



Report from Europe

# German Political Parties and Remilitarization

By Ernest Germain

The problem of the remilitarization of Germany today dominates the inter-imperialist discussions. The necessity of such a remilitarization in the frame-work of building up the military power of capitalist Europe seems obvious from the bourgeois point of view. But the ways and means of this remilitarization pose again, under new conditions, the old problem of the balance of power on the European continent.

Whatever may be the various schemes for "integrating" the capitalist armies of Europe into a single striking force, each state is considering this problem from a narrow "national" viewpoint, and is forced to do so, lest it lose its small margin of survival in the world market to the benefit of a competitor. The attitude of American imperialism of Britain, France and the Benelux powers toward the problem of German remilitarization does not indicate so much what these countries have at present in common, as it demonstrates the sharp rivalries and contradictions which continue to exist between their respective ruling classes.

At least of equal interest is the way in which the different German political parties reacted to the problem of remilitarization. These various reactions are a good barometer of the views of the various layers of German society as to the political future of their country, and they show at the same time what powerful forces are at work to undermine the present one-sided relationship between the "victorious" powers of World War II and the "vanquished" German bourgeoisie.

A big controversy has been going on inside Germany between the government and the opposition ever since the problem of remilitarization was squarely put before German public opinion by the projects of the Western occupation forces. This controversy, which is mainly but not exclusively ascribed to Doctor Adenauer's reactionary governmental Christian Social Union (CDU) and Kurt Schumacher's Social Democracy, is by no means a controversy on the necessity of remilitarization. On the contrary, both government and opposition express the same desire to build up, with utmost speed and efficiency, a military force capable of checking a "threatening Russian attack." And this unanimity only expresses the unbound fear of a Russian occupation under which all shades of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois opinion are living today in Western Germany.

**THREE ATTITUDES**

The differences lie elsewhere. They lie in the relationship of Germany towards the Western imperialist powers as it will develop out of the remilitarization plans. Here three different shades of opinion can be distinguished: the main bulk of the Rhineland

express the same desire to build up, with utmost speed and efficiency, a military force capable of checking a "threatening Russian attack." And this unanimity only expresses the unbound fear of a Russian occupation under which all shades of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois opinion are living today in Western Germany.

But the big industrial revival of the past year is rapidly bringing

## NEGRO 24TH REGIMENT SUBJECTED TO SYSTEMATIC SMEAR CAMPAIGN

By Fred Hart

After the cynical fiasco of civil rights in Congress, the Korean war has given the Truman administration another opportunity to demonstrate exactly what are its policies in regard to the American Negroes.

The 24th Infantry Regiment is a regiment of Negroes. It had been stationed in Japan for some years and when the war broke out in Korea it was one of the first regiments dispatched to the Korean war zone. At Yechon the regiment defeated North Korean forces. It was a lean time for the American army. This was the first victory that it could claim. The capitalist press announced it as the first victory of American arms and played up the fact that it had been won by Negroes.

The Pittsburgh Courier now reports the following shocking story:

Certain elements in the U.S. command disapproved of the favorable publicity which had been given to the Negroes. It was given no relief. It was compelled to continue fighting week after week, with the inevit-

able results, says the Courier, that its efficiency was impaired. Heavy numbers of highly trained officers and non-commissioned officers became casualties. The replacements were green Negro recruits from the States or from labor battalions who, through inexperience, sometimes gave ground and enabled the North Korean forces to break through on one or two occasions.

Obviously North Korean forces broke through American ranks many times and captured many American prisoners. But the failures of the 24th were magnified out of all proportion to the significance of the events.

### ALL IN THEIR POWER

Says the Courier: "There are evidences that white officers both of line and staff, have done all in their power to disparage and discredit these colored soldiers." The smear propaganda has been fed to the Army in particular and to the United States in general.

The American people should not believe, however, that this abuse of power is directed purely against Negroes. In Great Britain the most radicalized elements of

the working class are to be found in such areas as South Wales, the Clyde Side and the Lancashire cotton mills. It has been claimed that during World War I the British High Command regularly sent regiments from these areas into the bloodiest parts of the battlefield. The aim was to thin them out and relieve capitalism of some, at least, of these potentially revolutionary elements.

The ruling class in every country has its own war, whose interests come before any other kind of war. This is the war they carry on against the oppressed and the exploited and particularly those among the people who show energy and determination in resisting the tyrants and blood-suckers who live off of them.

### CAN'T BE RELIED ON

It is therefore entirely ridiculous to entertain the slightest belief that President Truman or Secretary of Defense Marshall or any of the other hardened defenders of American capitalism will take any steps whatever to put an end to segregation in the armed forces or anywhere else.

