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The Real Purpose of Stalin's New 'Bureau'

—See Page 3—

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AFL SETS UP OWN POLITICAL LEAGUE

CIO Appeals for United Labor Action

Urges Joint Battle In Arena of Politics

By Farrell Dobbs

BOSTON, Oct. 15—Over 600 delegates attending the 9th Constitutional Convention of the CIO at the Bradford Hotel in this city today voted unanimously "to work unceasingly in the political field in complete unity with all labor organizations and other progressive groups to insure the political repudiation of those reactionaries who are responsible for the Taft-Hartley Act."

A second unanimous decision called upon all CIO unions to assist the striking CIO Shipbuilding Workers "with all their money and resources" to prevent this first conspiracy by Big Business to smash a union under the Taft-Hartley Act.

The convention made no decision on the "yellow dog" oath required to qualify with the Taft-Hartley National Labor Relations Board. Convention policy provides that each International and National Union affiliated with the CIO will "determine for itself the policy to be pursued in relation to the new Labor Board."

This policy on the "yellow dog" oath was adopted by the CIO Executive Board on Oct. 10, three days before the convention opened. But no mention of the question of filing affidavits was made in the resolution submitted to the convention by unanimous vote of the Resolutions Committee on which there are several Stalinists; nor did Lee Pressman, Secretary of the Resolutions Committee, mention the "yellow dog" oath in his long speech on the resolution.

Speaking from the floor, delegate Joseph P. Selly, representing the Stalinist-controlled CIO American Communications Association, announced that his union would refuse to sign the affidavit. He was followed by James J. Matles, a delegate from the Stalinist-controlled United Electrical Workers, who declared that "if the UE is found in the Taft-Hartley line, it will be found in the rear and squawking like hell." Both Selly and Matles argued against signing the affidavit.

At this point CIO President Philip Murray took the floor and asserted that the convention in passing the resolution would be voting to let each CIO affiliate determine its own policy in relation to the new Labor Board. Murray then put the resolution to a vote and it was unanimously approved.

Murray stated that he has "personal convictions" against filing an affidavit to qualify with the NLRB;

but he added that the policy of the United Steelworkers, of which he is president, will be decided by that union's executive board. He did not intimate what that policy will be.

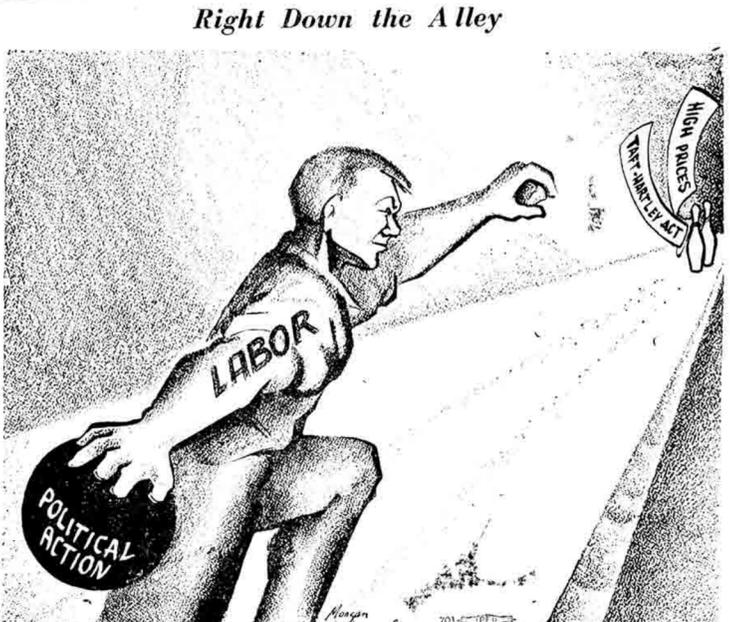
The Textile Workers, Shipbuilding Workers and Brewery Workers, all affiliated with the CIO, have already announced their decision to sign the "yellow dog" oath under the Taft-Hartley Act.

John Green, president of the Shipbuilding Workers Union, told the convention that Bethlehem Steel and U. S. Steel are trying to break the 16-week-old strike of shipyard workers by injunctions, arrests and jailings, mass police protection, full-page ads in the papers and letters to the strikers calculated to foment a back-to-work movement. Unless all labor supports the striking shipyard workers, Green warned, other unions will be in the same dose of Taft-Hartley "democracy" when their industries go into decline and employment falls off.

The resolution on political action has not yet come before the convention. The delegates, therefore, have not yet had a chance to discuss how "to insure the political repudiation of those reactionaries who are responsible for the Taft-Hartley Act." However, the published report of the Resolutions Committee on political action and the report of Murray indicate the line of the CIO top leadership.

The Resolutions Committee report will call for a campaign to register every eligible voter; secure financial contributions for PAC; organize for political action in every ward, precinct, block and home; and participate in primary as well as general elections. Murray has added a more concrete goal of organizing one million PAC block workers to get out sixty million votes in 1948.

However, on the question of how these sixty million citizens should vote when they get to the polls the reports are very vague. "Defeat those Congressmen and Senators who enacted the Taft-Hartley Law"; "elect a liberal, progressive Congress—but where the candidates for this 'liberal, progressive' (Continued on Page 2)



Right Down the Alley

Don't Debase Yourselves, Lewis Tells AFL on "Yellow-Dog" Oaths

By Art Preis

Amid shouts of "Pour it on, John!" from rank-and-file workers packed in the AFL Convention galleries in San Francisco, John L. Lewis on Oct. 14 pleaded with the AFL leaders not to "debase" themselves by "groveling" before Congress and amending the AFL constitution to "dog" oaths and qualify federal unions under AFL Executive Council jurisdiction to use the NLRB machinery.

Those AFL leaders who refuse to fight the "first ugly, savage thrust of fascism in America" and twist the AFL constitution to fit the Taft Act's dictates, reminded Lewis of the Biblical passage, "Lions Led by Asses."

For the mighty host of 8 million AFL workers are "marching across the plains of America and having their thinking done for them by fat and stately asses."

To the 700 assembled delegates, largely a cross-section of the well-heeled AFL bureaucracy, Lewis thundered at the squirming Executive Council members on the platform, "you should do your duty by your membership." He said that he himself belongs to "an organization whose members pay the officers to fight for them, not deliver them into slavery."

His speech opened with a Biblical injunction: "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn." But, he said, "the Congress of the United States designated 15,000,000 workers in this country, organized into unions, as being cattle. Congress placed an economic muzzle on each of you."

"What are you going to do about it? Oh, I see, they're going to change the Constitution. God help us!" This referred to the AFL council proposal to amend the AFL constitution and eliminate all officers but President and Secretary-Treasurer. This would remove Lewis as a vice-president and permit Green and Meany as the only remaining officers to sign "yellow-

dog" oaths and qualify federal unions under AFL Executive Council jurisdiction to use the NLRB machinery.

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N. J. Committee Formed To Aid Hickman Defense

NEWARK, Oct. 15—Formation of the Hickman Defense Committee of New Jersey, with headquarters at 17 William St., Room 504, was announced today.

The committee will assist in the defense of James Hickman who faces trial in Chicago on Oct. 27 on the charge of shooting his landlord after his four children had burned to death in a fire believed to have been set by the landlord.

The New Jersey committee is chaired by Rev. H. Beecher Jackson, president of the Newark NAACP. Marie Algor, state CIO director of race relations, is treasurer. Alex Blackman, field representative of the CIO Telephone Workers Organizing Committee, is executive secretary.

The Advisory Board includes: State CIO President Carl Holderman, State CIO Secretary Alexander Barken, State CIO Treasurer Peter J. Flynn, CIO Regional Director Ewald Sandner, and CIO Field Representative Jack Rosen; AFL State Postal Clerks President Herman Lubman, AFL Building Service Union President James B. Marshall, Newark Urban League Executive Secretary George Robinson, Georgia Boone, secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary; AFL Sleeping Car Porters in Jersey City; Walter Barry and Mort Bloom, president and secretary, respectively, of the Newark CIO Council; Max Greenberg and Irving Rosenberg, president and business agent, respectively, of CIO Retail Clerks Local 103;

George Mufson, representative of USA-CIO; Joe Baker, vice-chairman of Local 2194, USA-CIO; Harry Kranz, editor of state CIO News; Jean Henry, state CIO re-

Youngstown PAC Backs Ausnehmer

Labor's Own Candidate Voted Council Support

YOUNGSTOWN, Oct. 14—The Political Action Committee of the Mahoning County CIO has voted overwhelmingly to endorse John Ausnehmer, independent labor candidate for City Council from Youngstown's Fourth Ward. His candidacy was sponsored by Local 1330 of the United Steelworkers, Carnegie-Illinois Ohio works mill.

FINE UNION RECORD

Sam Camens, president of Local 1330, presented the fine union record of Ausnehmer, who has been an active fighter for the union since he and the other railroaders were first admitted into the CIO. Meanwhile, his Democratic opponent, Morley, who is employed as a roll turner in a Carnegie mill, has fought the CIO for years and formed an "independent" union. And Coates, the Republican, has shown no interest in labor's cause since he left the CIO to take a foreman's job.

Danny Thomas, president of 1462, Brier Hill local of Youngstown Sheet and Tube, also denounced Morley's union-busting record.

James P. Griffin, district director of USA-CIO, told the meeting: "I want to make clear just where I stand. I am not one of those that waits to see which way the wind is blowing and then jumps on the bandwagon. I am for Ausnehmer, and will work for his election." Griffin himself was recently elected to his post in a militant upsurge against the old conservative leadership of the local steel workers.

CAMPAIGN LIVELY

A vigorous attack against those who undermine the Ausnehmer campaign by unsavory whispering slanders was made by Ted Dostal, recording secretary of Local 1330. The final blow was struck by James Filbert, president of Republic Steel Local 2216, who revealed that only a month ago Morley pulled ten Republic roll turners out of the CIO into his "independent" union.

The vote was taken on the motion to back Ausnehmer, and was passed with almost no opposition.

The Fourth Ward is blossoming out with Ausnehmer signs on lawns, telephone poles and cars. Several leaflets have been distributed by the campaign committee, whose ranks are growing steadily. "The whole movement for independent political action by labor is sure to get a great forward push as the Ausnehmer-for-Council campaign moves forward."

Convention Acts Under Pressure Of Slave Law

For the first time in its history, the American Federation of Labor, numbering 7,600,000 members, is officially entering the political field and sponsoring a political action organization of its own.

The decision for this precedent-shattering step was made last week by the AFL Executive Council. It is recommending to the AFL convention in San Francisco the formation of "Labor's Educational and Political League."

This marks the abandonment of the AFL's "non-political" policy. For decades its top leaders have individually lined up in favor of this or that Democratic or Republican candidate. But the AFL, as such, has opposed labor's own organization for political action.

The Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law and the pressure of the union ranks have forced the top AFL leaders to place political action at the head of the AFL's program.

Administration Opens New Drive To Boost Rents

Truman's Rent Director Frank Creedon on Oct. 9 began the latest moves to foist higher rents on America's low-income tenants. He approved the recommendation of the Louisville, Ky., rent board for a general 5% rent boost.

Creedon acted with the backing of Truman, who told reporters that his Rent Director was acting under the requirements of the Rent Decree Act signed by Truman.

The first attempt to hike rents under the Act was landlord pressure to intimidate tenants into signing leases for a "voluntary" 15% rent increase. Only about 8% of tenants nationally have submitted to this pressure.

But the Act also provides for the establishment of local rent boards, picked by the Governors, empowered to recommend area increases or complete decontrol. These boards, usually composed of realty representatives, are now moving into action.

Louisville labor organizations protest that the local board consists of "two real estate agents, two attorneys closely affiliated with real estate interests and a vice president in charge of the real estate section of a bank."

Arrested Because He Cut His Prices

In St. Paul, a grocery-meat market proprietor named Maurice Helperin has been arrested because he sold for 95¢ a shortening which cost him 90¢. The state charged him with violating a state "fair trade" law that requires a mark-up of at least 8% or 3¢ more than Helperin charged.

Practical Steps in Building Labor Party Statement by SWP

This is a big step forward from the "pure and simple trade unionism" first preached by the conservative AFL leadership.

CIO TOOK FIRST STEP

The CIO years ago took this step in forming its Political Action Committee (PAC). Both AFL and CIO, with a combined strength of 15,000,000, are now committed to labor political action as part of their programs. This is a tremendous advance over the old idea that politics is "no business" of the unions.

Between the new AFL Political League and the PAC-CIO, American labor will possess political instruments of incalculable potential power. AFL President William Green pointed out that through its new League the AFL alone "ought to be able to influence 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 votes" of AFL members and their families.

On the same day, CIO President Philip Murray declared in his report to the CIO Convention that PAC-CIO should be able to turn out a vote of 60,000,000 in 1948, compared to the 1946 total national vote of 35,000,000.

The figures cited by Green and Murray show that labor has a potential voting strength greater than the Republican and Democratic parties combined. If labor organized its own party and ran its own independent candidates, it could rule in Washington.

LEADERS BLOCK PROGRESS

But the AFL and CIO leaders stand like a high road block across the road of labor's political progress. They still oppose genuine independent labor political action. They want to use the Political League and PAC to elect only capitol tail politicians of the Big Business parties.

No matter how many votes the AFL and CIO mobilize, if these votes are used to put Democrats and Republicans in office it will be like tossing them into a garbage can.

The CIO, however, has recognized the need for the AFL and CIO to unite on the political field, and has urged joint political action. Such joint action would provide the most favorable basis for running independent labor candidates and launching a labor party. But the AFL, through Green, has narrowly-mindedly rejected the CIO's sound proposal.

What is needed now is a great national joint political action congress of the AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods to unite labor's political strength behind a real labor slate in 1948. Such independent political action on a local and national scale would be the most powerful blow the workers could strike at the infamous Taft-Hartley Act.

4th INTERNATIONAL EXPOSES "COMINTERN REVIVAL" FRAUD

GENEVA, Oct. 10—The International Secretariat of the Fourth International today released the following statement to the press:

"In connection with the organization of the so-called 'Information Bureau' at Belgrade by nine Communist Parties which met somewhere in Poland, the International Secretariat of the Fourth International has issued a manifesto to the workers of the world. Denouncing the chicanery and deception behind the Declaration of the Nine, this manifesto warns the workers and colonial peoples against any illusion about the so-called 'anti-imperialist' character of the struggle unleashed by the Stalinist parties.

