

The Kind of Leaders Labor Has in U. S.

An Editorial

The American union leadership is as narrow-minded a crew of petty bureaucrats as can be found anywhere including the ward clubs of the Democratic or Republican party. They have no stomach for a fight except when their personal prestige and privileges are directly involved.

The American Federation of Labor Executive Council meeting in Montreal last week illustrates this.

In the midst of the determined drive of U.S. Big Business and its government agents against the organizations and living conditions of the workers, these union moguls voted to recommend to the September AFL convention that the United Labor Policy Committee be dissolved. By this act they declare their insolvency as leaders.

The top AFL and CIO officers were originally motivated in organizing the ULPC by a desire for more prominent recognition in government posts. But by its very organization the ULPC became a potentially powerful weapon in defense of labor's rights. The bold attack against Big Business control of government, the united front shown by the AFL, CIO and independent unions, inspired hope in the ranks of the union membership.

But none of the top union officials who organized the ULPC had either the vision or the courage to effectively mobilize the united strength of organized labor. They did not carry through a fight either to maintain the workers' economic positions, or to lead a struggle for genuine political representation for labor against the reactionary two-party system.

After walking out of all government boards in protest against the profiteer-dictated Washington policies, the ULPC crawled back in. They did not win a single important concession. The ULPC representing 15 million workers stood helpless, paralyzed by an impotent leadership.

The formation of the ULPC was greeted with enthusiasm by rank-and-file trade unionists. In many cities local committees were formed to carry out united action on a local level between the CIO, AFL and independents. Many locals passed resolutions favoring organic unity of labor.

Many workers saw in the ULPC a chance for the great union movement to unite its forces on the political field so that it could strike as a unified force in election campaigns, winning genuine labor representation in Congress.

Clique Interests of the Leaders

But neither the CIO nor AFL leaders carried through the wishes of the ranks. They kowtowed to Truman; they begged small favors; they served as "window dressing" for the wage freeze, the tax steal and the price gouge. They did not once speak out against the drive toward an all-out war economy which more and more loads its heavy costs upon the low-income groups.

Such leaders as Tobin and Green, Murray and Reuther, think of labor unity in a different way from the worker in the shop. They are concerned about their posts, salaries, personal advantages. Each of the top figures in both CIO and AFL is a small-time baron; he views the union as his own happy-hunting ground, and the private bailiwick of his cronies. Unity would necessitate the amalgamation of some unions and the elimination of some posts, or at least the sharing of power.

The AFL hierarchy, which now proposes to split the ULPC, may hope to be able to force the CIO into organic unity on the AFL's terms. That is, with the lion's share of the posts and offices going to the old craft union leadership. The CIO officers, on the other hand, will resist this kind of forced unity because they have no intention to give up a single position on the payroll of a single union. Clique interests will shape this struggle, as it has in the past.

What a picture of unprincipled and small-minded men! The tragedy is that such men of straw head the most powerful labor movement in the world.

But these leaders will not stifle the independent spirit and power of American labor. Should the AFL convention endorse the break-up of the ULPC it would strengthen the growing resentment in the AFL ranks against the dictator-officers who rule these unions. The recent outbreak of militant teamsters in Cleveland is a sign of things to come.

In the CIO, where the bureaucrats are nowhere near as firmly entrenched as in the AFL, a new militancy is slowly but surely producing a new leadership of a far different caliber.

The unions today are bigger and stronger than ever. Neither the combined offensive of the big corporations and the government, nor the attempts of the union heads, have succeeded in suppressing the fighting character of the organized American working class.

In the auto shops, on the trucks, in the steel mills and in the mines, new men of labor are arising. Workers determined to defend their conditions of work and life, are learning the lessons of experience with the old-line conservative union big shots. In the process of struggle they are forging new leaders with the will to fight. The clearer the treacherous role of the reigning bureaucracy becomes, all the sooner a left wing labor leadership will develop to lead and win.

3 More CIO Bodies Donate To Help Kutcher Defense



JAMES KUTCHER

Three more important CIO bodies last week aided the legless veteran James Kutcher in his fight against Truman's loyalty purge. The CIO Council of New Jersey, Kutcher's home state, voted \$25 as "a contribution toward the excellent work of the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee." Carl Holderman, President of the Council, was one of the initiators of the national campaign for his defense when Kutcher was fired from his job in the Newark Veterans Administration because of his socialist views.

AN OUTRAGE

The Hennepin County CIO Industrial Union Council of Minneapolis, Minnesota, sent \$10 with a letter from its Secretary-Treasurer Arthur Hopkins saying: "We consider his victimization an outrage against Civil Liberties. We trust that an aroused labor movement will soon aid this veteran in securing justice."

From the steel center of Youngstown Ohio the Mahoning County CIO Council sent \$25 for Kutcher's defense fund.

The funds raised will be used to defray the expenses of taking Kutcher's case to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this fall.

Illegal to Pray? Wis. Man Worried

The daily Capital Times of Madison, Wisconsin, which conducted the recent, much publicized petition circulation and which found that 111 out of 112 people approached refused to sign the Declaration of Independence or the Bill of Rights out of fear of consequences, got the following wire from reader A. J. McCulloch, Lancaster, Wis.

"Grant County subscribers Capital Times worried. Capital Times petition Declaration of Independence is violation of Smith Act, contempt of Congress and contempt of Supreme Court. If McCarthy throws you in the clink we are afraid to solicit bail money. We shall pray for you if that is not illegal too."

New Bill To Let Employers Fire Militants

McCarran Proposes Broader Witchhunt

While Truman bemoans and tries to blame his Republican opponents, in particular McCarthy, for the spreading reign of terror in America, more repressions are being prepared in Congress to extend the witch-hunt deeper and deeper.

Senator McCarran (Dem.) has introduced a bill, which, if passed, will spread the purge into every shop in the country. This bill, which is a logical conclusion to the loyalty purge which Truman launched, will give unlimited powers to the corporations to fire any militant they choose.

FIRE ANYONE

McCarran proposes to empower employers to fire "without liability" workers whose names appear on any Federal or state list of "subversives," or who are charged with belonging to such groups.

In addition to this the Senator proposes other open union-busting amendments to his notorious McCarran Act.

These will make it unlawful for any member of a communist or "front" group to hold office in a union. Furthermore, it certifies as bargaining agent any union having an officer who is either a member of a Communist or a "front" group.

Still another deadly weapon placed in the hands of the employers is the authorization to fire any worker who refuses to tell "a duly constituted legislative committee" whether he belongs or has belonged to any organization on the Attorney General's subversive list.

DEADLY ATTACK

Something new has also been added to the drive to destroy freedom of the press in America. The Justice Department in its indictment of the West Coast Communists, recently arrested, has included in the list of so-called crimes the writing of articles for the Communist press.

This is the first time since the Alien and Sedition laws of 1798 that writing for a newspaper has been outlawed in this country. The "democrats" in the Justice Department are now in effect saying, "But we are not suppressing a newspaper. We are merely arresting anyone who writes for it."

This widening of the attack on the labor unions and our democratic rights is still another warning to all sincere defenders of civil rights:

Stop the witch-hunt now!

Socialist Workers Party Campaigns In Six States

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THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Vol. XV - No. 34

NEW YORK, N. Y., MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1951

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

U. S. Truce Team Seeks To Dictate Harsh Terms



Chinese Must Retreat North, Pentagon Says; Demand Kept Secret from Public at Home

What terms are being demanded by U.S. negotiators at Kaesong?

This is becoming the big question about the Korea cease-fire negotiations. Newspaper stories from the Korean correspondents covering the parleys continue extremely vague on this point. The plain truth of the matter is that the Pentagon does not want to let the American public know just what demands it is making in Korea.

NAM Sales Tax Would Cost Poor Over \$5 Billion

A vast tax steal that would take another bite of more than five billion dollars out of the pockets of those who can least afford it is being pressured through Congress by the National Association of Manufacturers in league with other business organizations.

The NAM is proposing a federal sales tax on all purchases other than food, liquor and tobacco. The tax would equal more than one-third the cost of the item purchased. In other words, every \$3.00 item would cost at least \$4.00 under the NAM proposal.

ALL-OUT PUSH

Life magazine of July 9 lists the big business combination backing this plan as including, in addition to the NAM, the Committee for Economic Development, the Committee on Federal Tax Policy, the National Retail Dry Goods Association, the American Retail Federation, and the Automobile Manufacturers' Association. These are the open Big Business advocates of the oppressive tax scheme, and do not include the powerful capitalist forces that are pushing the plan from under cover.