General Eisenhower is an example of what we can expect from these people. He was boasting for the presidency two years ago by all sorts of liberals, including Walter White who praised him in an Amsterdam News article for his "liberal" policy toward Negroes. The very next week Eisenhower went before Congress and openly opposed the ending of segregation in the armed forces.

The cruel, shameful and unjust treatment of the 24th is another proof of how few rights the Negro has under capitalism in peace or war. The Negro will conquer with the working class or live forever under the torture of capital oppression.

As an eye-witness to the events in the Parel Area, the writer can testify that the concentration of violence on Aug. 31 exceeded even the worst days of imperialist repression, including the police violence which the writer saw during the days following the 1942 movement.

Trams were converted into armored cars loaded with armed Home Guards. These were flanked by lorries with armed hoodlums. They fired to kill on people in buildings on either side of the road. They raided two buildings and fired at the inmates. Police on at least 10 occasions fired tear gas shells into private apartments.

"14. Every man in the company wanted to testify in my

This murderous rampage ended

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Monday, October 16, 1950



TROTSKY



LENIN

"For a whole series of stages, the bourgeoisie entrenched its power under the form of parliamentary democracy. Even then, not peacefully and not voluntarily... But precisely with the (first world) war there begins the distinct decline of capitalism and above all, of its democratic form of domination. It is now no longer a matter of new reforms and alms, but of cutting down and abolishing the old ones. Therewith the bourgeoisie comes into conflict not only with the institutions of proletarian democracy (trade unions and political parties) but also with parliamentary democracy, within the framework of which arose the labor organizations."

— Leon Trotsky, *Fascism, What It Is, How to Fight It.*

## Best Congress Since the 80th

"Best U.S. Congress Since 1938 Reversed Reactionary Trend" is the startling headline that greeted us in the Sept. 29 AFL Weekly News Service. We read on to see if it wasn't a gag. It wasn't.

In all seriousness the AFL leaders credit the 81st Congress with "completely reversing the reactionary trend" because "this was the first Congress in 12 years to broaden New Deal legislation."

It's true this Congress, the Republicans as well as Democrats, did hike old age pension benefits up to the purchasing level they were at back in 1939 before war inflation had cut them in half. But now Truman and Congress have doubled the war budget which has set off a bigger inflation and already sliced the new benefits 15% in purchasing power.

Another thing the AFL leaders point to is the new housing program. They don't mention that Truman's undeclared war on Korea has shot the housing program, inadequate as it is, to pieces.

Did knifing of the FEPC bill "completely reverse" the reactionary trend? The McCarran-Kilgore law to wipe out

the Bill of Rights? The monstrous militarization program? The new "soak the poor, protect the rich" tax law? If these indicate even a slight reversal of the reactionary trend, then Hitler's Nuremberg Laws deserve to stand side by side with the Declaration of Independence.

If this is the "best" Congress in twelve years, it just goes to show how foul were the preceding Congresses, all but one Democratic-controlled.

Seeking a clincher to its argument, the AFL paper concludes that, after all, even if this Congress did retain the Taft-Hartley law, "neither did the Taft-Hartleyites make the law more stringent."

The AFL leaders' attempts to find some consolation in this Congress reminds us of poor Mrs. Jones. Her whole life was a misery. Her drunken husband beat her up every day. Her daughter was ruined by a traveling man. She gasped with asthma and could hardly walk with arthritis. And there was an eviction order against her. "Mrs. Jones," her pastor asked in commiseration, "isn't there some solace you get out of life?" "Well," she sighed after some thought, "there's always my virtuous."

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## AUSTRIAN LABOR ALIENATED BY MANEUVERS OF STALINISTS

By Charles Hanley

On Oct. 4 the Stalinists staged big demonstrations in different parts of Austria, including the Soviet occupation zone. These actions were directed against the economic policy of the Austrian government and especially against rising prices. (The government is run by a Catholic-Social Democratic coalition.)

The CP had called a 24-hour strike, which was only partly successful. Mass demonstrations took place in Vienna and other cities.

Communist workers occupied street intersections, a rail line and a bridge in the Soviet sector of Vienna and stormed the post office at Wiener Neustadt, an industrial town in the Soviet zone.

Thousands of workers, probably more than had voted for the CP in the last elections, participated in the demonstrations because they are indeed concerned about the rising cost of living and the pro-capitalist policy of the government. But the majority of the Austrian working class as a whole opposed the Stalinist action, and at Wiener Neustadt a real fight developed.

Many workers were unwilling to be used in what they considered to be one of the Kremlin's maneuvers. Their experience has taught them that such demonstrations (which are often costly because of possible arrests and other serious risks) are organized by the Stalinists only when it suits the tactics of the Kremlin diplo-

macy — and called off when Moscow's zigzag policy requires it, regardless of the workers' real needs and interests. Here, as elsewhere, the criminal policy of Stalinism has weakened the labor movement by spreading confusion and mistrust among the toilers.