"Long before the formal dissolution of the Comintern, the manifesto of the Comintern, the manifesto continues, 'the Communist Parties had ceased to be organizations defending the workers' interests and had become docile agents of the Kremlin's foreign policy. It was the requirements of this foreign policy, and not at all the aspirations of the world proletariat and the colonial peoples, that dictated to Stalin the dissolution of the Comintern in 1943, just as in 1947 they have dictated the establishment of the Information Bureau in Belgrade.

"Now as in the past, the Stalinist chieftains have nothing but contempt for the sentiments and needs of the communist-minded workers throughout the world. They con-

French Trotskyists In Municipal Voting

PARIS, Oct. 7—The French Trotskyists (PCI) will participate in the Oct. 19 municipal elections with limited lists of candidates in the major French cities. The Trotskyist program calls for: Coordination of strike struggles into a general strike action; formation of consumers price control and food-distribution committees; immediate action on the housing crisis; adequate relief for the aged, veterans and youth; broader powers for municipal legislatures as against the Paris-appointed prefects; an end to the war against Indo-China and Madagascar; struggle against the preparations for a new world war.

"Eat Less" Drive Won't Lower Prices

Truman's high-powered and costly propaganda campaign to reduce the food consumption of the American people — The "Eat Less-Waste Less" program — has quickly been revealed as a fraud.

The workers are eating less, all right, but that's because prices have taken another spurt since Truman's much-ballyhooed program got under way. In the week ending Oct. 10, the Bureau of Labor Statistics general index of basic commodity prices rose another 1.1 points.

No less an administration authority than Truman's own Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, let the cat out of the bag in Chicago on Oct. 9.

Anderson admitted that Truman's "Meatless Tuesdays" and "Poultryless and Eggless Thursdays" are pure ballyhoo. These days, Ander-

son conceded, were "not primarily to save the foods themselves" but were "symbols of sacrifice." Individual food savings, he said, is of "little importance," and special food-saving days are "like going to church on Sundays."

Anderson, after Truman tried to cover up his damaging admissions, next day weakly complained the press had quoted him "out of context."

His original statement, however, is confirmed by leading Big Business publications. The Oct. 9 Wall St. Journal reveals that the net effect of Truman's "voluntary rationing" program has been a "run" on scarce food items, as people with money stocked up. Meat sales remained unchanged — those who could afford to pay high prices, bought meat as before; those who couldn't, went without as usual.

Those with the dough eat more meat on Thursdays, more eggs and poultry on Tuesdays. Most low-

income earners at less and less of all these high-protein foods every day in the week.

The whole program is shot through with contradictions on the face of it. If less meat is consumed there will be more livestock on the farms to eat up the grain and to reduce grain supplies. Why eat less eggs, when the government is buying up hundreds of millions of eggs at abnormally high prices just to bolster egg prices?

The real purpose of the 'Eat Less' program is not to conserve food and bring down prices. It is to shift the responsibility for high prices from the profiteers to the working people. When the program fails, the blame will be placed on the low-income consumers who "refuse to sacrifice."

The Truman administration wants to claim credit for trying to "do something" about high prices — everything, in fact, except halt the profiteering and price-gouging

by the big food corporations and speculators.

The contention that higher wages and greater food exports are responsible for higher prices was further exploded by Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach, who on Oct. 9 put the blame for higher prices on speculation and profiteering. "As a matter of fact," he stated, "wages did not push prices up, but lagged well behind them."

It would be easy enough to reduce prices and produce far more for the needs of both the American people and hungry peoples abroad, if the government seized and nationalized — that is, expropriated — the various food trusts and operated them under workers' control.

Meanwhile, the American workers can protect their living standards most immediately and effectively by winning higher wages, supplemented by adjustable cost-of-living bonuses automatically rising with rising prices.

Practical Steps In Building the Labor Party

By the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party

The events of the past year, climaxed by the Taft-Hartley Law, have increased the desire of the American workers for political action going beyond the framework of the two capitalist parties. The union militants must pay close attention to every expression of this political awakening of the working class. Proper tactics must be devised to intervene and guide it step by step toward the building of an independent labor party based on the trade unions.

There is no national labor party movement in sight at this time. The present political development of the mass organizations of the working class is proceeding in a very uneven way. In some places the unions put up independent candidates, as the CIO packinghouse unions did in the South St. Paul municipal election. In some places a local unit of the CIO-PAC plays a primary role in advancing a labor slate, as in Cleveland, Dayton and Youngstown. In others candidates are run for public office independently of the two capitalist parties through an improvised setup like the Oakland Voters League.

Prospects for 1948

These actions indicate that the trade union movement will travel some distance on the road of independent political action before the formal organization of an independent labor party appears on the political arena. The task now is to seize every opportunity to lead the workers into political struggle against the capitalists in contests for public office. The logic of the struggle will impel the movement toward further formal political organization.

Just as there are no signs at present of the quick formation of a national labor party, so likewise one cannot be optimistic that a na-

tional independent labor candidate will take the field in the 1948 election. The militants should, of course, continue agitation for labor to run its own presidential candidate. However, it must be recognized that it is on a statewide, and especially on a local scale, that the most favorable chances will be found to organize and participate in campaigns to elect independent labor candidates to public office.

Available Vehicles

If increased opportunities to campaign for independent labor candidates are expected but early formation of a labor party is not anticipated, what vehicles are available for conducting political campaigns? Foremost among these available vehicles is the PAC, which is today the political arm of the CIO.

The shortcomings of the PAC have been many times pointed out in *The Militant*. In the main, it supports capitalist candidates; it is bureaucratically controlled and discourages political discussion and formulation of policy by the ranks. The PAC is extremely reluctant and most often refuses to run or support independent candidates; it lacks militancy; and apart from "Write Your Congressman" campaigns it generally functions only around election time as a purely vote-getting agency for capitalist politicians.

But it is the progressive features, and even more, the political potential of the PAC, which are of decisive importance. The union militants should build their tactics upon these positive aspects in their struggle against the harmful policies imposed upon PAC by the union leadership.

The PAC is a more highly organized vehicle of mass political action than any previously

seen in the union movement. It employs more aggressive methods. It is based upon the most dynamic elements of organized labor, who are more insistently demanding a departure from the policy of adherence to the capitalist parties. Under present circumstances the PAC provides an extremely favorable arena for the propagation of the Labor Party program and for the transformation of this demand into action.

In order to influence the PAC most effectively, it is necessary to be inside of it with both feet and a part of it.

That means, specifically, that the union militants should enter PAC and urge the workers to join it and to pay the necessary dues, as in the present dollar drive, which are the elementary obligations of membership. Support should be given to the PAC campaign for the workers to register so they can vote. Only in this manner can the union militants hope to redirect PAC from its present wrong road over to the right road of independent political action.

A Policy for PAC Members

Incorrect policies and injurious actions of the leadership should be criticized. The membership must be won over to the support of policies which can convert PAC into a genuine medium for independent political action. Support should never be given to candidates of the capitalist Democratic and Republican parties under any circumstances or in any way, regardless of whether they may be endorsed by the PAC or any other labor organization. As against support of capitalist candidates, the union militants should call for the nomination of independent labor candidates.

In place of the present bureaucratic setup, increased rank and file control over PAC and its policies should be sought. PAC and its candidates should be called upon to sponsor progressive legislation and organize mass actions to obtain its passage. Instead of functioning as mere vote-collecting instruments, local PAC bodies should be transformed into year-round institutions, fighting in defense of the workers on all issues affecting their welfare. By patient and persistent work within PAC along these lines the Labor Party movement can be pushed forward.

Three Main Tendencies

The concrete application of the Labor Party slogan within PAC necessarily varies under different conditions. In many unions today, three main tendencies express themselves on the question of political action. These are the official PAC policy of support to capitalist politicians; the Stalinist "third party" demagoguery; and the demand for an independent Labor Party. The workers understand the official PAC policy and more and more of them are becoming fed up with it. But in most cases they do not understand the difference between the Stalinist "third party" line and the demand for a Labor Party. Most often they mistakenly consider the difference one of splitting hairs and the Labor Party agitation is thus largely nullified. Under these circumstances the union militants should advance the specific demand that the CIO-PAC itself run independent labor candidates for public office.

This tactical approach has a number of advantages:

1. It retains the essence of the labor party position — drawing a class line on the political

field — and serves to eliminate the confusion engendered in counterposing the independent labor party slogan to the Stalinist "third party" demagoguery.

2. It meets the plausible objection of the difficulty in beginning to build another organization in view of the time element involved.

3. It avoids creating the false impression of opposition to the CIO-PAC as such and proposes PAC as a direct instrument to advance the basic concepts of independent labor politics.

4. It serves to expose the Stalinist "third party" fraud by projecting a class line that cuts through their double-talk. For example, in explaining what kind of a "third party" they have in mind, the Stalinists advance the American Labor Party in New York as their model. This is excellent ground to meet them on. All workers should be FOR the American Labor Party but they should oppose its present policy of supporting capitalist politicians for public office. Independent political action has meaning only when the ALP (and the PAC) campaign for independent labor candidates. The essential difference is immediately clear to the workers.

Same Tactics In AFL

Like the CIO militants working in the fruitful PAC field, militants in the AFL, Railroad Brotherhoods and the independent unions must be on the alert to push at every opportunity for independent political action. They should call for political action committees in these unions and advocate collaboration by all unions in campaigns to elect independent labor candidates. This will be facilitated by the AFL's decision to set up Labor's Educational Political League.

Opportunities to fight for independent political action will arise in many different forms. An instructive example is just developing in California. A Stalinist-controlled "Trade Union Committee for a Third Party" has just launched an "Independent Progressive Party" in that state. This movement is intended by the Stalinists as a vehicle of support for the Wallace Democrats. It is bureaucratically rigged at the outset and is a far cry from a genuine labor party.

Increasing Opportunities

But the IPP appears at a time when the workers of California, CIO and AFL alike, are manifesting an increasing desire for independent political action. Furthermore there is a chance that a substantial registration of workers under this new party would make it possible to defeat the Stalinists' aims and turn this movement toward a labor party development. With this prospect, the union militants are entering the fray to arm the leftward-moving workers with a program and help them fight to make the Independent Progressive Party a genuine party of independent political action.

The American workers are beginning to awaken politically. Independent labor candidates are running for office more frequently than ever before. Many opportunities are developing to promote more campaigns. Into these situations with both feet! Take the movement as you find it, work out a realistic program of action, and in struggle help the leftward-moving workers learn rich political lessons! That is the way to build a labor party!

NMU Convention Further Loosens Stalinist Machine's Paralyzing Grip

By C. Thomas

NEW YORK, Oct. 15—The Sixth convention of the CIO National Maritime Union adjourned today, after 24 days of bitter factional struggle. Much of the business remained unfinished and was referred to the union's National Council.

The Curran-led Rank & File caucus succeeded in defeating the tightly knit Stalinist machine on some of the most important issues before the convention. The power of the Stalinist-controlled National Council was curbed by constitutional amendment subjecting major decisions to ratification of the membership.

The appeal to reinstate Joseph Stack, who was removed as vice-president on charges by Curran and deprived of the right to hold office for five years, was defeated by the narrow margin of two votes—353 to 351.

Stalinist-inspired charges of discrimination against the officials of the New Orleans branch were defeated by a decisive vote of the delegates. Even the Stalinist members on the convention trial committee rejected the charges as unfounded. The significance of these issues went deeper than surface appearance. What was involved in the Stack case was an indictment of the Stalinist method of employing slander and character assassination against opponents. This practice has served to poison the atmosphere and has led to extreme factional bitterness.

The New Orleans case was exposed as a frameup in which the Stalinists sought to incite race feeling to serve their factional ends. Although the convention action in both these cases was an obvious rebuke to the methods and practices of the Stalinists in the union, an incident in the closing days of the convention indicated they had learned nothing.

On the 23rd day, NMU Secretary Ferdinand Smith threw a "bomb" into the convention in the form of a written statement accusing Treasurer Hedley Stone of financial irregularity. The statement accused Curran and Stone, of covering a field patrolman, allegedly guilty of financial irregularity. The statement was offered as "information" and not as charges.

The "accused" established the fact that there was no financial irregularity. The only thing involved was the failure of field patrolman Diaz to file regular reports as requested by the union treasurer. What was intended as a bombshell turned out to be a stink bomb that had most

of the delegates holding their noses. With both groups almost evenly divided, the balance of power in the convention rested with the independents. This was evident in the vote on every controversial issue. Questions involving the extension of democracy and rank and file control had the support of a decisive majority.

This alignment was most clear in the rejection of a Curran-sponsored constitutional amendment outlawing "outside interference." Faction lines were crossed to defeat this amendment by 58 votes. Curran continued to play on the "outside interference" theme as the convention closed.

In his concluding remarks, Curran called on the delegates to "make sure that when we come to the next convention there will be no more political machines left in the union." This is the same tune played by the so-called anti-politicals in the AFL maritime union who cry: No politics in the union. What they mean is no politics but their own particular brand.

The so-called anti-politicals di-

vide the world of politics neatly in two. The politics of supporting Democratic and Republican "friends" of labor—and Stalinist politics. By their methods, policy and practice the Stalinists have strived to discredit working class politics.

But the policy of supporting "friends" in the camp of the class enemy is no less discredited. The only answer is to counterpose independent working class politics to both these schools. The attempt to outlaw working class politics under the pretext of eliminating the Stalinist machine will be opposed by all union militants.

This convention further loosened the grip of the Stalinists on the NMU. As Curran repeatedly declared: "The Communist party in this union is on the way out." What is to replace the CP machine? The members of the NMU can provide a progressive answer to that question by jealously guarding their democratic rights, fighting for a militant program and substituting working class politics for the politics of class collaboration.

WHO CONTROLS THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY?