Weak administration resistance to this fantastic tax increase may collapse at any minute. The United Automobile Workers, CIO, in a release last week, charged that, in his testimony before the Senate Finance Committee, "Secretary of the Treasury Snyder seems to have left the door open for a federal sales tax in the future."

In the same release, the UAW-CIO makes a vivid analysis of

TRUCE LINE

During the 24th session of the truce conference, a speech was made by U.S. chief negotiator Admiral Joy, which was reported in part in the press. Maintaining its usual vague and indistinct tone that it always adopts when speaking of U.S. truce terms, the press does not explain the meaning of the speech. However, Joy's speech can have only one meaning. It is a defense of the idea that the U.S. army is entitled to a truce line still further north than the present battle line.

Joy's line is that a truce, which would put an end to U.S. air and naval bombardment, would give the Chinese and Korean armies certain "advantages." "We are prosecuting a war," he said, "behind your front lines which is not duplicated behind our lines." His conclusion from this is that the U.S. Army must be given ground advantages which it does not now possess in order to make up for the alleged great loss the U.S. will suffer by stopping its air and naval bombardment.

All the arguments advanced by Joy appear to bear out the Chinese contention that the U.S. is asking them to retreat before it will accept a cease-fire.

Meanwhile, the U.S. truce team has relations with the press exclusively through a "briefing of

What Truman Cooked Up For Our Dinner Tables

By Murry Weiss

Get ready to spend at least 10 percent more of your take-home pay for nothing.

That's the plain meaning of the recent "control" legislation enacted by the "horsemeat Congress." This new price increase should not come as a surprise — the news comes right out of the horse's mouth, Economic Stabilizer Eric Johnston himself. Johnston told the first meeting of the Defense Mobilization Board that the cost of living will go up five to eight percent during the next year.

When you consider that this is Johnston's own conservative figure, and then add the steadily mounting open and concealed taxes, you will be safe in concluding that if you are taking home, say, \$50 a week you can kiss \$5 of that goodbye.

A SHOCK

"Mr. Johnston's estimate . . . came as something of a shock to Board members," the N. Y. Times reports. If it was "something of

a shock" to the Board, on which sit cabinet members making \$433 a week (aside from expenses and extras), what will it be to the wage earners?

When you go to the store these days you know how far a Korean war-dollar will get you. Take one more dime out of every dollar and you get an idea of what Washington has cooked up for your dinner table.

Here are some points you ought to keep in mind if you are looking for the whys and wherefores of this situation:

1. — Since America was dragged into the Korean war by Truman's unauthorized action, increases in prices have taken some 20 billion dollars out of the pockets of consumers. This means that every man, woman and child has already paid out \$130 in price increases during this war. Now that figure is about to be almost doubled with the additional price increases scheduled for the coming year. All this is aside from what will happen if the brass hats running the Washing-

ton show really get going on an all-out arms program.

2. — In the war year of 1942, Federal, state and local taxes came to \$170 per person. Last year this tax load had soared to \$360, or more than doubled. This is what taxes look like during "peacetime." Imagine what they are planning for the "real war."

3. — Now look at it this way: According to Mrs. Wickens, deputy commissioner U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, cost of living necessities that families buy every month used to cost \$100 a month in 1939 as against \$185 today. "It takes \$23.74 to buy the groceries that a \$10 bill used to buy before World War II," she says. Comparable figures are given for all other cost of living items. Keep in mind this is the continuous trend and there is a lot more of this coming.

RECORD PROFITS

4. — Compare these stiff boosts in the cost of living with the figures on profits. While the work-

(Continued on page 2)

Lieutenant Challenges Truman to Take Issue of Korea Withdrawal to the People

What American soldiers really think of the Korean war was sharply expressed in a letter by Marine Lieut. Gale G. Buuck, printed in the Port Wayne, Indiana, News-Sentinel on March 26. Lieut. Buuck is on active duty in Korea with the Second Battalion of the First Marine Division. His letter reads as follows:

"Again the question Mr. Truman, how long must we stay here in this godforsaken hole of Korea?"

(Signed) GALE G. BUUCK, Lieut. U.S.M.C.

This letter was officially ignored for nearly four months. It has suddenly received general publicity because it was reprinted in the Moscow Literary Gazette. Then the cat was out of the bag. Now the Marine Corps in Washington has become interested in it. According to the N. Y. Times, "disciplinary action against Lieutenant Buuck is being considered" — for daring to express his opinion.

HAD TO "SOUND OFF"

Unfortunatly on account of you and your administration most of the boys here won't be alive to register their righteous wrath against this sellout.

"The prolonged official silence concerning this letter is only the other side of a high powered campaign to bludgeon the people into believing that the American soldier is now beginning to glory in the Korean slaughter, that he is happy with such abominations as 'Operation Killer'."

It is no longer denied officially that soldier morale in the past was low; but the claim is that there has been a "remarkable change." In an interview granted to the weekly U.S. News, Aug. 17, Gen. Ridgway was asked the following leading question: "What is the explanation for the remarkable improvement of morale of UN troops in Korea in the past six months?" And here is Ridgway's answer: "Leadership at all levels in all services and national contingents;

the inculcation of a reasoned understanding based on facts of the purpose of their presence in Korea and the objectives for which they fight."

NAILING THE LIE

But the authentic voice of the GI is filtering through the tight lid of censorship. The lie is being nailed. Lieutenant Buuck's letter is only one among many others. For example, the Congressional Record of March 13 quotes another letter from a soldier to the Marquette Mining Journal, "Myself and a few thousand other GIs would like to know the answers to several questions. The biggest question at the present is, just why are we over here? The Korean people certainly aren't glad to have us. I've seen it with my own eyes."

A SURVEY

To cite another instance, there is the survey conducted in May by Benjamin Fine for the N. Y. Times. Fine has quoted typical

remarks from 5,000 Army trainees and officers whom he interviewed:

"Why am in the Army? I'll tell you why. It's because Truman made a blunder," said one GI.

"I have no stomach to fight the United Nation's war. It's only for Wall Street anyway," another said.

The American soldier is not alone in his revulsion against the Korean atrocity, the greatest perpetrated in history. A recent AFL radio poll of 96,000 listeners indicated the universal unpopularity of the Korean war. Those polled were thirty to one for the immediate withdrawal of the American troops. Every public poll has uncovered the same sentiment.

In Korea and at home, the demand keeps growing. The courageous protests from the GI's are joining together with the real voice of America in the mighty chorus:

Bring the troops home now!

Notebook of an Agitator

THE REVOLUTIONIST AND THE BUREAUCRAT

There is good sense in the old saying that two heads are better than one. The same thought can be profitably extended into the conception that the collective thinking of many, freely expressed, can yield better results in the long run than the arbitrary and capricious decisions of an individual who decides and rules without control or restraint. This is the argument for the practical efficiency of democracy in general, and in the workers' movement in particular.

It is true that democracy is a rather cumbersome process, while bureaucratic short cuts seem to "get things done" without delay. But the trouble is that things done this way are often done wrong. And without the corrective restraint of democracy there is no way of righting them; one error leads to another and things go from bad to worse to the detriment of the people whose interests are directly involved. This is the evil story of all uncontrolled bureaucracies — in trade unions, parties and governments.

The great teachers of the working class knew all about this. They were dead set against bureaucracy — everyone of them. They were confirmed democrats. I don't mean democrats in the sense of that fraudulent "democracy" by the mechanism of which the masses of the people have the illusion of deciding the conduct of affairs by voting for hand-picked candidates every two or four years; while all the mediums of information and communication remain in the hands of a small clique of money sharks who own all the industries and rule the country behind the parliamentary facade. No, our teachers scornfully exposed and denounced the fraud and deceit and general skulduggery of bourgeois "democratic" politics. They were democrats in the real sense of the word. They maintained that the people should freely discuss and participate in deciding all matters of the general welfare which concerned them — their methods and conditions of work, the affairs of their own organizations, and the government.

Marx and Engels proclaimed that "The emancipation of the working class must be the act of the workers themselves."

From this profound thought it necessarily followed that the workers would have to create their own organizations of combat and run them themselves. When the founders of scientific socialism said the workers must emancipate themselves, they meant that nobody would do it for them, and nobody could. The same holds true for their organizations, the instruments of struggle for emancipation. If they are really to serve their purpose, these organizations must belong to the workers and be democratically operated and controlled by them. Nobody can do it for them. So thought the great democrats, Marx and Engels.