At Wiener Neustadt the local Soviet commander first opposed the seizure of the post office by the demonstrators. Then he suddenly helped them against the anti-Stalinists. When finally the Western powers convened the four-power council in Vienna and reproached the Russians for favoring anti-government activities, the movement died down everywhere. Apparently, the CP leaders had received orders from their Russian masters to stop, and to avoid complications. This probably has provoked uneasiness among members of the Austrian CP, which is already faced with a growing crisis in its ranks and can ill afford new defeats and defections.

In Austria, like the rest of the world, it is being proved over and over again that genuine workers' parties must remain independent of the Soviet bureaucrats and generals as well as of the Western imperialists.

— Charles Hanley

## Stalin Held Out on Koreans, Former Soviet Officer Reveals

(Continued from Page 1)  
Korean representatives when they came to Moscow seeking aid and ran into the cynical attempts of the Kremlin dictatorship to wring maximum advantage from their situation.

**"REASON" OFFERED**  
"At the end of this meeting," Kanov continues, "I spoke with General Zakharov, whom I had known during the defense of Sevastopol. I asked him frankly what the reasons were for the Politburo's stubbornness in this matter. He smiled, and patted my shoulder:

"We must be prudent with these Koreans. We are going to form a modern army, capable of maneuvering and striking. But we must not act like the sorcerer's apprentice, so that one day this force might upset our game in the Far East. If the Koreans got a strong air force, together with a good armored army, they would be able to reach Pusan quickly, and to attack the strongest fortifications in the straits separating Korea from Japan. They could then repeat in reverse the famous Japanese leapfrog, across these straits which are dotted with islands, and, by way of Tsushima, reach Shimonoseki and Sasebo."

"That would mean war with the United States. We are not interested in provoking such a war. Technically, it would not be difficult to give them a thousand

planes, especially since there is no lack of pilots. There were close to 500 in the Chinese Army."

These "reasons" for not providing the North Koreans with an air force sound like a sop to the natural curiosity of officers like Kanov. An attack by the North Koreans on Japan is obviously fantastic. They were motivated politically, as all evidence shows, by the desire to unify their country and win freedom from the oppressive Syngman Rhee puppet regime.

### WHAT THEY FEARED

What Moscow feared was the creation of a Korea able to achieve independence from the Kremlin as well as Washington. That is the real meaning of not acting "like the sorcerer's apprentice" who set in motion forces he could not control and which threatened to drown him. The Politburo, obviously thinking of Yugoslavia, decided to dole out only sufficient arms to win against Syngman Rhee but not enough to create a regime strong enough to stand up against Stalinist totalitarianism.

Relations between Moscow and the North Koreans were already not entirely smooth, it appears. Upon arrival of the Soviet mission in Korea, Kanov found that a Moscow bureaucrat, Mikhailov, was "greatly aroused against" the North Koreans. Among other items, it seems the Koreans had "tried by every means to cheat us of several hundred cars."

"They're all thieves and liars," he told our Colonel Miaskov."

Kanov does not reveal what price the Koreans were forced to pay for such things as railroad cars which they got from the USSR, but recalling the stiff prices Stalin charged the Spanish loyalists during the civil war in Spain for poor and inadequate equipment, and visualizing how a Korean patriot would seek to pay Stalin's watchdogs at the cash register, we can well understand why Mikhailov was "greatly aroused."

### COOL WELCOME

The military mission did not meet with a warm welcome. "Great reserve was displayed by the North Korean government representatives." Apparently they resented Moscow's unilateral decisions and were worried about the grave weaknesses inherent in an army lacking both air and amphibious forces.

At Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea, the mission met a delegation of high civil servants, representatives of the trade unions, the Communist Party and the municipality. Khon Men Khi, vice-president of the Council and War Minister, "warmly thanked the Soviet government and Generalissimo Stalin for sending our mission to North Korea." And Shitkov, the Soviet Ambassador, put the heat on the Korean Foreign Minister, taking him aside to explain "that

there would be all sorts of difficulties if the prearranged plan were upset."

Kanov then mentions a conversation that casts a revealing light on Moscow's fear of the development of "Trotskyism" in Korea — "Trotskyism" in the Kremlin's dictionary being any mood, trend or force whatever toward independence from the Stalinist bureaucracy whether it is consciously felt and expressed or simply inherent in the situation.

### TROTSKYITES?

"Colonel Miaskov, who was seated next to me, said in a low voice, 'We've got to be diplomatic with these people, but our orders are definite... Kim Il Sung himself, Pak Chen En, Khon Men Khi, and many others are old Trotskyites, like Mao Tse-tung and Chu Teh, and like Tito too. We can't reject their demands categorically, but we must drag things out and wear them down.'