By Art Preis

Whatever issues or interests may divide the Democratic and Republican parties, they are firmly united on the chief tenet of American capitalist politics: Preserve the two-party system! This system guarantees the political monopoly of the capitalist class. We have one-class rule through a two-party mechanism. By this mechanism, the discontent of the people is periodically channeled back and forth between two

Can the Democratic Party Be Reformed? Part 3

parties completely controlled by capitalists.

In this deceptive system, the Democratic Party has most frequently unfurled the banner of "reform." But Democratic "reform" movements have always end-

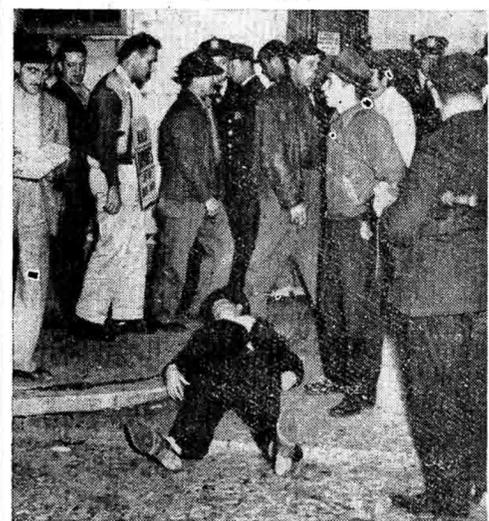
ed with the monopoly capitalists more securely entrenched. It could not be otherwise.

A simple investigation of the financial sources of the Democratic Party suffices to prove who really controls and directs it. When Roosevelt in 1936 charged that "economic royalists" ruled the Republican Party, he was answered by William Hard, Republican radio commentator, with the equally correct charge that the Democratic Party is also financed by "economic royalists."

Hard named 400 super-rich Democratic backers, including Russell Leffingwell, partner of J. P. Morgan & Co.; Walter E. Frew, president of the Corn Exchange Bank (Lehman control); Walter Dunnington, trustee of the Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co.; P. A. S. Franklin, head of the International Mercantile Marine; William K. Vanderbilt; Walter P. Chrysler; Jesse I. Strauss; Cyrus and Harold McCormick; Vincent Astor; A. P. Giannini, etc.

That same year, the Democratic

Victim of Shipyard Scabs



Injured while trying to stop a scab-loaded car from crossing picket lines outside the Bethlehem shipyards in Baltimore, Daniel Appel of the CIO Industrial Union and Marine and Shipbuilding Workers lies stretched out waiting for the ambulance. His fellow strikers continued picketing even though four union members were arrested. The strike is now almost four months old, but Bethlehem still refuses to come to terms, holding out for contract provisions which would seriously undermine the union. (Federated Pictures)

Lewis Says AFL Chiefs "Debase" Themselves

(Continued from Page 1) "out of 73 printed pages, it (Taft Act) contains only two lines that give labor the right to organize. The other 73 pages dare labor to exercise that right."

He contemptuously read off the Taft Act provisions on filing union financial statements and said: "There isn't an organization in the AFL which can make that report in a manner satisfactory to the counsel of the NLRB."

In his conclusion, Lewis declared that if the amendment were passed, "I will not be a candidate for election to this debased, denatured board" whose members would be relieved of their titles as officers.

He was not, he added, "holding a gun to the head of the convention, so you can act with full knowledge of the facts. For, as far as that's concerned, I think this Federation has no head; I think its neck has just grown up and haired over."

By contrast with Lewis' fighting speech, the counter-arguments of the rest of the AFL leaders were like the bleating of frightened sheep. AFL Teamster's Czar, Daniel J. Tobin, intimated that Lewis was talking "revolution." Tobin was "happy to have the chance to say by affidavit, 'I'm not a Communist,'" and anyway, "the question is not of much importance."

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George

Meany and Ladies' Garment Workers President David Dubinsky added their mush-mouthed counsels of retreat. And 80% of the well-heeled business agents and international representatives who acted as delegates meekly raised their hands in approval of the surrender amendment.

But the voice of the AFL ranks Organize mass consumer committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging! Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers control!

For Lewis spoke not to the delegates alone, but to the working millions for whom his words are a clarion call to fighting action against the infamous Slave Law. (See Editorial on Lewis speech, Page 4.)

Our Program:

1. Defend labor's standard of living!
 - A sliding scale of wages — an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!
 - Organize mass consumer committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!
 - Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers control!
2. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!
 - For the 8-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 capitalist conscription!
 - Abolish the officer caste system!
 - Full democratic rights in the armed forces!
 - Trade Union wages for the armed forces!
 - Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
10. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!
 - For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!
 - Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

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A combination of big city bosses, like Flynn of Brooklyn, Hague of Jersey City, Kelly of Chicago, etc., and Southern politicians of the Billbo type, directly control the state and national activities of the Democratic Party. No man—not even Franklin D. Roosevelt—ever secured major office under Democratic auspices without support from these bosses. They in turn are intimately tied with the business interests in their areas, including illegal enterprises like gambling and prostitution.

A recent book, "Our Fair City," edited by Col. Robert S. Allen, gives a vivid picture of the utterly corrupt Democratic rule in a number of major cities. He concludes, on the basis of factual reports by veteran newspapermen, that municipal politics, including the Democratic breed, is the "same old story of hoodling bosses and businessmen, of horrendous slums, of dirt and filth, disease and vice, of gross and shameless waste, of mismanagement and misrule, of crass disre-

gard of public health and human dignity."

Allen also observes that "there is not a city in the country, large or small, where business is not the primary stultifying, corrupting and anti-democratic influence. The worst-managed, bedraggled, and backward communities are those dominated by business interests."

This is true not only of municipal politics in general, but Democratic politics in particular. It is doubly true of Democratic government politics. The national government spends scores of billions annually, employs millions.

Here Big Business holds its most corrupt and absolute sway. Here we can see most nakedly the interlinking of capitalist class rule and the Democratic Party.

Today almost all top cabinet and government posts, under the Democratic administration, are filled by Wall Street financiers, corporation executives and professional militarists. The entire set-up is symbolized by James V. Forrestal, successful Wall Street banker, as Secretary of Defense, and General George Marshall as Secretary of State.

Some union leaders are trying to conceal the role of the Democratic Party by urging workers to vote for "good" Democrats under the slogan: "Vote for the man, not the party." But when you vote for the man, you vote for his party. For the party dominates the individual. Any Democrat who bucks party policy, for any reason, is shoved aside. Henry Wallace, who does a lot of talking about "reforming" the Democratic Party, is a good recent example of this. He was unceremoniously booted out of Washington.

The Democratic Party is a capitalist instrument and corrupt to the core. The wage-earners and working farmers will never have a party to serve their interests until they build a party of their own, a labor party that will fight to wrest political power from both old parties of Wall Street.

The Social Thinking Of the Workers

By J. R. Johnson

In 1940, just before his assassination, Trotsky, when asked about the backwardness of the American workers, replied: "The American worker is very combative—as we have seen during the strikes. They have had the most rebellious strikes in the world. What the American worker misses is a spirit of generalization, or analysis, of his class position in society as a whole. This lack of social thinking has its origin in the country's whole history—the Far West with the perspective of unlimited possibilities for everyone to become rich, etc. . . . Their backwardness consists of their inability to generalize their problem; they consider everything on a personal basis . . .

"Now the war will teach them social thinking. The economic crisis is already begun and in the CIO we see the first reaction of the workers—confused but important. They begin to feel themselves as a class; they see 10 to 14 million of unemployed, etc. Now the war will continue to teach them social thinking, and this means revolutionary thinking."

Two years have passed since the end of the war. They have been combative years for the American workers. They have also been thoughtful years. A valuable indication of how thoughtful these years have been is given in two articles entitled "Here is America" published in the Oct. 11 and 18 issues of Collier's Magazine. The articles are based upon a cross-country bus trip by a reporter, Thomas H. Wolf, and describe his conversations with a cross-section of the American masses. As is characteristic of bus passengers, the people with whom Wolf talked were mainly of the working class or the lower middle class.

The very list of those interviewed reveals the restlessness of the American masses. There were "harvest hands and CIO organizers; butchers and ministers; stenographers and farmers; housewives and house painters; students and mill hands; waitresses and missionaries; drifters and loafers, veterans and stay-at-homes; teenagers and grandparents; they were white and black; Methodist and Baptist; Amish, Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Church of Jesus Christ; and African-American."

The American masses, with their infinite variety of occupations and experiences, are on the move. But their movements have a different quality than the vagrancy to which large sections of the population were driven during the 30's. First of all, they belong some place. Almost everybody, except a few farmers in the Corn Belt seemed to be either union men or pro-labor. They also had a focal point for their antagonism—the Taft-Hartley Act. But even the popular opposition to this law is not the most interesting aspect of the social thinking of the American workers today.

Everywhere, with everyone, Wolf notes that confusion and dissatisfaction prevail. Not only that, the uncertainty which each feels, he regards not as his own personal predicament but rather as characteristic of the people and the country as a whole. Typical of the general comments were these:

"People act like they all have a

hangover. They're bouncing and confused." "The country's in such a predicament they's nobody satisfied. That's the heck of it." "Everyone is rushing back and forth. They're dissatisfied with what they've got and they don't know where they're going." They were the comments of a Wyoming pipe-line hand, a Colorado freight-car inspector, a Montana ranch hand.

But while thinking in terms of the country as a whole, the people had also made the distinction between themselves and the government. Wolf reports: "My fellow passengers invariably spoke of the government as 'they.' And there seemed to be a general feeling that 'we the people' were pretty helpless in the hands of 'the government' as though 'we' had nothing to do with 'their' election and control."

Not only did the people regard the government in a separate category from themselves. They expressed no confidence in the government but were oppressively conscious of the confusion which reigned up there among "them." The war had trained the workers to follow the news carefully, and their reaction was almost invariably that of the woman mill hand in Hazelton, Pa.: "Some of the leaders say one thing and some another. If they're confused, what am I supposed to think?"

The moral strength of a government rests in its capacity to impress the masses with its sureness of direction and its overall organization of national and international affairs. Today, among the broad masses, the government does not give this impression.

As for international affairs, interest was widespread, reaching into every household. The workers think not only about the future of American society but of the world as a whole. Speculation about the inevitability of war is part of the daily lives of the people. Faith in the UN is almost completely absent. One engineer from Lexington, Kentucky, expressed the general sentiment most pungently: "They ought to send the UN out to some Pacific Island and use all that construction in New York for housing."

Yet this lack of faith in the UN is not due to any isolationism. In the words of the young wife of an Omaha bus driver: "Everyone realizes that what happens over there affects us over here." Or a clerk in Casper, Wyoming, put it: "Things that happen abroad is like they was happening in your own backyard." The American masses are discussing the relation between the economic needs of the people at home and the needs of the countries abroad.

And as they make a distinction on the domestic scene between "we the people" and "the government," so in discussing relief to Europe, there were not a few who distinguished between the rich and the poor abroad. A merchant seaman in Sharon, Pa., complained: "I think that all our money is going straight into the black market over there, making the rich richer instead of helping the people who need it."

In the general confusion and dissatisfaction among the workers there was no sign of any positive program. But more significant than

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process; namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist beginnings. These organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crises and wars. —Leon Trotsky, 1946

this lack of program was the suddenness with which the myth of salvation through a New Deal seemed to have vanished overnight. Nor was there confidence that a new administration would solve the social problem. A housewife in California expressed the sentiment of many that "the entire government—both the Republicans and the Democrats—should be voted out and give us a complete change."

This absence of a program on the part of the workers in the midst of a social crisis is not unusual. Lenin, writing in 1905 during the first Russian Revolution, noted an important difference between intellectuals and workers. "The intellectuals can very well solve problems of 'principle,' draw up good schemes, reason very well about the need for doing certain things . . . but the workers act; they transform dream theory into vital life."

"Not in words but in deeds." That was Lenin's favorite phrase to describe the way in which the social thinking of the workers reveals itself. It is a particularly apt description for the American workers. They have come a long way under the impact of the war. How long will only be known when they move and repeat the energy and initiative which have been accumulating along with their confusion and restlessness.

Why Laborite Ministers Follow Imperialist Policy

By John G. Wright

Even many liberals, who praise to the skies the Laborite government's domestic measures as progressive, have been compelled to criticize its foreign policy. Bevin has promoted in Greece a policy identical with Churchill's. Attlee, even before he took the office of Prime Minister, pledged, by underwriting the Potsdam Pact, to carry on from where Churchill left off. They "withdrew" from India but refuse to withdraw from Africa and other colonies. Why?

Liberals criticize but none of them bothers to explain this glaring contradiction. They are surprised, and nothing more.

But Marxists were not at all surprised. Bevin, for example, had served in Churchill's war cabinet as Minister of Labor. He did not hesitate to force workers to labor in coal mines under the Pit Ballot scheme. Arthur Morrison, another eminent Laborite, served as Churchill's Minister of Home Security and together with Bevin and the others functioned as strikebreaker, invoking Defense Regulation I-AA. All of them, without exception, underwrote Churchill's foreign policy during the war.

How could such people be expected to act differently when they themselves took over the helm of government? The fact is they didn't. They remained true to themselves.

If the British workers wanted change, then the leaders they voted into power were conservative-minded creatures, who love the label of "statesmen," a type which unfortunately abounds in the labor movement of all countries. While speaking in labor's name, and not infrequently even in the name of socialism, "statesmanship" of this type consists in ACTING only to perpetuate the existing order of things.

They resist change; yes, fear it as much as any capitalist politician. They are incapable of going beyond a few minor modifications which scratch only the surface, leaving everything very much the same as before.

There is no other correct explanation for the apparent contradiction that puzzles so many, to wit, why a self-styled socialist government should pursue policies abroad indistinguishable from the policies of Tory-capitalist politicians.

Attlee, Bevin, Morrison and the rest are socialists in name only. In action they behave just like their capitalist predecessors. Those who

Italian Kids Protest Hunger



Joining with their fathers and mothers, these Italian youngsters turned out in Rome recently to protest swiftly mounting living costs that keep food from their tables. "We Children Are Hungry," one of their placards read — and the poor kids look it, don't they? (Federated Pictures)

Stalin Fears Revolution

By John G. Wright

Stalin is in mortal fear of revolutionary struggle, since it would set in motion social forces that would inevitably sweep his bureaucratized parties aside. That is why Stalinist chiefs Togliatti and Longo in Italy and Duclos and Thorez in France have done their utmost to restrain the workers from taking the road of socialist revolution. They will continue to do so.

