

THE FIGHT IN THE UN

See Page 3

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. XI.—No. 39.

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1947.

9

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

What a Workers and Farmers Government Would Do About Prices

An Editorial

What would a government genuinely representative of the workers and dirt farmers—a Workers and Farmers Government put into power by an independent working class party—do to ensure low prices and plenty?

Such a government would attack high prices and scarcity at their source—monopoly price-fixing, limitation of production, extortionate profits.

1. It would institute rigid price regulation and equitable rationing of scarce commodities, controlled and enforced by the consumers themselves through mass committees of the unions, consumers and farmers organizations.

2. It would crack down on all speculators and hoarders: impose severe penalties on those who withhold food and other essentials to gamble on scarcity and high prices. The mass consumers committees would ferret out violators of laws against speculation and hoarding and confiscate all hidden food and other supplies.

3. Books and records of all corporations would be opened for inspection by the workers to uncover evidence of profiteering, price-fixing, curtailment of production, mismanagement fraudulent practices, etc.

4. All basic industries, starting with the food processing industries, would be taken over and nationalized by the government—that is, expropriated. Private ownership and profit would be eliminated. The nationalized industries would be operated under the control of the workers themselves.

5. National planned production, based on the needs of the people, would replace the present wasteful and chaotic system of production for personal gain. All new processes and inventions for expanding production would be utilized. Freed from the private monopoly stranglehold, production would constantly increase.

Cost of production for the small farmers would be sharply reduced through cheap credit, cancellation of mortgages, low-priced fertilizer, seed, machinery and manufactured goods, cheap freight rates, etc. Profiteering middle-men and speculators would be eliminated through cooperative marketing and distribution. Big corporation farms, however, would be expropriated and operated under control of the farm workers.

7. Minimum wages sufficient to maintain high standards of decency, comfort and health, would be established by law. Real wages would be protected by a cost-of-living bonus system to compensate for any rise in living costs.

8. The monstrous war budget and war waste would be eliminated. Diversion of labor and resources for the destructive purposes of imperialist war would be ended. All government funds would be utilized for peaceful and beneficial social purposes. Necessary taxes would be levied strictly on the ability-to-pay principle.

We know the present government of, by and for Big Business will not take any of these necessary measures to halt price inflation and safeguard living standards. It is a class government of the rich owners, whom the Democratic and Republican parties serve.

These are measures that only a government of the workers and farmers themselves will put into effect and thereby ensure plenty and security.

RUBBER UNIONISTS TO SPURN NRLB

By Joseph Andrews

BOSTON, Sept. 20 — Five hundred delegates to the 12th annual convention of the CIO United Rubber Workers this week decisively repudiated President L. S. Buckmaster's proposal that the union qualify to use the NRLB under the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law.

Thus, the first convention of an important CIO union since the passage of the law has provided a militant lead for the coming conventions of the United Electrical Workers, Auto Workers and others which will be held this year.

In his keynote speech opening the convention, Buckmaster pleaded with the delegates to reverse the stand taken by the International Executive Board to boycott the NRLB. He wanted the URWA to go on record, prior to the CIO convention which will take place next month in Boston, to make use of and live with the Taft-Hartley Act.

The proposal aroused great opposition in the convention. Conscious of this, Buckmaster maneuvered to stall the report of the resolutions committee, which he controlled, so that this key point would come up very late in the convention, when many delegates would have left and full discussion would be impossible.

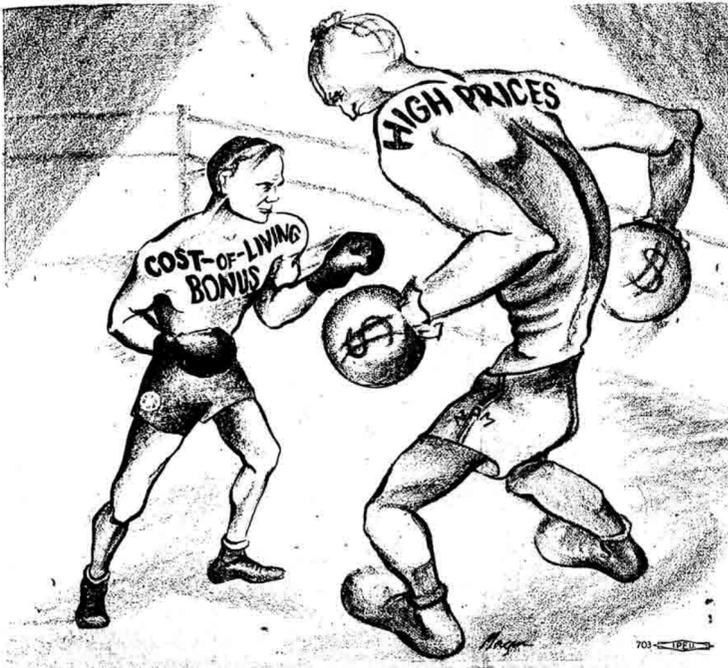
But the issue was catapulted onto the floor by a discussion over a proposed amendment to a resolution dealing with the democratic rights of all minority groups. The resolutions committee recommended a resolution which advocated complete equality for all groups regardless of race, creed, religion or political affiliation "who abide by the law and our way of life."

This moss-back conservative stand was overwhelmingly repudiated by the convention which voted by a large majority to concur in Geller's amendment.

The amendment, proposed by Delegate Jules Geller of Akron

COST-OF-LIVING IS ANSWER TO BONUS DEMAND RISING PRICES

The Giant-Killer



NLBR Opens Offensive To Enforce Slave Law

The new National Labor Relations Board, set up under the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law, last week bared its teeth in earnest against organized labor.

It began action to enforce the Taft-Hartley Act in two cases that foreshadow a whole series of blows against the unions.

The board issued complaints, on the appeal of employers, against two AFL locals—International Typographical Union Local 12 in Baltimore and United Brotherhood of Carpenters Local 74 in Chattanooga.

The Baltimore union was charged with refusing to bargain with a group of 22 employers because it failed to negotiate a contract and imply posted the ITU's standard conditions under which the ITU members will work.

This policy was adopted by the recent ITU convention in an attempt to circumvent the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act which bar closed shop contracts such as have protected printing trades workers for decades.

According to the interpretation of the Taft-Hartley Act by "Labor

Czar" Denham, NLRB General Counsel, an employer can compel a union to sign a contract, refusal to do so constituting failure to bargain in "good faith." Thus, the Act may be used to force unions to sign non-closed shop contracts.

In the Chattanooga case, the union is charged with refusing to work on a building where the floor, wall and coverings were being installed by non-union employees of an open-shop specialty store.

This NLRB charge has been filed before a Federal District Court, which has already ordered the union to show cause why an injunction should not be issued against it for conducting a "secondary boycott."

Both cases illustrate how the Taft-Hartley Act and the agency established under it will be used to break down union security and to force workers to work under open shop conditions.

They also demonstrate the difficulty facing the unions in attempting to evade various provisions of the act either through special contract clauses or elimination of contracts.

Further enforcement of the Taft-Hartley Act will demonstrate that it is so full of anti-union provisions no union can hope to legally evade

them. Moreover, through the NLRB and courts the machinery exists to really put teeth into the Act. Labor cannot nibble away at the Act, but must conduct a struggle on the economic and political field to smash it in entirety.

Ball-Bearing Trust Displays Contempt For Government Suit

The Justice Department's "war on price-fixing arouses no more concern among the giant corporations than a mosquito's buzzing among a herd of crocodiles.

When Attorney General Clark filed suit against the ball-bearing trust, charging them with conspiracy to fix prices, they did not even bother to contest the suit. It was cheaper to pay the \$5,000 chicken-fine than detail a corporation attorney to argue about their law-breaking.

Among the companies who flipped the \$5,000 maximum penalty over to the government were General Motors Corp., SKF Industries, Marlin-Rockwell Corp., Fafnir Bearing Co., Federal Bearings Co., and Norma-Hoffman Bearings Corp.

Profits, Not Wage Costs, Boost Prices

Federal Reserve Study Backs Labor's Charges

Capitalist newspapers this week almost completely suppressed the most sensational and important news about high prices that has come from Washington in months.

This was the report in the latest Federal Reserve Board bulletin, issued Sept. 23, confirming the charges of organized labor that high prices are the result of profiteering and not of increased production costs, particularly higher wages.

The Federal Reserve bulletin reveals that the profits of manufacturing and mercantile concerns have gone up faster than their costs. It gives the lie direct to the corporation propaganda that present high prices are a result of higher wages and other production costs.

A study of 2,600 leading companies, states the Federal Reserve bulletin, discloses that profit margins "increased significantly" for most corporations in 1946, the very year when labor won its highest wage boosts.

"During 1946 most businesses experienced not only a larger dollar volume of operations but also a greater volume of profits for each dollar of business transacted," the Federal Reserve Board reports.

"In other words," it added, "the unit price increases in the products of most manufacturing and trade concerns were not matched by proportionate increases in their total unit costs." Prices—and profits—rose more than costs.

17 BILLIONS IN 1947

Corporate profits this year are running at a rate of about \$17 billion annually compared to \$12 billion last year. Prices are 25% higher. Wages have gone up less than 10%.

The steel industry offers an outstanding example of how the monopolies have used the pretext of higher costs, especially wages, to boost prices sky-high and rake in bigger profits.

Harvey W. Brown, president of the International Association of Machinists, last week charged that the steel industry lifted its prices 8.5 cents on the dollar to offset a coal miners' raise that increased the cost of steel production by only eight-tenths of a cent on the dollar.

The price increase for steel was thus ten times as great as the increased production cost. There's where your money goes.

Labor Must Begin Drive To Protect Real Wages

By Art Preis

A major union drive on the wage front has become imperative. Only such action can prevent the dizzy rise in prices from slashing living standards to hunger levels.

Substantial wage boosts, protected by cost-of-living bonuses, providing automatic increases for every further rise in living costs, are the only immediate and realistic defense against the intolerable high cost of living.

No other course remains open to labor. All appeals to the profiteers to "restrain" themselves are so much wasted breath. Any expectation that the capitalist government intends to "roll back" prices is an illusion.

The chief political spokesmen for Big Business are fully aware that the major immediate threat to big corporation profiteers and price-gougers lies in a national wage drive. That is why they have opened a preventive campaign against wage increases.

This campaign was signaled by Republican Senator Taft last week in his "six-point" program—the first and main point being the "stabilization" of wages—that is, a wage freeze.

The CIO News last week reflected the growing desperation of the workers. "If the trend continues at the present rate much longer," writes the CIO paper, "American workers will find themselves in about the same economic position they were back in 1939. That is, they will unless they receive another round of pay increases."

If price rises do not halt quickly, adds the CIO News, "working men and women, through their unions, will demand wage increases. They will have to do so if they are to maintain a decent standard of living."

But there is no sign that prices will soon reverse their present trend. The corporations are on their wild-goose chase in history. Neither Democrats nor Republicans offer the slightest prospect of relief from high prices.

With the profiteers and speculators sending prices on an unrestrained rampage, labor has no choice but to launch a militant drive for basic wage increases protected by a cost-of-living bonus clause.

Murray or Lewis for President in 1948, Auto Local Urges

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 22 — Chevrolet Local 659 of the UAW-CIO at its last membership meeting voted enthusiastically for a resolution advocating the establishment of a national Labor Party so that the workers "may run a labor leader such as Philip Murray or John L. Lewis for President in 1948."

The text of the resolution, which will be presented to the coming national convention of the UAW in November, reads as follows:

Whereas: The Taft-Hartley Bill has succeeded in destroying many of labor's gains of the past 150 years, while we are informed that both the Democrats and Republicans intend to submit legislation in the 81st Congress far more drastic than the Taft-Hartley Bill, and

Whereas: This all out offensive against the labor movement gives warning that while labor is a tremendous power economically it is politically helpless before the combined attack of the two-party system of Big Business, and

Whereas: The political weakness of labor stems from its failure to establish a new party based on labor and its failure to run candidates for office from the ranks of the union movement, and

Whereas: It is most apparent that in the state of Michigan, where the UAW-CIO has the bulk of its membership, close to half a million workers, a labor party can be established, and

Whereas: The UAW-CIO is the largest, most militant and progres-

Ohio PAC Groups Run Independent Candidates

Labor political developments of major significance are shaping up in Ohio. CIO Political Action Committee (PAC) groups in three key cities, Dayton, Youngstown and Cleveland, are running their own independent labor candidates in local elections against both Democrats and Republicans.

Similar campaigns have been conducted during the past months in Oakland, Chicago and other union centers. A trend of independent labor political action is beginning to emerge that may fix a new and progressive national political pattern.

An inspiring preliminary victory has already been scored in Dayton where two PAC-sponsored candidates were nominated in the August primary for City Commission and will run as independents against a Democrat and a Republican in the November elections. Charles E. Sims, Dayton CIO Council Presi-

dent, got the highest vote ever received in any similar primary.

Youngstown steelworkers are campaigning to elect their own candidate to City Council, John Ausnehr, a leading member of CIO United Steel Workers Local 1330 at Carnegie - Illinois' big Ohio Works. He is running in the Fourth Ward, previously a Democratic stronghold. The Local 1330 Political Action Committee has launched a vigorous campaign that is arousing widespread enthusiasm for Ausnehr as an avowed independent labor candidate.

The newest swing toward independent labor candidates is in Cleveland, where CIO Political Action Committee clubs in two working class wards are sponsoring prominent unionists for City Council. The 22nd Ward PAC group is campaigning for Robert Sivert, of the International Association of Machinists, and the 32nd Ward PAC is backing John DeVito, President of CIO United Auto Workers Local 45 at Fisher Body.