Kanov asked Miaskov about the possibility of the North Koreans getting planes elsewhere. "No danger of that," Miaskov responded. "Prague will give them nothing without our consent. To buy in Switzerland or Sweden, they would need foreign exchange, which they haven't got. As for the planes in Kalgan, it's our Comrade Klonin who controls them, not Chu Teh."

The Koreans, nevertheless, persisted in demanding planes. "Our

generals proposed several times to adjourn the discussion of air power, but the Koreans would not agree. Each side held firmly to its position, repeating the same arguments."

General Kubanov finally rose from his seat to end the embarrassing situation by adjourning the meeting. "The plan approved in Moscow will remain the basis for our work," Kubanov said. "We shall also take into account, as far as possible, the proposals of Comrade Khon Men Khi."

But the Korean spokesman "was not yet beaten. He refused to sign the minutes."

Finally, the Soviet representatives agreed to another meeting "to settle the air force question definitely."

### PRESSURE UNSUCCESSFUL

The Korean Stalinists appeared fairly well united in their dissatisfaction with Moscow. Kim Il Sung, head of the Korean government, continued the pressure through other channels for an air force. However, he did not succeed and the second meeting did not last long.

Kim Il Sung "had talked directly with Molotov, and understood that resistance was futile. Molotov had been categorical. He promised only that a group of 150 planes would be readied and put at the disposition of the Korean command. This figure had been planned from the beginning, but had not previously been an-

nounced, so that it looked as if we were giving the Koreans some satisfaction."

Kanov's eyewitness account thus lifts a corner of the veil on relations between Moscow, the Koreans and the Chinese Stalinists. His articles ring true in the main, for what he reveals corresponds with Moscow's record in similar situations.

The Kremlin tries to head revolutionary struggles to use them as small change in its reactionary foreign dealings. It tries to restrain such struggles, to keep them under strict control. When the mass pressure grows great, Moscow will make concessions to avoid loss of leadership but such concessions are always of a partial, miserly character.

It may well have been in North Korea that the Kremlin felt it would have lost control of the independence movement if it had offered too strong opposition to local initiative. In fact Moscow may have felt forced to go along with its efforts to unite Korea.

From Stalin's viewpoint a Korean defeat is a lesser evil than establishment of a truly independent Korea which could help give new dynamism to revolutionary socialism and start new contingents down the road taken by the Yugoslavs.

Thus Stalin helped defeat the North Koreans by denying them adequate aid and shares with American imperialism the guilt for the terrible setbacks dealt the Korean movement for independence.

This conclusion is bound to be drawn among all politically-advanced working people as the facts become known. Once again Stalinism stands exposed as counter-revolutionary to the core despite any incidental help it may give out of reactionary calculations to a progressive struggle. Of all roles, Stalin does not want to play that of a "sorcerer's apprentice" conjuring up revolutionary independence from Moscow.

## Official Policies Scored at Laborite Parley

By Paul G. Stevens

By all accounts received here so far, last week's annual conference of the British Labor Party reflects a growing trend to the left among the working masses and foreshadows a coming crisis in the leadership. Rank and file delegates, some representing important unions, challenged the leaders on every question of policy from the beginning to the end of the five-day gathering. Although a skillful manipulation of the conference machinery and a slight yielding to the pressure, the officials avoided a head-on clash on policy, the proceedings left no doubt in the minds of observers that a showdown was in the offing.

Morrison, known to be an advocate of going slow on further nationalizations, exclaimed: "We may be asked specifically whether cement, sugar, and industrial assurance are dropped. The answer to that is No! (Loud cheers)." Even Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin was very militant — though by proxy. He is quoted as saying, "The great labor movement of the AFL and the CIO and their political committees would bring down any government in the United States that set out on a path of aggression." Naturally, the "left wing" Minister of Health, Aneurin Bevan, caught the mood of the conference best of all the current leaders, and he showed it by stressing the "concessions" they had been "compelled" to make to the capitalists up to the present.

**RANKS DISSATISFIED**  
The whole tenor of the discussion from the floor was indeed to the effect that the rank and file was dissatisfied with the lack of progress toward socialism and disappointed in the non-socialist policies of the government. On the very first day, the presentation of the report of the National Executive Committee was followed by a barrage. H. Ratner (East Salford), a delegate from

an industrial section representing a party body of 4,000 members, moved rejection of a statement on Korea. The London Times paraphrased his remarks — which were also the subject of vicious editorial comment in the N. Y. Daily News — as follows:

"The divisional Labor Party (East Salford) thought that intervention in Korea was an attempt to maintain a foothold for imperialism in Asia and to impose upon the Korean people a regime which they had rejected in the elections last May. The Asian peoples would not tolerate imperialist rule, nor that of native stooges. The Korean episode could not be dismissed as a mere Communist plot directed from Moscow. Although everyone knew that Russia used genuine popular movements to suit her own diplomatic ends, this was no excuse for the Labor Party to ally itself with the reactionary forces of American capitalism."