If the new "Information Bureau" does not signify any genuine "left" shift, then what does it represent?

It represents a maneuver by Stalin within the framework of the struggle that broke out between American imperialism and the Soviet Union following V-J Day. It is a counter move by the Kremlin bureaucracy against Wall Street's tightening encirclement of the Soviet Union. The aggressor in this struggle is American imperialism which is carrying out step by step its program of world domination.

Stalin hopes by his latest maneuver, to exploit for his own ends the mass resentment over Wall Street's imperialist designs and war plans. By manipulating this pressure, Stalin aspires to reach a new deal with Washington—a "non-aggression" pact and economic concessions. In return he will openly renew the services of his agents in subduing and heading the struggle for socialism.

Far from wanting to seize power, in Western Europe, all Stalin wants is to share cabinet posts with the native capitalist representatives. The key demand of the Belgrade Bureau's manifesto is for the formation of coalition governments in which Stalinists would hold posts. These cabinet posts could then be pointed up in the eyes of the workers as "anti-imperialist" victories, while providing the Kremlin with increased bargaining power for a deal with Wall Street.

By such a deal Stalin hopes to postpone indefinitely the armed attack which Wall Street projects against the Soviet Union. But even the achievement of a "non-aggression" pact would not divert the American imperialists from their aim of destroying the Soviet Union "peacefully" through economic penetration or by force of atomic arms.

At the same time, the "Information Bureau" is part of the Kremlin's answer to the Marshall Plan that aims at the consolidation of an anti-Soviet bloc in Western Europe. In the event the chasm separating Moscow and Washington continues to widen and the USSR is forced out of the United Nations, the "Information Bureau" can serve as a keystone for a counter-organization, a Moscow-dominated substitute for the United Nations.

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The prewar "People's Fronts" supported capitalism

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The Real Meaning of Belgrade 'Bureau' Set Up by the Kremlin

By the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party

The capitalist press, following the State Department, views the Kremlin-sponsored "Information Bureau" set up in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, as "nothing less than the reestablishment of the Comintern," and characterizes it as "a declaration of economic and political war against the United States." (N. Y. Times, Oct. 12.)

The American workers must reject these deliberate lies about the Belgrade Bureau, which Wall Street's spokesmen are employing to whip up war hysteria. Stalin's new "Information Bureau" does not constitute a "revival" of Lenin and Trotsky's Communist International. Stalin destroyed the Communist International long ago by driving out all those who adhered to the program of world socialism, butchering the leading revolutionary figures in the Soviet Union, and systematically hounding and assassinating the genuine fighters for socialism in other countries.

Nor does the setting up of this "Information Bureau" indicate that the Stalinists seek to overturn capitalism in Europe. That can be done only by putting Workers' and Farmers' Governments in power. The Kremlin is incapable of mobilizing the masses for the revolutionary struggle required to establish such governments. Its entire record is that of deliberate betrayals, of treacherous stabs in the back, of defeats of working class struggles.

Stalin Fears Revolution

Stalin is in mortal fear of revolutionary struggle, since it would set in motion social forces that would inevitably sweep his bureaucratized parties aside. That is why Stalinist chiefs Togliatti and Longo in Italy and Duclos and Thorez in France have done their utmost to restrain the workers from taking the road of socialist revolution. They will continue to do so.

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The nationalistic manifesto of the "Information Bureau" represents a revival of the "People's Front" policy advanced by the Kremlin in 1935-39. Only now it is directed against Truman instead of Hitler.

The prewar "People's Fronts" supported capitalism

and renounced openly the struggle for socialism. The revived "People's Front" continues this same reactionary line. The new "Information Bureau's" program aims at an alliance with those capitalist circles in European countries, Latin America and colonial regions who are being squeezed by American imperialism.

The setting up of the Belgrade Bureau is likewise designed to appease mass dissatisfaction in Russia. Stalin needs a pact with Washington which he could palm off at home as a "victory" for his diplomacy and as a guarantee of peace and economic progress. Spurred by the American imperialists, he is impelled to point to the mounting war danger as the cause for domestic difficulties of his regime and use it to justify increased police measures and privations.

Stalinist Influence at Stake

In Europe too, the Stalinist influence over the working class is seriously threatened from the left. The Stalinists were thrown to the forefront of the first revolutionary wave that came with the close of the war. They utilized their positions of leadership, however, not to guide the struggle forward to socialism, but to derail it in collaboration with the Anglo-American imperialists.

As the revolutionary wave temporarily subsided, Wall Street poured billions of dollars into Europe in an attempt to stabilize European capitalism and to build up its own counter-revolutionary agencies. Then Truman gave the word to oust the Stalinists from their cabinet posts in France and Italy.

The burning problems facing the European masses remain unsolved. They still lack the most elementary necessities of life, necessities which they can obtain in shortest order only by integrating European economy, ousting the parasitic capitalists and operating industry according to an overall plan under a socialist United States of Europe.

As the masses are again beginning to move, the Stalinists are faced with this dilemma: if they do not cater in some measure to the mass mood, the workers will find new leaders willing and able to guide the struggle to victory. But if the workers swing too far to the left, they will set off a revolutionary chain reaction that will blow the Stalinists sky high along with the entire capitalist system.

The Stalinists are trying to solve this dilemma by paying lip service to the desire of the masses for socialism while doing everything they can to keep the mass pressure within "safe limits."

Bankruptcy of Kremlin Policy

Stalin's latest move on the chessboard of international politics once again underscores the bankruptcy of his policies. In 1943 he dissolved the Comintern as "no longer necessary." He painted American imperialism as a "peace-loving" power; The Stalinists in the U. S. acted as strikebreakers and toolies for Wall Street. At the close of the war Stalin joined this "peace-loving" power in organizing the United Nations, promising that this revival of the old League of Nations would guarantee enduring peace.

Now the United Nations is blowing up in Stalin's face. Washington's current policy is to reject conciliatory moves toward Moscow and sharpen the conflict. Against Wall Street's advancing war machine and tightening encirclement, Stalin can only fire the squirt gun of a new propaganda agency.

Meanwhile, conditions in bankrupt and divided Europe worsen. The workers are disarmed and disoriented by Stalinist policies which play into the hands of the Wall Street warmongers, adding them to mobilize world public opinion against the Soviet Union.

Fears Trotskyism

The radical-sounding phrases featured in the current Moscow propaganda show how much the Stalinist bureaucracy fears the growing popularity of Trotskyist ideas. Andre Marty, the French CP leader, expressed this fear when he declared last spring during the Renault auto strike that the French CP could not permit itself to be "outflanked on the left" by the French Trotskyists.

Both Stalin and Wall Street know that it is the parties of the Fourth International that alone represent and fight for Lenin's and Trotsky's program of the socialist revolution.

Bolivian Gov't. Terror Hits Labor Movement

By J. Gomez

The shadow of American imperialism is growing darker over Latin America. The native capitalists and big land owners, taking their tip from Washington, are trying to put into effect their own versions of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law.

In Bolivia, for instance, the Hertzog regime has launched a ferocious anti-labor drive. It is attempting in particular to smash the Miners' Federation, which is the backbone of the trade union movement in Bolivia.

The government has confiscated the property of the miners' union. Arrests and deportations occur daily. One graphic incident alone shows how far the Hertzog dictatorship is carrying this anti-labor drive: In Lallagua 400 miners were exiled from the province of Bustillo for two years. They were charged with the "crime" of being "agitators."

The miners some time ago elected a number of their own representatives to the House of Representatives and the Senate. Fearing the growing political strength of the miners, the government is now trying to take away the parliamentary immunity of these representatives and subject them to trial on framed-up charges of "subversive plots," etc.

This anti-labor drive is not confined to the miners, but is aimed at the whole working class. It is also directed against the Indian peasant masses. For the "crime" of organizing in defense of their most ele-

mentary needs, leaders of the Indians are put in concentration camps as "agitators."

One of the special targets in this terroristic drive is the Partido Obrero Revolucionario (Revolutionary Workers Party), Bolivian section of the Fourth International. Its paper, Lucha Obrera, (Workers' Struggle) was suppressed. Its members have been arrested and persecuted.

This reign of terror is the answer of the native plutocracy to the needs and the hunger of the laboring and popular masses. They knew only one reply—persecution of the leaders in the fight for the needs of the masses. To the native capitalists and their imperialist masters, anyone who dares to fight for the daily needs of the masses is an "agitator."

Anti-labor drives such as this one in Bolivia are general in Latin America today. They differ only in extent and degree. A similar drive is now gaining momentum in Chile.

The Latin American masses have two major enemies in their struggle—the native plutocracy and their Wall Street masters. In this struggle the American workers have everything to gain by doing all they can to aid and support their class brothers below the Rio Grande.

British Fascists Are Active Again

By John G. Wright

LONDON, Sept. 26 — Following protests from the London Trades Council and the call of the recent Trades Union Congress for the banning of anti-Semitic and fascist propaganda, the Home Office has at last decided to move—it has arrested the leading fascist, Jeffrey Hamm, for "using insulting words."

For some months the workers in the East End of London and throughout the country

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

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"... the trade unions in the present epoch cannot simply be the organs of Democracy as they were in the epoch of free capitalism and they cannot any longer remain politically neutral, that is, limit themselves to serving the daily needs of the working class. They cannot any longer be anarchistic, i.e. ignore the decisive influence of the state on the life of peoples and classes. They can no longer be reformist, because the objective conditions leave no room for serious and lasting reforms. The trade unions of our time can either serve as secondary instruments of imperialist capitalism for the subordination and disciplining of workers and for obstructing the revolution, or, on the contrary, the trade unions can become the instrument of the revolutionary movement of the proletariat."

—Leon Trotsky, 1940

Lewis and the Taft Act Fight

Press accounts of John L. Lewis's stirring appeal to the AFL convention not to submit to the Taft-Hartley Act said the scene was "reminiscent" of the historic battle over industrial unionism led by Lewis in the same San Francisco auditorium in 1934.

There were indeed similarities between the two events. Both battles arose out of crucial junctures in the life of the American labor movement. On each occasion Lewis stood forth as the most courageous and aggressive spokesman for the progressive cause among the top AFL leaders.

Today, as in 1934, the American workers will applaud the fighting stand of Lewis. They will take heart from his militant words and seek to translate them into action.

But there is one great difference between the struggle waged by Lewis in 1934 and that of 1947. Thirteen years ago Lewis did not merely state the issue sharply and clearly of the need to organize the unorganized millions. He had the program to do the job—industrial unionism.

Last week Lewis posed the issue of the Slave Labor Law no less sharply than he did the is-

sue of 1934. His denunciation of the AFL conservatives rang no less clearly. But—he lacked an effective program. His words inspired action—but he had no effective action to propose.

He revealed a grave and fundamental weakness. He urged an uncompromising fight against the Taft-Hartley Act, but didn't say HOW to fight.

The HOW of this fight, as everyone admits, above all else involves political action—political action of a diametrically opposite kind from that advocated by the top union leaders, including Lewis himself.

The key to successful combat against the Taft-Hartley Act—the key which Lewis rejects—is a new kind of political action by American labor. It is political action, not to replace one Democrat or Republican with another Democrat or Republican, but to drive out all capitalist politicians and put labor's own representatives in power in Washington.

American labor will turn from defense to offense, from retreat to an irresistible advance, when it wields the mighty weapon of its own party—a labor party.

Democrats and Republicans Beaten in Norwalk

Upon taking office as the new mayor of Norwalk, Conn., (45,000), Irving C. Freese announced that "This is not a victory for the Socialist Party" although he ran as "Socialist."

We can agree with him on that point. He boasts that he has never read any of Karl Marx's writings and belongs neither to the Socialist Party nor any other nation-wide party. His "party" is a local group with less than 100 members. Main planks in his platform were a demand for higher taxes on the corporations and a call to oust the Democrats and Republicans.

Yet Freese won a landslide vote, polling 8,561 ballots against 4,737 for the Republicans and 3,746 for the Democrats, a clear majority over the combined totals cast for the old machines.

The "Socialist" slate swept 11 out of 12 of its candidates into the City Council and bagged the offices of City Treasurer, Sheriff, Tree Warden and two members of the Board of Education.

Freese began his political career by organizing a group of 7 people in 1932. Then over the years he faithfully appeared at meetings of various city bodies, unsparingly criticizing the

capitalist parties. He became known as a "municipal watchdog," as a man who "knew more about city finances than the city treasurer."

In 1939 he ran for mayor for the first time, getting only 668 votes. In 1941 his vote dropped to 317, in 1943 to 237 and in 1945 he polled only 510 votes.

His 1947 victory provides an instructive lesson for the entire labor movement. What it demonstrates is the readiness of the voters to back an independent slate of candidates that gives them a clear opportunity to register their resentment against both old parties.

It is a straw in the political wind, showing how sick and tired people are of Wall Street's political machines. The old shell game of switching Republicans for Democrats and vice versa no longer fools the public.

Freese's victory is a test-tube demonstration of the welcome the voters are prepared to give an independent political slate. Let the trade unions study this instructive case and draw the correct conclusion: You can win if you give the public a chance to vote for an independent Labor Party.

Stalinist Strikebreaking under the Belgrade Bureau

A strike of the subway and bus workers in Paris, France, may not seem as vital as union problems here at home. Still this strike, which has almost completely shut down that city's transportation system should interest every militant worker who is troubled with Stalinists in his local.

The initial stoppage began Oct. 11 when the members of a small independent union decided there was no other way to get a favorable response to their demand for a wage raise.

The Stalinist newspaper L'Humanite pounced on the strike with a savage denunciation. For two days the Stalinist heads of the powerful CGT (General Confederation of Labor) "fought the walk-out and attempted to break it," according to the Oct. 15 N. Y. Herald Tribune.

Trains ran by fits and starts with Stalinists in the "role of strikebreakers," said an Oct. 13 UP dispatch. Then the rank and file of the CGT began to come out in sympathy.

