

U.S. Concentration Camps Denounced By AFL Leader

Hugo Ernst, general president of the AFL Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, has made a strong denunciation of Washington's latest threat to civil liberties —

the Truman administration's order, issued by Attorney General McGrath, for the preparation of concentration camps for "subversives."

Writing in the January issue of *The Catering Industry Employee*, official journal of the union, Ernst appeals to the labor movement to awaken to the danger that this represents to working people, and to fight against it. Ernst is one of the few AFL or CIO leaders who

has spoken about, let alone against, this new danger.

Under the title, "Time to Revive the Bill of Rights," Ernst reprints the first ten amendments to the Constitution, and says:

ERNST STATEMENT

"In recent months, more than one of these rights has been put in jeopardy, sometimes by private, sometimes by public persons. In every case, the person whose rights are violated is a member of a minority — racial, religious or political.

"Most generally, the violations are suffered by those who speak out for unpopular causes. They are punished, in effect, for their criticism of the way the majority is conducting itself.

"Latest in a long series of items confirming the view that the rights of U.S. citizens are in jeopardy were two reports carried in the papers late last month.

MURDER OF MOORE

"One, datelined Mims, Florida, told of the Christmas night murder of Harry Moore, Florida representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Moore's civil rights were violated with awful finality because he could not sit still while the civil rights of others were being violated.

"Mr. Moore died for daring to criticize, and for demanding that other citizens criticize, the Florida sheriff who shot two shackled Negro youths, killing one and wounding the other, who were being transported to a hearing on the Groveland case.

EVEN MORE OMINOUS

"The other news item, in its broad implications even more ominous to the traditional U.S. idea of freedom, was datelined Washington, and told how the Department of Justice has order-

(Continued on page 3)

No Neutrals in World Showdown, Says Geo. Clarke

By L. McMasters

CHICAGO, Jan. 25 — There are no neutrals in the impending world show-down, George Clarke, SWP leader and editor of the Marxist journal, *Fourth International*, who just returned from Western Europe, told a Chicago audience at a meeting sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party branch here. Clarke pointed out that the social realities of the day dictate a choice between either the progressive camp of the revolutionary workers and colonial peoples of every continent or the reactionary camp of assorted feudal landlords, bankrupt governments, the Chiang Kai-sheks, the Francos and Churchills of the world led by the imperialists and brass hats of Washington.

GOOD AUDIENCE

Clarke spoke Friday night at the local SWP hall to an enthusiastic gathering of workers, Negroes and students on the "Approaching International Show-down." Among the near-capacity crowd there were many who heard for the first time, the powerful Marxist analysis of the mounting tide of world revolt, which is making today's headlines and tomorrow's history.

MISLEADERS TO GO

In a penetrating analysis of the workers' organizations of western Europe, Clarke predicted that in the event of war or depression the socialist-minded workers of Britain and the continent would slough off their Stalinist and reformist misleaders in the process of a revolutionary struggle for power.

The day before, Clarke addressed a successful meeting sponsored by the Political Analysis Committee of the University of Chicago, where he discussed the impact upon the European workers of the U.S. war drive.



McGRATH

MYRA WEISS CHOSEN AS LOS ANGELES CANDIDATE

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 28 — Myra Tanner Weiss was chosen by acclamation yesterday to be the Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from the 19th California District in the November elections. This was the highlight action of a well-attended two-day conference of Los Angeles SWP branches here last weekend.

The conference also enthusiastically endorsed the recommendation of the party's National Committee to run Farrell Dobbs for President and Grace Carlson for Vice-President. It was agreed that this would give the voters a real opportunity to register their protest against continued intervention in Korea and projected intervention in Indo-China, the Near East and wherever else the colonial people seek to throw off oppression.

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It will demand an end to the witch hunt inspired and led by the Truman administration and will fight for full equality for the Negro people and other minority groups, and complete independence of the unions from government control.

The SWP in California will also wage a fight against the reactionary election laws in this state that permit a Big Business monopoly of the ballot for the Democrats and Republicans. The party will demand a change in the laws so that independent candidates can get on the ballot.

ANTI-WAR CAMPAIGN

Another step taken by the conference was the all-out support voted for the Feb. 21 city-wide mass rally of the labor movement, the NAACP, Jewish organizations and other groups to protest the terrorism that is spreading throughout the South.

Myra Tanner Weiss, chairman of the SWP Los Angeles Local, will oppose Chet Holifield, the Democratic incumbent. In 1950 she was his only opponent for the seat he now holds. Mrs. Weiss, a prominent Marxist educator and speaker, has engaged in several spirited campaigns for office, including the Board of Education race last spring, when she received 18,599 votes.

Joint Action Is Advocated in Moore Case

Plan Protest Meetings Against Terrorism

By William Yancey

FLINT, Jan. 24 — The Flint Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, meeting at the Antioch Baptist Church last week, voted for a proposal to organize a joint conference with CIO United Auto Workers locals, the Urban League and other interested groups to hold a mass protest rally at the I.M.A. Auditorium on the lynch-murders of Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Moore in Florida.

The proposal was made by Genora Dollinger, executive board member, who stressed the necessity of the NAACP uniting with the CIO to meet the dangers presented by the new pattern of lynch-violence. Mrs. Dollinger also urged that the projected joint conference consider action on a nationwide work stoppage on the Moore case, already endorsed by the NAACP board of directors.