Another delegate, A. H. Upton (Tonbridge), seconded the motion with a similar speech, but before further discussion could get underway, Secretary Morgan Phillips called for cessation of the debate in view of the special point on foreign policy later on the agenda and the motion was lost.

Delegate G. Healy (Streatham) protested against the atmosphere of witch-hunt and persecution of party members who expressed opinions that might coincide with those of people termed fellow-travelers. The secretary assured the conference that this matter was getting consideration.

A number of questions from the floor asked whether aid was forthcoming to Yugoslavia, in view of the blockade by the Cominform countries. Replying for the leadership, Hugh Dalton said that the government was "anxious to have most friendly and helpful relations" with Yugoslavia, and had the same attitude toward China.

### MANAGEMENT DEBATE

The delegates then launched an attack upon the management of the nationalized industries by the government. R. Openshaw, a member of the new General Council of the Trade Union Congress, speaking for his own powerful Amalgamated Engineering Union, proposed a resolution calling upon the government "to cease re-employment in nationalized industries of former owners of units unless they were known to be favorably disposed to the new order; to ensure that at least half of the members of boards were working class representatives elected by the workers; to fix salaries of executives more consistent with a socialist economy; and to curtail administrative expenses."

One delegate after another rose to support this resolution and to implement it with other motions, including demands that compensation to former owners be cut in half. When Arthur Deakin of the Transport and General Workers Union got up to oppose these resolutions he was greeted with jeers. On the vote, however, the bloc ballots cast by his union and those allied with him in the right wing defeated the resolution 2,727,000.

Shocked by the result, Bullock reversed himself and ruled that a separate vote on the report was required. The vote showed the report was defeated by 3,898,000 to 3,521,000, an even bigger setback for the effort to save face for the leadership.

Later, on a resolution calling for equal pay for equal work for women, the leadership was swamped 4,490,000 to 2,367,000 — almost two to one. Of the major reports, only the one on Public Ownership, which was couched in vague and legalistic language hiding its reactionary intent from the delegates, got unanimous approval for the General Council.

Signs of rank and file pressure were discernible in many other

debate took place when Bevin returned to England from the Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York. Speaking on resolution from the floor, which considerably toned down militant anti-war sentiments expressed in 39 different resolutions from local organizations, delegates expressed the fear that "rearmament could not prevent war" but the contrary; said that the people they represented were perturbed by the growing tension and the "complete tie-up" with American militarism; and, like Scottish MP Emrys Hughes, warned the leaders that "by next year they would find a revolt among the rank and file after the economic consequences of rearmament."

The whole prestige of Bevin and the solid support of the trade union bloc behind him were required to defeat this resolution. Nevertheless it mustered 881,000 votes, mainly from the local branches of the party, against the 4,861,000 rolled up by the leadership. The whole discussion was a disquieting sign for the leaders — the rank and file's socialist convictions were beginning to penetrate on foreign policy even as they were making themselves feel much more strongly on domestic policy.

## BRITISH UNIONISTS FORCE CHANGE ON PAY FREEZE

The recent conference of the British Trades Union Congress was the nearest thing to an upheaval that the traditionally slow-moving British labor movement has experienced in a long time. Not only did the delegates upset a move on collusion on steel between the capitalists and right-wing union leaders, but the basis for a revolutionary policy was put forward, although as yet unsuccessfully, by some of the biggest unions in the country.

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## Prussianizing the U.S.

By George Breitman

With the enactment of the McCarran-Kilgore police-state law, it is clear that the structure of capitalist democracy has been seriously impaired and that the political life of the country has entered a new stage. The principal force in this change for the worse is the capitalist class, which plays a far different role today than it played in the 18th and 19th centuries. In those days it was willing to accept and in fact needed the support of the masses to consolidate its own rule against such competitors as the slaveholding class, and it performed progressive functions politically and economically.

But all that has changed since the growth of monopoly, the crisis of world capitalism and the drive of the American capitalist class to make a colony out of the rest of the world. Where in the past the capitalists at least tolerated the maintenance or extension of democratic liberties, today they are actively hostile to the Bill of Rights and aggressively assault its very foundations. This is something new in this country, and for that reason the closest parallels to what is happening here today won't be found in American history, but in European.

Although there is much that is Nazi-like in the spirit of the McCarran-Kilgore law, we reject the notion that its enactment represents the victory of American fascism. The experience of Europe teaches us that fascism is the naked dictatorship of finance capital, resting on a counter-revolutionary mass movement recruited especially from the desperate middle classes. Today there is no such mass movement in this country. The McCarran-Kilgore law is something imposed from above; it does not reflect the sentiments of large numbers of people; as yet, most Americans don't even know what is in the law.