The Stalinists "soon found themselves forced into the last position they wanted to take at this particular time," explained the Oct. 14 Christian

Science Monitor. The strikebreaking Stalinist union officials decided it was time for a hand-spring. They came out in favor of the strike!

As the Monitor's Paris correspondent reported, "This was the same position they ran into at the Renault nationalized auto plant some months ago. In that case, too, a wildcat strike of which the Communists disapproved had to be supported by them later.

What evidence could be more convincing that the new "Information Bureau" set up by the Kremlin does not mean a turn by the Stalinists toward revolutionary struggle? The Stalinists switched from strikebreaking to approval of the Paris subway strike only because they feared the development of a more militant leadership if they continued to buck the subway workers.

The strikebreaking activity of the Stalinists in Paris confirms the Socialist Workers Party's analysis of the "Information Bureau." The Stalinist bureaucrats don't want to advance the program of revolutionary socialism. They are not interested in safe-guarding the interests of the workers. They are interested only in carrying out the orders of the Kremlin.

We Are Against Partition of Palestine

The Militant is dead set against the U.S. State Department position on the future of Palestine as expressed last week before the UN General Assembly's Special Committee on Palestine, and we think all American workers ought to be too.

Washington favors the partition of that tiny country into an Arab state, plus a Jewish state plus an internationalized, UN-controlled state of Jerusalem and surrounding territory.

To help ram this program down the throats of the Palestinian people, the Truman administration offers U.S. resources, including American troops as part of "a special constabulary or police force recruited on a volunteer basis by the United Nations." Meanwhile, Washington insists, the British imperialists must remain in Palestine.

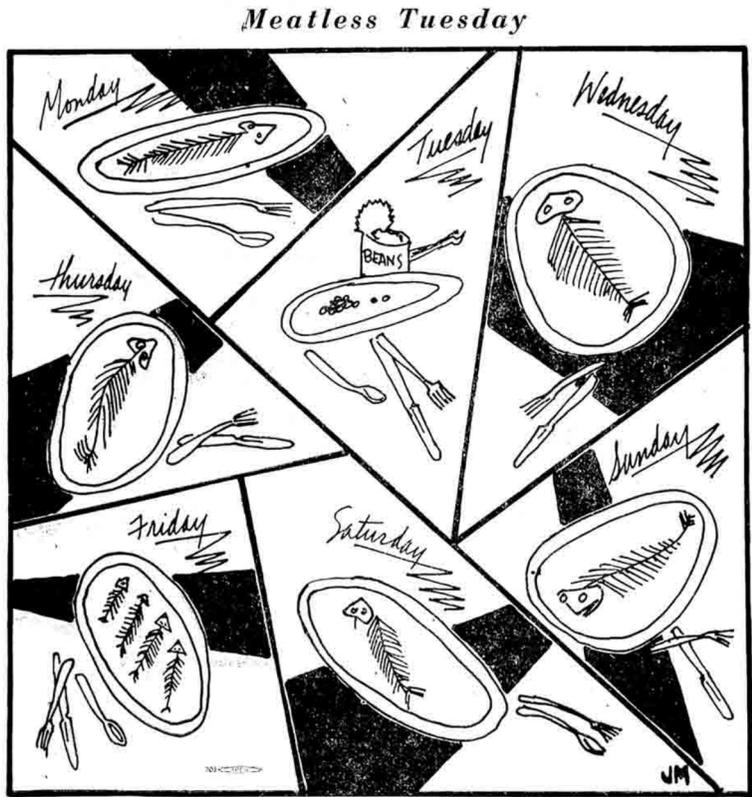
We are against this partition program, whose main features have since been endorsed by the Soviet Union delegates, because it runs directly counter to the interests of the Jewish and Arab masses of Palestine. It enables the imperialists—British or U.S., or both—to keep troops in the country to guard their interests in the oil-rich

Middle East. Under such circumstances, neither the Arab nor Jewish "state" will have any real independence; the imperialists will have the real power in the carved up country.

Furthermore, partition, far from easing or eliminating the British-provoked tension between Arabs and Jews, will only aggravate it, just as partition did with the Hindus and Moslems in India. And that in turn will serve as the pretext for continued occupation of Palestine by the imperialists.

Finally, we favor the defeat of this program because it is anti-democratic to the core. Everybody in the UN seems to have the right to advance a program for Palestine—except the people who live in that troubled country. They, it seems, are to have no voice in their own fate.

The solution to the Palestine problem depends on the collaboration of the Jewish and Arab masses, and on their freedom to jointly work out their own problems. Independence for Palestine is the first step. And that means: Get the imperialists out of Palestine, ALL the imperialists and keep them out!



Beginning Next Week—Story of Mother Jones

Beginning next week The Militant will publish a serialization of The Autobiography of Mother Jones. Permission for this has been kindly granted by the publishers, Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago.



Mother Jones lived to be 100 years old. The great majority of her life was devoted to the fight of the working class. From 1873, when she participated in the strike of the Baltimore and Ohio railway workers, until her death in 1930, no important strike occurred without Mother Jones giving her all. Her absolute fearlessness and unselfish devotion to the rank and file won her a place in the hearts of the American workers.

Born Mary Harris in 1830 of a working class family in Cork, Ireland, she came to America at the age of six. When she was a young woman she married an iron worker, a good union man. An epidemic carried off her husband and four children. This tragedy was followed by the Great Chicago fire which destroyed all her possessions.

It was in this period that she came into contact with the Knights of Labor. From then on she devoted her life to a crusade for labor's rights.

Strike struggles saw her in the front rank, sometimes invited by the union leaders, sometimes against their wishes. Her presence saved many strikes from defeat.

Since some of the greatest strike struggles were in the coal fields, she came to be identified primarily with the miners. Without thought of her own safety, she entered company towns in West Virginia and Colorado and carried on the union fight in places of organizing who had been killed.

Her most spectacular organizing technique was with the miners' wives. She formed them into mob

and broom brigades and proceeded to the struggles of "her boys," the miners, she fought the battles of other sections of the working class, the garment workers in New York, street car workers, textile workers in the South.

Her love went especially to the child workers in the textile mills. By organizing and leading a march of these undernourished, physically warped children to President Theodore Roosevelt's luxurious summer home on Long Island, she did much to expose the barbarous face of child labor. The great "trust-buster" would not meet her delegation but she had struck a blow at child labor.

At the age of 84, this dangerous woman was convicted by a court martial of "conspiracy to murder" in a bitter coal strike in West Virginia. Public protest forced her release.

The next year she was in the Colorado mine fields where Rockefeller's industrial peons had gone on strike. Three times this little old woman in a black bonnet was ar-

rested by the militia. Imprisoned and then deported from the Trinidad-Ludlow area of the state, she sneaked back with the help of railroad workers who well remembered Mother Jones.

As late as 1923, at the age of 93, she was still on the firing line, in miners' strikes in West Virginia. Two years later she wrote her autobiography.

May Day 1930 was her 100th birthday and from throughout the nation she received letters from her old friends and fellow fighters. She made a fighting speech for the newsreel cameras. Six months later she died.

Because of her unwavering devotion to the rank and file unionists, Mother Jones often came into conflict with the union officials. She reacted violently and without mincing words to the formation of a privileged bureaucracy in the labor movement. This won her powerful enemies among those labor leaders who saw the movement not as a class struggle for a better world but as "business unionism."

For Mother Jones was a socialist by instinct. From every platform she called for the destruction of the capitalist system. When the IWW was under the ban by the AFL leadership she did not hesitate to defend IWW leaders from frame-ups and to support IWW strikes. She was one of the original founders of the famous socialist paper, the Appeal to Reason.

Mother Jones did not have a clear understanding of socialist program and theory. She knew about the evils of capitalism and she fought militantly for a better society.

This great woman was a natural leader and a natural rebel. She captured the imagination and the love of the American workers of this country as no other woman ever has.

Workers' BOOKSHELF

JADIE GREENWAY by I. S. Young, Crown Publishers, 1947, 250 pp., \$2.75.

Jadie Greenway is the first novel of a New York school teacher who, by his own admission, was determined above all to get himself published. The book's title is taken from the heroine, a beautiful 16-year-old Negro girl.

The setting for the novel is the poverty-stricken Bedford section of Brooklyn. There Jadie lives, as do thousands of other Negro families, crowded together with a brother, sister and mother in a dilapidated tenement apartment.

Mrs. Greenway, portrayed as a rather unsavory character by the unsympathetic author, works as a prostitute using the small apartment as her place of business. The nature of her occupation, plus an indifference that borders on outright hatred for her children, causes her to neglect them. Jadie, the oldest, develops a maturity surprising in a girl of her years, and a strength of character rarely if ever seen outside the pages of fiction.

Sensing that she is not "one of the herd," Jadie holds herself aloof from the other girls at school,

which leads to many conflicts with them. Unable to find companionship with the girls of her acquaintance, Jadie seeks it elsewhere. A Negro sailor on leave furnishes the first romance. This is followed a short time later by two weeks in Bellevue Hospital recovering from syphilis.

On her return to school, Jadie falls in love with a young Negro teacher, Mr. Chelton, makes advances to him and is spurned. This is quite a blow to Jadie and she tries to get revenge by reporting to the principal that Mr. Chelton has raped her. The reader is held in "breathless suspense," fearing that this personable young man who, we are informed, has climbed from the depths—from hellip to the pinnacle of success—through the most extraordinary self-denial and will-power, will be hurled to his ruin.

Jadie's liaison is finally exposed; the nice young Mr. Chelton is saved from disgrace. Unable to bear her humiliation, Jadie decides to quit school and marry the sailor who has returned to town after having been cured of syphilis. Since she needs money while awaiting her marriage, Jadie accepts a standing offer made by her mother's boarder. The five dollars provides her

with spending money for a few days of roaming the streets.

Then comes a momentous conversation with the boarder. He tells her that life is pretty tough without a high school diploma. Jadie decides to alter her course. She calls off the marriage with the sailor and returns to school determined to graduate. There the book ends. But the reader is led to believe that Jadie—having tasted the fruits of sin and found them bitter—will follow the steep and stony path, charted by Mr. Horatio Alger Chelton.

Two things might be said in faint praise of Mr. Young's first published literary effort. Jadie is an interesting if unreal figure. In the hands of an artist she might have been molded into a powerful, living character. Secondly, some readers will perhaps for the first time get a glimpse of the shameful conditions in which Brooklyn Negroes are forced to live. Unfortunately the reader will see this tiny section of Bedford through the eyes, not of a class conscious artist, nor of an indignant opponent of Jim Crow, but of a school teacher with the shrivelled soul of a social worker.

Railroad Labor Paper Peddles Prize Absurdity

By Joseph Hansen

The lead editorial in the Oct. 11 Labor, weekly newspaper of 15 railroad unions, "explains" why it opposes the formation of a Labor Party. This "explanation" deserves to be included in the textbooks on logic as a perfect example of absurdity.

Labor runs the tattered roll through the player piano about its policy of standing by its "friends, in primary and general elections" and opposing its "enemies with equal determination." In understandable English this is the policy of switching from Democrats to Republicans and from Republicans to Democrats.

The editors claim that as a result "during the last quarter of a century" the railroad organizations "have won victory after victory in the political field..."

Our impression was that the results of this policy look pretty grim. At one time the railroad workers, after years of bitter, head-on struggle with Democratic and Republican administrations, enjoyed conditions and wages that placed them in the front ranks of the labor movement; while the policies followed during the last quarter of a century have brought the railroad workers down to the bottom rungs in conditions and wages.

It is precisely because they have fallen to this low state that the railroad workers are now among those sections of the labor movement especially in need of independent political action.

The editors of Labor are forced to concede that "there have been defeats;" but "Our losses in the past have been largely due to the fact that many workers were asleep at the switch—they didn't register and they didn't vote."

That's the habitual song and dance of hidebound labor bureaucrats. They're never at fault, to listen to them. It's always the rank and file.

But just whom were the workers to vote for if they registered? They were limited to a choice between Republicans and Democrats and that's about the same as having to choose between a rope and the electric chair.

How the Democratic and Republican so-called "friends" of labor serve the trade unions was graphically shown in the 80th Congress. A majority of both parties combined to pass the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law by a thumping band-wagon vote. Is it possible to find more convincing proof that neither Republicans nor Democrats are "friends" of labor?

Then comes the pay-off in this brilliant "explanation." Labor says that if "labor helped organize a third party, it could not help its friends in either the Democratic or the Republican party. Their defeat would be inevitable."

But that's precisely why labor needs its own party—to make the defeat of these "friends" who passed the Taft-Hartley Law inevitable.

On its masthead Labor carries a slogan to which we subscribe with both hands:

"ALL POWER IS INHERENT IN THE PEOPLE. THEREFORE ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE."

That slogan should be put into practice. To do that an independent Labor Party is needed.

Gallup Poll Reveals War Disillusionment Growing

The latest Gallup poll reveals a significant increase in the number of people who think it was a mistake to plunge America into World War II.

In April 1946 15% of the "representative voters throughout the country," according to George Gallup, thought entry into the war was a mistake; while 77% thought it was not a mistake and 8% had no opinion.

By October 1947 sentiment had shifted as follows: 24% thought it a mistake; 66% still believed it was not a mistake; and 10% had no opinion.

Gallup declared that the South was the most beligerent section of the country before the war and still shows least regret over World War II. Since the poll was confined to "voters" however, this is misleading. It reflects the warped and outmoded sentiments of the ruling bourgeois and leaves out the sentiments of the great majority of disfranchised poor whites and Negroes.

Nevertheless the poll does reflect the growing disillusionment from coast to coast over the lying propaganda about World War II making the world safe for democracy.

Gallup reports that "Those who claim it was a mistake feel America got nothing out of the war and is no better off, that we should stay out of other countries' affairs, and that war is too expensive for our economy."

"Voice of Local 212" Rips New Labor Board

The reasons why labor should fight and not comply with the provisions of the Taft-Hartley Law and its NLRB are forcibly stated by Tony Czerwinski, president of UAW Briggs Local 212, in the Oct. 10 issue of Voice of Local 212.

"We reject the Board because it is a management board designed to be used against labor, not to help labor," Czerwinski declares.