The principal speaker of the evening, Dr. J. L. Leach, branch president, said: "Three-quarters of the oppressed peoples of the globe are demanding and fighting for their privileges and rights. We, as Negroes, should be among the first to ask for ours."

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27 — The Socialist Workers Party is going all-out in support of the united protest meeting on the Moore case, sponsored by powerful labor, liberal and minority groups, which will be held at the Shrine Auditorium on Feb. 21. Walter White, NAACP secretary, will be the main speaker.

Using sound trucks, open air meetings and thousands of leaflets, the SWP will publicize the meeting, the facts in the Moore case, and the need for united militant action, including a nationwide work stoppage, a mass march on Washington and the formation of defense guards.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 — Local 1011 of the AFL Brotherhood of Painters last night unanimously voted to ask the union's General Executive Board to consult with other unions on the organization of a "national labor work stoppage and demonstration to express labor's determination to stamp out any incipient fascist tendencies," such as the Moore murders.

More Unions Aid Kutcher's Fight For Civil Rights

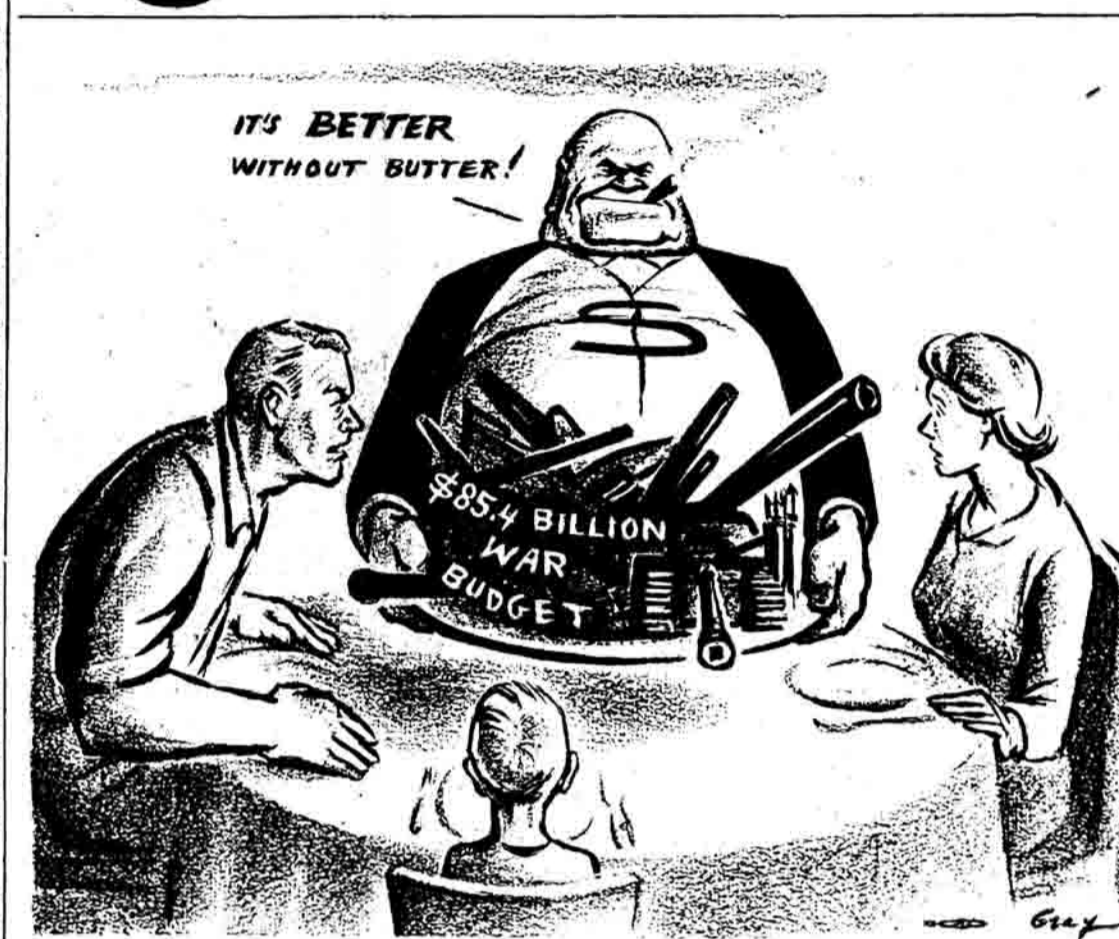
NEW YORK — A \$100 contribution for the defense of James Kutcher was received from the Joint Board of the Dress and Waistmakers' Union of Greater New York (ILGWU), the Kutcher Civil Rights Committee reported last week. Kutcher, legless veteran purged from the Veterans Administration because of his Socialist Workers Party membership, is appealing his discharge to the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington.

Local 133, CIO United Rubber Workers in Hawthorne, N. J., sent \$25 and the statement: "We are rooting for James. We hope he comes out on top for we feel a great injustice has been done against him."

Milwaukee Local 1111 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers donated \$25 because of its belief that "an injustice exists, if a single individual, the Attorney General, can deem an organization subversive without reasons or hearing; if an American citizen cannot follow his political beliefs openly in a legal political party without being branded 'disloyal'... We hope and trust that Mr. Kutcher's following will grow."