This law greases the way for the growth of fascist tendencies, but fascism today is not a big power in American life. For one thing, the capitalist class has not yet felt the need for a Hitler, which is a costly proposition. Even more important, the working class has not yet suffered any decisive defeats and will have numerous chances to take over the leadership of the nation before fascism can make its bid.

A more precise understanding of what is happening to American democracy can be derived from an earlier phase of German history when the Prussian officer caste was in the saddle as the servant of German capitalism and the enemy

of the nation's liberties. Even many liberals recognize the fact that the last decade has seen the emergence of the American military caste into positions of real power in key governmental spheres. They demanded and got the peacetime draft; they are demanding and will probably get permanent conscription; they already have control over millions of youth and a major part of the federal budget; in the field of production, their demands have priority over those of the great mass of consumers; they decide who can and who cannot work in the most important industries; and their power continues to spread all the time. Unless checked, they will soon occupy a position comparable to the one held by the military caste in Prussia.

Capitalist militarism has little understanding, patience and use for democracy. To the brass hats it is nuisance at best, a source of weakness and inefficiency that should be rooted out. He knows what he wants to do — make an arsenal and training camp out of the U.S. and a zone of occupation out of the rest of the globe — and he doesn't want to spend time explaining, arguing or defending his course. A soldier can't talk back when he is given an order; why should a worker have that privilege? Why not substitute the Articles of War for the Bill of Rights?

The McCarran-Kilgore law is the brass hat's dream. It is designed to do for politics what basic training is intended to achieve with the rookie — regimentation and intimidation. Under favorable circumstances and with the proper administration, it might prove to be just as effective as military discipline. Whether or not the brass hats actively favored the new law doesn't matter; if they had been asked to draw up an "anti-subversive" bill of their own, it would not have differed essentially from the one passed by Congress.

In this sense we can say that the new law is another and very advanced stage in the Prussianization of America. We think this term is helpful for purposes of action and orientation because it aids us to understand what the capitalist rulers have not yet achieved as well as to estimate how far they have already proceeded on the road of reaction. They have taken long steps toward regimenting the nation — but at the same time they have not been able to crush the power of organized labor or to hogtie the masses. Therein lies the source and the hope of effective resistance to their schemes to deprive us of our liberties.

## A Letter to Italy

By John F. Petrone

Dear Uncle:

I read your letters about conditions in Italy today with great interest. From what you write I can see that things are indeed unhappy there. But don't get the impression that the U.S. is a paradise. On the contrary. This country seems to be becoming a madhouse. Since you are old enough to remember the days when Mussolini came to power, you would probably experience a shock of recognition if you could see and feel the political situation here today.

"Communism" is the issue, the only issue, that the dominant political parties are willing to discuss during the current election campaign. It is like an obsession with them; they must dream about it at night. Every policy, every proposal, every act must be motivated by them from the viewpoint of its relation to or effect upon "communism." Both the Democratic and Republican Parties ask to be given power primarily because they have been or will be better fighters against "communism" than their rivals. Congress votes for a loan to France; its supporters justify it as a blow against "communism," its opponents denounce it as aid to "communism."

For the liberals and some of the radicals, this too has become the chief criterion. Passage of the McCarran-Kilgore registration and concentration camp bill and defeat of the bill to curb racial discrimination in employment are alike deplored by them first of all on the ground that these steps "play into the hands of communism." One begins to wonder when it was that any public issues were debated from any other standpoint, and one goes to the movies expecting any day to be confronted with a film in which the hero pleads for the hand of the heroine as an "anti-communist" measure.

I enclose clippings about this McCarran-Kilgore registration law (which the liberals urge the people to "loyally obey") — also of course as less liberty.

Your devoted nephew,  
John

## Ford Rolling-Mill Men Strike Against Pay Cut

DETROIT, Oct. 9 — The Ford rolling mill workers walked out to protest a huge wage cut and held out determinedly for four days in spite of the greatest pressure from the Reutherite union officials.

The action was provoked when these workers and other steel operations men were notified that the new pay schedules provide for straight-time pay for 40 hours, including Saturday and Sundays. This will mean a weekly loss of \$30 to \$60. Up to now, steel operations workers have received time and a half and double time for Saturdays and Sundays respectively when their work week fell on these days.

The Ford management answered the protest by laying off 8,800 pressed steel workers.

UAW President Walter Reuther last year traded away many long standing union conditions for his miserable pension plan. Among these horse trades was his agreement to set up a union-management committee to study the pay practices of the steel industry and bring the Ford steel operations practices into line with the rest of the steel industry. When Reuther was "selling" the pension agreement to the Local 600 work-

ers at the October 1949 membership meeting, he threatened the strikers with a leaflet saying that, "If you were sent home in the last three days, it was because of an illegal, unauthorized work stoppage which took place in the rolling mill." Stellato blamed the strikers for the layoffs, although it was the UAW leadership who made the sell-out agreement that forced the workers to strike.