"Why are the bosses and the boss press so anxious to have labor use the board? Simply because that would disarm labor and give the employers an opportunity to turn the power of the board against unions."

The personnel of the new board is loaded against the unions. "The War Labor Board, with equal representation of labor and management gave labor a real deal," the article recalls. "This board doesn't even have a pretense of impartiality." Four out of five of its members are "definitely anti-labor."

Czerwinski illustrates: "Who is the almighty General Counsel of the board? He is Robert Denham, who boasted to columnist Ed Lacey: 'I'm a Wall Street Lawyer.' His record as trial examiner showed it. Negro workers have a special reason to fear this man. What break would they get from a man who refused to use a Negro Secretary assigned him by the Government, and instead paid a white girl out of his own pocket for 18 months; who wrote in one report as trial examiner that Negro workers: 'don't tell the truth and their testimony can't be accepted?'"

"Since he was given his big job," continues Czerwinski, "Denham has in one week, (1) asked for an injunction against the carpenters union in Chattanooga; (2) issued a complaint against the Typographical Union for alleged refusal to bargain with the employer, and (3) publicly declared that he would use the injunction powers against unions only and not against employers."

What are the unions to do in this situation? Czerwinski indicates that the answer lies in independent struggle and organization:

"Before there ever was a Wagner Act or a NLRB, unions organized and won contracts. We organized at Briggs without the help of any Board! The same methods can still be used."

The next step of the sponsors of the Taft-Hartley Act, Czerwinski warns, "is to force the unions, by pressure, propaganda, and any other tricks they know to bring the unions into line... Some union leaders have played into this plot—knowingly or unknowingly." But labor must resist the new NLRB, whose mission is "to 'get' labor, all labor."

—Charles Carsten

Workers' Forum

Labor Party Action Needed For Housing

Editor:
What is the housing situation coming to? I have been listening to the windbag politicians advocating all sorts of theories without doing anything tangible about it, besides lining their pockets with the taxpayers' blood-earned money in the form of wages.

I know personally people in some cases with infants in the family, and also of my own case, that are facing dispossession, and some are paying much above the rent ceiling freeze. They are threatened with a sky for a ceiling if they report it. Considering this threat, they have to remain quiet.

The plutocratic representation that was elected into office does not represent the people or the electorate, but represents the rent lobbyists and the other pressure applied behind the throne. So my advice to all is to consider the above when you go to the polls and vote for a man or men who represent labor.

Remember this: A Labor Slate in '48 and in the time between now and '48 organize your groups and agitate for labor representation, and vote for all the men who will represent the forgotten families of U.S.A.

By putting in labor candidates in various parts of the country we can start a nucleus and the beginning of a genuine labor party movement in the United States.

Joe Youngstown, O.

Los Angeles Mothers Win School Victory

Editor:
On Sept. 8 some 250 determined women, headed by Councilman Harold Harby, Rev. Franklin Swanson, Artie Jeff and M. Beer, appeared at the Board of Education and Mayor Fletcher Bowron's chambers, demanding immediate action on plans for adequate schooling in Loyola village.

Loyola and Kentwood children have had only half-day sessions

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.

while Playo Del Ray children were scattered wherever they could get in. A school had been promised this year and a staff of teachers hired—yet there was no school building!

It's amazing how city officials can pass the buck. But after following through from one official to the next we finally achieved our goal. On Sept. 29 final negotiations for a Loyola elementary school site were completed. Thanks to the people working hand in hand we won a badly-needed victory in our fast-growing community.

June Johnson
Los Angeles, Calif.

Sorry She Can't Help On the Fund

Just a line to let you know that we changed our address. I would like to contribute to the Militant Fund but I have my hands so full I don't know which way to turn. At my new address I must furnish my own heat; that means I must buy a heater and fuel oil, find my own cooking fuel and get covering for the floor. With the inflated prices on everything you can see what I'm up against. My husband, a steel worker, got a raise in pay this year, but it doesn't mean a thing.

I liked the article "Which Road for Labor—Dayton or Allentown?" Did you know that Mr. Lichtenwalter, the Republican who was elected to Congress from this district, was responsible for putting up taxes on cigarettes, sodas, amusements, etc? And that's the type of man they have put into such an important office.

Mrs. P. S.
Allentown, Pa.

Bill of Rights Doesn't Apply in 30 States

Editor:
The Sept. 8 Militant states that "For 156 years the American people have regarded the U. S. Constitution's first ten amendments, commonly called the Bill of Rights, as an inviolable legal guarantee of their democratic rights and liberties."

In the case of the first amendment, the American worker is correct in believing that both the federal and state government grant freedom of speech and religion. This was brought about by the 14th amendment to the Constitution.

But the workers are misinformed if they believe that the other amendments (2 through 8) apply in all states; because Chief Justice Marshall, a supporter of Big Business and a reactionary, stated in the case of Barron vs. Baltimore in 1837 that the 5th amendment applied only between the federal government and the people and not between the state governments and the people. Thus, this one decision affected all of the original amendments.

One's first reaction on hearing about an old Supreme Court decision is that this is rather old stuff. However, you can trace the Supreme Court's feeling on the 6th amendment to understand that the rule of Barron vs. Baltimore is not dead at all.

In the cases of Walker vs. Southerland, 1876, Maxwell vs. Doud, 1910, and Betts vs. Brady in 1942, the court in each instance referred to the case of Barron vs. Baltimore.

However, 18 out of 48 states have civil rights acts which grant a person the same protection as the U. S. Government. But the unlucky inhabitants of the other 30 states might as well forget about the bill of rights with the exception of the first amendment because there they do not apply.

E. C.
Madison, Wis.

Steady Pace Kept By Branches In Collections of Militant Fund

By Rose Karsner
National Campaign Director

Once again—a reminder.

December 15 will be the last issue of the paper to contain the Scoreboard reports on the collection of the \$15,000 Fund needed to finance The Militant. That leaves exactly seven weeks in which the Militant readers and Socialist Workers Party branches must fulfill their quotas, because the final payments must be in the National Office not later than December 9. That means collections must be stepped up.

A good method, effectively used in New York and Pittsburgh, is to divide the balance due on your pledge by seven and pay that amount weekly. In this manner you will avoid the last minute feverish scramble to attain the 100%.

SUBSCRIBERS—The room-card and collection list is being mailed this week and should reach you within a few days. When you receive it, please give it your attention and let us hear from you as promptly as possible.

READERS who are not on our mailing list are again urged to use the coupon below. Joan Wos of Minnesota sent \$5 and Matt Groh of New York City sent \$2.

FROM THE BRANCHES

There are still too many zeroes on the Scoreboard. We trust that most of these will be wiped out next week.

ST. LOUIS—A money order for \$15 from this branch puts it in the lead with 126%. Looks like this branch will keep its place at the top because it is still collecting for the Fund.

MILWAUKEE—Comrade Virginia is very concerned about the position of her branch on the Scoreboard. She says: "I am enclosing \$25 and sending it air mail special delivery so our 49% will show on the next Scoreboard." That puts Milwaukee in second place.

CHICAGO—Harold: "We are planning a gala Militant Ball for Nov. 15 when we will celebrate the nineteenth anniversary of the founding of The Militant. We will have an orchestra, a floor show and refreshments. The proceeds of this affair will go toward our quota. Another project is to give an autographed copy of Willard Motley's best seller 'Knock On Any Door' to the comrade who turns in the most collections to the branch."

BOSTON, Oct. 14—Lawrence P. Trainor, Socialist Workers Committee candidate for the Boston School Committee, speaking over radio station WHDH last night, scored the misuse of the schools under capitalism.

"History books that glorify war and encourage hatreds and the bigotry of nationalism should be condemned," declared this working class candidate. "Our youth must be taught the unchallengeable truth that wars are fought to protect and increase the wealth of America's 60 ruling families. They must be taught how the mighty corporations plunder our natural resources, control our economic life and run the government."

"The textbooks on economics in Boston schools are a joke," continued Trainor. "All kinds of false theories are taught in trying to explain why we have depressions, monopolies and wars. Almost a century ago Karl Marx analyzed and foretold the decay and collapse of the capitalist system. His analysis was laughed at and he was the object of hatred and scorn. Today his scientific analysis is the basis for any serious approach."

In a blistering attack on the way the schools deliberately implant race prejudice in the minds of children, Trainor declared: "In the past few years Boston has witnessed organized hoodlum attacks against minority groups. These outbursts arise from ignorance and mis-education. It is the primary duty of an educational system to eliminate

prejudices and bigotry. "Therefore, textbooks that teach the truth about equality of all racial, religious and cultural groups and that promote understanding and tolerance must be introduced. Textbooks that ignore or misrepresent the struggles of the trade unions to improve the conditions of the working people must be replaced."

Trainor lashed the federal government "to provide low-cost hot lunches and milk to the needy school children" and demanded a free hot lunch program for the schools.

He called for "free medical, optical and dental care" for school children, and the re-opening of child care centers.

Many of Boston's schools, declared Trainor, are "potential fire-traps." He demanded that they be replaced "with modern buildings."

The school teachers, he said, should receive "equal pay for equal work" to end the present discriminatory wage scales. He pointed out that "Boston's teachers, like all of us working for a living, are victimized by inflation." To keep up with the rising cost of living, Trainor demanded that teachers be granted a cost-of-living bonus.



Scoreboard For \$15,000 Militant Fund

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
ST LOUIS	\$ 50	\$ 63	126
Milwaukee	200	98	49
Newark	500	224	45
Rochester	25	10	40
Buffalo	600	212	35
Youngstown	600	200	33
New York	4,500	1,458	32
Seattle	300	77	26
Oakland	250	63	25
Flint	200	48	24
Philadelphia	300	68	23
Pittsburgh	150	30	20
Toledo	150	26	17
Detroit	600	100	17
Akron	300	50	16
Cleveland	250	39	16
Chicago	1,500	217	14
Twin Cities	1,000	145	14
Boston	275	31	11
Los Angeles	1,500	150	10
San Francisco	1,250	95	8
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	0	0
Connecticut State	200	0	0
Lynn	125	0	0
Massillon-Canton	50	0	0
Reading	100	0	0
San Diego	100	0	0
Tacoma	25	0	0
West Virginia	25	0	0
TOTAL THROUGH OCT. 13		\$3,404	23%

Two Rail Unions On The Road to Merger

By James Montgomery

Oct. 12—For 74 years the men in the locomotive cabs of this country have been kept divided in two separate unions—the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. This idiotic arrangement has cost the enginemen over a hundred million dollars in unnecessary dues alone, to say nothing about the untold millions they have lost in wages and working rules by this division in their ranks.

Since the beginning of the century numerous efforts have been made by the progressive minority in both unions to remedy this condition either by merger or by one union absorbing the other. But the union officials were al-

ways more concerned about hanging on to their easy and well paid jobs than they were in the welfare of the members and have obstructed every effort on the part of the men to unite.

Charter of local unions have been revoked, members have been expelled and convention delegates have been denied their seats because they advocated consolidation and other needed changes.

However, the forces of progress cannot be stalled indefinitely, not even by union bureaucrats. Industrial as well as historical development is on the side of the progressives. This law of development also operates in the rail unions.

In April of last year a movement, now known as the "Consolidation Committee of Enginemen," was initiated by R. R. Walker, a locomotive fireman of the Erie Railroad who had also served as clerk and General Organizer for D. B. Robertson, president of one of the Enginemen's unions.

Walker appealed to the rank and file of the enginemen to effect consolidation with the result that an organized movement to unite the men in the cab was launched at Buffalo, and has since spread to railroad terminals from coast to coast. This movement is also putting out a monthly paper named *The Consolidator*.

This organized, the progressives in both unions were able to put over their consolidation proposals in the two unions' conventions this year. As a result each union selected a committee of nine rank and file members to negotiate a consolidation agreement by the two unions for submission to a referendum vote in each union.

Both of these committees were given wide powers by their respective conventions to hire office space, legal and actuarial assistance, to call on any Grand Lodge officer for any information or assistance that the committees deem necessary, and also to incur any expense necessary to the proper functioning of the committees.

These two committees will meet for the first time on Oct. 13 at the BLE headquarters in Cleveland. One of these committees, speaking at a joint meeting of enginemen in Toledo recently, stated that it was his understanding that the two committees were to continue in session until a consolidation program was hammered out in shape for submission to a vote of the rank and file of both organizations.

In the process of merging the two unions the progressive enginemen in both organizations are going to do their best to unload some of the worthless officials they now have and to eliminate the vicious gaglaws which blacken the pages of both the BLE and the BLFE constitutions. The silly and useless ritualistic ceremonies in use in both unions will, no doubt, also be relegated to the discard.

Thus after 40 years of agitation, the men who operate the American locomotives may be the trail blazers on the road to amalgamation of craft unions rendered obsolete under present industrial conditions.

THE MILITANT ARMY

New York Local Sells 59 New Subs in Harlem



In connection with the election campaign in Harlem, where the Socialist Workers Party is running Robert Williams for State Senator, New York Local of the SWP held small but very successful mobilizations last week, selling 264 copies of *The Militant* and 59 new subscriptions.

At two Friday night street meetings on Oct. 3, 119 Militants and 35 pamphlets were sold, but a week later the police shunted the meetings to such poor corners that only 38 Militants and a dozen pamphlets were sold.

On Sunday, Oct. 5, 30 comrades turned out for a subscription mobilization in the area and sold an average of nearly two subs each. It was such a lovely day that many people were not home, so that much time was lost ringing doorbells, but the reception was very cordial where people were at home. The comrades sold an average of nearly four single copies of the paper each and more than one pamphlet each.

Sending in five subs, George of Philadelphia Branch wrote: "Well, there may be a few less subs, but at any rate they are still coming in. We may have a mobilization next Sunday. We now have almost 15 more people, since the Johnsons joined. Already they have shown what they can do. Friday night, after the forum, one of them, Irv, sold a sub to someone who has been coming around for quite some time but for some reason had not been asked for a sub before. Also, Oregon, a newer comrade, who turned in four of the last 10 subs I sent, is responsible for one in this group."