GENUINE DEMOCRACY

The successors of Marx and Engels—Lenin and Trotsky—who executed their testament as leaders of the great Russian revolution, acted in the spirit of the masters. Lenin outlined the perspective of a really democratic workers' state where "every cook" would learn to take part in the administration of public affairs. Trotsky began his great struggle against the bureaucratic degeneration of the Russian revolution with the demand for the restoration of Soviet democracy. Genuine democracy is profoundly revolutionary, and all four of our revolutionary teachers — the masters, Marx and Engels and the great disciples, Lenin and Trotsky — were genuine democrats.

Indeed, if you take the trouble to consider the question theoretically and read the history of revolutions in search of what really happened, it becomes clear that the great revolutionists were democrats precisely because they were revolutionists. They had to be democrats in order to organize and lead revolutions. Social revolutions are made by the masses; their independent action is just what social revolution is, in Trotsky's classic definition. When the masses

rise up out of passivity and acquiescence and intervene in events and decide them — that is the time of revolution.

The conception of Marx and Engels, which was shared by their great disciples, that the workers must emancipate themselves, determined their approach to the masses and their attitude toward them. They were in no way disposed to "order" revolutions, as many superficial writers have said and some ignorant people have believed, if for no other reason than that they knew it could not be done that way. Their task, as Marx and Engels explained it, and as Lenin and Trotsky carried it out in practice to a superlative degree, was to bring the element of socialist consciousness into the labor movement; to organize and lead it, but in no case to try to substitute themselves for it. All their writings are permeated with this conception and this practice. They do not give orders to the masses. They inform, they enlighten. They try to explain and persuade. Reading them you can learn. That is why their writings remain ever fresh and new, the greatest treasure of the new revolutionary generation — the heritage of a hundred years of socialist culture.

THE POLAR DIFFERENCE

The bureaucrats are the opposite of all that, and the polar difference sticks out of all their writings and utterances. There is nothing revolutionary about the bureaucrats. They fear the masses and distrust them and are always swept aside during periods of upsurge. Only when the masses quiet down do the bureaucrats have their day — the gray people of the ebb tide. You see this manifested in all workers' organizations in all mutations of the class struggle, from strikes to revolutions, and from trade unions to the organs of state power.

Stalinism, the supreme example in all history of a labor bureaucracy swollen to monstrous proportions, and multiplying in themselves all the negative traits of the ordinary conservative labor skate, who is their blood kin and lacks only their opportunity and their power — Stalinism is the most misunderstood phenomenon of our time. Most ludicrous of all is the widespread impression that these representatives of reaction and stranglers of revolutions are secretly plotting revolution on a world-wide scale. Just mention the word Stalinism to Social Democrats, for example, who fear revolution for their own reasons, and they take to the cyclone cellars on the double, scared out of their livers and their lights. The United States government recently convicted eleven functionaries of American Stalinism for "advocating" and representing a "clear and present danger" of revolution, and the Supreme Court has upheld the verdict. This is a combination of misunderstanding and frameup.

The proletarian revolutionist is one thing and the Stalinist functionary is another. They are not only different in their aims and purposes. There is a profound difference in their mentalities and in their methods of expressing them. The revolutionist is a democrat, organizing opposition to the power of the present day, and striving to create a new power of the people.

The functionary is merely a bureaucrat, always and everywhere serving an existing power. The revolutionist is a thoroughgoing radical and is personally disinterested; he wants to change the social order in the interest of all, and considers it beneath his dignity to seek personal advantage. The bureaucrat, in all organizations, and under all conditions, is profoundly conservative and meanly selfish; he strives to preserve the status quo in the interest of his privileges. The revolutionist trusts the masses because they are the makers of revolutions. The bureaucrat fears them for the same reason. The bureaucrat gives orders like a policeman. The revolutionist tries to explain things like a teacher. The bureaucrat lies to the people. The revolutionist believes the truth will make them free, and tells it.

— J. P. C.

What Truman Cooked Up For Our Dinner Tables

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ers who produce all wealth are stuck with a diminishing purchasing power, the corporations are making record breaking profits. Reports on corporation profits for the first six months of 1951 show that despite higher taxes there has been a substantial increase in profits over the peak profit year of 1950. These figures may give you some idea of why we are in Korea and why the mention of ending the Korean war sends shivers down the spines of the profit barons.

Eric Johnston, of course, claims that the shocking increases of 5 to 8 percent in prices for the coming year will be due to the legislation passed by Congress. Truman made a big to-do about his "reluctance" to sign the Congressional bill. Thus the administration seeks to unload the blame for the whole rotten situation on Congress. But this is only half of the truth.

Congress and the Truman administration are equally guilty. The only energy the Truman regime has shown in the field of price control is on wage freezing. Truman and his boys hold you while the profit kings hit you. What good does it do if Truman whines a few complaints against the profiteers while he's holding you so they can hit you?

FEEDING INFLATION

Actually there is no secret about the fact that the policy of the government is to artificially feed the inflation every time it looks like prices are going to sag. How can you explain the upward zoom of prices during a year

when there was a bumper crop of key agricultural commodities. The shelves of retailers are groaning with unsold goods. Wholesale houses complain of enormous inventories and a "soft buyers' market."

According to the famous theory they always throw at you about "supply and demand" regulating capitalist economy, prices should today be going down. But the truth is that the Truman administration, caught in the insane workings of the anarchy of capitalist production, lives in dread of the bottom dropping out of the market. The only alternative they know is to juggle the economy between inflation and depression and to see that the worker gets it in the neck in both cases. Their overriding consideration is to build a war economy that will ensure profits and markets to the capitalists and to make the workers pay for it with their blood and sweat.

TRUMAN'S GAME

Every time they see the market slumping the administration pumps some more life into the dying organism of capitalism by new arms expenditures and their consequent inflationary effects.

They can't keep this game up forever, unless you believe in miracles. Already a great heat is being generated throughout the country on the price situation. A day of reckoning for all the dirty gouging and stealing of the profiteers is drawing near.

The trade union officials are also coming to the end of their rope on the shabby policy they have been following. How long can they continue to sell the

workers the line of supporting capitalist politicians who systematically aid and abet the war profiteers? With the 1952 elections looming, it's high time that labor made a clean and final break with all capitalist politics and politicians and entered the field under its own independent banner, with a fighting program against capitalist inflation and war.

NAM SALES TAX WOULD COST POOR \$5 BILLIONS

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the proposed tax program of the NAM. Such a tax as the NAM wants would bring the total taxes taken from the families in the U.S. that have incomes under \$1000 per year to over 50 percent. More than \$500 of the incomes of these families would go for taxes!

SOAKING THE POOR

The tax would take \$133 per year out of the pockets of low income families, more than \$200 per year out of the pockets of better paid workers and middle class groups.

The UAW points out that, if this tax grab is put into effect together with the price increases that have recently been voted by Congress, this may cost the average auto worker an estimated \$550 per year.

The bosses' tax program, which may yet become the law of the land, would thus shift five billions of dollars in taxes over from the wealthy portion of the population onto the shoulders of those least able to pay. Thus while it would cut workers' incomes, on the average of a couple of hundred dollars per year, it would actually boost the incomes of those now getting more than \$7,500 per year by an average of a couple of thousand dollars per year.

RICH GET RICHER

The present tax structure, already extremely inequitable, would be rendered more so. At the present time, sales and excise taxes, Federal, State and municipal, take almost 12 percent of every family income

Stores Anxious To Unload Stocks

Retail merchants throughout the country are still carrying heavily swollen inventories and are "going all-out" to reduce them, reports Women's Wear Daily. Aug. 18. Heaviest stocks are held by stores in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Boston. Cut-backs on orders have been prevalent. Inventories overloaded by some 30 percent are common. In some cases the overload runs as high as 50 percent.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Socialist Workers Party candidates have now entered election campaigns in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Reports from literature agents in these localities are already beginning to show the value of The Militant as an election campaigner and the possibilities for increasing Militant circulation during local election campaigns. Philadelphia Militant salesmen sold their entire bundle at a recent election rally for Clyde Turner, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Councilman.



Literature Agent George Rock reports the experience in New York of a number of comrades out getting signatures on petitions to put Michael Bartell on the ballot for City Council President. "A number of us decided to combine business with pleasure, and distributed back issues of The Militant while petitioning," he reports. "Several people who received the paper for the first time, returned late, enthusiastic about The Militant, and signed the petition. We gave the paper to two young fellows who read it and who then showed The Militant to passers-by and urged them to sign the petition also."