In spite of the stand taken by Stellato and Bannon, the union's national Ford director, the majority of the workers in the other units were sympathetic to the cause of the strikers.

In the course of the strike Stellato set up another of his ineffectual committees to take up disputed issues. His "runaway shop" committee has still not gotten all the facts after five months of existence. He substitutes "investigating" committees for militant action. These committees investigate, report and discuss. Ford still says, "No!"

The Ford Motor Co. has threatened disciplinary action against the strikers. The union leaders are also reported to be considering disciplinary action. The entire membership must defend their brothers in the rolling mill if these threats are put into action.

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### DEMOCRATIC STRATEGY

The entire strategy of the Democratic-CIO coalition is to make vague promises, posing as friends of labor while banking on the Republican majority as their alibi for failing to carry out these promises. They have not the slightest intention of touching a single one of the old social sores like discrimination, housing and

# THE MILITANT

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### Remnants of a Korean Village



Not much is left of Korean cities and villages after MacArthur's troops get done "liberating" them. In the scene above, the few pitiful objects not blasted to bits have been carefully collected and placed together in the foreground. The scene is typical of the ruin and devastation that have been created in most Korean communities.

## Why Mitchell Voted for McCarran-Kilgore Law

By Daniel Roberts  
SWP Candidate for Congress,  
First Washington District

"How could he do it?" That is the question progressive workers and students are asking in the First District. They refer to the vote that Hugh Mitchell, the liberal Democratic incumbent, cast for the McCarran-Kilgore bill.

Some ask the question in dismay; others in anger. But there is no question that this vote shook them all up. The great liberal has been found wanting on one of the cardinal principles of democracy — the upholding of freedom of speech. That he also voted to sustain Truman's veto does not lessen the anger and dismay. These workers and students are quite right. The vote FOR the bill is the true mark of the man.

Mitchell's vote for the McCarran-Kilgore bill did not come as a surprise to the Socialist Workers Party. We knew such an act was being prepared by his whole prior record.

Mitchell is a typical representative of the Americans for Democratic Action and their bigwig and small-time politicians in and out of office. They play at reform. But in the steady march of Big Business towards a police state and intensified exploitation of the American workers, the liberals simply tag behind. They get excited over handing out a crumb here and a peanut there, and endlessly vaunt their democratic principles. But they are rushing headlong down the road to reaction.

The Congressional record of the ADA liberals shows one steady surrender without battle after another to the Taft-Hartleyites, the race-baiters, the war-mongers, and the witch-hunters whom they proclaimed with loud fanfare they were going to fight. Mitchell's record in the 81st Congress will serve to illustrate this point.

### A LIBERAL RECORD

Mitchell voted against Marcanito's motion for outright repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. He voted against the anti-segregation amendments in the housing and education bills. He voted for the toothless FEPC after a fair employment bill with enforcement provisions failed of passage. He shouted approval for American imperialism's war against the Korean people and sought to embellish it with liberal verbiage.

What was there left for him to do after such a record but vote for the police-state bill?

I talked to Mitchell two years ago about the case of James Kutcher, the legless veteran who was fired from his clerical job with the Veterans Administration because he belongs to our party. Kutcher's courageous fight against Truman's "loyalty" program inspired true fighters for free speech everywhere throughout the country.

**THE KUTCHER CASE**  
I briefed Mitchell on the Kutcher case and asked him to take a stand against that kind of outrage. This was right before the 1948 elections. Mitchell assured me he was opposed to any persecution for ideas such as Kutcher's dismissal represented. "Come see me after the elections," he said. "It would not be wise for me to say anything publicly now."

I again talked to Mitchell about the case after the elections. He told me: "I prefer not to commit myself on just one case. (Even a test case!) I prefer to attack the loyalty program as a whole. I can be more effective that way." That is the last we ever heard of Mitchell on the question of free speech — until his vote for the McCarran-Kilgore bill. His cowardly evasions on the Kutcher case paved the way for his later vote.

As the crisis of capitalism grows more acute and as it drives America's Sixty Families ever more on the road to war and attempted mastery of the world, the possibilities for it to grant even the most moderate reforms grow smaller and slimmer. Police-state laws, intensified Jim Crow, the hamstringing of organized labor, and support to counter-revolution abroad — these are the inevitable manifestations in the ruling class efforts to meet the crisis of American capitalism.

The would-be democratic reformers within the camp of the capitalist parties have no choice but to fall in line and march along.

Only those who take their stand on the side of independent working-class politics and the struggle for socialism can be trusted to uphold the democratic rights of all working people at home and abroad.

