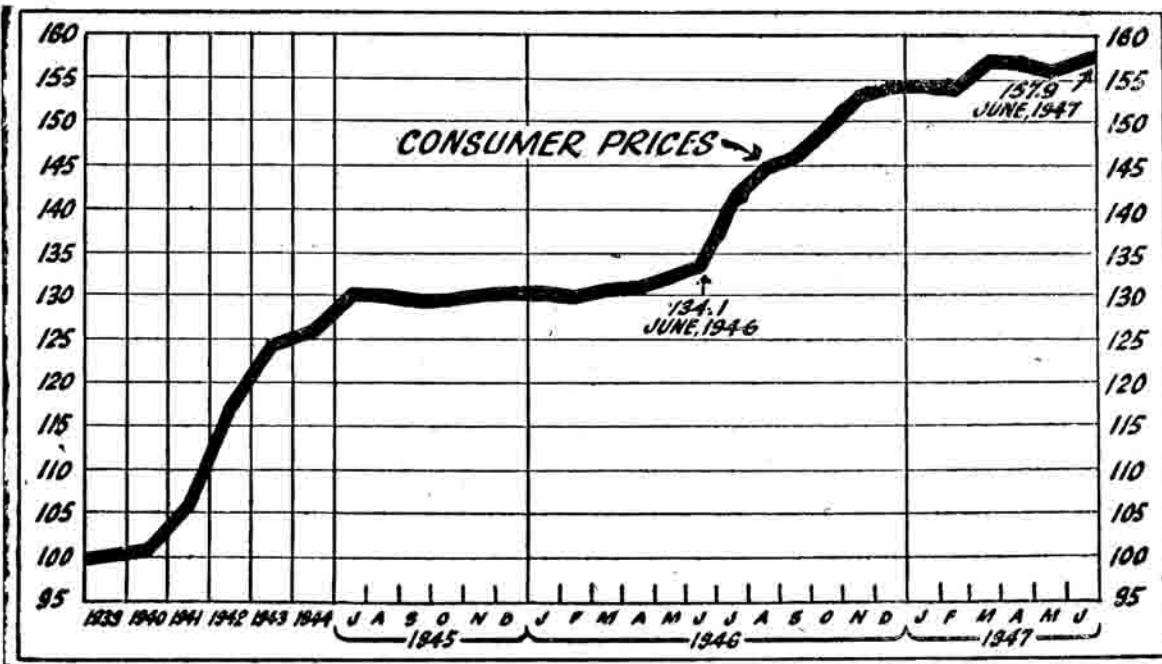
Greece is only the beginning. Once American troops are installed there, equally "urgent reasons" for sending other detachments to countries in Europe will inescapably follow.

Nor will the arena of this series of "unofficial" wars be limited to the continent of Europe. It will extend to China, where the blood-soaked dictatorial regime of Chiang Kai-shek likewise cannot long survive unless propped up by American bayonets.

The American workers must not allow themselves to be hoodwinked by the lie that American intervention is designed exclusively to preserve Greek independence. It is an imperialist policy that tramples on the right of the Greek people to self-determination; simultaneously it carries with it the threat of atomic destruction of the whole world.

For this reason labor must raise its mighty voice to demand: "Stop the warmakers! Hands off Greece!"

## How Prices Have Kept On Soaring



This chart from the August issue of AFL Monthly Survey shows statistically what every housewife already knows too well—that prices are far above what they were in 1939.

Federated Picture

# Labor and Negro Groups in Chicago Rally to Defense of James Hickman

CHICAGO, Aug. 13.—The trial of James Hickman has been set for Sept. 29, after his indictment by the Grand Jury on charges of murdering his former landlord, David Coleman, and of assaulting Percy Brown, Coleman's half-brother, with intent to kill. Simultaneously the fight to save Hickman's life moved into high gear as labor, Negro and community leaders and organizations rallied to his defense.

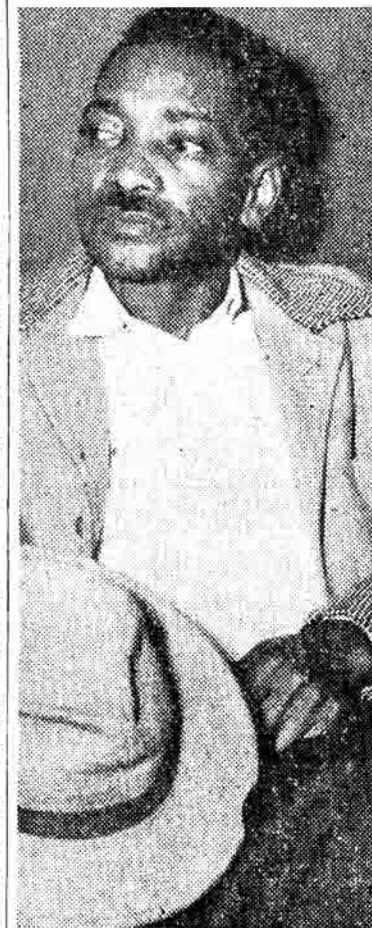
A West Side Hickman Defense Committee has been functioning since July. Now the defense movement is broadening out. Five prominent individuals this week sent out a call for a meeting tomorrow to sponsor the establishment of a city-wide defense committee. Their letter presents the following summary of the Hickman case:

## ORDERED OUT OF ATTIC

"James Hickman, his wife and their children were tenants in a building managed by David Coleman on the West Side of Chicago. They lived in a tiny attic room without gas, electricity, running water or fire escapes. They had been living there temporarily after having paid for a flat in a lower floor in the same building.