"One petitioner, Ann, sold a subscription to The Militant on the street to an interested signer who asked about the Socialist Workers Party program. As soon as our petition drive is over," George says, "we expect to combine our election campaign with a wide expansion of Militant sales."

A letter from Cleveland Literature Agent Jean describes one of the experiences that make selling The Militant interesting and rewarding. "The enclosed subscription is proof that The Militant sells itself," she writes. "Wednesday evening two of us went out to sell individual copies of The Militant in the neighborhood of our new Cleveland

headquarters. We had less than an hour and wanted to sell as many papers as possible, without taking the time to sell sub, so we didn't bother taking any sub blanks along. However, when my friend was half way down the block, an AFL machinist to whom she had sold an individual copy came running after her. He had already read it and wanted to subscribe."

"In less than 45 minutes she sold the sub and 7 individual copies and I sold 11 papers — and this was on the same day as the FBI arrests and scare headlines in the local papers, so obviously the attempt to intimidate independent thinking is not succeeding completely by a long shot. "Incidentally, in the same neighborhood in which we sold the papers, the main corner drugstore newsstand has been selling out its 10 Militants weekly and this week increased its order to 15."

Literature Agent Kat of Akron wishes to congratulate Jean Simon on her report of the Cleveland rank and file truckers' strike in the Aug. 6 issue of The Militant. "The need of the hour," a labor party, flows through her entire report, not just in the last paragraph," she writes. "With this issue we're really set up for some house to house canvassing with The Militant."

R. Q. of Pittsburgh writes to renew her subscription to The Militant. "It's due to expire some time this month and I don't want to miss a single issue." She is only sorry that due to the slowness of the mail she can't get each issue sooner, she says.

Many thanks to D. P. of Gary Indiana for the \$1 contribution sent in with his renewal to The Militant and Fourth International, magazine of Marxist theory. He also enclosed a \$5 donation to the defense fund for James Kitcher, a labor party, flows through her entire report, not just in the last paragraph," she writes. "With this issue we're really set up for some house to house canvassing with The Militant."

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THE MILITANT

Published Weekly in the Interest of the Working People
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION
116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y. Phone: AL 5-7460
Editor: GEORGE BREITMAN
Business Manager: JOSEPH HANSEN

Bundle Orders (5 or more copies): 50 each in U.S., 40 each in foreign countries. Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent The Militant's policies. These are expressed in its editorials.

Vol. XV - No. 34

Monday, August 20, 1951

Hearst and the Free Press

On William Randolph Hearst's tombstone the following epitaph should be inscribed: "Here lies an evil man. He spent his whole life and the great wealth he was born to, building a gigantic empire dedicated to the lie. His hatred of labor was equaled only by his vile prejudice against every oppressed race and nationality. Whenever reaction triumphed he rejoiced; wherever the workers lifted their heads to fight oppression and tyranny he used his poisonous yellow press against them. He will be remembered as the proper symbol of capitalist 'democracy' and 'freedom of the press.'"

Hearst was probably one of the most hated figures in America. There is hardly a worker anywhere who does not associate his name with everything that is reactionary. He collected in his editorial stable a string of anti-labor poison-pen artists like William Pegler. But the big point about Hearst was always missed by the liberals who "deplored" this "blight on American journalism" as a peculiar phenomenon. But Hearst and Hearstism is the typical product of the capitalist system. He was no worse and no better than any of the financial satraps who run this country. If his life didn't prove that conclusively, his death certainly does.

In addition to the enormous wealth he squandered in a way of life typical of the

moneyed plutocracy in this country, he used his class privileges to acquire a chain of eighteen newspapers and nine magazines. These newspapers reached at least five million readers every day.

By what right could this feudal mind, steeped in ignorance and prejudice, wield such great political and propaganda power? The answer is simple; by the right of private capitalist property. In this respect there is not an iota of difference between Hearst and the rest of the capitalist magnates who rule the newspapers and other agencies of propaganda and information in the U.S.

Nor is there any other basic difference between Hearst and other capitalist newspapers. They all play the same game and spread the big capitalist lie. Each in its own way.

In accordance with the rules of capitalist "democracy," Hearst leaves his newspapers to his five sons who promise to carry on in the tradition of their father. We can well believe them. They have been properly trained.

In the meantime the real situation regarding "freedom of the press" under capitalism, is sharply outlined by one fact: This multi-millionaire family will continue to own and operate one of the largest chain of newspapers in the world — while the American labor movement with 15,000,000 members doesn't have a single daily newspaper.

Shabby Rich Man

A shabby old man sat on the curb of a Brooklyn street and died last week. Investigation showed that he didn't have a dime in his pockets or in his \$7 a week shabby furnished room, but that he owned a half-a-million dollars of top-notch stocks. Further investigation showed that dividends for these stocks were regularly deposited in the Brooklyn Trust Company and the National City Bank. A ledger which recorded every penny spent by the deceased 73-year-old miser was also found.

A tragic story? Yes, but also an instructive one.

For in his own way, this demented man was a logical product of our society. Although he was an exceptional case, and very few others of the millions that live in poverty in the U.S. have fat bank accounts and hidden shoe boxes full of stocks, he was nevertheless the final end, the highest creation of capitalist culture.

What had capitalism taught this lonely man? It taught him that we must all live as beasts of the jungle: friendless, hated, taken advantage of, with only the protection of our teeth and claws to keep us secure. And what kind of teeth and claws do we have under capitalism? Why, money, of course.

What happened in the twisted mind of this modern Silas Marner is that the daily obsession of each of us with money became transformed into a mania. He became so maniacally obsessed with the collection of money that he even forgot what it is used for.

And is he so different from the big capitalists whom he is attempting to imitate? Not really. All of them are engrossed in the attempt to amass far more money than they can ever possibly spend, and in order to do this absurd thing they are ready to punish, cause suffering, deprive others of the necessities of life, and even cause the deaths of millions in wars that are profitable only to the capitalists.

Of course this miser was crazy. But he was shaped by a crazy system. He lived alone like a beast of the jungle, without kith or kin, endlessly sharpening his money-teeth and his money-claws which the capitalist system had taught him were his supreme safeguard and defense.

When they tell us that this capitalist system is the best of all possible systems, and that we must help them to save it, we tell them: No thank you! Give us the clean, free world of socialism where the disease of money-madness will be unknown.

Michigan Farmers in Arms

By George Morris

Driving along M 15 in Lapeer county, Michigan you come upon Fort Ziegenhardt. The first impression made by this rather elaborate fort is that it is merely another tourist attraction but a few moments of conversation with the farmers involved will correct such an erroneous impression. The Ziegenhardt fort represents the militancy of the farmers. The have reacted and are reacting in the only way possible when face to face with the injustice of the capitalist system. They are prepared to defend their farm homes with force if necessary.

This dispute arose in 1936 when the Lapeer Mutual Insurance Company went into receivership. The receivers found a shortage of over two hundred thousand dol-

lars on the company's books and assessed it on the farmers who were insured with the company.

FRAUD VICTIMS

The farmers involved formed a committee and engaged C. C. Gilliland, an insurance investigator, to find out who was responsible for the shortage. In the course of the investigation during which Gilliland suffered a vicious physical attack by the treasurer of the company, he found that the company had operated without a license for the last two years. For 16 years the farmers committee — some 290 strong has waged a legal battle against this unjust assessment and have exposed the corruption in the Insurance Commission. During this time they met con-

stant rebuff from state officials and the Insurance Commission which refused flatly to hear their arguments. The capitalist press refused to publish the facts as the farmers' committee found them. The corruption unmasked was too embarrassing.

Recently several of the farms, including that of the Ziegenhardts, were sold at a sheriff's sale to a Mrs. Grace White. She attempted to have the Ziegenhardts evicted. They refused to go and the farmers have rallied to their support prepared to use force if necessary to prevent this legalized robbery.

LESSONS

There are definite lessons to be learned from this struggle. First it shows that normally conservative Republicans such as most of these farmers are, when faced with such injustice will and must become militant. Secondly we can learn from the mistakes made. These farmers have failed to appeal to the unions for support and the unions with the exception of the Revere Brass Local in Detroit have failed to take interest and offer support. A perfect chance to cement a farm labor alliance is being passed up. With farmers and labor united the press and officials would find it hard to ignore the facts and at the same time an alliance could be formed that would be to the advantage of both farm and labor when battling for their common interests.