These PAC campaigns in Ohio

are straws in the wind. They reflect the growing desire among workers everywhere to break away from the old corrupt policy of supporting capitalist candidates of the Big Business parties, Democratic and Republican. They point the way toward a great march forward on the political field by American labor.

Here is the answer to the political dilemma of the American workers who are caught between the two boss parties. They do not have to create completely new machinery for genuine independent labor political action. They already have a developed organization in PAC, which can quickly be converted all over the country into a highly-effective apparatus for running and electing labor's own candidates on labor's own program.

Such a policy, in fact, will revitalize PAC and inspire a tremendous response from the workers and their allies among oppressed racial minorities, the lower middle class and poor farmers. The latest attempt of PAC to sell a candidate

of the discredited Democratic Party, in the Congressional race in the Allentown, Pa., area, proved a fiasco. It is clear that only by running candidates free of the taint of the two old parties will labor make real political strides.

It is precisely along this line that PAC will grow in strength and influence. It will become a powerful attractive force for all unionists, including members of the AFL, and establish the possibility for broad united labor political action. Once the trend reflected in Ohio develops into a broad movement, a solid basis for the formation of a national labor party will have been established.

Those who oppose the idea of a labor party, especially the top union officials, usually argue that it is not practical now. The proof to the contrary is the developments in Ohio and elsewhere which indicate the great possibility of utilizing PAC as a powerful lever of real independent labor politics leading toward a labor party.

Lewis—His Strength and His Weakness

By Art Preis

The recent AFL Executive Council meeting revealed again the worst and the best among the top American trade union leaders. During a sharp dispute over compliance with the Taft-Hartley Act in the matter of filing affidavits of non-communist affiliation, John L. Lewis once more showed how far he stands above the run-of-the-mine union leaders.



All the other leading AFL officials were ready to capitulate and sign affidavits. The United Mine Workers' President took a firm principled stand against submitting in the slightest degree to the infamous Slave Labor Act. He thereby temporarily blocked an AFL surrender on the disputed issue. But it is expected to provide the major debate before the coming AFL convention in San Francisco.

Lewis berated his colleagues as cowards and weaklings. He correctly contended that organized labor cannot both submit to the Slave Labor Law and fight it. Each such act of submission, he pointed out,

would undermine and weaken labor in a "war of attrition" that would eventually render the unions altogether helpless. He proposed instead a vigorous and unrelenting struggle against the Taft-Hartley Act in all its parts and as a whole.

Militant union men and women, regardless of affiliation, will applaud Lewis' stand. As against the vacillating and cringing attitude of other union leaders, they will uphold the bold and aggressive position voiced by Lewis. Lewis fights, he has guts; and that's the least the American workers should expect from those who head their unions.

But that is only the beginning of the matter. Lewis said a great deal at the AFL Executive Council meeting—but he did not say enough; or rather, he stopped short of the most important thing of all. He said American labor must fight—but he did not say HOW it must fight. He offered nothing specific by way of a program. For on the arena of political action—where the issue of the Taft-Hartley Act will be finally and conclusively decided—Lewis differs in no fundamental respect from the very union leaders he so justifiably castigated.

Let us imagine Lewis speaking before the AFL delegates at the San Francisco convention. He scathingly rips to pieces the timorous arguments of Green, Tobin and the other snivelling counsellors of retreat. With his well-known powers of oratory, Lewis arouses the delegates to fighting enthusiasm for a show-down struggle against the Taft-Hartley Act. And then . . . ?

But that is all. Lewis takes them no further. Drive out the Representatives and Senators who voted for the anti-labor law, Lewis has told them. But how is this to be done? Lewis has no answer, other than

the shop-worn, shoddy political policy traditionally peddled by the old-line union fakers: Vote in some other capitalist politician of Wall Street's Republican or Democratic parties.

This lack of real political understanding and perspective on the part of Lewis underlines all the more sharply the basic weakness of the union leadership as a whole.

It was Lewis who led the break with AFL craft-unionism in 1935 and organized the mighty industrial union movement of the CIO. It was Lewis who repeatedly defied the powers of the capitalist state during the war, while the other top labor officials were in retreat, and led the miners to magnificent victories. It was Lewis who again dared to confront the government in a 13-month struggle that ended last July with the miners' greatest wage gains. And today Lewis defies the entire leadership of the AFL in its principled stand on the NLRB and the anti-Communist affidavits.

But there is another side to Lewis. He is pitifully lacking in a broad comprehension of political realities. He continues to trade in the small coin of political deals with the enemies of labor. He is chained to narrow and antiquated conceptions of the struggle between capital and labor.

Lewis as early as 1937, during the Little Steel Strike, could dare to challenge the demagoguery of Roosevelt and expose the fraudulence of the Democratic Party as a "friend of labor." But the same Lewis could support the openly pro-Big Business Republican Party in 1940 and 1944.

Now, after the Republican-dominated Congress has passed the Taft-Hartley Act, what has Lewis

to propose? What will he tell the AFL delegates?

Surely, he cannot in good conscience tell them to vote Republican in 1948. Vote for the party of the Taft-Hartley Act—that would be a monstrous betrayal!

Can he tell them to vote the Democratic ticket—the party he correctly denounced years ago? Can he tell them to back the party of Truman who tried to break the mine strike last year, called for a draft-strikers law, issued an injunction against the miners, led the whole howling pack of reaction against the UMW?

Yet Lewis offers no other course. Like the other union leaders, he points no way out of the political dilemma of American labor. Like them, he narrowly-mindedly shuns and opposes the formation of labor's own party. He too stands as an obstacle in the way of the next great forward leap of the American labor movement.

This fundamental weakness overshadows Lewis' outstanding positive qualities as a union leader. Because the question of political action is so decisive today, this weakness nullifies the merits by which he shines in contrast to other union leaders.

The shortcomings of a man like Lewis demonstrate what a thorough overhauling the American trade union leadership requires. The new leaders will have the elementary qualities of courage and aggressiveness. But they will far surpass Lewis because they will have no ties to the capitalist system and its political machines. They will have a deeper understanding of the fundamental problems of the workers, a keener appraisal of the class forces that dominate our time, and a far-reaching, effective working-class program of social and political action.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

Cleveland workers will have the opportunity of voting for their own candidates for city council from the 22nd and 32nd Wards. Two prominent unionists, with long and honorable records as militant fighters for labor, have entered the elections as avowed independent labor candidates.

Robert A. Sivert, member of the International Association of Machinists and a staunch union man for 30 years, is challenging the Democrats and Republicans in the 22nd Ward.

He is endorsed by the Ward 22 Joint Labor PAC. He is campaigning on a program calling for municipal rent control and no evictions, more municipal recreation facilities and playgrounds, opposition to injunctions and police in strikes, resistance to the Taft-Hartley Act, etc.

Labor's candidate in the 32nd Ward is John DeVito, president of UAW Fisher Body Local 45. He has led several of the greatest strike struggles in the city's history. He served in the Navy during the war. His official campaign program lists his sponsors, including the Cuyahoga County PAC-CIO, the District UAW Council and eight UAW locals, the Ward 32 PAC, CIO steel, electrical and other locals, as well as the local International Association of Machinists (Independent) and Association of Cleveland Trainmen (Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen).

The prolonged and bitter CIO auto workers strike at the Huck Manufacturing Co., Detroit, (previously reported in *The Militant*) ended in victory for UAW Local 212 on Sept. 14. The company was forced to back down on its demand for an incentive, speed-up plan and to grant a 15-cent hourly increase with retroactive pay averaging \$45.

Harry Lundeborg, head of the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific, has long described himself as "against politics." His "anti-political" attitude combined with rabid red-baiting has landed him finally where you'd expect. Just when the California AFL has declared Republican Governor Warren "can no longer be considered a friend of labor," Lundeborg discovers "Warren has proved himself a friend and if the labor movement doesn't support him, it's crazy."

Last week, Lundeborg had a parley with Senator Taft, co-author of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. The SUP leader emerged with kind words for this vicious enemy of labor, claiming Taft "doesn't give you a lot of sweet corn like a lot of these others."

Youngstown steel workers are conscious of the significance of their campaign to elect their own labor candidate to City Council from the Fourth Ward. Merlin Luce, in his column in the *Ohio Works Organizer*, organ of CIO Steelworkers Local 1330, vividly describes the importance of this campaign.

Although the possibilities of achievement by this one labor councilman will be limited, "the possibilities springing from his election are unlimited," Merlin states.

He recalls how a few hundred men at Concord Bridge in 1775 kindled the flame of the American Revolution and how John Brown with forty men at Harpers Ferry in 1859 lighted a spark that two years later flared into the great Civil War to end Negro slavery. In the early '30s a relative handful of industrial workers defied company spies, tear gas and death on the picket line to inspire the growth of the great CIO.

"A labor victory in Youngstown's Fourth Ward will echo through the whole state of Ohio," writes Merlin. "The industrial workers can prove this year that they are reaching political maturity and that from now on labor is going to shape with its own hands the distribution of wealth and the nature of society in which we and our children are going to live."

Lower Wages Sought By Senator (Eat Less) Taft

By Arthur Burch

In his campaign to obtain the Republican presidential nomination Sen. Robert A. Taft last week outlined to his wealthy cronies of the San Francisco Commonwealth Club a six-point program on high prices. It is a frank class program directed against labor and calculated to aid big Business whom Taft faithfully represents.



TAFT

According to the N. Y. Times he proposes "to discourage all wage increases; to seek a stabilization of prices and wages in the hope that an increase in supply and some decrease in the abnormal demand will bring prices down; to reduce governmental expenses and taxes; to restrict exports; to educate business to reduce some of their profits by cutting prices; to undertake a campaign to encourage voluntary curtailment in consumption of products like meat."

Together with his wealthy sponsors, Taft is worried about the rising cost of living. Here is why: He knows it is only a question of time before the reduced purchasing power of the masses must force a sharp drop in production heralding the next depression and huge unemployment.

Taft's program is calculated to hold off this evil day as long as possible for he fears the inevitable striving of the people toward the goal of socialism. To use his own words, they "might try some system

which did not have to reach its goal through periods of heavy unemployment"—an obvious admission of the benefits of socialism.

KEY POINT

The key point in Taft's program is the freezing of wages. He continues the fiction that wage increases are responsible for price increases, despite convincing proof to the contrary. During the war when wages were frozen, prices began their upward spiral, with black market operations and deterioration of goods partially camouflaging the real rise in prices. When wage increases were obtained in steel and auto, the CIO correctly pointed out that the steel and auto barons could continue making sizable profits without price increases but Big Business figured it could further mulct the public and blame it on the measly wage rises.

The recent boost in the price of steel was a signal to all other monopolists to dip in to the consumer's dollar as much as the traffic would bear. Taft now wants to shift the responsibility for the inflationary wave onto labor.

Taft tries to blame Truman for the previous wage increases although he is fully aware that the workers had to fight every inch of the way to gain even the small wage concessions. In these labor struggles against General Motors, the steel monopolists, shipbuilders, etc., Truman either kept hands off or aided the profiteers. He was responsible for breaking the railroad strike and did ever; thing in his power to checkmate the miners. But Taft is still not satisfied. He thinks Big Business might have avoided even the small wage boosts of last spring if the Case Bill had not been vetoed by Truman.

Taft says that prices can be stabilized if the workers are forced to

reduce their purchases. This can be done either through a wage reduction or freezing wages while prices continue to skyrocket. Then no government controls will be necessary. Under capitalism the worker's limited pocketbook is the best "regulator" of purchasing power. The wealthy will keep on glutting themselves while the workers will be forced into "voluntary" rationing.

AGAINST PRICE CONTROL

Taft, like Truman and the other capitalist politicians, is against government price control not because it is an effective instrument against Big Business but rather because it further exposes the class nature of the Washington government as the tool of monopolists. Moreover, the industrialists know how to flout government control by curtailing production and utilizing the black market but they balk even at the slightest restrictions on their arena for profit-gouging.

Taft is anxious to reduce government expenses and taxes. But Taft's specific proposal for a tax reduction would mean a saving of less than a week's salary for the workers while taxes of the monopolists would be cut by thousands of dollars.

Taft is for restricting exports. He would put the whole world on a starvation diet. "Eat less" is his motto for the workers throughout the world, including this country.

Taft would educate Big Business to lower their profits. But his persuasion will accomplish as little as did Truman's.

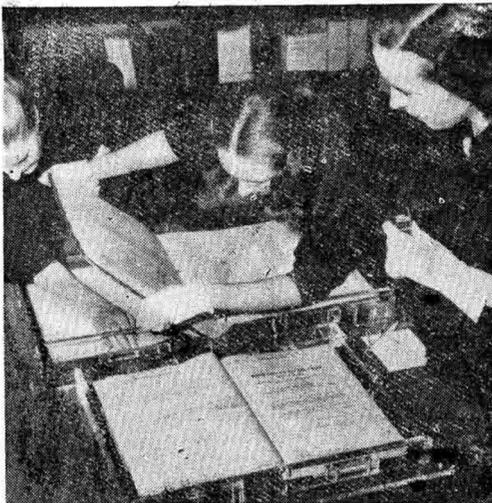
Taft's last point, a campaign to induce the people to "eat less," is already being carried out under Truman. The inadequacy of existing wage scales accomplishes this purpose far better than any campaign.

NO WEASEL WORDS

Although Taft tries to saddle the blame for inflation on the Democratic administration, there is no fundamental difference between his program and Truman's. Taft is a little franker than the rest. He speaks openly and unashamedly on behalf of Big Business. He does not cover up with weasel words in the tradition of Roosevelt and Wallace. As a spokesman for the monopolists, he is loyal to his trust, and speaks boldly in their defense.