Other recent union contributors are Local 1011, AFL Brotherhood of Painters, N. Y.; Fleetwood Local 15, United Auto Workers, Detroit; Local 1136, United Steelworkers, Chicago Heights, Ill.; Local 813, UAW, Philadelphia; Local 23, Skirt Makers, ILGWU, N. Y.; Local 19, Knee Pants Makers Union, CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers, N. Y.

U.S. Backs New Assault Against Colonial People



Anti-Negro Terrorist Bombings Spread North

The federal government's failure to crack down on terrorism is having the expected result — more bomb outrages are being committed, and they are spreading to the North. This was demonstrated again on Jan. 29 when a Negro doctor's home was bombed in Cairo, Ill.

Cairo, situated in southern Illinois, near Kentucky and Missouri, has had a Jim Crow school system for many decades. A recent state law provided that schools practicing segregation would be unable to receive state funds, and Negro children prepared to transfer on Jan. 28 to schools from which they had previously been excluded.

Crosses were burned on two nights in the Negro section of Cairo. Then two sticks of dynamite were thrown over the fence of Dr. U. F. Bass, destroying a rear bedroom in the house.

Bass was not active in the NAACP campaign against Jim Crow schools, but he favored the

campaign. This evidently was enough for the terrorists to choose him as a victim who would symbolize the consequences of daring to oppose white supremacy.

ESCAPED INJURY

Unlike Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Moore, who were murdered under similar circumstances in Florida, Dr. Bass, his wife and four children happened not to be in the bedroom when the dynamite was thrown and so escaped injury.

This was the second bombing in Illinois in nine days. On Jan. 20 the new international headquarters of the AFL Meat Cutters Union in Chicago was blasted by a bomb that shook the whole area. Meanwhile, in Atlanta, Ga., a Ku Klux Klan official named Charles H. Klein was brought to trial for bombing a Negro house. This was news because such a court scene takes place so infrequently in the South.

A former Klan member, Frank Castille, took the witness stand and testified that Klein had

Washington and Pentagon Secretly Prepare for Armed Intervention in North Africa

By Art Preis

Washington and the Pentagon are secretly preparing armed intervention against anti-imperialist uprisings of the colonial and semi-colonial peoples which are now flaming across vast North Africa

as well as huge areas of Asia. U.S. imperialism is already feeding British and French imperialism huge quantities of money and arms to help crush prolonged popular revolts in Malaya and Indo-China and the new upsurges in Egypt and Tunisia. Now there is grave danger that U.S. armed forces will follow.

U.S. marines are poised for quick intervention on the side of the British in Egypt, it is revealed by Robert S. Allen, Washington correspondent for the pro-administration *N. Y. Post*. He also indicates that the decision for the brutal British assault on the Egyptians was strengthened by Churchill's prior knowledge, sent by the Pentagon that the U.S. troops would be ready for action in the Suez area.

U.S. "TOKEN FORCE"

"A 'token force' of U.S. fighting men is ready and waiting to be landed in a matter of hours in the strife-torn Suez Canal zone," reported Allen on Jan. 28. "Pentagon authorities have completed all preparations for that. The necessary plans, troops and equipment are now instantly available to respond to Prime Minister Churchill's invitation to the Western allies to dispatch 'token forces' to the explosive sector. More than 6,000 U.S. marines are within a few hours of the Canal Zone."

Furthermore, Allen states, "U.S. military preparations in connection with the Suez have been under way for some time. More than a month ago the Pentagon informed the British War Office of the number of U.S. troops and other forces available in the Mediterranean for Suez operations, if and when needed."

EGYPT THREATENED

The State Department, according to the Jan. 28 *Wall Street Journal*, has also given a direct warning to Egypt to submit to British domination or else. — "The U.S. warning to Egypt will be informal and secret," reports the *Journal*. "The U.S. means business... Mr. Caffery (U. S.

Tories Planned It,

The day after Churchill's election victory last October the *Tory Daily Express*, in an editorial, entitled "Now Tackle Egypt," declared:

"Egypt is an immediate task for the Government. During the Election this second-rate kingdom, like a swollen frog of the Nile Delta has puffed and croaked against Britain..."

"It is now time to teach these unfortunate people and its misguided politicians a sharp lesson. And happily there are now men capable of the task. In Cairo they will understand the meaning of this election."

Ambassador to Egypt) will hint that if the Egyptians ever expect any arms and economic aid from the U.S., they've got to get themselves under control... This technique is a warning there'll be no candy for boys who can't behave."

Aside from its contemptuous and arrogant tone toward the Egyptian people, this article by the *Wall Street Journal* reveals how U.S. imperialism is using economic weapons, as well as the threat of armed intervention, to enforce its political policies on weaker nations.

There is not the slightest basis for the imperialist propagandists to argue that intervention against the Egyptian people or the Tunisians is designed to "protect" them from the "aggression" of "Communist imperialism." This was the pretext for Truman's intervention, with the tacit consent of Congress, in Korea when civil war broke out there between two Korean regimes.

EXPLOITED BY BRITISH

Egypt has been exploited by the British and kept in abysmal poverty for nearly a century. The British have repeatedly occupied Egypt with armed forces and murdered and oppressed its people.

(Continued on page 2)

Egyptians Rise Against British Tyranny

By George Lavan

The great anti-imperialist movement that the Egyptian government has tried to keep under its moderate leadership burst out of official bounds on Saturday, Jan. 26. The people of Cairo, infuriated by the slaughter of Egyptian police in Ismailia by overwhelming British forces, engaged in tremendous anti-British and anti-U.S. riots.