MOUNTAIN SPRING CAMP

offers

Special Rates August 15 through August 30

Private Cabins, \$40.00 for one week, Dormitories \$37.50, less 5 percent discount: For two weeks, 10 percent discount. Per Day, \$5.75 in Cabins, \$5.25 in Dormitories.

Address: RD #1, Washington, N. J. — Tel.: 1352

Make Reservations now for Labor Day Weekend, August 31 - Sept. 3. \$19.50 and \$18.00 for the full days.

Cadet "Code" Alien to U.S.

Franco Pact Hit by British Left Socialists

Demand Withdrawal From Atlantic Pact

The passage of Washington from the behind-the-scenes wooing of Franco toward an open alliance with this Fascist dictator has sent a wave of revulsion through the ranks of labor in Europe. Among those greatly aroused have been the British workers. What the British Left Socialists, the most radical wing of the ruling Labor Party, think of Truman's new alliance with Franco is expressed in the August issue of *Socialist Outlook*, the publication of this tendency.

The text of the article, whose author is L. Gordon, follows:

The American alliance with Franco has given a rude shock to those who have tried to disguise America's war policy as the "defense of democracy."

Everybody knows that Franco came to power by the bloody overthrow of the legally elected Spanish government. Everybody knows that this was made possible only by the tanks, guns and bombers supplied to him by Hitler and Mussolini. Everybody knows that he has maintained himself in power only by means of a police terror — under which trade unions are illegal and the penalty for strikes is death.

"LIBERALIZED"

So the press has tried to spread the story that the regime is to be "liberalized." But the *Daily Telegraph* of July 20 gives the game away. "Some attempt," it says, "will certainly be made by the new team to meet, or at all events to go through the motions of meeting the oft repeated desire of the American government and people for the liberalization of the regime."

And as an example of such "motions" the new cabinet contains as Secretary for War the former Secretary of the Falangist Party who commanded the Spanish Blue Division on Hitler's Eastern Front!

The *Daily Telegraph* concludes that "it is safe to say that no spectacular development of the rather vague signs of 'liberalization' is to be looked for, at all events in the immediate future."

SAME FRANCO

Of course not! Franco dare not allow even the beginnings of democracy. To allow freedom of speech, to allow workers to organize and elect their own leaders would be to sign his own death warrant.

America will bolster Franco's regime — and if the Spanish workers try to overthrow Franco as they have every right to, they

Truman's Ally



FRANCO

will — like the Chinese and the Koreans — have to fight Uncle Sam and his United Nations Organization.

For Britain and France to protest against this alliance without doing something concrete is sheer hypocrisy. To say they will not have an alliance with Franco and yet remain in the Atlantic Pact will deceive nobody. America can, and will, start the Third World War when she wants to. And we shall find ourselves dragged in, and lined up with Franco, Chiang Kai-shek, Syngman Rhee, Nazi generals and all other enemies of the working class — to make the world safe — not for democracy — but for capitalism.

The working class movement must draw the logical conclusion from its opposition to an alliance with Franco, and insist that the government withdraw from the Atlantic Pact while there is still time.

Senator Admits U.S. Capitalism Can't Live Without All-Out War

"Only 14 months ago, the economy of our country seemed headed for a slump or at least a descent to lower levels. Over three million men were unemployed. Except for a few heavy industries, the lag in production and construction created by World War II had been largely overcome."

"Farm prosperity was on the skids to such an extent that limitations on growing certain crops had been invoked."

These words from a speech by Senator Aiken of Vermont to the Missouri Farmers Association Inc. at Columbia Mo., were reprinted in the Congressional Record of August 10. The Senator went on to say:

"Then came the Korean outbreak and the situation changed virtually overnight. The trend toward depression was definitely off. Unemployment began to ease off. Demand and prices stiffened."

Then Senator Aiken, one of the staunchest supporters of capitalism was forced to admit, "What a tragedy it is that as a Nation we must rely upon war or the threat of war to maintain full employment and economic prosperity. . . . Should the time come when war clouds no longer threaten . . . we will be confronted with a problem of major degree."

N. Y. Teachers Win Pay Raises

New York teachers have won their fifteen-month struggle against the prevailing practice of "extra-curricular activities" without any pay. The Board of Estimate approved on Aug. 16 a series of pay raises in the face of growing threats by the teachers of an all-out strike. The new maximum salaries for teachers are now \$6,500 a year. The old maximum scale ranged from \$5,675 to \$6,500.

TWIN CITIES

Trotsky Memorial Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 21

8:00 P. M.

10 S. 4th Street
MinneapolisSpeaker:
Dorothy Schultz

WEST COAST VACATION SCHOOL SEPT. 2 TO 9

LOS ANGELES, August 10 —

The annual encampment of the West Coast Vacation School for Workers is about to open its 1951 season at Carbon Canyon, about thirty miles from Los Angeles. The camp will run for 8 full days, from Sunday, September 2 through September 9, and as many old readers of *The Militant* remember, is run on a co-operative basis with an educational and recreational program not to be found at any other summer camp in this part of the country.

The camp consists of an up to date, modern camp-site, with a large swimming pool, tennis court, and recreational hall. Provisions are at hand for all kinds of indoor and outdoor recreation, and the camp committee is arranging contests, games, dances, song fests, etc.

The educational program is a full one and Militant readers have a wide variety to choose from. Pick as many or as few as you please. The two daily classes deal with American History, and with Mexican History. The latter also will deal with current Mexican-American problems. Other classes deal with Marxism and the National Question, the Negro Question, the American Indians, and Dialectical Materialism. A seminar for students of Capital will be held. Under preparation

PRUSSIANISM BROUGHT INTO NATION VIA WEST POINT OFFICER TRAINING

By Harry Frankel

The hubbub at the "Point" continues and gives us ordinary mortals a further glimpse of the life of the cloistered elite that is being trained up to rule over us in a militarized America and to direct the conquest of the rest of the world.

The cadets continue to give out with anguished wails. Like General Crawford, the gift-happy chief of the Detroit Tank Arsenal, they cry that "We only did the same as everyone else, only we were caught."

In the meantime, it is further revealed that the authorities in command of West Point, like all prison keepers, had extracted confessions from the cadets through the use of stool-pigeons, provocateurs, and threats of Leavenworth sentences. Still further, it was revealed that the Army football squad has been recruited and maintained by means of an extensive program of "favors" and exemptions similar to the means used by every football coaching staff in the dollar-happy colleges around the country.

So that by now, it looks like everyone at "the Point" can holler, along with General Crawford: "We only did the same as everyone else, only we were caught." That includes the football coach and the commanding officer, as well as the cadets.

The fake "honor" routine at West Point is designed, as we pointed out last week in *The Militant*, to convince everyone, including the future officers themselves, that there is something special about a West-Pointer, about an officer and a gentleman in the U.S. Army, that places him above the ordinary mortals of the population, and especially above the enlisted men he is to command.

This is indispensable for any organization where the leaders

come to the top, not by the choice of the ranks, but by official, bureaucratic order from above. Since these men are not likely to possess the respect of the ranks, they must be given a substitute for respect in the form of fear. This is a Prussianized elite status, a military caste.

If we wanted to imitate the capitalist controlled press, we could point our finger at West Point and shout: "This is an un-American institution, imported from Europe by subversives who try to undermine American traditions." But, for a change, this would be the truth. For it is a fact that early America was without the Prussian military tradition, and the early army officers were democratically chosen, even elected by the ranks, during the Revolutionary War.

Even West Point, first established in 1802, was permeated with this democratic tradition; so much so that the complaint was made that West Point lacked proper organization and discipline. But in 1817, Major Sylvanus Thayer, a thickheaded, police-minded martinet of the Prussian type, subverted the early traditions of the U.S. Army and substituted the military caste notions that have come down to us in the form of the present codes and regimens at West Point, and the Academy slogan: "Duty, Honor, Country."

Where did Thayer get his ideas? Why, he traveled in

Europe, studying the military schools of the decayed, feudal-type, monarchy-ridden armies which the American people had just fought a revolution to shake off!

Like Benedict Arnold, Major Thayer betrayed West Point to a foreign enemy, only while Arnold betrayed the site of the future military academy to the British and failed in his object, Thayer betrayed West Point to the vicious military traditionalism of dictator-ridden Europe and succeeded. I know Benedict Arnold is not popular with Americans, but in my book, Major Sylvanus Thayer and his continuators are marked lousier.

The Prussian-type "honor" fakery at the Academy is all wrong, but that is not all that is wrong up on the reservation. We Americans don't need a special caste to rule over us, whether in the Army or outside it. There is no reason why the leaders of the Army can't rise right out of the ranks, and really reflect the population of this country. Let the ranks choose their own officers, as they did in 1776.