If only the official labor leaders were half as bold and loyal to the class they represent as Taft is to his! In that event they would confront Taft's anti-labor program with their own class program and enter one of their own number in the presidential race. Millions of workers are hoping for an opportunity to vote for their own interests against the monopolists—and not for a Truman, a Dewey, a Wallace, or some other watchdog of Big Business.

"Freedom Train" Document



Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proclamation freeing the slaves is put into an air-tight sealed plastic case for the nation-wide tour of the "Freedom Train." When the "Freedom Train" ceremonies began in Philadelphia, two conscientious objectors were arrested for distributing anti-conscription leaflets.

Federated Pictures

Rubber Union Spurns Submission to NLRB

(Continued from Page 1)

It has long been known that Buckmaster would like to get rid of Eagle and his clique, under the impulse of the top CIO officers' drive to get rid of Stalinist influence wherever they can.

STALINISTS DEFEATED

Eagle and his group had hoped to push through the amendment providing for his election, since he felt he had a necessary vote to get elected. But the two-thirds majority to pass an amendment could not be mustered by the Stalinists and the allies they had gathered together.

It was a rather comical fact that those who in the past had fought for the election of the Organizational Director, in an effort to get rid of Eagle, opposed the election at this convention, while the Stalinists, who had been against him in the past, put up a great hue and cry about "democracy" in an effort to push this measure across.

Most of the non-Stalinist progressive forces in the convention voted for the amendment, but Buckmaster gathered together enough of a vote to prevent a two-thirds majority. There was no opposition on the convention floor to the election of the present officers. Caucus combinations had mentioned running George R. Bass against Buckmaster, but although all informed delegates felt it would be a very close race, it was reported that Bass felt it was too soon for a decisive test.

The International Executive Board was considerably changed. It was cleaned of all pro-Buckmaster men, and now consists of a loose alliance between a few Stalinists and a group of non-Stalinist militants who rejected strongly against Buckmaster's conservative stand. It remains to be seen whether the Stalinists emerged stronger from this convention.

By and large, this was the most progressive convention held by the rubber workers in many years. The independence of the delegates from domination of International officials was marked, and reminiscent of the militant spirit so characteristic of the UAW.

L.A. Unionists Arrested for Picketing Taft

By Al Lynn

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 17.—Chanting "We Want Union Men in Congress," more than 1000 working men and women picketed Senator Taft, co-author of the infamous Slave Labor Law, last night. The demonstrators, members of CIO, AFL, and Railway Brotherhood unions, and solidly backed by members of the Socialist Workers Party, came out in response to the call of the CIO which is organizing picket lines against Taft wherever he appears in California.

The slogan was begun by members of the SWP, and was immediately and enthusiastically taken up by the entire line including rank and file Communist Party members. The leaders of that party failed miserably in their attempts to prevent this slogan from catching on because it so obviously represented the answer to the Taft-Hartley Bill.

Taft rolled up to the doorway in a slick, plush black limousine to speak to an audience of businessmen. Stepping outside the car he was immediately surrounded by a guard consisting of a half dozen goons, and a double row of uniformed police. After a moment's pause to survey the threatening crowd he quickly scurried through the entrance, barely escaping the wrath of the angry workers who forcefully surged up against the police lines, jeering and booing.

Police arrested six of the pickets for "masquerading" without a license. They had committed the heinous crime of looking like Taft and carrying banners reading "I may look like Taft but I'm no stooge for the N. A. M." They were held on bail of \$500 each. The police also restrained the UAW from operating its sound truck except for the purpose of disbarring the picket line.

Taft's California tour will undoubtedly have the effect of bringing vividly to the attention of the labor movement the need for independent political action on the part of labor.

NEWARK

Militant Labor Forum
Friday, Oct. 3—8:30 P. M.

JOSEPH HANSEN

The
Truman-Marshall
Plan

Wall Street Drive To
Dominate Europe
423 Springfield Ave.
Admission Free

WEST LOS ANGELES

"LABOR PARTY
DEVELOPMENTS
IN CALIFORNIA"

speaker

Myra Tanner Weiss
Los Angeles Organizer of the
Socialist Workers Party

Friday, Oct. 3—8:00 p. m.
122 Pier Ave., Ocean Park
auspices
Wes. Side Branch SWP and
The Militant

Our Program:

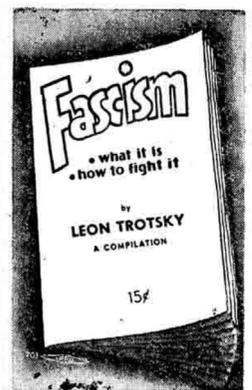
1. Defend labor's standard of living!
A sliding scale of wages — an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!
Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!
Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers control!
2. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!
For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!
Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
3. Against all anti-labor laws and government strike-breaking!
No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!
No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
4. Build an independent labor party!
5. Tax the rich, not the poor!
Repeat 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 capitalists' 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!

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
116 University Place
New York 3, New York

- I would like:
- To join the Socialist Workers Party.
 - To obtain further information about your organization.
 - To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME _____ (Please Print)
STREET _____
CITY _____
POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____



48 pages 15 cents
Order from
PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Mail This Coupon With 50c For A 6-Month Subscription to

THE MILITANT

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

I enclose (stamps, currency or money order).

Please enter my subscription as follows:

- Six months (26 issues) for 50 cents.
- One year (52 issues) for \$1.

Name _____ (Please Print)
Street _____ Apt. _____
City _____ Postal Zone _____
State _____



One Hundred Years of The Communist Manifesto

By J. R. Johnson

We are approaching the one hundredth anniversary of the Communist Manifesto, the greatest document of the people that mankind has ever produced. As the actual date of the anniversary approaches, all shadings in the socialist movement will have their say on the contemporary or historical significance of the Manifesto. Social Democrats, Stalinists, all those who parade as Marxists and in reality betray the proletariat at every step, will make the most of the ceremonial occasion to pretend that they are the inheritors of Marxism.

They will do their best, but the Manifesto remains, and must always remain, the property only of that revolutionary party which sees in it a living document for the thinking and guidance of revolutionary workers.

Here I can point out only a few of the various aspects of the Manifesto which will be occupying our attention in this period of the anniversary. For nearly a century, it has been the Bible whose study, appreciation and application marked the initiation of an individual into the revolutionary crusade to build a new society. But it is not only revolutionary workers and intellectuals who have studied it.

No student, in whatever culture or clime, in universities from one end of the world to another, could feel that he had become a part of the educated elite of civilization until he had at least read the Manifesto and put it aside as past history. If he graduated from intellectual procreant into bourgeois politics or responsibilities, he was always haunted by the fear that one day the Manifesto might indeed be removed from the historical archives and become in actuality the theoretical foundation for a new organization of society. Enemies as well as friends studied or remembered the Manifesto.

Hence, the Manifesto belongs to modern civilization and modern culture. Nothing, not even the burning of books, could ever remove it from such a place.

Men could reject the road which Marx mapped out for human society in the Manifesto. But no one could ever deny that he mapped a road, and that every step of it could be checked against the actual development of society.

Marx wrote the Communist Manifesto on the eve of the revolutions which swept Europe in 1848. This has seemed to many a happy accident of history. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality it was only because of the imminence of revolution and the recogni-

tion of this imminence by Marx that the Communist Manifesto could be written as it was.

What is most impressive, even to the most superficial or hostile reader of the Manifesto, is the tremendous intensity and momentum with which each aspect of bourgeois society which Marx describes drives relentlessly to the next, leading inexorably to one ultimate conclusion, the victory of the proletarian revolution. Marx in the Manifesto defines the distinctive task of the Communist as representing always the interests of the proletariat as a whole, the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement.

He could see this movement as a whole because he could see that the revolution was coming, and that, like every revolution, it would pose ultimate questions of the whole future of humanity. The theoretical drive and vigor with which he wrote was based on the anticipation of the actual drive and vigor with which the broad masses would explode in violent revolution. His theories were based on solid rock bottom because they were based on revolutionary confidence in the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat.

It is this which has distinguished all the great Marxists and it is this which made of each of them the legitimate heir to Marx. Marx, and the great Marxist, could open up theoretical avenues because they knew always that the proletariat would open up hitherto unexplored reserves of human energy and resourcefulness in the revolution itself.

One theme underlines the whole development of the Manifesto—the on the one hand, the growing incapacity of the bourgeoisie, as compared with its past accomplishments, to represent the interests of the whole of humanity; on the other hand, the ever-expanding union of the workers which would make them not only into a force to overthrow bourgeois society but also reveal their destiny as the creators of a new freely associated humanity.

According to Marx, it was the "constant revolutionizing of production, the uninterrupted disturbance of all social relations, the everlasting uncertainty and agitation" of bourgeois society which would force man to face the fundamental question of "his relation with his kind."

Today, bourgeois society is disintegrating before our very eyes. All nations face one another with suspicion and fear. Political opponents try to lead their followers into mutual hostility and hate. Nothing so distinguishes the strident shrieks and hopes of the bourgeoisie as their breeding of antagonisms, on the one hand, and their pleas for international and class collaboration on the other.

On the other hand, nothing goes so deeply to the roots of the hopes and aspirations of the broad masses as the desire for intimacy with their kind, with human beings like themselves all over the world. There is an irresistible urge to establish new social ties, new bonds between people, from which each can draw new strength and confidence. Wendell Wilkie used the phrase "One World" and common men everywhere responded.

This yearning for new human relations, pervading the great masses of the people in Europe, America and Asia, is in itself a social force. It exists not merely in the actual organized movements. These movements themselves take on a new color when men desire to join something or somebody and thereby achieve some continuity of development in the uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, some perspective in the everlasting uncertainty and agitation of the modern world.

Marx ends the first section of the

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

—Leon Trotsky, 1938

Manifesto on the following note: The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaces the isolation of the laborers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination due to association. The development of modern industry, therefore, cuts from under its feet the very foundation on which the bourgeoisie produces and appropriates products. What the bourgeoisie therefore produces above all, are its own grave-diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable.

It is this uniting in action of the revolutionary combination of socialized labor with the need to create new social ties pervading all layers of society which will both usher in and distinguish the new socialist society. The Soviets, the workers' councils, have shown us one form of human association which unites men from the factory to the governmental power.

The old society is rotting. Its economics, its politics, its morals are blighted by a crisis which for thirty years has grown in intensity. The revolutionary worker who on a spare evening sits and re-reads the Manifesto, is once more astonished at the genius which could so powerfully anticipate the crisis of contemporary society and so confidently point the road out.

Wall Street Drive for New War Touches Off Bitter Fight in UN

By Joseph Hansen

South Africa Vets Rap Franco



When a Spanish naval training ship reached Capetown, South Africa, thousands of ex-soldiers demonstrated against the visit of what they termed "the fascist delegates from Franco Spain." City police, however, refused to permit these peaceful protests and broke up the meetings.

Federated Pictures

Tension between Washington and Moscow reached a new high last week as Andrei Vyshinsky attempted a counter-offensive against an attack launched by Secretary of State Marshall in the United Nations.

Marshall aimed at two objectives in his Sept. 17 keynote speech to the General Assembly. (1) He sought to sharpen the dispute with Moscow even at the risk of blowing up the United Nations. (2) He sought to place on Moscow all the blame for the continued failure to achieve world peace and for the mounting threat of a Third World War.

He raised, for example, the question of "threats to the political independence and territorial integrity of Greece." But instead of admitting that these "threats" emanate principally from Wall Street domination of the puppet Greek monarchy, he fixed responsibility "upon Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia." He added that the U. S. delegation would introduce a resolution calling on these countries "to cease and desist from rendering further assistance or support to the guerillas in Greece."

Similarly in the case of Korea, Marshall blamed Moscow for the continued failure to grant this unhappy land its independence.

Marshall declared that "the control of atomic and other weapons of mass destruction has perhaps the highest priority if we are to remove the specter of a war of annihilation." He added that Washington "also recognizes the importance of regulating conventional armaments." In both instances, however, he placed responsibility for the current armaments race on the Soviet Union.

THE FRUITS OF VICTORY

Marshall proposed two revisions unacceptable to the Kremlin in the organization of the United Nations—limitation of the veto and establishment of a special standing committee of the General Assembly to consider disputes the Security Council cannot resolve.

Marshall held up the United Nations as "the hope of mankind" but the picture he drew of the world situation two years after V-J Day was grim. He was forced to admit that "the fruits of peace and victory are still beyond our grasp." "Men look anxiously toward the future . . ." he continued. "Reconstruction lags everywhere; the basic requirements of life are scarce; there is desperate need throughout great areas . . . In place of peace, liberty, and economic security, we find menace, repression, and dire want."

In reply the next day, Andrei Vyshinsky, Moscow's spokesman, jabbed at what he considered the weakest points in Marshall's attack. He denied that Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia were intervening in Greece; and pointed an accusing finger at the Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan as designed to subjugate "the European countries to the economic and political control exercised by the USA."

He then called attention to the "unprovoked military attack by Holland against the Indonesian Republic." This attack, he said, "cannot be qualified otherwise than as an act of aggression perpetrated against the Indonesian people by a state-member of the United Nations." Moscow, of course has done nothing about the attack on Indonesia except kick it around in UN debates for demagogic reasons.

Finally, there is still another question puzzling many union militants: "Why do the English workers keep on supporting the Labor Party?" In the last two years the Laborites have not lost a single by-election, something that never happened before in Britain's long electoral history.

If any militant readers have other questions on the British Labor Party they would like answered, send them in and I will try to handle them among the others.

forces and rushed them to Washington.

WIN 40-HOUR WEEK—Beginning Jan. 1, 1948, workers throughout Australia will go on a 40-hour week as a result of a unanimous decision by the Federal Arbitration Court.

An employer can require any employee to work "reasonable" overtime but must pay overtime rates.