WOMEN ACTIVE

Crowds vented their age-old hatred on all the symbols of imperialist domination. British, U.S. and French-owned banks, business agencies, movies, hotels, etc., were stormed by Egyptians and set afire. Gathering places of the arrogant colonialists, like Shepherd's Hotel, were particular targets of this Egyptian outburst against foreign oppression. The revolutionary temper of the populace is shown in the fact that there was no looting or indiscriminate destruction of property. Only buildings connected with the foreign imperialists or night clubs, operating while Egyptian patriots were giving their lives in the Suez area, were touched.

So widespread is this anti-imperialist hatred that Cairo police sent to suppress the crowds joined them. Another noteworthy fact was that women, who are relegated to an inferior position in Moslem countries, played a prominent role in the demonstrations.



CHURCHILL

In a desperate move to stem the revolutionary tide, the Egyptian ruling class, submitting to U.S. and British pressure, declared martial law and set up a "strong man" ministry headed by Premier Aly Maher Pasha.

Though in a hopeless military position, the Egyptian police refused to surrender and held out for six hours. British artillery

officials told reporters off the record that they expected Egypt to order closing of the British Embassy in Cairo, expulsion of all Britons and a boycott of British goods. From all indications, this decision of the Egyptian Cabinet met with pressure and threats from U.S. Ambassador Jefferson Caffery. While not giving any names, the Egyptian Cabinet announced that it was holding up official action against Britain because of intervention by "the ambassador of a great power."

U.S. INTERVENES

It is known that Caffery prevented a diplomatic break with Britain last December after British troops destroyed an Arab village. It is probable that Caffery threatened the Egyptians with U.S. intervention. There are 6,000 U.S. marines within a few hours of the Suez area. Robert S. Allen, *N. Y. Post* Washington correspondent, reported on Jan. 28 that these marines had been alerted by the Pentagon for landing in Egypt.

King Farouk ousted the Wafd Party cabinet although it has 80% of the representatives in the Egyptian House of Representa-

SECRET TALKS

Another indication of the extent of U.S. backing to British imperialism in Egypt was seen in Churchill's "get tough" statement upon returning to Britain from his mission in the U.S. His first words were that steps would be taken to deal with Egypt — whether these steps "are popular or not." While in the U.S. Churchill asked Congress to send "token troops" to Suez. What was agreed upon in his secret talks with Truman and the Big Brass the public has no way of knowing.

General Strike in Tunisia Against French Enslavers

By Charles Hanley

Tunisian reaction to French imperialist terror, following the arrest of their Nationalist and labor leaders, has been very militant. The general strike called by the Tunisian unions showed the fighting spirit of the North African working class.

Some of the mass demonstrations finally resulted in armed collisions with the French troops, estimated at 200,000, after these had several times opened fire on unarmed demonstrators, killing at least 50 and injuring around 300.

The French rushed additional armored and infantry units to the Protectorate, as well as jet planes. Scores of Tunisians were

reportedly killed at Kelibia and other towns by French tanks. Habib Bourguiba, leader of the Neo-Destour (New Constitution) Party, whom the French have imprisoned in Tabarka, declared on Jan. 24 that "the troubles are a manifestation of the state of exasperation in which the French population." (The French Dec. 12 note rejected the Tunisian demands for self-government.)

The French Resident General, Hauteclouque, had threatened the Nationalists with more severe military reprisals if their resistance continued. This dictator issued this threat to the nominally reigning Bey Sidi Mohammed El-

Amin. The Bey, a former French puppet, received Hauteclouque at his El Bardo palace, after previously refusing to see any French representatives.

After two hour conference at El Bardo, the Associated Press reported, Hauteclouque issued an appeal for calmness, pretending that he acted "in full communion of thought with His Highness." The Bey, however, refused to sign this appeal, although the Resident General is said to have offered to release Bourguiba in exchange for the Bey's signature.

The Tunisian people have undoubtedly been encouraged by the anti-imperialist policy of Iran, Morocco and Egypt; and by another event which has passed almost unnoticed outside North Africa and the Middle East — an event which further strengthens the spirit of independence of the Arab peoples: A new Arab state was recently born on the very border of Tunisia — Libya, now an independent kingdom, ruled by King Idris I, chief of the Senoussi tribes.

AGAINST DIRTY WAR

The French Trotskyists, through their paper *La Verite*, urge the North African liberation movement and the French working class to establish closer ties in order to fight more effectively against the French imperialists — the common enemy of the North Africans, of the Indo-Chinese and of the French workers. French revolutionary socialists have always opposed colonialism; and these anti-colonialist traditions have been renewed in the French working class by the "dirty war" in Indo-China. The French workers do not want another dirty war in Tunisia. The "tough" policy of Premier Faure is unpopular with millions of Frenchmen.

Billions of dollars — American taxpayers' money — are being spent for arms aid to foreign reactionaries, including the French government which is shooting down Indo-Chinese and North African peoples who are fighting for the same principles as are expressed in the American Declaration of Independence. American workers and their unions should protest the State Department's and the Pentagon's direct and indirect moves against the liberation struggles of colonial people. Not a cent, not a gun, not a man for the Unholy Alliance of World Colonial Enslavers!