Of course, the 14,000 well equipped acres that lie 50 miles above New York can then still be used for leadership training. But the men who go there will be chosen democratically, and their "code of honor" will be democratic, not autocratic, they will be real leaders, and not a caste of Prussian martinets.

U.S. TRUCE TEAM SEEKS TO FORCE HARSH TERMS

(Cont. from page 1)

ficer" of no less than general's rank. Brigadier General William Nuckols devotes himself entirely to the job of maintaining this secrecy that surrounds the U.S. terms. Perhaps the classic remark of the whole truce conference was Nuckols' warning to the press against "wild speculation" as to the nature of U.S. demands at Kaesong!

Why there should be any speculation, or any secrecy at all cannot be explained on any honest grounds. There can be only one reason why the Pentagon would want to keep secret from the American people something which it is telling to the Chinese and Korean negotiators. That is that they fear the American people would not back them in unfair demands.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon has not made any serious effort to explain away the statements of prominent U.S. officials and military men to the effect that a truce at the 38th parallel would be satisfactory and even a victory. For instance, on June 26, 1951, Secretary of State Dean Acheson said: "An end to the fighting in Korea on the basis of the 38th parallel would amount to a successful conclusion of the war."

But on Aug. 1, after the truce conference had opened, Acheson said: "The 38th parallel is unacceptable as a line of demarcation for the buffer zone because it is militarily indefensible."

When Acheson made his first statement favoring the 38th parallel, the battle front was approximately the same as it is now.

In the meanwhile, some elements of the military and officialdom on the U.S. side kept up a continual propaganda against any truce. For example, Syngman Rhee, South Korean puppet of the U.S. and his foreign minister, Pyong Yong Tai, said on Aug. 18 that it is idle to talk of attempting to reunite Korea by peaceful means, and that the coexistence of "communism and democracy" is impossible.

General Van Fleet, U.S. Eighth Army Commander, said on Aug. 14 that in the event of a renewal of the fighting, his troops will "really clobber them," and he added: "I don't know anything that would get it over faster." Of course, if fighting is the fastest way to get it over with, then General Van Fleet presumably favors fighting instead of truce. All that must be pointed out here is that if statements such as those issued by Syngman Rhee and Van Fleet were being made instead by Chinese and Korean high officials, they would be blazoned forth on the front page of every American newspaper as evidence of "bad faith."

However, the continuation of the negotiations well beyond two dozen sessions shows that American imperialism still holds to the policy that a truce in Korea is its best bet at the present time. The main reason for this is that the Pentagon has learned that it is fighting powerful forces in the East, and that all American energies may not be sufficient to defeat the power of the Asian revolution.

U.S. tactics in the negotiations show that American imperialists hope to dictate the truce on strictly their own terms.

Local Addresses Of Socialist Workers Party

AKRON — For information, write P. O. Box 1542.
BOSTON — Workers Educational Center, 90 Stuart St. Open Tues., 5:30-9 P.M. Social last Sat. of every month.
BUFFALO — Militant Forum, 629 Main Street, 2nd fl. Open every afternoon except Sun. Phone Madison 5-960.
CHICAGO — 734 S. Wabash Ave. Open daily except Sunday, 12-6:00 PM. Phone Harrison 7-0495.
CLEVELAND — 10000 Superior Ave., Detroit — 6108 Linwood Ave. Open Mon. through Sat., 12-5 P.M. Phone TY 7-6297.
FLINT — SWP, 1507 Oak Street. Phone 2496.
LOS ANGELES — 1702 East 4th St. Phone ANgelus 9-4953.
MILWAUKEE — 917 N. 3rd St., 3rd fl. Open Sun. through Fri., 7:30-9:30 P.M.
MINNEAPOLIS — 10 South 4th St. Open daily except Sun, 10 A.M.-8 P.M. Library, bookstore. Phone Main 778.
NEW HAVEN — For information, write P.O. Box 1019.
NEWARK — 223 Springfield Avenue. NEW YORK CITY — Hq.: 116 University Place. Phone: AL 5-7822.
BROOKLYN — De Luxe Palace, 858 Howard Ave., near Lower's Pitkin. Meeting every Thurs., 8 P.M.
HARLEM — 105 W. 110th St. Rm. 22. Open discussion, every Thurs., 8 P.M.
OAKLAND (Cal.) — For information write P.O. Box 382.
PHILADELPHIA — 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd fl. Open every Fri. evening. Phone Steveson 4-5820.
PITTSBURGH — For information, write P.O. Box 382.
ST. LOUIS — For information, Phone MO 7194.
ST. PAUL — Phone State headquarters, MAIn 7781.
SAN FRANCISCO — 1739 Fillmore St. 4th fl. Open daily except Sunday, 12-4:30 P.M. Phone FI 6-0410.
SEATTLE — Maynard Bldg., 1st Ave., So. and Washington, Rm. 201. Open Mon. through Sat. 12-5 P.M. Branch meeting every Thurs. 7:30 P.M. Library, bookstore. Phone Main 9278.
TOLEDO — For information, write P.O. Box 1202.
TOWNSTOWN — 234 E. Federal St.

Los Angeles Militant School

Sixth Session -- Sunday evening, Aug. 26

7:30 P.M. — ASIA IN REVOLT: Present stage of Asia in and China. Crisis of world imperialism in the Orient. Future revolt. Civil war in Korea. America and China. Soviet Union of Stalinism in Asia.

8:30 P.M. — HISTORY OF NEGRO STRUGGLE: The Garvey movement and the NAACP and the Negro Question today.

THE MILITANT SCHOOL

1702 East 4th Street
AN 9-4953

After Cicero

By Bert Deck

The Cicero affair has entered a new phase.

The Harvey Clarks, the Negro family recently driven from their apartment by force and violence in Cicero, Ill., have decided to move to Norwalk, Conn. They plan however to remain in the Chicago area until the completion of the Grand Jury investigation and the \$200,000 damage suit they filed against the Cicero officials.

Recently the Clarks were guests of honor at a United Nations Celebration in Norwalk. A banquet and a parade were part of the festivities. Their young daughter Adelaide, age nine, was presented a scholarship in music. The family was given time on the Barry Gray radio program.

Previous to this, the family was in New York City, where they gave an interview at the headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples. The N. Y. Post reports that there was, "the largest array of television and newsreel cameras, radio mikes, photographers and reporters ever assembled at the office of the NAACP."

What is behind all this? Why is Cicero such big news when lynch mobs are certainly not new to America? Why the scholarships and parades? Why the television cameras? Thousands of Americans have suffered the brutalities of beatings and house burnings, but there were no banquets from the liberals. What's so special about Cicero? The explanation is obvious.

Cicero dramatically exposed the rottenness of American capitalism to the oppressed peoples of the whole world, thereby impeding the imperialist drive toward world conquest. Cicero was reported in all the major newspapers across the globe. So

now the cry goes out far and wide — "It was an isolated accident! We didn't mean it!"

To no avail! All the U.S. palaces and banquets, all the radio programs in the world will not hide the fact: The Clark family is being driven out of Cicero! A Negro has no right to live where he chooses in this "democracy." Nothing will conceal this victory that Jim Crow has won in America.

Let us recall the facts: The Clarks, in desperate need of a home, moved into a community in spite of threats from the race-baiters; they suffered intimidation and police terror; then an organized mob drove them out and wrecked their apartment. The end result is that the Clarks have been forced to put a thousand miles between them and Cicero. All the sweet words of the liberals have not changed this!

Justice really rules this country, the Clarks would still be living in Cicero, Ill. and it would be the hoodlums and the police force that would be moving out. Not justice, but the organized fury of the capitalists, their police and goon squads rule this country. As long as the thousands of Clarks are forced to move while the mobs remain, there is no justice in America.

The CIO, in its earlier years, showed the way to handle the would-be fascists. Many a rat slinked back to his sewer in the face of militant action in those days.

How great then is the shame of the cowardly union leaders and NAACP officials who have permitted this defeat when the might of the organized Negro people united with the power of the American Labor movement could put an end forever to all the Ciceros.

"Professional Killers"

By Doris Jones

The House Appropriations defense subcommittee has been holding secret hearings and has recently made public some of the testimony presented before it. Among those who testified was Brig. Gen. John H. Michaelis, former assistant commander of the 25th Division in Korea, who was appointed last month to serve as a "training coordinator" on Gen. Eisenhower's staff.