The decision came after 449 days of hearings. The official transcript of the case contains some 6,000,000 words of evidence and 499 exhibits.

Employers fought bitterly for an eight-hour week, contending among other things that "normal hours" in their countries are in excess of 40 hours.

It is now expected that the Australian workers will demand that the 40 hours be worked in 5 days, with Saturday and Sunday off.

ferment in The Solomons

Anthropologists planning further studies of the customs and habits of primitive man in the Solomon Islands are due for a shock, if a Sept. 8 Associated Press dispatch from Darwin, Australia, is to be trusted.

The British submarine Amphion returning to Darwin reported that island nationalists had planned an uprising against British domination to coincide with the arrival of American ships after the war, returnably in the hands of American revolutionists.

When the Amphion entered the harbor at Santa Ana Island, a large number of islanders massed about the ship. While officers landed, the submarine fired star shells over the crowd as a warning. The natives fled.

The flag was later identified by natives as a "flag of freedom" bearing a symbol signifying "Marxian law."

The British Colonial Office in London explained it had expected that modern ideas introduced by American armed forces during the war "would have an unresistful effect on the primitive islanders."

A British destroyer is now patrolling the islands.

NEXT WAR'S BATTLEFIELDS—While Wall Street's propagandist shout about the "peaceful" intentions of American Big Business, the U. S. Department of the Army quietly proceeding with its preparations for war.

On Sept. 19 it was revealed that the Army had purchased the out-standing maps, photographs and sketches of central Asia belonging to the famous Swedish explorer Sven Hedin.

These maps, covering Asiatic districts from the Yellow Sea to Russian Turkestan and from Hungary to the Himalayas, are the only existing cartographic material of these strategic regions. They will prove invaluable in blueprinting projected military operations against the Soviet Union.

The maps were in Germany during the war. U. S. occupation forces seized them in advance of Soviet

RESIST ALLIED DESTRUCTION—When the German workers are ordered to dismantle some 900 plants, factories and mills earmarked for destruction or "reparations" on the Allied side, occupation forces in Germany expect "strikes" and demonstrations on a scale far larger than the hunger protests last spring.

A resolution is already being adopted by 80,000 metal workers declaring that the union will back to the hilt any of its members who refuse to work on this Allied project to cripple the productive capacity of Europe's industrial machine.

"PLOT" IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA—Another "terrorist plot" to overthrow the quislings of the Kremlin in the Soviet-dominated countries of Eastern Europe has been "discovered." This time it is in Czechoslovakia.

The number of arrests has reached more than 600 and at least 80 "ring leaders" in the "plot" have been seized. The aim of the "plot" was allegedly to assassinate President Benes and overthrow the government.

Real reason for the arrests appear to be nothing but a typical Kremlin attempt to smash an actual or potential political opposition.

Coming—Answers to Your Questions on England

By John G. Wright

In the fall of 1945 it was my privilege to go on a national tour for the Socialist Workers Party on the subject, "The British Labor Victory, Its Meaning for American Workers." While drawing the political lessons that workers in this country still had to learn, most of my speeches sought to explain the background, significance and probable consequences of the British Labor Party's decisive parliamentary victory in the 1945 elections.

Since that time I have naturally followed with interest not only the march of events in Britain but also the reactions to it in this country, especially among the working people who are now awakening in ever larger numbers to political life, and beginning to think with increasing interest about political questions in general.

My correspondence with friends throughout the country, the literature I have followed on the subject as well as the discussions I heard or took part in convince me that these reactions are quite varied. Workers are asking a great many questions about what is occurring in Britain; some have been angered by the developments; some are even becoming disillusioned. This great interest, concern and questioning flows in the first instance from an understanding that there is an intimate connection between the evolution of British politics and politics in the U. S.

Beginning with the next issue of The Militant, it is my intention to answer some of the questions being raised by workers in this country. Here I shall merely list a few of those that have repeatedly come to my attention.

Reactionary dailies and weeklies in this country are sounding heavily on this note, using it to discredit and condemn the struggle for socialism, while painting up and basing about the alleged superiorities of "free enterprise" as it functions in the U. S. where production has hit new peaks in recent years.

On New York's East Side, Jewish workers booted some members of the SWP recently when they opened an outdoor meeting there. They did so because they identified us (wrongly, of course) as comrades of Bevin, that is, as members of the Socialist Party or Social Democratic Federation. Among the epithets they hurled was: "Bevin fascists!"

Troubling them were mainly questions about the foreign policy of Attlee-Bevin and their ilk. Why doesn't Britain's Labor Party Government get out of Palestine and let the people there settle their own problems? Many Negroes ask the same question about Africa—why don't they get off the masses' backs there? Or again, how is it that they gave up formal power in India but not anywhere else? Isn't socialism supposed to be the opposite of imperialism and how do you account for Britain's imperialist role in world politics today?

Finally, there is still another question puzzling many union militants: "Why do the English workers keep on supporting the Labor Party?" In the last two years the Laborites have not lost a single by-election, something that never happened before in Britain's long electoral history.

If any militant readers have other questions on the British Labor Party they would like answered, send them in and I will try to handle them among the others.

Ecuador Palace Revolt Topples Ibarra Regime

By J. Gomez

The recent overthrow of the dictatorship of Velasco Ibarra in Ecuador was a palace revolution.

Velasco Ibarra came to power when the dictatorship of Dr. Arroyo del Rio fell in 1944. He was backed by the Democratic Alliance of Ecuador, a coalition of capitalist forces, Stalinists, Socialist parties and the Labor Confederation of Ecuador. They hailed the Ibarra regime as "progressive and democratic."

But the promises which this capitalist politician made the workers didn't survive the honeymoon period of his government.

Velasco Ibarra represented the native feudalistic bourgeois forces on one hand, and on the other Yank imperialism. He was not interested, consequently, in helping the workers and the Indian field laborers (50% of the population) bound in feudal servitude.

Ibarra ruled with an iron hand. Civil liberties were stifled; repressive measures taken against organized labor. As a result Ibarra swiftly lost whatever popularity he had enjoyed at first.

The military clique that removed him from office thus feared no popular opposition. Without forces able to defend him, Ibarra fled the country.

The new regime, however, represented only another link in the chain of capitalist dictatorship in Ecuador, despite the two "socialist" ministers included in the Mancheno government.

Mancheno lasted less than two

weeks and was then replaced by Suarez Veintimilla, who in turn was replaced within three days by Carlos F. Arosamena.

Arosamena was "elected" President by an extraordinary session of Congress. The press reports that this wealthy banker was supported by the "leftists." This is a lie. He was put in office by the most reactionary forces in Ecuador.

The masses in Ecuador appear confused and disoriented by these shifts. The Stalinists and "socialists" who claim to represent them are not able to give them a clear political perspective. Theirs is the politics of supporting the Ibarra and their kind. The Stalinists shift in accordance with the wind from Moscow. The so-called "Socialist" party is not a Marxist party but rather a radical populist party. It is no accident that its paper is called Tierra (Land) and that two of its leaders supported Mancheno.

Bitter experience is once again demonstrating to the workers of Ecuador that they cannot achieve their emancipation by relying on the promises of capitalist politicians or their supporters. They must build their own political party with the aim of putting a Workers and Farmers government in power.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Aug. 26 — The Fourth International Organization of South Africa is calling on the workers to fight against passage of a proposed Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill which will be considered at the next session of the Union Parliament in January 1948.

Proponents of the measure allege that it will provide conciliation machinery for the African trade unions. In reality it is a vicious attempt to outlaw and suppress the African trade union movement.

African unions at present are free to organize and co-operate with one another and even strike, although they are not recognized by the government. Despite the severe handicap of non-recognition, Africans are nevertheless able unofficially to organize unions such as the African Mineworkers' Union which waged the heroic Witwatersrand strike in August of last year.

Even these meager rights will be taken away if the proposed bill becomes law. Here are some of the provisions:

1. No one may organize an African union without official permission from the government.
2. No official may be elected to office in any African union unless he is officially approved by the government.
3. Socialists, Communists and whites are barred from office in African unions.
4. No African may organize or belong to a union of any particular industry unless he is a worker in that industry.
5. African unions are barred from striking.
6. An arbitration board of white members appointed by the government and employers' associations will decide all wage claims and issues affecting African unions.
7. The African Mineworkers' Union will be banned and prohibited from functioning.
8. All African unions not registered under terms of the Act will be declared illegal.

It is obvious that the Industrial Conciliation (Natives) Bill is as vicious and reactionary as the notorious Labor Front set up by the Nazis in Germany. If it is passed it will doom the few rights the African workers in South Africa have managed to secure in years of bitter struggle.

Second Anniversary Of Viet Nam Govt. Hailed by SWP

NEW YORK, Sept. 23 — In a message of greetings to tonight's meeting celebrating the second anniversary of the Viet Nam Republic, James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, declared:

"As one of the first organizations in this country to support the heroic fight for freedom of the Indo-Chinese people, the Socialist Workers Party salutes this second anniversary of the independence of the Viet Nam Republic. The brutal attempt of French imperialism to reconquer Indo-China must be repulsed and will be defeated.

"Long live the complete independence of the Viet Nam people from all oppression! Long live the Viet Nam Republic!"

Madras Strike Beaten After 100-Day Battle

After 100 days of battle, the workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills at Madras, India, were forced to call off their strike, reports New Spark, organ of the Bolshevik Leninist Party of India.

The workers put up a valiant struggle against heavy odds, but were finally forced to retreat before the "fascist-like combination of brute force, lying propaganda and reformist cajoling."

The Congress ministry demonstrated its hostility to the workers by setting up a "Labor" sub-committee to organize strikebreaking.

The European management reopened the mills under police protection. When the workers refused to return, police conducted nightly raids of working class areas, "brutally terrorizing men, women and children."

These raids were stepped up in tempo until on June 18, not less than 1,000 were driven out of their homes. Clubbing them with lathis

and truncheons, police forced 150 back into the mills.

All the other parties deserted the strikers in the face of this savage repression, but the Bolshevik Leninists stuck it out with the strikers. They published a daily leaflet "telling the truth to the workers and exposing the lying propaganda of the Boss class."

The Indian Trotskyists had to pay a heavy price for their loyalty to the workers. Anthony Pillai was sentenced to one year in jail for his part in the strike.

"Other leading comrades have been arrested and detained," reports New Spark, "and with them several worker comrades of the B. & C. Mills and the M. S. M. Railway Workshops and students."

New Spark considers the defeat only a temporary one. The advance guard "is already preparing for the next struggle. The workers of backward Madras have written a never-to-be-forgotten page in the history of the Indian labor movement."

When the Amphion entered the harbor at Santa Ana Island, a large number of islanders massed about the ship. While officers landed, the submarine fired star shells over the crowd as a warning. The natives fled.

The flag was later identified by natives as a "flag of freedom" bearing a symbol signifying "Marxian law."

The British Colonial Office in London explained it had expected that modern ideas introduced by American armed forces during the war "would have an unresistful effect on the primitive islanders."

A British destroyer is now patrolling the islands.



GENERAL MARSHALL

ull its own teeth and go on a vegetarian diet.

World War III can be prevented only by ending Wall Street's government monopoly, putting a Workers' and Farmers' Government in power, and organizing economy on a socialist basis. But Vyshinsky, one of the chief figures in the execution of the old Bolsheviks in the Moscow Frame-up Trials, did not breathe a word about ending Wall Street's rule. In his entire 92 minute speech he did not mention socialism once.

Despite his cutting remarks about Wall Street's war preparations, Vyshinsky's speech in essence was an attempt to divert the masses away from the socialist solution to the world's ills and to instill confidence in the United Nations which has proved to be nothing but a thieves' debating society.

What Moscow still wants is a deal with Wall Street. The present shouting about Wall Street's war-mongering is reminiscent of the Kremlin's pre-war shouting against the Nazis. That shouting, it should be remembered, paid off with the Stalin-Hitler 10-year "non-aggression" pact. Today the Kremlin aims to duplicate that feat with Truman, exciting counter-revolutionary services for a "non-aggression" pact and dollar credits.

During the war the Stalinists sacked Wall Street. They peddled the lie that World War II was not imperialist. As the loudest-mouthed war-mongers, they came out for the wage freeze, serving as strikebreakers while Wall Street piled up the mountainous profits to which Vyshinsky so belatedly referred in his speech.

For a price, the Kremlin is prepared once again to whitewash the imperialist spots on Wall Street's hide. Should Wall Street meet Stalin's asking price, then we will see the American Stalinist seals perform another of their spectacular flip flops, becoming the most ardent exponents of the "progressive" character of predatory American imperialism just as they did in the days of Earl Browder.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Vol. XI—No. 39 Monday, September 29, 1947

Published Weekly by THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N at 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y. Telephone: ALgonquin 4-9230 FARRELL DOBBS, Editor

THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per year; 50¢ for 6 months. Foreign: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months. Single copies: 3 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in the United States; 4 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in all foreign countries.

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



"The historical task of our epoch consists in replacing the uncontrolled play of the market by reasonable planning, in disciplining the forces of production, compelling them to work together in harmony and obediently serve the needs of mankind."

Leon Trotsky

When Thieves Fall Out

The efforts of Marshall and Vyshinsky to take each other's scalps in the United Nations reminds us of the old adage about truth getting a break when thieves fall out.

During the war Wall Street and the Kremlin toasted each other as "peace-loving" powers, champions of "four freedoms," benefactors of the common man and saviors of civilization.

Fruit of this ever-loving friendship was the United Nations which they magnanimously presented to the world as their contribution toward enduring peace. They christened it "mankind's only hope."

Today Wall Street's hope is to conquer the world. Cutting the throat of a former ally is a mere bagatelle to a ruling class drunk with power. To prepare the public mind for such a definitive conclusion to the back-slapping wartime friendship, Wall Street is now focusing the spotlight on a number of criminal faults in its former bosom partner.