U.S. AIDS NEW ASSAULT UPON COLONIAL PEOPLE

(Continued from page 1)

The stealing of the Suez area by fraud and bribery is a well-known story. The maintenance of British troops within Egyptian territory is a clear-cut aggression against this nation.

The money and arms which the U.S. is also handing out so lavishly to France — and which likewise may soon be followed by troops — is going to keep the French in control of their African empire, one and a half times larger than the U. S. and with 60,000,000 people. The French sent a military force into independent Tunisia in 1881 to "protect" it and French troops have been kept there ever since. In 70 years, "the European 10 per cent of the population . . . own or control half or two-thirds of Tunisia's agricultural output, 95 per cent of its industry and a major portion of its commerce." (N. Y. Times, Jan. 27) It is against this foreign robbery and rule that the Tunisians are now in revolt.

U.S. imperialists may pretend their intervention to bolster the British and French colonial empires is intended to benefit the colonial peoples. But the moves in North Africa, the Wall Street Journal admits, are concerned strictly with the economic and military desires of the imperialists. The Journal quotes "a military planner in Britain's War Office" to the effect that "the African and Asian shores of the

Mediterranean must — I repeat, must — remain in friendly hands." The Journal adds: "Unsettled conditions in the Middle East also cast a shadow on American and British chances of holding the immensely rich oil fields in the Arab world."

The U.S. militarists are converting North Africa and the Middle East into military bases. Capt. Frederick L. Oliver, U.S. Navy, retired, who is naval correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, wrote Jan. 15: "These plans, which provide for land-based air power in the Mediterranean area, have gone steadily ahead. Bases have sprung up all along the North African shore and are now being constructed or are being planned for various localities in southern Europe and the Middle East."

More than 750,000 members of the U.S. armed forces have been involved in the Korean intervention that started as a "police action."

Now the capitalist politicians and militarists want to undertake "police actions" on a front hundreds of times as vast as Korea, all the way across Africa and Asia. But with each new imperialist move, the revolt of the slaves who don't want to be slaves any more spreads.

The American people face not only the hatred of the world, but endless sacrifice and bloodshed, if they fail to halt the Washington-Pentagon madmen in time.

Slicing the War Dollar



Truman, in company of Dir. Lawton of Bureau of the Budget, proudly displays chart in Washington showing 60c of tax dollar earmarked for arms program here, plus another 13c for arms abroad. Actual arms costs, for wars past and present, are over 85c.

War Budget Hits Labor With Record Tax Gouge

By John G. Wright

Just what is the "Guns Better Than Butter" budget of Truman, of the Pentagon and Big Business going to cost the mass of the American people? A great deal more than most people believe. To begin with, they are going to pay every dollar of it through — TAXES. For this \$85.4 billion budget, like every budget, is covered by "individual taxes," by "corporate, excise, customs and other taxes," and by "borrowing and new taxes."

But that isn't all. While labor, the working farmers and city poor pay and then pay some more, they must at the same time meet attack after attack upon their living standards; see social services dwindle away; and get less housing, less household appliances and less consumer goods generally — already beyond the reach of so many — as taxes keep adding to the price inflation.

ENORMOUS SUM

\$85.4 billion is so enormous a sum that it is actually beyond human imagination. It is unthinkable. It is more than 2½

times the national income of Britain, the second "richest" capitalist country today. To bring things closer home, it means that the federal tax-load will soar to \$563 for every man, woman and child in this country, or \$2,262 for a family of four, more than millions of U.S. families actually earn. (Source: U.S. News, Feb. 1, 1952.)

Last June this per-capita tax load amounted to \$327. In other words, Truman's new budget represents a tax-hike of more than 72% in the brief space of six months. It is the fourth and stiffest tax wallop since Korea. Such a tax scourge no people have ever known before. It comes on top of, and adds to, the scourge of INFLATION.

But, some may object, aren't the corporations, after all, also hit by taxes? According to Truman's figures, corporations will "pay" 32c out of every budget-dollar as against 26c in "individual taxes." This transaction, which doesn't look fair enough even on the surface, is a fake. Why should the corporations pay less than individuals? But the corporations actually pay no taxes at all; they simply pass them on to the poor. In the field of taxation, corporations serve as big collection agencies for the capitalist government.

If you hesitate to take our word for it, listen to the conservative Republican Senator Kem of Missouri.

PASS IT ALONG

"Corporations tend to become extravagant in their business operations. They pass along to the consumer the tax increase in the form of higher prices," he said on Jan. 23 on the Senate floor.

For more eloquent evidence one need only study the corporation balance-sheets which show that, despite the "soft goods" slump, they raked in the first quarter of last year profits at an annual rate of \$23.3 billion — after taxes! While farm income dropped about 15% last year and many workers went into debt to make ends meet, the dividends paid were the second largest on record. That's how much "higher taxes" bother these profiteers.

For even more eloquent evidence we have a recent pronouncement of Secretary of the Treasury Snyder and his staff of tax experts who once again affirm that the "largest potential source" of future (and past) "tax revenue" are those individuals and families who earn "less than \$5,000 a year." This covers not the rich, mind you, but the majority of our people — the poor.