Gen. Michaelis told the House subcommittee in strictest confidence that the American fighting men "are much better troops than we had in World War II." And he went on to sing their praises, calling them "wonderful people," "wonderful leaders," and "wonderful soldiers." And why? Because, according to the General the American soldier has now become "a professional killer. . . They know they can kill. . ."

It is with this conception of "wonderful people" and "wonderful leaders" that the General has departed for Europe to help build up Atlantic Pact armies there. Gen. Michaelis is by no means an exception. He merely stated frankly and brutally the ideal of the rising military caste. Their "ideal" is to turn millions of American youth into "professional killers." And the sooner and quicker they can transform this country into a huge armed camp of youth who "know they can kill" the happier and louder and more arrogant will these militarists become.

The peoples of Europe who have for centuries groaned under the iron heel of militarism are well acquainted with this conception of "wonderful people." But I remember being taught in school how alien it was to this country's traditions. I learned as a child that America was settled by millions of men and women who sought refuge from the military despotisms of Europe and who refused to knuckle under to them. They were the rebels who refused to be regimented; they were the people who were the advanced thinkers and brought over new ideas to a new land.

I remember also learning in school that World War I was supposedly fought to rid the world

forever of the Kaiser's military machine; and we were also told that World War II was fought for virtually the same reason, substituting the word "Hitler" for "Kaiser."

Why are the capitalist rulers today determined, like their European predecessors, to put the fate of the American youth in the hands of the militarists to teach them to become "professional killers"? Because there is no other way in which dying capitalism with its shrinking markets can make the world safe — not for democracy — but for their investments and profits abroad. They're going to have a world safe for their exploitation even if they have to train the American youth how to slaughter half the people on this earth.

But Gen. Michaelis and his kind are only dreaming of the fine and wonderful military-police state they believe it possible to build in this country. Such a state cannot be built without professional killers. That's for sure. But can the millions of G.I. Joes be ever cast in such a mold? That's a trifle that is overlooked by all the Gen. Michaelises.

The American youth have fine and wonderful traditions of their own. Their forefathers fought against militarists and despots of all types. It was the last generation of American youth that was in the front lines of the struggle to build the great labor unions. And how long ago was it that the G.I. Joes went on strike in the Pacific when they decided they wanted to go home and didn't want to police Asia?

These youths are quite capable of having visions of a different and better future than that as "professional killers." It is precisely because the capitalist spokesmen and their generals can hold out no other prospect than that of converting our planet into a huge slaughter house that will impel millions of American youth to decide to bury the rotten corpse of capitalism and to begin building the socialist world of security, prosperity and peace.

Warning from Georgia

By Fred Hart

The labor movement, which is playing it "smart" and laying low while the Truman administration tears into radicals with a witch-hunt and reign of terror, will sooner or later pay for this shortsightedness and cowardice.

A little news item in connection with the CIO organization drive in the South shows us once more how the witch-hunt against radicals is bound sooner or later to be broadened out to include a witch-hunt against labor, liberals, and minorities.

Last February, CIO organizers were jailed in Dublin, Georgia for holding a meeting to organize a union among the workers at a lumber mill. The company, Cordell Lumber, pays its workers 50 cents per hour, in violation of the Federal minimum wage law of 75 cents. Employees who miss work have been penalized by having their pay cut down to 40 cents an hour.

Clyde G. Brock, of the CIO Southern Organizing Committee told a Senate subcommittee last week that he and another CIO organizer called a meeting of the viciously anti-union firm's employees, mostly Negroes, last February. No sooner had the meeting convened, than Sheriff Carlos Gay burst into the meeting hall, demanding to know what Brock was doing at "this damn nigger meeting."

Brock told him it was a union meeting, but Gay denounced it as a "damn Communist meeting." Brock and his fellow CIO man were then hauled

off to jail, held without charges, and were not permitted to see a lawyer.

Now what is the moral of this story? Liberals will say: "This backwoods sheriff is not typical; most government officials and people in power are not going to close down union meetings as 'Communist' because there are Negroes present." Other liberals will say: "This sheriff knew it was not a 'Communist meeting' but he wanted an excuse to close it down."

The liberals would be sadly mistaken if they talked this way. In the first place, there are millions of people in this country, who, because of the whipped up red-hysteria and the vicious propaganda, firmly believe that unions, interracial meetings, CIO organizers, and even Federal minimum wage legislation, are "Communist." Even many newspapers and legislators believe this, and say so.

And in the second place, as the feverish witch-hunt continues, the present hysterical and bitterly reactionary attitudes that are being spread among police, government officials, middle class families and even many workers, will become intensified, and make it possible for the witch-hunters to lump many things under the term "Communist."

All of this means that the labor movement is making a stick to break its own back. When the labor officialdom goes along with the red-drive, it is arming the capitalist class of this country with one of the very few weapons that can possibly succeed in destroying the unions.

SWP Enters Two in Frisco Election Race

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 16 — The Socialist Workers Party announced today the candidacy of Harry Press for Supervisor in the November city elections. In addition the party will run a candidate in the Mayoralty race.

Mr. Press is an active trade-unionist, a thirteen-year member of the National Union of Marine Cooks and Stewards.

An experienced campaigner, Harry Press ran for State Assembly in the 20th District in 1948 and in 1950. In both elections he received 14 percent of the total vote cast. In the 1950 elections he spoke to 24 different local unions including the two big waterfront unions.

Every registered voter will receive by mail a statement from the Socialist Workers candidates. The campaign will be officially launched at an election rally and Trotsky Memorial Meeting on Sat. Aug. 25.

Detroit Mayoralty Candidate Slams Cobo Backers



HOWARD LERNER

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 14 — Howard Lerner, candidate for Mayor of Detroit on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, today denounced the tie between unions and capitalist party politicians. Lerner saw the endorsement of strikebreaking Mayor Cobo by leading Democrats as proof that the Socialist Workers Party is right in opposing any tie-ups by the unions with the politicians of the two old-line, capitalist parties.

BOOMERANG

Mr. Lerner stated: "Unity between the Democratic Party and the labor leadership has boomeranged against workers again. The announcement by three leading Democrats that they will support strikebreaking Mayor Cobo for reelection shows that the Democratic Party, like the Republican, is no friend of labor."

A HACK

Included in the trio referred to by Lerner is Charles Edgecomb, a former President of Motor Products Local 203, UAW-CIO, whom Mr. Lerner refers to as "a former union leader who is nothing but a Democratic hack today."

"Cobo is closely associated with Republican politicians," the SWP candidate for Mayor went on, "but that didn't stop these Democratic leaders who are supposed to be friends of labor, from endorsing him."

Lerner denounced the UAW union leadership for refusing to run candidates directly from the labor movement and responsible to it. He charged that the UAW heads are "proceeding quietly to give support to another Democratic politician, Ed Brannigan, for Mayor."

For a Socialist
Future Support
The Candidates
Of the SWP

THE MILITANT

VOLUME XV

MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1951

NUMBER 34

Socialist Workers Party Candidates Open Their Election Campaigns in Six States

On Ballot
In San Francisco



HARRY PRESS

Turner in Phila. Has Good Rallies; Others Scheduled

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 11 — The Socialist Workers Party held its second successful street meeting of the 1951 Election Campaign here Friday night at 11th Street and Columbia Avenue. Clyde Turner, SWP candidate for City Councilman, Fifth District, was the principal speaker.

To the interested workers gathered around the sound truck, she pointed out that the current wave of Government anti-radical, anti-Negro terror was planned to "frighten off" those most likely to resist American capitalism's imperialist drive to lower the living standards of the American working people and destroy what remains of our traditional liberties in order to pave the way for the Third World War needed to preserve their decaying, outmoded system a little longer. She explained that the stepped-up pace of Philadelphia's police brutality was just another symptom of the nation-wide frenzy of the ruling class, which is having a difficult time trying to whip the American people into line behind the new war plans.

A SOCIALIST PLEDGE

Comrade Turner promised that as a genuine socialist City Councilman, she would expose the crookedness and bad faith of the corrupt capitalist politicians. Whether elected or not, she pledged to continue a genuine struggle of the Philadelphia workers to help rid the world forever of degenerate Jim Crow capitalism.

A. Verna, who spoke next, gave a brief resume of the problems facing American workers and minorities, and urging them to take matters into their own hands, counterposed the SWP's election platform, giving an indication of some of the changes and benefits which can be expected under a socialist society. The chairman summed up the speeches and called on the workers to read *The Militant* and support the SWP campaign.

Sales of *The Militant* and other literature were brisk — all Militants on hand were sold out.