The Wall Street wolves freely voice their horror at the Kremlin's lies, cynicism, disregard of human rights, contempt for civil liberties, brutality, bloodiness, premeditated murder of political opponents, oppression of minorities, etc.

Moscow in turn, alarmed over the intentions of its former "peace-loving" associate, is putting the finger on some of Wall Street's crimes. Such as the colossal profits harvested from the battlefields of World War II, the troops maintained in Greece and China, interference in Europe's internal affairs, stockpiling of atomic bombs, brazen preparations for World War III, etc.

This mutual pointing of fingers is all to the good. It helps expose the real character of the arch-reactionary architects of the U. N.

However, these criminals are still united on one point. Both of them still picture their thieves' debating society, the UN, as the only hope for peace.

Just whom do these bandits still expect to fool? With Wall Street's mailed fist closing on Moscow's throat and the Kremlin screaming bloody murder, what's left of the gilt-edged claims about the UN guaranteeing peace?

It should be clear today even to those who placed the most persistent hopes in this second edition of the League of Nations that it was doomed from the beginning to suffer the same miserable fate as its predecessor. Now how about laying the UN away beside the League of Nations in a nice, quiet crypt in a mausoleum?

Tilting Wall Street's Bottle

When the Kremlin removed Earl Browder from public view two years ago, the American Communist (Stalinist) Party took a temperance oath and vowed never again to wake up in the gutter with a splitting hangover from hitting Wall Street's political bottle.

Like repentant drunkards they beat their chests in public about the evils packed in the bottle bearing Wall Street's label. They swore they were going to stick to the straight and narrow — the path leading to socialism; and they thought up serious differences with the Democratic Party to serve as texts for solemn sermons in the Sunday Worker.

Lately they have even spoken about a "Third" Party — cautiously to be sure — but loudly enough for rank-and-file Stalinists to get the impression that what they really mean is a genuine independent Labor Party with union candidates on the ballot in opposition to both Democrats and Republicans.

The Stalinist leaders became especially vociferous about Wall Street's foreign policy, which is tightening a world-wide vise on the Soviet Union. They denounce the iniquities of the Truman Doctrine. As for the Marshall Plan, they roll their eyes heavenward in holy horror.

But if you think these case-hardened hypocrites and professional liars really meant all they said about laying off the Wall Street bottle, you don't know Dennis, Foster or their top boss in the Kremlin. They only washed and spruced up for appearance's sake. A capitalist politician need only give them the nod, and — you know where you can find them, arm in arm, trying out their voices for harmony.

The latest instance of Stalinist malingering happened in San Francisco. There, as is well known, the Stalinists dominate the CIO Council, exercising decisive voice over political decisions.

Last week this Stalinist-dominated Council enthusiastically endorsed Rep. Frank R. Havenner for Mayor. Who is Havenner?

1. He is a Democrat. A member of the same reactionary Wall Street party as Rankin, Conally, Marshall and Truman.

2. Havenner is a hand-raiser for Wall Street's war-mongering policy of bolstering reaction everywhere in accordance with its blueprint for world conquest. Havenner cast his vote in Congress last May in favor of the anti-Communist Greek-Turkish aid bill to implement the Truman Doctrine.

The moral of it all is don't believe the Stalinists. They swear they're teetotalers, but when temptation's finger beckons, they can't keep their mouths off that Wall Street bottle.

Join the SWP

On the front page of this issue of The Militant is an editorial explaining how a Workers and Farmers Government would end the price squeeze.

Obviously the measures outlined will never be taken by Wall Street's government, since such measures conflict with the economic interests of the big corporations.

It is likewise obvious that neither the Democratic Party nor the Republican Party will ever undertake the measures required to end the price squeeze. Both of these parties are maintained by the big corporations solely to fight for their interests on the political field.

Consequently labor has no recourse but to start down the road of independent political action with the aim of putting in power a Workers and Farmers Government.

How can labor succeed in this aim? We can succeed only by combining all our individual efforts, uniting our forces, and pushing in organized fashion toward the common goal.

This means that if you agree on the desirability of the measures suggested in the front page editorial to beat the price squeeze, your place is in the Socialist Workers Party.

By becoming a member of the Socialist Workers Party you enter the main highway to a Marxist political education. You find your own effectiveness in the fight against the ills of decaying capitalist society immeasurably increased. Your voice gains weight and authority in the trade unions and wherever workers are faced with the need to make political decisions.

At the same time you contribute in the most effective way possible in building up the fighting power of the American working class in politics by actively participating in the Socialist Workers Party and widening its influence.

We urge you to fill out the coupon on page 2 for further information and mail it in to the Socialist Workers Party at 116 University Place, New York 3. Or if there is a branch of the Socialist Workers Party in your area, get in touch with the branch organizer.

Another Wallace Novelty

Here's the latest novelty from the Henry Wallace political jewelry store:

"Reactionary capitalism would enforce high prices by means of scarcity and monopoly. They would take high prices out of us to pile up profits against the inevitable depression which they themselves make inevitable. Progressive capitalism believes in lower prices, high production and wages, giving the consumer a break and a high standard of living for all."

Exactly what Wallace meant in this New Jersey speech last week we cannot say, with any authority. When Wallace says "reactionary" capitalists "would" enforce high prices, he seems to mean they "wish" to, but haven't done so yet. In that case, which capitalists are responsible for the present very high prices — the "progressive" capitalists?

No, Wallace doesn't mean that; according to him, the "progressive" capitalists "believe" in lower prices, giving the consumer a break and so on. But since no capitalists known to anyone in the U. S. today are doing anything to lower prices or aid the consumer, perhaps this is Wallace's subtle way of saying there really are no "progressive" capitalists?

No, that can't be either, because in this same speech Wallace urged his audience not to "proclaim economic warfare" on all businessmen, for many of them believe as he does in "progressive capitalism."

Let's leave Wallace and try to put the matter straight so far as capitalism and progress are concerned. Capitalism was progressive when it first took shape in feudal society. It was progressive when it developed the productive forces to a higher level than was possible under feudalism. It was progressive when it took the path of revolution and smashed the feudal forces that barred the road to its development.

That stage in the evolution of capitalism ended long ago. Today it is reactionary to the core. Today it can only limp from one devastating war to the next. Today it can offer the masses only inflation, high prices, depression, unemployment, hunger, misery and slaughter. Today it bars the road to further development of the productive forces. Today it is playing a role toward socialism, the society of the future, such as feudalism once played toward rising capitalism.

Consequently, when Wallace declares that he believes in "progressive" capitalism, he might just as well say he believes in "progressive" feudalism, or going back still further, "progressive" slavery. It makes as much sense.



"Don't those Russians know they can't talk that way in our United Nations?"

WORKERS BOOKSHELF

HISTORY OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, from Colonial Times to the Founding of the American Federation of Labor, by Philip S. Foner, International Publishers, 1947, 576 pp. \$3.75.

One of the indispensable conditions for building a revolutionary socialist party in this country is a thorough study of American working class history, illuminated by a Marxist understanding of American society. This book is an important step toward that goal, in that it attempts to tell the story with emphasis on the interests and life of the workers. It falls short of that goal, in that its Marxism is twisted and corrupted by Stalinism — especially in its uncritical acceptance of alliances between labor and other classes as uniformly "progressive," regardless of where the leadership of the alliance lies.

We can learn much from our history of value to the movement today, but only if our study hangs closely to the class line. For example, going back to the American Revolution, we can see now, and can prove by patient research (much of which Foner has done), that the revolution probably would never have taken place if it had not been for the study, uncompromising militancy of the artisans and poorer workmen of the coastal towns.

The Sons of Liberty, and the Committees of Correspondence which they organized, in a network that covered the colonies, were made up chiefly of the most exploited workers of the towns, who formed an alliance that was equivalent at times to an independent government with the small debt-ridden farmers of the countryside and the frontier. The revolutionary movement at this time was not only anti-British, but showed many signs of developing into a social revolution against the native exploiters, too.

Gradually, the merchants, lawyers, bankers, great landowners, and Southern plantation aristocracy took over the organs of power created by the workers and farmers, and before the revolution was even officially ended, class struggles within the American lines had broken out with a ferocity that continued through the entire period of adoption of the Constitution, and

abated only after the turn of the century.

One example of this is the mutiny of the Pennsylvania troops against the failure of the Continental Congress, dominated by wealthy interests, even to provide food and clothes, let alone the promised pay. Later, Shay's Rebellion in Massachusetts was only the largest of many similar revolts against the counter-revolutionary policies of the conservatives. We can learn many lessons from this record, not the least of which is the great power wielded by a few thousand scattered craftsmen in an agricultural country, when they boldly struck out for their own demands.

Even more important is the story of the Civil War, and of the Reconstruction era. The Republican Party, immediately after its formation, faced the revolutionary task of overthrowing the power of the Southern plantation-owners, and with that, chattel slavery. The workers of the Northern cities broke away, in great numbers from their traditional loyalty to the Democratic Party, to support the new party.

It was the most class-conscious section of the workers who entered into the new movement, including the infant socialist movement. Again the workers and poor farmers proved to be the backbone of the fight against the slave-owners. And in this fight, a mighty ally was the Negro people themselves, who contributed in whatever way they could to the Northern cause, 200,000 of them serving in the Army.

But the Republican Party was concerned only with winning power for the interest of Northern capital. The few concessions (like the Homestead law) passed during the war, were brushed aside in the fever to enjoy unrestricted exploitation of the continent's wealth. Both labor and Negroes were abandoned.

The just demands of the liberated Negroes for civil rights, for education, and above all for land, were for the most part ignored. Within ten years of Appomattox, labor's standards had been so reduced as to drive the workmen to the verge of insurrection. The triumphant coalition of 1860 was destroyed, and the betrayed workers and farmers again turned to the hard task of building their own organs of struggle against the brutal exploitation of capital.

Foner carries the story only to the 1880s, and another volume will

continue the narrative. The first volume is detailed and thorough, except that the most significant facts often must be dug out of a mass of irrelevant material. It is apparent at times that the reason for this is that Foner himself doesn't understand what is important and what is not.

He mentions the mutiny of the Pennsylvania line referred to above only in connection with their refusal to desert to the British. He sees this action as a praiseworthy refusal to break the all-class coalition against the foreign enemy, whereas it demonstrates clearly the will of these workers and farmers to fight both the foreign and native enemy, to defend their own interests rather than to make a "temptable deal."

The story of labor's early struggles to build the unions and a political party of its own is an inspiring one, filled with magnificent proof of the courage, devotion and militancy of the American workers. Anyone who still harbors the petty-bourgeois illusion, so vigorously inculcated by the schools and the bourgeois historians, that the American workers are uniformly "backward" and "conservative," needs a solid course in the truths of history.

For generations, any attempt on the part of workers to combine to increase wages or improve conditions was legally a conspiracy, punishable by fine or imprisonment. Not until 1842 was a ruling secured in the Supreme Court of Massachusetts that a union was not of itself a conspiracy against the public welfare. Yet thousands of workers defied the courts again and again, demanding the rights which were properly theirs.

In spite of its faults, this book provides a more detailed and more readable account of the life and struggles of American workers than anything which has yet appeared. For that reason alone it is to be recommended to every worker. There is evidence here of the breadth of research which has been given to compiling a complete story, including wide use of original sources. It is a pity that the industry of the author was not matched by his understanding of Marxism, so that we might at last have a workers' history of our country which would be a mighty weapon in the struggle for socialism.

—John Hudson

The Truth About the LaGuardia Record

By George Lavan

"A statesman is a dead politician." That famous bit of American political cynicism holds true for this epoch of capitalist politicians.

Reams of eulogies printed throughout the nation following the death of Fiorello LaGuardia bear this out. Sad to relate, this glorification of one of America's shrewdest political actors is not confined to the kept press of Big Business but is also found in the newspapers of the labor movement.

What was LaGuardia's true role? He was too clever to be the ordinary stuffed-shirt, openly pro-capitalist politician. He sensed the disgust of the people with the two old parties and pretended to be independent.

His independence, though, was limited to maneuvering between these parties. First working with the Republicans then with the New Deal Democrats.

He also saw that the days of the mailed fist toward labor were over for a while and that reforms would have to be granted. Instead of fighting these reforms he was cunning enough to endorse them and claim credit for them. Here lies the basis of his reputation as a "friend of labor."

But the record doesn't end there

even though the Stalinist Daily Worker and other labor-fakers would like us to think so.

LaGuardia's record in New York City Hall is a long record of anti-labor acts and pro-Wall Street deals.

LaGuardia used the police force to break many a picket line. His treatment of the unemployed and the WPA unions was brutal. He kept the wages of city employes so low that emergency appropriations had to be passed to keep them from hunger and eviction. While diverting the public's attention with his talent as an actor, he put over the notorious subway steal which overpaid the bankers for the transit system and saddled the public with debt and an unceasing fight against a ten cent fare. He introduced the New York City sales tax which takes the pennies of the poor in order to spare the real estate interests. Although he paid lip-service to the fight against racial discrimination, he told the nation that New York didn't want any Americans of Japanese descent moving to the city. He posed as an anti-fascist, but employed thousands of cops to protect fascists at Madison Square Garden against the big demonstration or-

ganized by the Socialist Workers Party in 1939.

This true record of the "Little Flower" could continue for pages. That is not necessary, however. All that is needed is to puncture the hot air balloon the Stalinists and others are helping to inflate.

LaGuardia chasing the fire engines, or reading the funny papers over the radio may have succeeded in fooling voters tired of stuffy political bores. It may have convinced some he was a common man's man, or a sidewalk candidate. But even this self-dramatization and posturing was carefully calculated. When he was engaged in putting over some especially raw deal he stepped up his public antics to divert attention from the important work he was doing.