Why then the current hue and cry against higher taxes in Congress and in the capitalist press? It is in order to throw sand in people's eyes. Instead of "direct" taxes the corporations favor indirect taxes, such as a federal sales-tax. Their "economy" cry is also sheer deception. A cut of 5 to 7 billion dollars, if actually

made by all these proponents of a "strong national defense," will still leave their war budget up in the stratosphere, along with the per-capita tax-load. What is more, cuts of less than 16 to 20 billion dollars will still leave this budget unbalanced, with many billions that will have to be borrowed.

DEFICIT BUDGET

Such a deficit budget is the most expensive to tax-payers. Because on top of feeding inflation it keeps swelling the "carrying charges" on the already monstrously swollen public debt. The annual interest on the existing debt now takes 7c out of every budget-dollar, totalling already \$6 1/3 billion or about as much as Truman has asked for all the veterans' programs plus all "welfare and security" put together.

And let us recall that state and local taxes are piled on top of the federal taxation. Last year \$1 out of every \$3 of the entire national income went for federal, state and local taxes, for a total tax-grab of \$84 billion. Now Truman demands more than this whopping total for the federal budget alone!

While the poor are soaked this way, they are simultaneously told they will have to get along with less and less housing. The government ceiling for next year's housing is 625,000 "starts," or 200,000 below last year. And to make doubly sure that housing, long beyond the reach of most, remains acutely short, the National Production Authority has slapped "further restrictions" on "the use of critical materials" for home construction.

SOCIAL SERVICES SLASHED

Veterans' programs have been sliced by a billion dollars. As for his national health plan, Truman simply scuttled it. On paper Truman's proposed appropriations for "welfare and security" appear the same as last year. Actually the progressive debasement of the dollar amid the uninterrupted rise of living costs has slashed all those social services in half, if not more, just as it has "diluted" all government and private pensions and "retirement programs," not to mention insurance policies, the pitiful savings of the poor, and the like.

The foregoing by no means exhausts the full costs of Truman's budget. But it suffices to show that his \$85.4 billion imperialist budget is a virtual declaration of war against the welfare of the American people. Aimed toward war abroad against the insurgent colonial peoples, against the Soviet Union and its satellites in Eastern Europe, and against the socialist-minded workers of Western Europe, this budget is at the same time a frontal assault upon our people at home, upon their traditional way of living and working.

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Letters from Readers

Church Property: For White Only

Editor:

We noticed the four room apartment with a to-let sign on the window, a very unusual thing these days. The section is in the worst slum area in Newark. But we had some colored friends very badly in need of a flat so we decided to investigate.

We entered the cold ugly hallway and found the janitor or whatever his title was because he had the key. Before we entered, he informed us that it was a "furnished" apartment. Well, a little furniture would help out, we thought — so we looked. As we entered the kitchen we saw a dirty old coal stove and

the tiny bathroom, the one busted chair and kitchen table. The two windowless bedrooms had a bed apiece in them with the most dilapidated mattresses imaginable. The "front room" had another busted table and a chair.

After more peering around, we thought perhaps if the rent was low enough, the "furnishings" could be thrown out and the place painted and cleaned, and the place might serve its purpose. It turned out that the rental for this ratty broken-down railroad flat in the worst slum area in the city was \$40 a month because the OPA allows rent increases for furnished apartments when the rent cannot be increased otherwise.

We started to say that we had colored friends who — at this, the guide or janitor or whatever he was, interrupted angrily: "No, no colored people here, only white!" We lost our temper too, and said a few things that must

have got under his skin, because he became upset and changed his tone a little:

"Don't blame me, I only work here. It's the Church that owns the property. Go talk to the priest. He tells me what to do. The Church owns the property between West Kinney St. and Springfield, and my orders are that no colored are allowed to rent."

No, this wasn't Montclair or East Orange suburbs or a fancy apartment house but a stinking slum area and we were told this by a poor white worker who was doing as the Church told him to do.

Perhaps they were waiting for a DP family to rent this "furnished" apartment not worth more than \$15 a month if anything: Because the sign is off and shades are on the windows, so someone is living there now.

Ruth Franklin Newark, N. J.

Friday, Feb. 8, at 8:30 at 423 Springfield Ave.

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The Choice in Korea

We are being told that we face just "two alternatives" in Korea because of the stalemate in the Korea truce negotiations.

One choice is represented by Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy, head of the U.S. truce team, who last week spoke belligerently for "the application of sufficient military power" and "blasting the Communists off the Korean Peninsula."

This is a distinctly unpopular choice and there is some hesitation in Washington and the Pentagon to undertake it. As the Jan. 23 Christian Science Monitor pointed out editorially, resumption of full-scale active warfare "would require readiness to undergo heavy casualties," and "in recent weeks American leaders have been increasingly aware of home-front complaints about casualties." The Monitor complains that the people believe that the war in Korea is "useless" and "the government is not explaining why it is worth while."

The truth is that the government officials and the press have tried to convince us that the war is "worth while" by every means of propaganda. But the people have not believed these lies. That is why we are being told of another "alternative" to full-scale warfare, namely, what the U.S. News and World Report cynically termed a "simmering war."

This, U.S. News explained, would mean keeping the fighting going indefinitely with battle casualties of "about 300" a week. A half million U.S. troops would be kept in Korea and "segregated" from the home folks, whom the Washington politicians "hope . . . will forget about the war." The N. Y. Herald Tribune called this "the alternative of patient endurance" and claimed this might be a good way to "fool" the Chinese and North Koreans. But a "simmering war" is intended, in reality, to fool the American people.