"For the last two Sundays mobilizations have been rained out," wrote Carol Andrews, Milwaukee agent, who sent in three subscription renewals. "However, comrades have volunteered to do renewal/callback work during the week and

another mobilization is planned."

Mrs. Clarence Laws of Austin, Minn., whose letter about landlords was published in the Workers Forum last June 7, renewed her subscription to *The Militant* for another year although she is still critical of *The Militant*. "I like your paper because it shows up both Republicans and Democrats, but it leans too far the Russian way to suit me."

September subscriptions fell to 290, the lowest total since we have been publishing the monthly branch results. New York's Harlem mobilization (counted in September) gave that city the top place with more than a quarter of the national total. Subs by branches were as follows:

New York	77
Los Angeles	29
St. Paul	18
St. Louis	18
Newark	17
Boston	13
Flint	13
Detroit	12
New Haven	12
Minneapolis	11
Milwaukee	9
Chicago	9
Philadelphia	6
Seattle	6
Buffalo	5
San Francisco	5
Cleveland	3
Pittsburgh	3
Akron	2
New Britain	2
Oakland	2
Reading	2
Rochester	2
Calumet	1
Toledo	1
Youngstown	1
Allentown	0
San Diego	0
Tacoma	0
General	15
Total	290

Dunne Analyzes Truman's "Plan" At Twin City Sunday Forum

MINNEAPOLIS, Oct. 12—Truman's plan of "meatless and poultryless" days for the American workers is not designed to help the starving Europeans. Instead, any food saved here will be used to smash the workers' movement in Europe.

So stated V. E. Dunne, national labor secretary of the Socialist Workers party, when he addressed the Twin City Sunday Forum this afternoon. "American imperialism had a definite plan of starvation for Germany and Central Europe," the speaker continued. "Just to give them wheat now doesn't solve the problem."

The same capitalist masters who are now asking us to tighten our belts, have in the past 30 years plunged the world into two World Wars, Dunne declared. He went on: "Now they are striving like cunning madmen for a third World War, and in the process they have reduced the world to starvation."

"The way to help the starving Europeans is through workers' organizations," the speaker concluded. "By taking control of the world away from the capitalists and putting it into the hands of the workers, we can best help our starving brothers. We must build a Labor Party in America," he said.

After the forum, the audience took part in a question period, remaining to carry on informal discussion with the speaker at the supper served in the headquarters. These forums are held each Sunday afternoon at 3:30—the first Sunday of the month in St. Paul plunged the world into two World Wars, Dunne declared. He went on: "Now they are striving like cunning madmen for a third World War, and in the process they have reduced the world to starvation."

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"Herald Tribune" Gives Readers The Low Down on "The Militant"

The ultra-conservative N. Y. Herald Tribune has begun a series of reviews to "expose" its readers on "trends within the political Left." The first review Oct. 12 discusses the position of the New Republic, Call, P.M. Nation, Daily Worker, New Masses and The Militant on current issues. About one-fifth of the lengthy article is devoted to *The Militant* alone.

"The liveliest reading," says the author, Rodney Gilbert, "is always to be found in *The Militant* . . . which from its small triangular redoubt launches equally heavy rocket bombs at Wall Street, the Kremlin and the manby-pamby Socialists."

Gilbert describes the latest issue of *The Militant* before him: "Its biggest headline says: 'Price Gougers Fear New Wage Drive.' It advocates drives for a sliding wage scale, saying: 'Such cost-of-living bonuses would be paid on a regular and adjustable basis, automatically rising in direct proportion to any increase in the cost of living . . .'"

"The CIO, *The Militant* feels," continues Gilbert, "is nowhere near up to its job because it hesitates to challenge the Wall Street wolves by advocating 'expropriation, government seizure and nationalization of the basic industries and their operation under workers' control.'"

Gilbert quotes further from *Militant* articles on the price squeeze and then turns to the positions of the various political tendencies on the struggle between American imperialism and the Soviet Union. *The Militant*, he tells the *Herald Tribune* readers, offers "something completely new, different and entertaining," viewing "the UN as a 'thieves' debating society,' in which the Kremlin bandits are trying to hi-jack the Wall Street bandits. Stalin could be bought off, say these cynics, as Hitler bought him, with a non-aggression pact and a heavy subsidy for the reconditioning of the USSR. That's all that Vishinsky is shouting for."

"Fervently as *The Militant* hates Stalin, it is not for war with the land that Trotsky's footsteps sanctified. Its front-page cartoon shows Mr. Truman atop a mountainous stockpile of war materials, shouting 'Waste less!' Editorially it laments the billions going into 'the armaments rat hole' which should be going into housing . . ."

Trainor Scores Texts Used in Boston Schools

BOSTON, Oct. 14—Lawrence P. Trainor, Socialist Workers Committee candidate for the Boston School Committee, speaking over radio station WHDH last night, scored the misuse of the schools under capitalism.

"History books that glorify war and encourage hatreds and the bigotry of nationalism should be condemned," declared this working class candidate. "Our youth must be taught the unchallengeable truth that wars are fought to protect and increase the wealth of America's 60 ruling families. They must be taught how the mighty corporations plunder our natural resources, control our economic life and run the government."

"The textbooks on economics in Boston schools are a joke," continued Trainor. "All kinds of false theories are taught in trying to explain why we have depressions, monopolies and wars. Almost a century ago Karl Marx analyzed and foretold the decay and collapse of the capitalist system. His analysis was laughed at and he was the object of hatred and scorn. Today his scientific analysis is the basis for any serious approach."

In a blistering attack on the way the schools deliberately implant race prejudice in the minds of children, Trainor declared: "In the past few years Boston has witnessed organized hoodlum attacks against minority groups. These outbursts arise from ignorance and mis-education. It is the primary duty of an educational system to eliminate

prejudices and bigotry. "Therefore, textbooks that teach the truth about equality of all racial, religious and cultural groups and that promote understanding and tolerance must be introduced. Textbooks that ignore or misrepresent the struggles of the trade unions to improve the conditions of the working people must be replaced."

Trainor lashed the federal government "to provide low-cost hot lunches and milk to the needy school children" and demanded a free hot lunch program for the schools.

He called for "free medical, optical and dental care" for school children, and the re-opening of child care centers.

Many of Boston's schools, declared Trainor, are "potential fire-traps." He demanded that they be replaced "with modern buildings."

The school teachers, he said, should receive "equal pay for equal work" to end the present discriminatory wage scales. He pointed out that "Boston's teachers, like all of us working for a living, are victimized by inflation." To keep up with the rising cost of living, Trainor demanded that teachers be granted a cost-of-living bonus.

Won't You Help The Militant?

CLIP COUPON—MAIL TO-DAY

The Militant Fund
116 University Pl.
New York 3, N. Y.

Enclosed find \$_____ to help THE MILITANT in its fight for a world of peace and plenty for all.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____
State _____

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

- AKRON**—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open Mon. through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 2 to 4 p.m.
- BOSTON**—30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 10 a.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 7-2627. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.
- FLINT**—215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.
- LOS ANGELES**—Militant publishing Assn., 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.
- SAN PEDRO**—Militant publishing Assn.—1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.
- LYNN, Mass.**—44 Central Square, Room 11. Discussion every Tuesday 7:30 p.m.; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.
- MILWAUKEE**—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5th 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. Sunday Forums, 3:30 p.m.
- 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. Friday night forum, 8:30.
- NEW YORK CITY HQ.** 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149.
- HARLEM**: 103 W. 110 St. Room 23. MO. 2-1866. Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.
- 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. Phone Court 6060. Open meetings every 1st and third Sundays at 3:30 p.m. Marxist Study Class every Thursday 7-9 p.m. 1418 Fifth Ave.
- SAN DIEGO**—Headquarters 432 F St., R. 213. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays & 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. Phone FI 6-0410.
- SEATTLE**—1919½ 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 212. 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,

No Truman-burgers for Me!

By Grace Carlson

As a substitute for meat, poultry and eggs on Truman's meatless, poultryless and eggless days, R. E. D. Gay, president of the Restaurant Owners Association of Tampa, Florida, offers the "Truman-burger." The recipe? "Bake beans, mash them like potatoes, season, and spread between a bun. Cover the beans with barbecue sauce and serve."

Without the benefit of Restaurant-Owner Gay's advice, millions of Southern families have been eating a type of "Truman-burger" for years, although they have never given such a fancy name to their food. They just say that they're having soy-belly and beans and let it go at that.

And the end result of a steady diet of "Truman-burgers" is pellagra. Long thought to be caused by a germ infection, the dread pellagra is now known definitely to be a vitamin-deficiency disease. The discovery in 1937 by Dr. C. Elvehjem of the University of Wisconsin that niacin — found in lean meat, green vegetables, eggs and fruit — was the pellagra-preventive factor, completed the medical conquest of the disease.

But the social conquest of pellagra, the "scourge of the South," has not yet been achieved. About 400,000 cases of outright pellagra occur in the United States annually. Public health officials estimate that there are other hundreds of thousands of cases of "sub-clinical or latent" cases of pellagra in the country, in which the open symptoms have not yet appeared.

Even before this discovery of niacin (part of the vitamin B complex), medical scientists knew that pellagra was the poor man's disease. Over 25 years ago, Dr. Joseph Goldberger of the U. S. Public Health Service noted that the pellagra victims of the South lived on salt pork and dried beans. (The "Truman-burger" is an old American dish.) When Dr. Goldberger shifted pellagra patients in public institutions to a diet of fresh meats and vegetables he secured amazing recoveries.

Then Dr. Goldberger gave the "Truman-burger" diet to the normally well-fed dogs in his laboratory. All of them developed blacktongue, a canine form of pellagra. After this pioneering work, medical men had an experimental animal, with which to work in order to find the cause and cure of pellagra. The synthesis of niacin by Dr. Elvehjem in 1937 completed the study.

It's 1947 now and I don't propose to fly in the face of all these scientific discoveries and go in for a bean diet. No "Truman-burgers" for me! I don't want any substitutes for niacin-rich, nutritious lean beef and pork. I'd rather get a substitute for Truman!

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THE MILITANT

PAGE SIX

NEW YORK, N. Y.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1947.

4,500 Ballots Cast for Lerner In Detroit Mayoralty Primaries

Three Arrested For Picketing Fascist Meeting

DETROIT, Oct. 14—Three people were arrested last Tuesday night during a picket line protest against the appearance at Fort Shelby Hotel of Homer L. Loomis, leader of the fascist Columbians, Inc.

The picket line of 300, mostly students, had been organized in a highly secretive fashion by the Stalinist-supported Civil Rights Congress, the AYD and AVC. Every effort had been made to freeze the labor movement out of the picket line. The few union representatives participating soon became disgusted with the infantile rah-rah song-ster and the Stalinist-inspired "blue cheer" for democracy. This demonstration stood in marked contrast to the militant, union led anti-fascist mobilizations of the past.

PEACEFULLY PICKETING

Jack Lesnik, a veteran and vice president of the CIO Wayne County Council, and Charles Gladston were plucked out of the peaceful picket line by the police almost a half hour after a slight scuffle with Don Lohbeck, editor of Gerald L. K. Smith's magazine, The Cross and the Flag. Lohbeck alleged that Lesnik had assaulted him in the lobby of the hotel. The facts were that Lohbeck, panic-stricken, struck the union leader first, after which Lesnik seized Lohbeck's arm.

When the police began to drag Lesnik and Gladstone to jail, other pickets protested. In the melee that followed, the police in gasp-like fashion freely used their clubs, fists and feet to beat them off. The two arrested pickets, mauled, bruised and finally handcuffed, were taken to the city jail, charged with investigation for inciting to riot. Also jailed was Mrs. Jessie Dilard, a housewife, who attempted to protest the action of the police. The three were held incommunicado; all attempts by lawyers, public officials and labor leaders to free them or communicate with them that night were blocked by the police. The trio was never questioned or told on what charges they were being held.

TRIAL SET OCT. 15

At the hearing Wednesday morning, the charge of inciting to riot was reduced to disturbing the peace while Lesnik was also charged with assault by the fascist Lohbeck. Trial will be held Oct. 15. The Stalinist leaders, groveling as usual before the "forces of law and order," attempted to smear the arrested trio and excuse the police brutality by making false charges in the Michigan Herald that "10 Trotskyites had attempted to disrupt a peaceful picket line." In spite of their attempted slander, strong protests have already been registered by scores of public officials, labor leaders, and civic organizations against the police force's brutal treatment of the jailed pickets and protection of the fascists.

Fascist Picketed



Although facing a jail sentence, Homer Loomis, head of the fascist Columbians, is still spreading his race hatred poison. In answer Detroit CIO members and veterans picketed his meeting in Detroit last week. When the fascists got tough, the cops joined the fray — on the side of the fascists, arresting three of the pickets. (See story on left.) At the meeting Loomis officially joined forces with his fellow fascist, Gerald L. K. Smith. (Federated Pictures)

Chicago Fire Disaster Spurs Public Drive to Enforce Safety Laws

CHICAGO, Oct. 10 — Charging that there is a strong indication that the fire at 942 W. Ohio St. today, which took the lives of 11 women and children, may be the result of racial tension against Negro tenants in this area, a delegation of the Hickman Defense Committee today requested that Mayor Kennelly propose amendments to the fire ordinance which will put violators in jail, rather than permit them to get off with light fines. The delegation consisted of Willoughby Abner, first vice president of the Chicago CIO Industrial Union Council, Sid Lous, director of the AFL Building Service Local 329, and Henry McGee, President of the Chicago Branch of the NAACP.

The rapid spread of the Ohio Street fire is similar to the spread of the fire last Jan. 18 at 1733 Washburne which took the lives of our James Hickman's children and led to the subsequent shooting of his landlord. The delegation today was an outgrowth of a mass meeting of 1,000 people held Sept. 28 on the South Side, addressed by Tallulah Bankhead, Willard Mottley, Michael Mann. The meeting had demanded the freedom of Hickman, Negro, and the shooting of his landlord. The mass meeting instructed the Hickman Defense Committee, 4619 South Parkway, to visit Mayor Kennelly and lay the facts on violation of fire ordinances before him. Today's delegation pointed out that there had been 751 fires in the three month period between Nov. 1946 and Jan. 1947 in the South Side area bounded by 26th and 55th Streets. Fourteen people died as a result of these fires and many were injured. According to the delegation, the causes of these fires were:

- 1. That fire regulations were flagrantly disregarded; that the dwellings were old; that they were overcrowded—as many as 90,000 people live in a square mile; that too much waste is permitted to accumulate in the area; that cooking and heating facilities are inadequate; that inspection is spotty and inadequate; and that fire insurance companies refuse to insure buildings in the Negro areas and as a consequence landlords are lax.