For a true estimate of whose side LaGuardia was really on, check his record. Read the accounts of strikes in New York during his administration. Investigate the pay rates of city employes, his relations with the Transport Workers Union and unemployed organizations, and so on. The verdict then comes out clearly. The workers lost exactly nothing by his death.

Wall St. Expects a Bust; So Do All Big Profiteers

By John G. Wright

When the Steel Trust decided, some 10 weeks ago, to boost iron and steel prices by \$5 to \$10 a ton, a general price rise became unavoidable. As The Militant warned at the time, prices have since shot up like jet-propelled rockets. Not only the food prices. The soaring cost of necessities tends to obscure the upward thrust which the steel profiteers have imparted to virtually all commodities.

This is strikingly revealed by a special index compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, covering almost 900 commodities. For 10 consecutive weeks this index has registered one advance after another, and in recent weeks each advance has marked a new post-war high.

The columns of capitalist dailies are dotted with reports of new or projected price boosts. Even items which had slumped for months have been caught up in the inflationary spiral. For example, fats and oils have reversed their downward price-trend. So have coffee and cocoa and such depressed raw materials as natural rubber.

While the world of commodities is in this frenzy of speculation, we observe just the opposite development taking place in the holy of holies of all capitalist profiteers and speculators — the stock-market. Stock prices have been plummeting downward almost as spectacularly as commodity prices have zoomed upwards. In the same brief period that commodities have shot up more than 40%, stocks have declined almost 20%, with the gap between the two growing ever wider.

Periods of runaway inflation have never before witnessed such a remarkable discrepancy. The "normal" trend under capitalism, during inflation, would be for a flight of debased dollars—dollars which buy less and less—in commodities—which cost more and more—and also into stocks, which in the last analysis likewise represent commodities. Why then are stock prices staying down?

The true explanation is now provided even by such conservative capitalist weeklies as Business Week, Sept. 20, which states flatly that: "Wall Street expects a bust." This leading article then goes on to pose two key questions: "How long can consumers follow the rising price of food and still have enough money to buy the other things they want and need? If this can't go on forever, will it mean a bust in commodity prices that might throw business into a tailspin as in 1929?"

The answer to the first question has already been given in large part. Retail trade continues to slump. The injection into the domestic market of almost two billion dollars in cashable veteran's terminal leave bonds has barely made a "ripple in the spending stream," lament, another article in the same issue of Business Week. Inventories continue to pile up; production slows down, with the backing up of high-priced goods, no longer accessible to the mass of the people.

The global picture is even more dismal than the prospects at home. European capitalism is bankrupt. "As the picture is viewed in Congress, the U. S. is being asked to revive a bankrupt Europe," says the weekly U. S. News, another mouthpiece of Big Business. As the receiver for a bankrupt concern, Wall Street does not intend to give away anything to insolvent creditors. It will only "lend"—and these loans will be kept at a minimum.

"Prevailing opinion is that 12 billion dollars—or three billion a year—will be as much as Congress (read: the Wall Street masters) can be induced to authorize. Even this amount probably will not be voted all at once. Instead at the coming session, Congress is expected to appropriate only enough for the first year of the (Marshall) plan" (U. S. News, Sept. 19).

What can the injection of a few billion dollars a year into crisis-torn Europe accomplish, when similar sums are swallowed up "without a ripple" by a seemingly healthy capitalist economy at home? Obviously, the masses in Europe face the prospect of deeper slashes in their famine rations, while the masses in this country will see their own living standards degraded still further.

Wall Street's own answer is clear enough. Another BUST is ahead. They know it and all the monopolists, above all the steel monopolists knew it, when they set off the general price rise ten weeks ago.

Profits - Not Wages - Boost Building Costs

It is the custom of the capitalist press to blame labor for everything. This holds especially for the high cost of home building today. It is claimed in loud voices and in off-the-record whispers that building costs are exorbitant because the wages of construction workers have shot up.

The facts show this to be pure bologna. Building wages have not increased much, but the profits of construction and building material companies have skyrocketed. This explains why the cost of building a home is so great that hundreds of thousands of would-be home builders have been priced out of the market.

The wages of building trades workers were frozen a year before those of other industries. "Adjustments" allowed by the wage-freeze boys in Washington, to mitigate inequities were very miserly. Since the end of wage-freezing in 1946, building wage increases have risen an average of 15%. It is revealed by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This rise is less than that of other industries.

Even this increase did not mean much to the building trades worker. Severe shortages of material kept many workers only part time employes. Overtime, which had increased war time pay checks, was drastically reduced and the pay checks showed it. Unemployment was serious in the industry in many cities last winter; in some cities, including New York, unemployment was much more than seasonal, lasting well into the spring.

When things had improved during the summer a survey showed that for the month of June 1947 the average earnings of all building workers on private construction jobs as revealed by the AFL Building Trades Department were \$1.66 per hour. The average weekly wage was \$62.68.

When reading these figures it must be remembered that building workers don't work regularly. When the weather prevents work, there is no pay. When a building worker is moved from one job to another or his work is held up, he gets no pay. However, he has to pay rent for every day, feed his kids each day whether there is work or not and despite the weather.

What then explains the terrific cost of building? Speculation by the real estate profiteers is one of the answers. The cost of building materials, which always runs over 45% of the total, has increased enormously. The materials in a \$5000 house cost \$2250 in 1939. In 1947 the same materials cost \$4410. Lumber costs are 198.6% more now than they were in 1939. Paint is 95.4% over pre-war levels. And so it runs down the list.

Along side of these staggering increases in construction costs, the 15% wage increase of building workers, looks pretty puny. It's not high wages that prevent home building today but the colossal profiteering by the real estate and construction interests.

Workers' Forum

This Veteran Held Out Longer

Editor:
Unlike Albert Parzer, I did not rush down to the bank on Sept. 2, the first day on which I could cash my hard-earned terminal leave bond. Instead, I decided to hold on to that \$125 as long as possible. Well, I've had it. In the first week after that my wife and I figured out that rising food prices had eaten into our budget so badly that we had spent \$8 more than we had earned.

Yesterday was the second week's end since Sept. 2, and when we checked again, we found that the extra cost of food had given us an \$11 deficit for the week.

At that rate, we wouldn't be able to pay the rent at the end of the month. There was no alternative—I went to the bank and cashed it this morning. At the present rate it will be all gone in two or three months. In fact, it is going at a much faster rate than it took me to earn it.

Veteran,
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dutch Friend Seeks Correspondent

Editor:
I am a member of the Dutch Trotskyist movement in Amsterdam and read regularly your very interesting and informative paper. I wonder if one of your young comrades, boy or girl, would be interested in corresponding with me, so that we could exchange opinions and information about our respective countries.

The article of J. R. Johnson about the Negro soldiers in the U. S. Army (Aug. 11 Militant), telling of the consciousness of these Negroes to fight their oppressors, we were very pleased with. Indeed, the most oppressed give the best revolutionary material, as we saw in the case of A. Leon in Belgium during the war.

Is there any possibility of our friends in America publishing his book — A. Leon's "Materialist Conception of the Jewish Question"?

M. P. Amsterdam, Netherlands

ED. NOTE: The Militant will gladly forward M.P.'s address to any reader who would like to correspond with him.

Pioneer Publishers is now engaged in raising funds from sympathizers for the publication of Leon's Marxist analysis of the Jewish question.

"Daily Mirror" Tip Arouses Reader's Ire

Editor:
They say fish is good brain food. If so, I ought to be in the running with Einstein. We've been on a fish diet ever since the meat trust got the idea they were selling the golden calf.

At first we just dropped out of the steak class. We stayed with the stew eaters until the competition got too stiff. Then we moved into the odds and ends level. Finally we were in the hamburger class — you know, the bright pink ground-up fat and sinews the butcher kind of holds away from his nose. It fries down to steam and residue and it's all you can do to swallow it thinking how long are you going to be a damn fool standing in line to pay out money for scraps you wouldn't feed the dog.

Then we moved into the fish

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 want your name printed.

eating strata of the population. Fish. Fish. Fish. We've been eating fish so steady I can't tell the days in the week from Friday any more.

When we first shifted over, it was salmon and halibut. Then the fish stores caught the price-raising fever. Our purchasing power stood still as the price escalator moved up until we found our pocketbook fit the cod and file of sole notch.

That was bad enough; but tempus fugit, as I read in a book, and next thing you know we were frying flounders, porgies and some fish I don't know the name of but they look like minnows.

You'd think we'd hit bottom. But no. Once you run into a dollar shortage it's hard to recover without a pipe line to the U. S. Public Treasury. Last week we were trying out tuna, First Avenue style. "30 cents worth," you tell the fishmonger and he swings his machete and whacks you out a piece from a big chunk of bloody-looking blubber.

We aren't down to octopus yet, but I won't be surprised one of these days to find myself trying to keep the stew pot lid on one of the slimy monsters.

The pay-off was the other evening. The wife brought in the Daily Mirror while I was still picking scales off my shirt front after supper. It calms me after I've gone through another fish dinner to catch up on the news — what's happening to Lili Abner and Will Happy Easter be rescued in time by Steve Canyon from the blonde who wears her evening gown backward and is there anything new on the buyer resistance front.

There on page two is some flash news: "SAVE WITH FISH. With choice beef wholesaling at \$1.75 a pound and choice fish retailing for as little as \$1.17 a pound, it makes sense to have two fish days a week. So says Prudence Penny, writing today in the Mirror's food budget series. You will find her recipes and tips on page 24."

I don't care if beef is \$1.75 or \$3 a pound any more than I give a damn if the national debt is \$260,000,000,000 or \$300,000,000,000. But "SAVE WITH FISH." They call that news! TWO fish days a week! Us nearer to seven! Where has the Mirror been?

I say take those recipes and tips and shove them down Prudence Penny's throat.

Indignant
New York, N. Y.

Isn't It Time For A Change Here Too?

Editor:
Now that the United States Government has intervened and changed the Greek government and the Turkish government and is going to make proposals leading toward the changing of the Chinese government as well, isn't it about time that the American people did something to change the United States government which like the others mentioned does not seem able to solve the most pressing problems facing its citizens?

A. F. C.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Atomic Bomb Makes Labor Party Urgent

Editor:
We are all up against a crisis we never met before. The capitalists themselves are aware of it. If we don't get a political party of our own, the atomic bomb will decide our lot. We will all have to lie down and die with the Philistines as Samson did.

L. B. Courts
Hamilton, Ohio

Martin's Eulogy On Freedom Train

Editor:
Today martial music filled the air, ward heilers waxed eloquent, and Kate Smith's "God Bless America" blared forth from all the radio stations as they launched the Freedom Train in Philadelphia.

Listening to Senator Martin of Pennsylvania unleash his demagoguery about the rich heritage we in America enjoy, I thought of Sacco-Vanzetti, the Haymarket Affair, Harlan County, Centralia, the South. . . .

When I arrived home I found a letter awaiting me. It was an appeal from the Provisional Committee for the Political Rights of Independent Labor Candidates.

A personal note from the Philadelphia branch organizer called upon me to help out financially, morally and vocally in calling attention to the County Board of Elections barring independent candidates from the ballot in Philadelphia.

I thought of Martin's rhetoric. "We have a Constitution and a Bill of Rights," he said. "We have our civil liberties."

"The Senator would deem it impertinent to challenge that. But just what are civil liberties if they are not allowed to function? Why pay lip service to something which is yanked back like a bone on a string when the time comes to exercise those liberties?"

"Guard these precious civil liberties for all," Martin went on. "If we permit them to be wiped out for some minorities — political, racial or religious — then we shall lose them for all the people."

Barring such a minority as the Socialist Workers Party or Workers Party from the ballot doesn't obtain here. However it makes for good platform verbiage. The Senator has two utilizations for the above phrase: First for public occasions, and afterwards into the trash basket.

"What Americans must do according to this high pundit of capitalism is to file docilely through Freedom Train and imagine themselves back in the 18th century. They must believe that the men who promulgated these documents meant them for an America of the type which such 'duly elected' administrators as Martin tells us we must have.

Martin, a mere tool of employing capitalism, voiced his lesson well and it is to be hoped that his employers give him a passing grade for his work. They should.

Norman Johnstone
Westville, N. J.

READ

Fourth International

Militant Fund Drive Begun by Branches

By Rose Karsner

Quotas for the Militant Fund

(Tentative Quotas)	
City	Quota
Akron	\$ 300
Allentown-Bethlehem	75
Boston	275
Buffalo	600
Chicago	1,500
Cleveland	250
Connecticut	200
Detroit	600
Flint	200
Los Angeles	1,500
Lynn	125
Massillon-Canton	50
Milwaukee	200
Newark	500
New York City	4,500
Oakland	2,550
Philadelphia	300
Pittsburgh	150
Reading	150
Rochester	25
St. Louis	50
San Diego	100
San Francisco	1,250
Seattle	300
Tacoma	25
Toledo	200
Twin Cities	1,000
West Virginia	25
Youngstown	600
General	
(members-at-large, etc.)	450

THE MILITANT FUND campaign terminates with the Dec. 15 issue of this paper, leaving exactly ten weeks in which to fulfill the quotas. If you will divide what you owe on your pledge by ten you will arrive at a weekly figure to shoot at. In this manner you can achieve 100% comfortably in time for the Dec. 15 issue. The Local New York Director follows this procedure and finds that it works.

The first complete Score Board will begin to appear in the October 13 Militant. In the meantime all branches are urged to rush their collections so we can begin with very few zeroes from the start.