### Tax the Rich!

"Reap all payroll taxes. Abolish all sales taxes. No taxes on income under \$5,000 a year. A 100% tax on incomes over \$25,000 a year. Tax the rich, not the poor." From the SWP 1950 Election Platform.

## Myra T. Weiss Certified For California Ballot

By Lois Saunders

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 8 — Myra Tanner Weiss was officially certified this week by Secretary of State Frank M. Jordan as a candidate for the House of Representatives from the 19th Congressional District (Los Angeles).

Comrade Weiss, whose name will appear on the ballot as an independent candidate, has plunged into an energetic speaking campaign, addressing three separate union and community meetings in as many evenings.

Following official certification, Comrade Weiss also issued a challenge to incumbent Chet Holifield, her sole opponent, to debate with her such issues as "The Bill of Rights or the Concentration Camp," or other subjects vital to the interests of the workers.

Holifield,

darling of the labor bureaucrats of both the AFL and CIO, is the official standard-bearer of both the Democratic and Republican parties, as a result of the peculiarities of California's cross-filing system. The Independent Progressive Party (Wallaceites) and the Stalinists supported Holifield when he ran for Congress two years ago. By refraining from running a candidate of their own in the present election, they give tacit endorsement to his candidacy.

In an interview, Myra Tanner Weiss was asked why she chose to run against a man who seemingly has such formidable backing — Republicans, Democrats, labor leaders, Progressives and Stalinists.

"It is precisely in such a situation as this," she stated, "that the issues are most clearly drawn. How is it possible for a Democrat to be endorsed and supported by Republicans unless — as the Socialist Workers Party has long maintained — the two major capitalist class parties are in reality twins, tweedledum and tweedledee, both equally intent on destroying the organized movement, denying equality to Negroes and other minorities, throwing all political opponents into concentration camps, and dragging this country into a third world war.

"It is precisely here, too, that we see the tragic fallacy of labor leaders refusing to see the obvious — that no capitalist politician can serve the interests of the workers. Do the workers want a new world slaughter from which they have nothing to gain but the privilege of being maimed for life or killed? Ask the workers how they feel about being drafted for World War III. Better still, let the people vote on war. Yet Holifield, endorsed by the leaders of both the AFL and the CIO, supports all the war measures, hypocritically called "defense measures."

"Are concentration camps and thought-control in the interests of the workers? Of course not. Every thinking worker knows that

### Open Forum Series In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — The Myra Tanner Weiss Campaign Committee is holding a series of four pre-election open forums, every Friday night at 8 p.m., starting Oct. 13. The forums are being held at the Eastside Campaign Headquarters, 3012 East 1st Street. All persons anxious to aid in the election of Myra Tanner Weiss are urged to visit the headquarters. There is work enough for all.

## War Costs Soar, Point to Raging Inflation in '51

(Continued from Page 1)  
escalator cost-of-living wage clause in union contracts. This provides periodically for automatic wage increases to bring wages in line with price rises. It has been widely adopted in the auto industry.

But even the escalator clause, particularly the type adopted by some of the unions like the CIO auto workers, cannot keep pace with the kind of raging prairie-fire inflation that is coming. These clauses are based on the cost-of-living index of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics which notoriously fails to reflect the real extent of price rises. Its index showed less than a 2% rise in living costs three months after the Korean war began; actual market surveys of retail food prices nationally showed a 20% rise.

Labor's campaign to keep wages abreast of prices must be combined with an all-out fight to effectively halt further price rises. We do not mean by this mere appeals to Truman to "roll back" prices. We do not mean pleas for the Big Business government to carry out its "price control" measures in "good faith."

This capitalist government is concerned with protecting profits. It is not going to halt price gouging, because inflation is a means of throwing the full burden of war costs on the low-income earners.

If price controls are to be made effective, it will be done by the consumers themselves and nobody else. Mass price-control committees, composed of labor, housewives and farmers, must be set up and empowered to fix prices and enforce price ceilings.

Such committees would investigate the books of manufacturers and distributors to determine their real costs, uncover hoarded goods held for price rises, and expropriate and distribute needed supplies withheld for speculative purposes.

A vast network of consumers committees, exercising regulatory powers over prices and commodities, is the only sure means of enforcing price controls.

### SWP on the Air in New York

TELEVISION:  
Station WPIX (Channel 11)  
SWP Candidates Debate

Their Opponents

MICHAEL BARTELL

SWP Candidate for Governor

Sun., Oct. 15, 7:15-8 PM

JOSEPH HANSEN

SWP Candidate for U.S. Sen.

Sun., Oct. 22, 7:15-8 PM

RADIO:

WNEW (1130 on the dial)

Mon., Oct. 16, 9:35-10 PM

Wed., Oct. 18, 9:35-10 PM

Fri., Oct. 20, 9:35-10 PM

Wed., Nov. 1, 9:35-10 PM