The "two alternatives" boil down to no alternatives at all. They are just different tactical methods for continuing and prolonging the war. Neither offers the slightest hope for peace. One would mean the immediate piling up of big casualties; the other, a prolonged war of attrition with an endless, steady drain of lives.

Against these "two alternatives" of war and more war, which the capitalist politicians and the capitalist press have offered since the beginning of Truman's "police action," the Socialist Workers Party has called from the moment of U.S. intervention for a different and opposite alternative: Withdraw the U.S. troops from Korea at once! In every public opinion poll and in countless letters to Congress and the news papers, the American people have echoed this sentiment: Get out of Korea!

Politics and Concentration Camps

We must send "to Washington and our state capitals men and women who will dust off the Bill of Rights and restore it to its proper place as the capstone of Americanism." That is how Hugo Ernst, general president of the AFL Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, concludes an article in the union journal attacking the administration's decision to prepare concentration camps in which it intends to "detain" political opponents on whom it has stuck the label of "subversive."

It is true that political action is the answer to the witch hunt that is subverting the Bill of Rights and transforming the U.S. into a police state. But Ernst's advice is too general to be of much use.

The concentration camps against which he courageously protests were authorized by the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950. This bill was passed with the support of an overwhelming majority of the Democrats and Republicans in both houses of Congress. The concentration camp provisions of this law were added, not by McCarran and the other McCarthyites, but by the liberal Democrats — Lehman, Douglas, Kefauver, Humphrey, Kilgore, etc. In the end, they voted against the law as a whole, but they specifically endorsed its concentration camp provisions.

This means that the responsibility for Hitler-like concentration camps in America rests on both capitalist parties, and on all wings of those parties, liberal and conservative alike.

That is why it is inadequate and misleading to talk, in general, about electing candidates "who will dust off the Bill of Rights and restore it to its proper place," unless this is accompanied with an explanation that candidates of the Democratic and Republican parties definitely do not fit into this category.

To be effective, calls for resistance to the witch hunt must be specific — they must name names. Ernst's article never mentions Truman once. Yet Truman above everyone else must bear the blame for concentration camps. He found it politically expedient in 1950 to veto the McCarran Act (when he knew it would be passed over his veto anyhow). Now, as I. F. Stone of the N.Y. Compass points out, he has taken the initiative to prepare concentration camps although the McCarran law only "authorizes" and does not "direct" or "require" him to do so.

The capitalist politicians of both parties started the witch hunt and they have been carrying it through as partners (despite occasional squabbles as to which one deserves the major "credit"). The only thing they will dust the Bill of Rights off for is its burial.

Only one of the present presidential candidates has fought the McCarran Act and its concentration camps — in principle, in practice and without reservation — and that is Farrell Dobbs, candidate of the Socialist Workers Party.

Those who are serious about political action to fight the witch hunt will join the SWP in helping to put on the 1952 ballot the fullest possible slate of revolutionary socialists.

Current Lessons of Negro History

By Albert Parker

For capitalist politicians and their labor, liberal and Negro apologists, Negro History Week is an occasion to remind the Negro people about "how much progress" they have made since the days of slavery and to promise them that they will make "still more progress" if only they will be patient, renounce militant action and accept the pipe-dream that Jim Crow capitalism will "gradually" evolve into a system of equality and freedom.

By the Stalinists, Negro History Week will be used this year to tip their hats to the militancy of past Negro struggles so that they will be better able to direct current Negro struggles into the

channels of the movement for a "Five Power Pact" whose aim is the "peaceful coexistence" of the bureaucratic Stalin regime in the Soviet Union and the reactionary Jim Crow capitalist regime in the United States.

To revolutionary socialists, however, Negro History Week represents something altogether different. In general, it serves to help us remind the American people that without an understanding of the role played by the Negroes, especially in the period between 1830 and 1876, it is impossible to understand the course of American history as a whole. In particular, it helps us to popularize lessons of the past that are indispensable guides to action, today and in the future, in

the struggle against Jim Crow and lynch-terror and the capitalist system that fosters them.

LEARN FROM HISTORY

The most immediate threat facing Negroes today is the spread of bombings, floggings, police brutality and other forms of white-supremacist violence designed to terrorize the Negro people so that they will not dare to stand up for their rights. Walter White, Philip Murray and most of the other Negro and labor leaders protest these outrages, but the only program they have to offer is reliance on the federal government to do something to halt them. How effective can such a program be, and what light is

thrown on it by the history of the Negro struggle?

The Southern slaveholders controlled the federal government for 60 years before the revolutionary Civil War smashed the slave system. But they had no intention of giving up power in their own part of the country even though they had lost their grip on Washington. And they set out to regain dominance in the South through force, violence and terror against the Negro people.

THE ONLY TIME

This counter-revolution was opposed by the federal government, then in the hands of the industrial capitalist class, during the 12 years after the Civil War, the period that is known as

Reconstruction. It was opposed not merely in words, but in action, with federal troops and guns sent to the South to keep the landlords and their Ku Klux bands in order.

This was the only time in the entire history of the South when anything resembling democracy prevailed. Negroes not only had the legal right to vote and run for office, but this right was enforced by their own independent action, backed up where necessary by federal troops. At the same time the counter-revolutionary Confederate leaders were suppressed and even disfranchised.