All copy for this column must be in the hands of the editors by Tuesday of each week. That means that your letters must be in our office not later than Monday in order to make any given current issue. Bear this in mind, especially for your last payment on the quota, which will have to reach us not later than Monday, Dec. 12.

FROM THE BRANCHES

LYNN—Mary Paule: "We feel confident that we will meet our full quota before the closing of the drive."

CLEVELAND—Almeda Kingsley: "We started our campaign off Saturday evening with an open house for friends who attended a convention here. The enclosed check represents the proceeds."

BUFFALO—T. Martin: "Enclosed

THE MILITANT ARMY

St. Paul Nets 15 Subs In Sunday Mobilization



The St. Paul Branch of the Socialist Workers Party scored again with 15 new readers to *The Militant*. Winifred Nelson, Militant Agent, typed out the following report immediately after the comrades returned from their Sunday morning assignment: "Thirteen of these Militant subscriptions were gotten by 5 comrades who were out this morning for about an hour and a half. This is a score of 2-3/5 subs per comrade, a little less than we did last time, but still good and very encouraging. We also sold \$1 worth of literature this morning."

The Milwaukee comrades tend to prove the old adage, subs are where you find them. "One of our comrades," writes C. Andrews, Militant Manager, "who was able to attend the Socialist Party picnic last week here was able to get three Militant subs. Not bad, eh?"

Comrade Andrews also reports that Milwaukee is planning its regular monthly mobilization to take care of expired subscriptions. The mobilization will be preceded by another waffle breakfast.

The following letter from J. Blake, Southside Branch, Los Angeles Local, arrived after the conclusion of L. A.'s subscription campaign: "Now that the two months' sub drive here is coming to an end, the competition for shop subs, at least, seems to be getting keen. Enclosed is a check for \$3.50 and 5 subs from one of our friends in General Motors. We'll probably have a slump in subs for the next two weeks, since the West Coast Vacation School starts Saturday, but Southside Branch will make follow-up work on expirations one of its major routine tasks immediately afterward."

In addition to the above, we received 10 more subs today from Los Angeles by registered mail.

The San Pedro Branch of Los Angeles Local is now reaping benefits from previous distributions. Cynthia Rogalin explains: "We have stopped free distribution of *The Militant* and the comrades are selling it at former distribution points. Sales of *The Militant* at Longshore Union meetings have averaged \$4 and \$5 a month. We will now try to sell also at the Ford Union meetings, but can't hope for such a ready response. We've distributed the paper to the Longshoremen for a good 5 years now and to the Ford workers only during this past year."

Various comrades in the St. Louis Branch mailed in a total of 7 subscriptions to *The Militant* during the week.

This note from Beatrice Allen, Literature Agent for the Detroit Branch, accompanied 6 Militant subs: "There is no spectacular way in which the comrades here get subs—each one is aware of the value of *The Militant* and the aid it is when sold to shop mates. For instance, Comrade George who is Vice-President of his Local just tells the fellows in the shop that he has them on a list for a damn good paper and that he wants a dollar from them. This works. I know because I tried it."

Pittsburgh Branch has requested a Luntle increase of 15 copies a week.

The Boston Branch sent the following telegram: "Can use 300 copies of the Sept. 22 issue for the United Electrical Workers Convention. Rush papers immediately."

PIONEER NOTES

Pioneer Publishers' two newest pamphlets, *American Stalinism and Anti-Stalinism*, by James P. Cannon, 15c, and *Fight the Slave Labor Law*, a statement by the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, 5c, are selling so rapidly that SWP branches are continually re-ordering, even after taking more than original quotas to start with.

Minneapolis literature agent Julia Z. reports: "Last night two comrades sold 110 copies of *Fight the Slave Labor Law* in a little better than half an hour at a CIO mass meeting protesting the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. One comrade sold 50 copies of *Fight the Slave Labor Law* in 20 minutes and could have sold more if we had had them."

Calumet branch telegraphed for 200 of this pamphlet when its first lot was quickly exhausted.

Nine New York comrades sold more than 100 pamphlets, about half of them *Fight the Slave Labor Law*, at a Wallace meeting. About 40 *Build a Labor Party NOW!* were sold and 13 *American Stalinism and Anti-Stalinism*.

Akron agent E. Alexander re-ordered the *Stalinism* pamphlet, reporting: "It is selling very well — easy to sell in the plants."

Lively Detroit branch sold 82 Pioneer books and pamphlets, of 14 different titles, at three recent meetings in a single week.

Order these pamphlets or send for price list: Pioneer Publishers, 117 University Place, New York 3, N.Y.

preceding the date shown above is 12,500 average weekly. (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly and triweekly newspapers only.)

Reba Aubrey, business manager, sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of Sept., 1947.

(Seal)
(M: commission expires March 30, 1948.)

more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; and also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stocks, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months



PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Pl.,
New York 3, N. Y.

Another Letter To Our Readers

Dear Readers:

Many of you are not subscribers to our paper because you get it from a news-stand or from the MILITANT distributor. That gives us no way of reaching you by mail. We therefore take this public method of writing to you.

In the issue of Sept. 22 the editors addressed an Open Letter, requesting you to write about your experiences on the job, on the home front, in the neighborhood, and to send letters to the "Workers Forum". In these letters you should feel free to make comments, criticisms, suggestions, or ask questions about some issue in the labor movement about which you want our point of view or clarification.

These are no idle words. The editors are in earnest. We are eagerly awaiting your communications. We want *The Militant* to be your paper. We want you to be a Militant contributor. Don't be shy about writing.

In the same issue of the paper (Sept. 22), we reported why *The Militant* needs financial aid and gave the quotas the branches of the Socialist Workers Party have accepted. To meet these pledges, the members of the party will have to make personal sacrifices. They will do this cheerfully, because *The Militant* fights consistently for the kind of a world they envision. A world free from oppression and discrimination. A world where "all men are created free and equal" will become a fact, not as it is today, a mere phrase mouthed by statesmen on ceremonial occasions. A world governed by the rule of "to each according to his needs, from each according to his ability." In a word, a world fit for human dignity.

The Socialist Workers Party believes that the capitalist system of private ownership and production for profit is doomed because it can no longer feed, clothe and shelter the vast majority of people who are

Fraternally,
ROSE KARSNER
Director, Militant Fund

THE MILITANT 116 University Pl. New York 3, N. Y.

Enclosed please find \$..... for THE MILITANT FUND.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZONE

NEW HAVEN HICKMAN DEFENSE MEETING
Speaker: RAYMOND ROSS
Place: New Haven Labor School
855 Grand Ave.
Date: Oct. 6, 8:30 P. M.
Admission: Free

Bronx County Fair
Saturday, Oct. 4, 9 p. m.
1034 Prospect Ave.
SWP candidate for N. Y. State Senate
Robert Williams
Will Speak
Auction, Games
subscriptions, 35c
Auspices: Bronx branch of SWP

Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers at these Local Activities of THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

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

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

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

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

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

DETROIT—6108 Linwood Ave., phone TY 7-6237. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.

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

LOS ANGELES—Militant publishing Assn., 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.

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

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

MILWAUKEE—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St. Open 12 to 4:30 p.m.; 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays thru Fridays.

MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Phone Main 7781 Library, bookstore.

NEW HAVEN—Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open every Monday, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

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

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

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St. Room 23. MO. 2-1866.

Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

PITTSBURGH—1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor.
Open Forum 2nd and 4th Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Marxist Study Class every Thursday 7-9 p.m. 1418 Fifth Ave.

SAN DIEGO—Headquarters 432 F St., R. 213. Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO—1739 Fillmore St., 4th floor, San Francisco 15. Open noon to 4:30 p.m. except Sunday.

SEATTLE—1919 1/2 Second Ave. Open 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 12 to 5 p.m. Sat. Phone SE 0453. Library, bookstore.

Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Basic Training Class.

ST. LOUIS—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312. Forums, Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

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

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

TOLEDO—113 St. Clair St., 2nd floor. Open daily.

YOUNGSTOWN—35 1/2 South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

The Furnaces and the Men

By Theodore Kovalesky

When the alarm clock jangles in the darkness of early morning I hate to be a worker. When I have to go to work on the night shift with the rest of the town getting ready to sleep it seems terrible. When there's a coke mess on the furnace on a hot afternoon I begin to wonder how much longer I'll be able to take it.

But all in all, in spite of the high prices and low wages, in spite of the sweaty hardships and fiery dangers of the job, in spite of the shift work, there's something about blast furnaces. . . .

When we finish up a day's (or night's) work and drop into Emil's place for a beer before going home, we talk about a lot of different things, but sometime before we walk out of the door one of us will start talking about one of the furnaces. Usually what he will have to say is bad, for instance, "I hate that damn Number Seven! Never know when something is going to burn out and blow up. They pushed it too hard in the war, and it's never gonna be any good any more." Or: "A man's crazy to stay at a damn job like this!"

But there's always interest in furnace talk. Symptoms are cited. Number Three's been rolling and heaving all day. Number Two's iron's had so much silicosis for the past week and a half that you tear up the runners when you try to clean them. Then the gang begins to diagnose. The reason why Seven burns so many tyures is that they use a different kind of ore in her. They used that kind down in Sparrows Point in Bethlehem, and it did the same thing there. No, thinks somebody else, it's just that they use too much wind on the furnace, too much blast; that's why the tyures burn out.

You always hear talk like this in Emil's place. Sometimes it mounts into arguments, not too heated ones, of course. I've seen Jimmy leer into Slim's face and say, "Man, you've never learned anything about a blast furnace in all the years you been working on them." And Slim was quick to defend his grasp on furnace lore and deride Jimmy's ideas.

The average furnace man is, I think, a furnace man at heart in a way. I know the gang will howl

when they see this, but it's true. He hates the furnaces, there's no doubt of that. To him the blast furnace means sweat that pours rather than seeps, fatigue that is deeper than any other kind known to him. It means the cutting scorch that shoots from the iron and slag during cast. To the furnace man the furnace is a monster that must be overcome, a looming evil spirit full of cunning ways to make miserable the lives of the furnace gang, and sometimes to kill members of that gang.

When I say he's a furnace man at heart I don't mean he has any love for the furnaces. He feels a deep hatred for them; to him it often seems in a vague way that the colossus of the furnace standing solid and tremendous in the red-brown dirt of the furnace yard is his real enemy, his actual master, while the company itself, the management with its board of directors and stockholders is something very remote and not so real.

But still there's something. . . . I've read about how the sea gets into the blood of men, who, hating it and fearing it, are yet drawn to it again and again. I know that men are actually drawn back to jobs they hate because they need money, and they can't earn money on the job they know. But it's not that alone.

When the workers take control of the government one of these days and throw out the capitalists, there will still be sailors, and there will still be blast furnace men. "It's the romance of the open hearth," says a friend of mine who has spent twenty years there. And he's just a regular guy, not a dreamer or a poet. It's that way with us too.

This spell is on us. The iron has gone into our blood. But don't think that makes us satisfied. Down in the subterranean passages in our brains is the seed of a thought that will one day burst into bloom.

These furnaces that we work on must belong to us. We must take them from the bandits who "own" them. We know them. We have seen them cast their red light against the midnight skies. We have sweated and died upon them. We work them and know them and are one with them. And when we take them over in socialist production, we'll make the working conditions on them fit for men.

Just how you can make decent conditions on a blast furnace, I don't know as yet. But the Socialist workers of tomorrow will find the way.

The Negro Struggle

Your Verdict On James Hickman

By William E. Bohannon

Where are your sympathies in the James Hickman case — with the State of Illinois which wants to convict and execute him on the charge of murdering his landlord, or with Hickman and those members of his family who managed to survive the terrible fire that burned the four Hickman children to death last winter?

To answer that question, you must know the facts. Not only the fact about Hickman shooting his landlord; nobody denies that fact, but there is more to it than that. You must also know why he shot him, you must also know about the conditions under which Hickman and his family lived, you must also understand the whole background of the case. Otherwise you are not qualified to judge his action at all, or to take sides in the coming trial.

First, you must take into consideration the housing shortage. If not for this housing shortage, Mr. and Mrs. Hickman and their seven children would never have been forced to move into a tiny attic room, without lights, heat or water, in a firetrap tenement house. Who was responsible for the housing shortage — Hickman? No, it was the capitalist system and the greedy real estate interests who conspire to prevent a large low-cost housing program so that they can jack up the rents in existing buildings.

Next, you must remember that Chicago, like most other American cities, is ruled by restrictive covenants, which permit landlords to get together and agree that Negroes like James Hickman shall not be permitted to rent or buy a home anywhere except in the Negro Ghetto. Hickman had a job, and if not

for these restrictive covenants he would surely have rented a home elsewhere. Was Hickman responsible for this? No, it was the capitalist system, which rests on Jim Crow foundations, and it was the great State of Illinois, which tolerates such discrimination and now wants to take the life of Hickman, who is the victim of such discrimination.

And finally, you must think about the other facts in the case. The landlord ordered Hickman and the other tenants to move so he could convert the apartments and get higher rents. He threatened to burn them out when they didn't move. After the fire a kerosene can, never seen before by the tenants, was found near the Hickman attic. Who was guilty of these things — Hickman? No, the guilt belonged to the Chicago authorities who did nothing about the firetrap conditions in the building, and to the landlord, who likewise did nothing about them and who in addition, there is good reason to suspect, himself arranged the murderous fire.

I don't know what capitalist politicians or judges or landlords will say, but I am sure that working people, Negroes, fathers of murdered children, tenants evicted from their homes or forced to live in firetraps, will have no difficulty in arriving at a verdict of not guilty for James Hickman.

Hickman must and can be freed to return to the pitiful remnants of his family. But that can be achieved only if the working people, white and Negro, come to his defense and make their voices heard. We should not wait until the trial is over; we should raise our voices in protest now; the greater the protest, the greater the chance that he will be acquitted. Let every mass organization swing into action now and send copies of their resolutions and financial aid to the Hickman Defense Committee, 4619 South Parkway, Chicago 15, Illinois.