The next meeting of the series is scheduled to be held Friday evening, August 17, at 28th and Girard Avenue about 7:30 P.M. It will be followed by a meeting at 18th Street and Columbia Avenue on Friday, August 24 at the same hour.

SAN FRANCISCO ELECTION RALLY and TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING

Following the speeches and discussion there will be food, dancing

1738 FILLMORE AVENUE 4th floor

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 8:00 P. M.

Admission Free

Lawrence Trainor Runs for Boston School Committee

BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 14 — The Socialist Workers Party announced today the candidacy of Lawrence P. Trainor for member of the Boston School Committee.

Mr. Trainor, an active leader in working class struggles for many years, is a well-known figure to Boston voters. He received over 4,000 votes in 1947 when he ran for the same post. He has gained a reputation for his uncompromising stand in the interests of the workers.

BARRED FROM BALLOT

Two years ago Trainor was barred from the ballot on the basis of a flimsy technicality. In order to forestall a repetition of this, his supporters have collected and filed 3,600 nominating signatures, though the legal requirement is 2,000.

A statement released today by the Boston Branch of the SWP said, "Although the election is hypocritically 'non-partisan' in character, Trainor will present the socialist answers to the problems facing the working class and minority groups."



LAWRENCE TRAINOR

Pledges to Expose Trenton Frame-Up

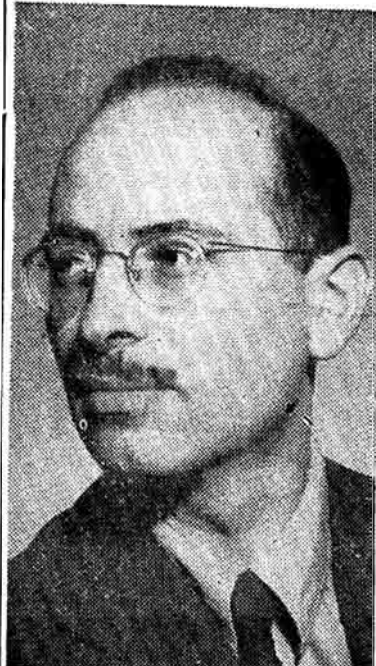
George Breitman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey Assembly from Essex County, repeated last week his pledge, if elected, to introduce a resolution demanding a speedy investigation, trial and punishment of the perpetrators of the Trenton frame-up.

Breitman also singled out for immediate action the repeal of the vicious New Jersey Utilities Anti-Strike Law.

The candidate insisted, "No one, in Washington or Trenton, should be able to deprive the American workers of their right to strike."

A veteran campaigner for socialism, Breitman ran for U.S. Senator from New Jersey in 1946 and in 1948. He received over 8,000 votes in the 1948 elections.

For information on how you can help in George Breitman's campaign, write or get in touch with us at the campaign headquarters, 423 Springfield Avenue, Newark, N. J. The Newark party plans one of the most extensive campaigns in its history.



GEORGE BREITMAN

Socialist Workers Party candidates have opened campaigns for the fall elections in six states. Steps to launch effective and energetic campaigns have been announced by Socialist Workers Party branches in San Francisco, Cal., Detroit, Mich., Philadelphia, Pa., Newark, N. J., New York City, N. Y., and Boston, Mass.

Experienced Socialist Workers Party campaigners are planning to take advantage of every opportunity to place the program of Socialism before the voters. They want to reach more workers than ever before with the SWP slogans against war, and against the reactionary trends in the U.S.

All the SWP candidates will campaign for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from foreign soil, for taxation of the incomes of war-bloated profiteers, against taxing workers' incomes, against Jim Crow and for a workers and farmers government.

BARTELL PUSHES FIGHT ON RISING LIVING COSTS

NEW YORK, N. Y., Aug. 16 — Michael Bartell, Socialist Workers candidate for President of the City Council, will open his campaign officially at an election rally and Trotsky Memorial Meeting, Friday, Aug. 24, 8 P.M., at the Capitol Hotel.

"Living standards are being lowered in New York as drastically as elsewhere in the country," said Bartell in a statement issued today. More than 150,000 families in the city have had their rent increased since March 15; the official estimate is an average increase of 13 percent. The real figure is almost double that since the poorest families are always the hardest hit.

TAX GOUGE

"The price and tax gouge in New York has in many respects outstripped the rest of the country and more price rises are ahead. Added to these hardships is a wave of joblessness. Applications for unemployment insurance during the month of July were double the official expectations."

Eight cold-blooded murders of innocent Negroes by the New York cops have occurred in the past two years alone. "The City Council, along with the Mayor,

must take its full share of responsibility for these atrocities," charged Bartell.

Not only has no cop been convicted of these brutal crimes, not one has ever been indicted. These "legal" killings continue; but the City Council refuses to lift a finger.

WHO WILL RULE?

"Who will rule City Hall in the next two years, the capitalists or the workers?" — that is the main question of this campaign according to the Socialist Workers candidate.

Bartell continued, "The present gang in City Hall serves only the interests of Big Business and race-baiters. They are not interested in defending the living standards of the New York workers. Bigger profits for the capitalists — that's their main concern. They are not interested in stopping the cop-killers of Negroes. They need them to protect their rotten system."

"Only a City Council run by and for the workers and minority groups in this city can put up a fight to halt the lowering of living standards, safeguard civil liberties and protect the lives of minority peoples."

The Negro Struggle

Facts Show Army Jim Crow Goes On

By Jean Blake

The Iron Curtain of U.S. censorship of the views of G.I.'s on the Korean War was partly cut through last week by the now famous letter of the courageous marine lieutenant to Truman damning the waste and destruction of human lives and money in the imperialist slaughter.

Similar sentiments have been expressed by numerous Negro soldiers throughout the Korean War, but have been reported cautiously in the Negro press, and not mentioned at all in the white capitalist dailies.

A typical interview reported in the Pittsburgh Courier on July 11, quoted returning Corp. Charles W. Barnes, winner of two Bronze Star medals:

"I can't see what anybody wants with that war-torn, diseaseridden country. I am glad to be back home."

More direct, because the soldiers quoted were protected from army disciplinary action by anonymity, were the reactions to the promises of ending segregation in the Far East command. As reported by Ralph Matthews, Afro-American newspaper correspondent in Tokyo:

"Men of the famed regiment (24th Infantry) are jubilant but skeptical. They are asking 'What happens stateside?'"

"Will we be separated from our buddies while traveling in the South," and "Where will we be stationed?"

"Stop yapping about cease fire and let us come home."

Such sentiments should make it clear that if the administration thinks it can whitewash its poney cease-fire negotiations and improve its record on civil rights by disbanding the 24th Infantry, Truman has missed again. It was too little too late.

The following statistics on segregated units in the various service commands, taken from last week's editorial page column of W. O. Walker, publisher of the Cleveland Call and Post, don't begin to give the full picture of Jim Crow in the armed forces. But they provide reliable figures that may be quoted the next time some Polyanna tells you discrimination is just fading away like an old soldier.

SOME RELIABLE FIGURES

"The Army, with 180,000 Negroes (12 percent of its strength), has abolished all segregation in basic training, but carefully divides the troops thereafter into white and Negro units."

"The Navy has about 20,000 Negroes — 3.3 percent of its strength; more than half of them are assigned to the Steward's branch (cooks, messmen) in which there are only six whites; there are but 27 Negro officers in the Navy, including one lone Annapolis graduate."

"The Marines have also moved slowly: of the 200,000 men on duty, only 2,000 are Negroes, and only three Negroes are officers. The Air Force, which has the best record on abolishing segregation, has broken up its all-Negro squadrons." (This does not mean that discrimination has been eliminated.)

When we add to the Jim Crow in the armed forces the increased violence against Negroes, the home burnings and dynamitings that have occurred recently in the United States, we can understand the feeling of the Negro soldiers that cease-fire should mean withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and that their fight for democracy is back in America.

The G.I.'s are deprived of their right of free speech by military authorities, but the folks at home, who still enjoy some constitutional rights technically, owe it to the boys to voice their demands for them.

NEW YORK ELECTION RALLY AND TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING



BARTELL

Speakers:
MICHAEL BARTELL
Candidate, President City Council
CLYDE TURNER
Candidate, Phila. City Council
Chairman
JOSEPH HANSEN
Business Manager, *The Militant*
FRIDAY, AUG. 24
8 P. M.
HOTEL CAPITOL
8th Avenue & 51st Street
Admission 35 cents



TURNER