"The landlord, Coleman, instead of living up to his promise, ordered this family out of the building in order to be able to cut up the building into smaller flats and thereby realize an even greater profit on rent collections.

"Faced by the acute housing



JAMES HICKMAN

## Chicago NAACP Plans Mass Action On Housing Crisis

CHICAGO, Aug. 13.—The new Labor Committee of the Chicago NAACP is working on plans for a mass demonstration next month under the joint auspices of the NAACP, the Chicago CIO Council and various AFL locals. The main theme of the demonstration will be a demand for the reconvening of Congress to adopt a genuine public housing program to meet the deepening housing crisis.

The demonstration will also demand the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law and the adoption of effective federal anti-lynch legislation.

Otis Collins, member of the CIO Council's Housing Committee, has been chosen NAACP Labor Committee chairman, with George Byrum of AFL Barbers Union Local 939 as co-chairman. Other officers are: Secretary and publicity director—Robert L. Birchman, also publicity director for the Committee for Racial Equality (CORE); corresponding secretary—Ward Rogers of the Machinists Union; chairman of subcommittee on education—Russell Snodgrass, member of the CIO Anti-Discrimination Committee.

The NAACP Labor Committee plans to secure representation from all locals of the CIO, AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods and community organizations. These delegates will meet once a month, beginning Sept. 8. The Labor Committee aims to create an effective alliance between the NAACP and other Negro organizations and the labor movement for joint action on common problems.

attorney for several tenant union groups and NAACP branch executive board member; Leon Despres, civil rights lawyer and member of the American Civil Liberties Union executive board; and William Temple, prominent Negro criminal lawyer and member of the NAACP executive board.

Three attorneys have been retained for Hickman: M. J. Myer,

# Rockaway Pickets Score Victory Against Jim Crow at Bath-house

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—After two weeks of intensive mass picketing to break down discrimination at the Park Inn Bathhouse at Rockaway Park, L. I., a decisive victory against Jim Crow has been won.

Confronted by the protests of angry participants at a hearing on the case, Benjamin Fielding, Commissioner of Licenses, ordered the proprietor to immediately quit his discriminatory practices and admit to the bathhouse all persons regardless of color. Failure to comply with this order, he declared, would result in the immediate revocation of the bathhouse license.

Today, for the first time in many years, Negroes were readily admitted entry into the bathhouse. All of the trick aliases concerning "membership" or status as "guests" which had previously been used to keep Negroes out, were forgotten. The management literally groveled before Negro customers, laying out the welcome mat for them. A sign that only "members and guests of members" were permitted was hastily removed.

The victory was all the more sig-

nificant in that this is the first time in New York's history that a license commissioner has been forced to admit he had the legal authority to revoke a license because of racial discrimination. This admission sets a valuable precedent for future battles against Jim Crow.

The hearing at the License Commissioner's office began with the presentation of charges by two of the members of the Coordinating Committee in charge of the picket line, Miriam Eversley and George Howard, who had also instituted legal action against the proprietor of the bathhouse.

Answering these charges, the sole defense of the proprietor was that his bathhouse is an incorporated membership club and therefore had the right to deny admittance to all except members and guests of members.

This pretext was quickly punctured by Herbert Hill, organization Director of the Coordinating Committee and member of the Harlem Branch of the NAACP. Hill pointed out that he personally had been sold a ticket and admitted without being a member or a guest of a member. He showed that in the many

days he had participated on the picket line, while persons were continuously admitted without question while Negroes were denied admission on the pretext that they were not members or guests.

Among those who attended the hearing was Ann Little, Secretary of the Harlem Branch of the NAACP, representatives of the Committee for Racial Equality, the Mayor's Committee for Unity and numerous participants of the picket line. The aggrieved Negroes who had been denied admittance were represented by Attorney Conrad Lynn.

## PICKET LINE SUPPORTED

The picket line before the bathhouse which climaxed in victory at the Commissioner's office was officially supported by the New York State Conference of the NAACP with representatives from the Harlem, Brooklyn, Great Neck, Jamaica and Rockaway branches of the NAACP; the American Jewish Congress; the Siloam Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn; a shop unit of UAW-CIO, Local 365; the Harlem Social Group of the AFL Painters Union and the Committee of Racial Equality. On the second weekend

of picketing it was joined by the Catholic Worker group and the Harlem Friendship House.

The picket line, militant throughout, had seriously cut into the business of the bathhouse, turning away many persons who refused to enter the Jim Crow establishment. Seeing the determination of the pickets, city police retreated from their original intention of trying to break up the line.

Prior to the hearing at the License Commissioner's office the committee in charge had decided to supplement its picketing with a monster rally before the bathhouse and to institute immediate legal proceedings. In the event of failure by the Commissioner to act, the committee had decided to place a mass picket line around his office.

It is generally believed that Fielding yielded to the pressure of the picket line to refurbish his reputation as a "liberal" after the storm he had aroused by committing himself to the 10 cents fare. His removal from the County Committee of the American Labor Party because of his stand on the fare question gave him notoriety which he was undoubtedly anxious to eradicate.