Li'l Abner Gagged

By George Lavan

Of all the comic strips Li'l Abner, drawn by Al Capp, is one of the top favorites. This is deserved since most funnies aren't very funny. The great majority are serialized soap operas or amazing stories. But Li'l Abner is funny. It is noteworthy for its original characters like Lonesome Polecat, Fearless Fosdick, Hairless Joe and many more.

Now the steel trust stooges who own the Pittsburgh Press have decided that their readers should not be corrupted by Li'l Abner. The installments of this comic have simply been left out of the paper for a whole week.

To justify this action, the paper ran an editorial stating that the current episodes of Li'l Abner were "objectionable" because they burlesqued a Senator. It seems that Senator Phogbound of Dogspatch is corrupt, ignorant and morose. The editors of the Pittsburgh Press don't think our national legislators should be portrayed that way, even in a comic strip. Well, let's look at the record.

There are many cases of proven bribe-taking by our Washington "solons." You don't have to go back to the Teapot Dome scandal, just look at recent times. Huey P. Long's shakedowns and corruption were hardly concealed by him. Clampon race-hater and ignorant Senator Bilbo admitted taking juicy "gifts" in connection with war contracts. Representative May, head of the House Committee on Military Affairs during the war, has been convicted for his patriotic efforts. And just to show that this isn't a characteristic peculiar to Southern Senators, think of the questions that Senator Brewster of Maine has yet to answer.

Notes from the News

SAME DIFFERENCE? — J. D. Watson escaped from the North Carolina State Prison in May 1946. Then he joined the Army. Last week he turned up at the prison gate and asked for readmittance because he couldn't stand the Army.

JIM CROW BALLOTS—Governor M. E. Thompson has approved arrangements for Jim Crow voting in the Georgia primaries. Segregation will be complete; different buildings will be used for white and Negro voters; use of partitions in the same building is outlawed.

LACK OF INCENTIVE — Recruitment into the armed forces has slumped notably since withdrawal

of special benefits under the GI Bill of Rights. In August recruiting for the Army was 33% below requirements and for the Navy 22% below.

STRANGE CAMP—Such union leaders as William Green and A. F. Whitney are in the same camp as a lot of labor-hating Southern Democrats in pushing Gael Sullivan for the chairmanship of the Democratic National Committee.

LAND OF FREE? — Deputies are keeping thousands of agricultural workers from crossing the state line out of Texas. In adjoining states cotton pickers get \$3 per 100 pounds — in Texas they get between \$1.50 and \$2.

THE MILITANT

Flint UAW Locals Set Up Own Grocery Store to Fight HCL

By Jerry Kirk

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 22 — All four General Motors locals of the CIO United Auto Workers here have made plans to establish wholesale grocery stores in their union halls to help relieve the pressure of high food prices. Each local is buying thousands of dollars of canned food weekly and selling them at wholesale prices to their members. This proposal has evoked a very favorable response from the rank and file who want the unions to really do something about the big squeeze on their pay checks.

Two days after the Detroit Ford Highland Park local announced the plan, the United Progress and Action and Rank and File caucuses spearheaded the same idea in UAW Chevrolet Local 659. Simultaneously Bob Carter, president of AC Sparkplug, raised a similar proposal. The Fisher Body workers' attention to the wholesale grocery plan was raised by a new caucus called Pioneer which is headed by Ray Tucker, a militant of long standing in the local.

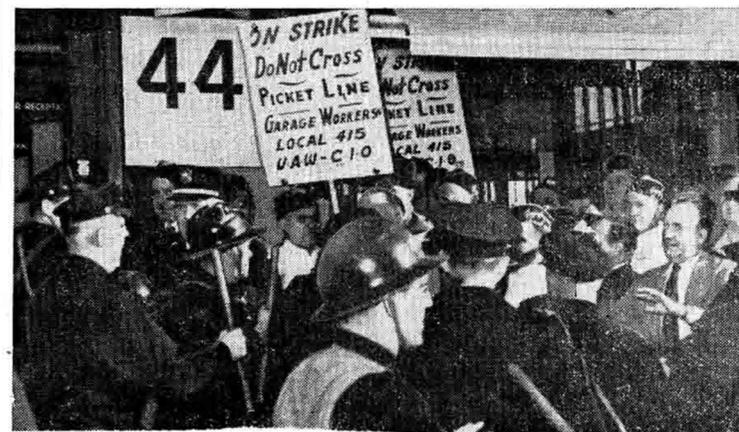
At the moment the Flint auto workers interest is centered on the UAW convention to be held in November. It comes at a time when tension in the plants is mounting daily. Scores of irate veterans and seniority men are expressing their pent-up ire on individual foremen.

This results from many factors. The corporation has speeded up assembly lines while at the same time thousands of workers are being sent home after six or seven hours. The short pay checks aggravate the bitter feelings of the workers. None of the fast talk about a steel shortage has made an impression in members. The auto workers are convinced the corporation is interested in maintaining a scarcity in order to keep prices up.

Short paychecks have given rise to the demand for an immediate fight for the six-hour day at eight hours pay. This was first raised by the Pioneer group at Fisher Body. In a leaflet they state: "We believe plans must be made now for the 30-hour week at 40 hours pay. The miners have the 6 1/2 hour day at 8 hours pay! We can get it too. A new leadership with fighting spirit can bring this to the UAW convention." During the past few months a regroupment has taken place in Chevrolet. The administration officers have split away from the Progress and Action Caucus, and this body has since united with the Rank and File Caucus and drawn up a joint slate for the UAW convention.

At the last Chevrolet membership meeting the united caucuses continued their fight for a Labor Party. A strong resolution addressed to the convention was overwhelmingly passed despite the parliamentary objections of two top officers of the local. (See story on Page 1.)

Detroit Cops Help Scabs



Mayor Jeffries' police force in Detroit has unleashed a campaign of brutality against striking garage workers and their union, UAW-CIO Local 415. Pickets in the month-old strike have been arrested and court orders issued against the union. Above the cops are shown with clubs ready for action as they try to push a path through pickets at the Jerry McCarthy garage.

All ranks of the UAW are protesting the scab-protecting activities of the cops. A city-wide meeting of local union leaders has pledged full support; so has the UAW International Executive Board. Detroit unionists are asking what Jeffries' cops will be like after the coming election if they are as vicious during his campaign for Mayor.

Federated Pictures

Trainor Opens Boston Campaign On October 4

Rally To Be Held for School Board Candidate

BOSTON, Sept. 24 — The drive to elect Lawrence P. Trainor to the Boston School Committee will be formally opened at the bang-up Social and Dance on the evening of Oct. 4, the Socialist Workers Committee announced today. Trainor, veteran of the socialist and trade union movement, will give a brief address during which he will point out the necessity for labor to elect its own representatives to public office.

All workers are invited to attend this Social and Dance at 30 Stuart St.; particularly the readers of *The Militant*. Here, besides having an enjoyable evening of relaxation, they will be able to meet Trainor and other Militant readers.

PLAN SOUND TRUCK

The Committee's campaign plans are already being carried out. Election literature is now in the printshop, radio time is being contracted for and a sound truck has been hired for the closing days of the campaign. The number of people reached in the campaign will naturally depend upon the meager resources of the Committee, which is made up of working people. All friends of labor are urged to contribute whatever they can possibly spare.

With regards to campaign expenditures, Trainor issued the following statement:

"Isn't it a bit strange that the professional political parasites who dominate Boston's political life will spend up to \$20,000-\$25,000 in campaigning for an office that pays no salary? Surely, no one is stupid enough to accuse these people of ever being self-sacrificing for the general public. No one ever heard of them contributing a red penny to striking and persecuted workers. The righteous cause of labor is alien to them except at election time.

"They are not wealthy individuals. Their trade is politics where they live by the rule 'Get yours and the devil take the hindmost.' And playing with Boston's \$18,000,000 school budget is not to be sneezed at.

"Labor must put a stop to this con game of lying and deception and plunder. The only way to do this is to elect labor's own members to public office where they will be responsible to labor.

"In this campaign I ask labor to make a beginning towards that goal by electing me to the School Committee. There I will speak in the name of labor — and labor alone."

Lerner-for-Mayor Drive Gains Speed in Detroit

DETROIT, Sept. 23 — The Socialist Workers Party campaign for Howard Lerner for Mayor is in high gear now, with two weeks to go to the Oct. 7 primaries.

A successful open-air rally was held in the Negro section last Saturday. Rev. Charles A. Hill, progressive Negro Councilman candidate endorsed by the SWP, was guest speaker and called for the election of anti-Jim Crow candidates.

Howard Lerner delivered a stirring speech interrupted several times by spontaneous applause. He called for a struggle against a new war, the building of a Labor Party and the construction of a socialist society.

Similar street meetings will be held in this and other neighborhoods before the primaries.

Several of the big auto plants and working class neighborhoods have been canvassed with the SWP sound equipment and election literature.

Next Tuesday Lerner will speak at a meeting sponsored by Briggs Local 212 of the UAW, to which

Protest Meeting Held in Phila.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 23 — Irene P. LeCompte, Socialist Workers Party candidate for City Council, Jack Radar, Workers Party candidate, and David H. H. Felix, defense attorney, addressed a large crowd that attended the Defense Rally Social held last Saturday night at the Militant Labor Forum Hall. The rally was called by the Provisional Defense Committee to protest the arbitrary rejection of the legal nomination papers of the two parties and to mobilize support for the four victims of Republican and Democratic court-martial injustice.

Labor-hating Judge McDevitt had sentenced the two candidates to \$100 or 30 days in jail, and their own pre-emptors to \$50 or 30 days. They are now out on bail pending an appeal scheduled to come up in the State Superior Court next March.

Defense Attorney Felix opened his remarks at the rally by stating that the denial of the ballot to the SWP and WP has brought Pennsylvania politics, and Philadelphia politics in particular, to a new low. He urged the action of Judge McDevitt in sentencing the four to a "totalitarian decree."

"The Republican Party, which fominate state politics, and its 'sept woman, the Democratic Party, which plays along for little favors, have their own interpretation of the Bill of Rights—only Republicans and Democrats are allowed on the ballot," he said. "This is the Pennsylvania counterpart of the Jim Crow white primary in the South. The action against the SWP and WP emphasizes the need for basic corrections in the treacherously worded Pennsylvania election laws which place the right of minority

parties to the ballot at the mercy of courts and judges hostile to the labor movement."

Felix concluded his remarks by calling attention to the glaring contradiction between fact and ballyhoo in the visit of the Freedom Train to this city at the very time two violations of civil liberties occurred—the denial of the ballot to two minority parties and the arrest of two young people demonstrating for the release of conscientious objectors from the nation's prisons. He urged all out support to the Provisional Defense Committee.

The candidates in their remarks expressed their determination to expose the Republican - Democratic conspiracy to monopolize the ballot and to make this one of the principal issues in the coming municipal campaign. Both are set to proceed with write-in campaigns if denied a place on the ballot.

An appeal was then made to the audience for aid in publicizing and financing the activities of the Defense Committee. A good response followed. Donations of close to \$44 were contributed and many volunteered their services to the Committee's work.

The hearing on the writ of mandamus calling upon the County Election Board to show cause why it had rejected the nomination papers of the two parties will come up Sept. 26 before Judge McDevitt, Attorney Felix announced.

SWP Labor Secretary Hits Deportation Drive As Anti-Union Assault

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 23 — A vigorous denunciation of government persecutions of foreign-born trade unionists was made here today by Vincent R. Dunne, National Labor Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. His full statement follows:

"A news story in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune Sept. 18 states that Peter Warhol, who was expelled from the AFL Upholsterers Union last June on the charge of being a follower of the Communist Party, had been arrested by federal immigration authorities and faces deportation.

"It is important to note that the arrest of Warhol coincides with the arrest of two New York trade union officials by the immigration authorities there. John Santo and Michael Obermeier are being tried on the same charges.

"The Socialist Workers Party declares that these actions by the immigration authorities are proof that the administration at Washington is moving swiftly and brutally against trade unions. Such a drive is obviously intended to terrorize the American labor movement.

"That Warhol's birth place happens to be Russia furnished a convenient pretext for the government action against him. Can any informed person doubt that this move fits in perfectly with the plans of the reactionary group of labor-haters, who are now developing their program for war upon the Soviet Union?

"Socialist Workers Party opposition to Stalin's police state regime is well known. But we do not believe that American imperialism intends to bring democracy to the people of the Soviet Union. Freedom will come to the Russian workers and farmers only when they themselves find a way to overthrow Stalin's bureaucratic machine.

"Just as we oppose American imperialism interference in the affairs of the Soviet peoples, so likewise do we condemn all capitalist interference in the internal affairs of working class organizations. We term these persecutions of Warhol, Santo and Obermeier as steps on the bloody path marked out by Mussolini and Hitler!"



VINCENT R. DUNNE

SWP Wins Right To Use Name on New York Ballot

NEW YORK, Sept. 19 — The Board of Elections today upheld the right of Robert Williams, candidate for State Senator in the 23rd Senate District, to appear on the ballot in November under the designation of Socialist Workers Party. The decision was made in response to objections raised by Norman Thomas' Socialist Party.

This was the second time that official agencies in New York State had decided in favor of the Socialist Workers Party's right to use its name on the ballot in opposition to complaints by the SP. In the 1946 gubernatorial contest, the SE brought legal action before the State Supreme Court which heard the challenge and decided in favor of the Socialist Workers Party. The decision at that time was based on the fact that the electorate and not the court must decide which party had the right to call itself "Socialist."

Food Prices at All-Time High