- 2. That the fire ordinance be rigidly enforced.
- 3. That the city council amend the present fire ordinance so that landlords be subject to jail sentence rather than just fines.
- 4. That the amendment also provide that the city have the right to declare any building which violates the fire ordinance a public nuisance and that landlords be kept in jail until such nuisance is abated.

At the request of Mayor Kennelly the delegation gave specific cases of violation of the fire ordinance. In one particularly flagrant case the Mayor promised to have the building inspected immediately.

DETROIT, Oct. 14—Enthusiastically responding to the Socialist Workers Party program on independent labor political action, housing and taxation, almost 4,500 workers cast their votes for Howard Lerner, Trotskyist candidate for Mayor in the primary elections last Tuesday. His vote represented 2% of the total cast in the mayoralty primaries.

The Big Business candidates, Eugene Van Antwerp and Edward Jeffries, won the nominations, receiving 96,000 and 79,000 votes, respectively. In spite of the great radio, newspaper and house-to-house publicity they had, Lerner completely swept some heavily populated workers' districts, receiving almost twice the number of votes for all other eight candidates in these areas.

This illustrates the attraction which the Trotskyist program had for many workers, as well as the growing hostility among the masses to the Big Business candidates.

This analysis is further borne out by the sweeping success of all five labor candidates for Common Council endorsed by the CIO. All were nominated in the primaries and will participate in the regular elections next month. The success of these labor candidates, who had been endorsed by the SWP, is all the more significant because of the lack of coordinated activity on their behalf by the labor movement.

It indicates that if the unions had run a candidate of their own for Mayor, instead of maintaining a hand-off policy toward this contest, such a candidate would have had every chance not only of being

nominated but also of scoring a victory in the final elections.

This was the first SWP election campaign in Detroit and the results are very creditable when they are compared with those received for Common Council by the Stalinist and "Socialist" candidates. The Communist Party candidate for the Council, William Allen, received only 800 votes more than Lerner, in spite of the CP's superior resources in numbers and finances. The so-called Socialist, a red-baiter named Michael Magee, received less than 400 votes more than Lerner, although a special drive was put on to comb the city with his literature.

The workers showed in this election that they were moving away from their old political ties and seeking new avenues of expression. This was borne out by the vote both for the SWP and for the Workers Party candidate for Mayor, Herman Benson, who got about 150 more votes than Lerner.

All capitalist political dopsters expressed surprise at the showing of the Trotskyist candidate. That was because they underestimated the growing desire of the workers for independent labor political action and their revulsion with company union politics.

The SWP street meetings, literature distributions, plant gate meetings, radio talks and election rallies bore fruit. Encouraged by these results, the Detroit Branch is gearing itself for the 1948 presidential campaign.

Barbaria Is Only Labor Man in Mayoralty Race

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 13—Of the four candidates for Mayor who have filed for the Nov. 4 city elections, Frank A. Barbaria, is the only working class candidate. The others are Judge Elmer Robinson, Chester MacPhee and Franck Havenner, all of whom have the back-

ing of financial and business interests. Although the city elections are "non-partisan," Robinson and MacPhee have Republican connections while Havenner has long been an active member of the county Democratic Party machine.

The three boss candidates have the usual demagogic election platforms which claim to benefit "all the people." They make only vague promises to "give close attention" to the pressing problems of housing, cost of living and the defense of labor's rights.

In sharp contrast is the clear cut working class program on which Barbaria is running in this campaign. Endorsed by the Socialist Workers Party, his campaign will center around the need for independent working class political action—a Labor Party based on and responsible to the labor movement.

His program also includes the following planks: Reorganize the public services; low cost city housing; roll back rents; repeal the sales tax; tax the rich—not the poor; full employment and job security; a cost-of-living bonus to maintain the standard of living; solve juvenile delinquency by establishing a hopeful future; against anti-labor laws; for full social, economic and political equality for Negroes and all racial and national minorities; and against capitalist militarism and war.

Unfortunately the San Francisco labor movement has committed itself once again to supporting a capitalist party candidate under the formula of "reward your friends and punish your enemies." In answer to this false idea the Campaign folder put out by the Committee for Frank A. Barbaria states: "Workers of San Francisco! Would you support a union organization by the boss? Naturally not!

BIOGRAPHY OF BARBARIA, BAY CITY SWP NOMINEE

Frank A. Barbaria was born of a working class family 34 years ago. He got his high school education in San Francisco, and then spent two years at a technical school, graduating with honors from the Junior Electrical Engineering course in 1932, the very depth of the last depression.

After two years of unemployment, dotted by occasional meager paying jobs, Frank attended a Socialist Party meeting and was quickly convinced that socialism was the only answer to the blind alley in which society found itself. Two months later, he left Norman Thomas' party and joined the then small group of Trotskyists, and has since been active in its ranks.

His first activity in the labor movement came during the struggle to organize an industrial union in the Bethlehem Shipyards of San Francisco. After the first long ten week strike in 1936, Frank was blacklisted from the yards. He then took to the sea and has since been a member of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, AFL, participating in

the 1936 strike and all of its subsequent major struggles. In 1937, Frank was chosen National Industrial Director of the Young People Socialist League.

From 1939 to 1941, he served as a union organizer, helping to build industrial organizations among the race-divided, poorly paid workers in the California fish industry.

During the war years, Frank sailed in the Merchant Marine. For a time he worked as an auto worker belonging to Local 590, UAW-CIO. He was a member of the SUP strike committee in the September 1946 maritime strike.

The type of leadership that Frank Barbaria has provided to the maritime workers is indicated in a letter of appreciation written by rank and file members of the CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards Union, an excerpt of which follows:

"... he has constantly supported and advocated cooperation between the three departments on mutual problems; he has further shown himself to be opposed to any discrimination based on race or creed.



FRANK BARBARIA

"We thank Brother Barbaria and hope that his actions will point the way for a future policy in which cooperation and understanding will replace all antagonisms." Signed by nine members of the Stewards Department of the S. S. Hawaiian Planter.

The Negro Struggle

Authorities Display Hatred

By Lois Saunders

Attacks on Negroes assume their most brutal form in the South. But sometimes the authorities in other parts of the country give them close competition in defending the Jim Crow system. Just last week, for example, Los Angeles County, a government body in California and presumably the guardian of the full democratic rights of everyone within its boundaries, saw fit to stigmatize its Negro residents as physical

weaklings, mental incompetents and moral degenerates, in a 121-page brief filed in support of a 75-year-old state statute prohibiting interracial marriages.

The brief was filed in answer to a writ of mandamus seeking to force the County Clerk to issue a marriage license to two Catholic residents, Miss Andrea D. Perez, a white woman, and Sylvester S. Davis, Jr., identified as a Negro.

They were refused a license by virtue of California's 1872 law which forbids the marriage of whites with Negroes, Mongolians or mulattoes, and which in 1933 was amended to ban in addition the marriage of whites and Filipinos.

The couple, through the well-known Catholic attorney Dan C. Marshall, sought action in California's Supreme Court to have the law declared unconstitutional, claiming that it denied their contractual rights, and their rights guaranteed under the 1st and 14th amendments to the federal constitution.

It is significant that the county, in its defense of the law, found it necessary to base itself upon the most reactionary, vicious and prejudiced theories of race "purity," theories which found their fullest flowering in Hitlerite Germany and in Bilbo's "white

supremacist" South but which have been laughed out of court by serious anthropologists.

The "authorities" quoted by the county revel in characterizing mulattoes and others of interracial background as "scrofulous," "suffering from diseased glands, suppurating sores," "lacking in fertility," "inferior in vitality, intelligence, and consequently morality, liable to be a burden on the state," etc.

Negroes are spoken of repeatedly as "inferior" to whites, but the greatest insults and scorn are saved for mulattoes. It should be borne in mind that the great majority of those who are termed Negroes in this country are in reality mulattoes.

At the hearing held in Los Angeles on Oct. 6, Deputy County Counsel Charles C. Stanley, Jr., filed the county brief and orally pleaded in defense of the law, again asserting that the "black race" is inferior mentally and physically to the "white race."

In his reply Attorney Marshall showed that the statute in question was in direct contradiction to the Declaration of Independence statement: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal." He denied the argument that the people in California support the prejudice and ignorance reflected in the law and insisted on the right of the individual to choose his marriage partner in accordance with his own conscience. He also asked, and received, a 20-day delay to prepare an answer to the lengthy county brief.

The position taken by Los Angeles County authorities in this case is just as harmful to the Negro struggle for equality as help given to lynchers by the authorities in the South. The fight against it, like the fight against lynching in the South, requires the support of all opponents of racial discrimination in this country.

Report from Never-Never Land

By Joseph Andrews

The Oct. 1 Daily Worker contains an article by George Morris entitled "Report from Akron." A more fitting title is "Report from Never-Never Land." It is a masterpiece of wishful thinking.

The Stalinist hack Morris states, "The paralyzing influence of Trotskyites (in Akron) which at one time was serious there, is no longer a big factor. Active Communist unionists to whom I talked said they are welcome to contribute their best to the union and are not considered second-class citizens."

This is aimed to create the following impression: Until recently the CIO rubber unions in Akron have been "paralyzed" by Trotskyist influence, but now the Stalinists have stepped in, swept this sinister force aside and revitalized the unions, where they work in a friendly atmosphere.

What Morris and his fellow Stalinist fakers refer to as the period of "paralysis" is the wartime period during which the Firestone, Goodrich and Goodyear locals distinguished themselves as courageous and militant unions by defying the infamous no-strike pledge in action, in two great wartime strikes.

During the biggest of these strikes, when the Firestone and Goodyear locals were out on the streets fighting for the life of the union against company and government attacks, the Stalinists published a newspaper ad calling upon workers to break the strike and attempting to start a back-to-work movement.

But the "paralyzing" influence of tens and thousands of militant workers repudiated this scab attack and the workers did not go back until they were damned good and ready.

Now we Trotskyists do not go around blowing our horn, attempting to kid people into believing that we are on top of the heap in Akron or anywhere else. But we are proud to say that we supported the rubber workers in their difficult wartime struggles, and did

our part to oppose Stalinist strikebreaking.

Today there are a great many unionists who will remember the role of the Stalinists during the war. In the Firestone Local the Stalinists are so hated that some of the leaders have mistakenly taken the path of red-baiting. In the Goodyear local the Stalinists are in the good graces only of conservatives who also supported wartime strikebreaking. And in the strong Goodrich Local 5 they are what they should be everywhere — beaten, discredited, impotent. All they have is a group of four or five whose chief attribute is their ability to kill almost any proposition by merely supporting it on the floor. Looking for a needle in a haystack is a cinch compared with finding a Stalinist who could run for any post in the big Akron rubber locals and get elected.

The whole basis of Morris' boasting and dreams of glory is this: At the recent URWA convention, progressive and principled Akron unionists voted on the same side as the Stalinists on such questions as opposing union compliance with the Taft-Hartley Law.

The biggest laugh of all is that while the Daily Worker rants against the Trotskyites, at the last Goodrich Local 5 membership meeting a well-known but not-bright Stalinist reportedly made a motion to "commend Local 5 delegates on their progressive stand at the Boston convention, especially their stand on the Taft-Hartley law."

Yet everybody knows that the Local 5 floor leader at the convention on this particular question is very friendly to the Trotskyites. Thus the Akron Stalinists are now seeking to "commend" those whom Morris wants to slander as "paralyzers."

This amusing discrepancy will no doubt lead to a purge to cleanse the Akron CP of "falsifiers, rumor mongers and wreckers."

Notes from the News

CIRCULATION OF WEEKLIES — The recent reports submitted to the Post Office showed the following average weekly circulation figures during the past year: National CIO News — 132,281; Sunday Worker — 67,466; New Republic — 58,056; Nation — 41,050; The Militant — 12,500; New Masses — 12,186; New Leader — 11,830; Socialist Call — 11,323; Labor Action — 4,822. The Progressive, which folded up this month, had approximately 25,000 readers. (The above Worker figure was for its Sunday edition only; average sales of the Daily Worker were 21,016.)

5% FOR BARBARIA — In a straw vote at the San Francisco Telenews Theater, Frank Barbaria got 53 votes out of approximately 1,000. Top vote was for Rep. Frank Havenner who got 580.

DEPORTATION DELIRIUM — Latest victim of the federal witch-hunt is Steve Miller, a Stalinist, who has lived in U. S. for 16 years. Two prominent trade unionists in the New York area had been arrested previously.

HATES FEPC — Before a Senate committee Donald Richberg, a one-time top New Dealer, assailed proposed FEPC legislation as "detestable," "communistic," unconstitutional, a violation of "the pursuit of happiness" and certain to destroy "free enterprise."

COURT OKAYS JIM CROW — The Metropolitan Life Insurance Jim Crow housing policy was upheld for the second time by N. Y. courts. The insurance company's huge housing project, built strictly as a business investment for profit, was made possible by tax exemptions and use of government condemnation powers.

STALINISTS AGAIN "BETRAYED" — Gov. James E. Folsom has signed a bill outlawing the Communist Party in Alabama. Folsom, whom the Stalinists had praised before his election as a "progressive," stated that the new law "does not endanger our civil liberties."

FOR CRITICS — "If we continue on into war, I'll probably end up in a concentration camp," said Senator Glen Taylor in a speech criticizing the Truman Doctrine.

VOLUNTARY COERCION — More than one and a quarter million tenants have "agreed" to "voluntary" 15% rent increases, Washington authorities reveal.

CONGRESS AND FEPC — The only people who benefited from Congressional consideration of FEPC legislation in 1947 were those railroads which collected fares from persons who went to Washington to testify," says NAACP Labor Secretary Clarence Mitchell.