Negroes played a big part in the state Reconstruction governments. It was on their initiative and with their support, for example, that compulsory free education was first established in many states (the same educational system that the Byrneses and Talmadges are now threatening to dissolve and turn over to private control if the courts issue an order against segregation in the schools).

DID NOT LAST

The firm measures taken by the capitalist government in Washington showed that when it had the will to suppress racist violence, it could and did find the way. But the will did not last long. By 1876 the Southern landlords and businessmen were able to convince the industrial capitalists and their politicians that they had similar interests and that the former slaveowners would accommodate themselves to capitalism rather than continue to challenge its supremacy.

A deal was made, a partnership was formed, federal troops were withdrawn from the South, the Ku Kluxers were given a free hand, murder and destruction of Negro life and liberty were unleashed on a mass scale, and the dark night of reaction began to fall over the South once again.

The industrial capitalists played a revolutionary role when they helped to overthrow slavery. But those days are gone forever. They, and the monopoly capitalists who descended from them, are now the mortal foes of everything revolutionary and progressive anywhere on the face of the globe. They broke their promises to the Negroes, but they rigidly adhered to the bargain they had made with the Southern ruling class to share in keeping the Negro down; never, at any time since 1876, have they lifted a finger in defense of Negro rights, despite occasional vote-catching expressions of solicitude about them.

HEIGHT OF FOLLY

That is why relying on the capitalist government to stop the present orgy of anti-Negro violence is the height of folly and stupidity. People who expect capitalism to undo the wrongs it has committed deliberately for so many decades, and which it still benefits from, either do not know American history, or think it does

not mean anything. They have nothing to say worth listening to during Negro History Week (or any other week).

This, however, is only one side of what Negro history teaches. The other side is equally illuminating — the long record of independent Negro action and the effects it had.

The history of chattel slavery in the United States is a history of class struggles, of the slaves engaging in insurrections, revolts, escapes, guerrilla warfare, political action. These are not merely colorful episodes to be served up as proof that the slaves did not like slavery, but part and parcel of the anti-slavery movement, the stuff out of which the Abolitionists were brought into being and enabled to do their work, the goad that drove the Southern ruling class "mad" and sent it rushing toward self-destruction, the precondition for the Civil War.

WON THROUGH ACTION

Independent action in uprisings led by Nat Turner and John Brown; independent organization of the Underground Railway through which 100,000 Negroes made their way out of slavery; self-defense through bands that fought with arms in hand against the slave-catchers trying to enforce the Fugitive Slave Act; the role of Negro troops in definitively sealing the doom of the Confederacy in the military phase of the second American revolution — this great tradition of resistance to oppression provides plenty of examples of what could be done by militancy in the past and what can be done by it today in the struggle to end terrorism.

The Socialist Workers Party program — for the formation of defense guards, a mass march on Washington, a nationwide work stoppage and mass demonstrations against terrorism in every city — is in direct line with that tradition.

Alone and by themselves, the Negro people cannot stop the terrorism or abolish the conditions that produce it. But history has shown that by fighting militantly in their own defense and for their own preservation, they arouse, inspire and attract allies having similar interests, together with whom they can win their common fight. That is what happened during slavery, and that is what is happening and will happen on an even bigger scale in the anti-capitalist struggles of today and tomorrow.

Leon Trotsky had this in mind when he said that "the conscious elements of the Negroes . . . are convoked by the historic development to become a vanguard of the working class." By acting in self-defense, the Negro people, because of their position in society, help to awaken and mobilize other sections of the oppressed masses, and thereby contribute immeasurably to the struggle for a socialist world, in which all workers and races will be free.

AFL Head Hits 'Detention' Camps

(Continued from page 1)

ed its Bureau of Prisons to prepare several detention camps for 'subversives' to be used 'should the need arise.'

Ernst then recalls what Hitler did with members of different groups whose crime was that they criticized the government and its policies.

"No matter what the criticism, Hitler had an easy formula for putting them out of the way — for silencing those who criticized: he simply labeled all of them 'subversives,' guilty of 'un-German activity' and hauled them off to jail. When the jails were full, he put them away in concentration camps. And when the camps were full, he simply had his critics burned in the ovens of Belsen and Buchenwald.

"And that, in the main, was the price of criticizing Hitler and his ways.

"All this is important to us in American unions.

IMPORTANT TO UNIONS

"It is important to us because our unions, first and last, are in the business of criticizing and protesting. Every time we organize the unorganized, every time we negotiate a new contract, every time we go out on strike, every time we ask the Congress to vote more houses, or tighter price controls, or fair employment laws we are engaged in our fundamental mission of protest, or criticizing things as they are and demanding with all our power that changes be made for the better.

"But criticism is getting dangerous in the U.S.A.

"More and more subjects are becoming forbidden, lest he who speaks of them be listed by someone as 'subversive,' guilty of 'un-American activities.' And in the understandable rush to avoid the label 'red,' those who stand to cash in on the fever of fascism are happy as can be.

"Time was when it was considered safe to speak of peace, but that time has just about gone.

"It used to be safe to walk into a record shop and ask for anybody's music, or to hire anybody you wanted to be on your radio show, or to read the books of your choice — but now

authors, singers, actors are being blacklisted for their views.

"It hasn't been very long since every respectable labor leader in the land was ready to put his name to a demand for FEPC

Truman Is Solely Responsible for Concentration Camps, Stone Shows

I. F. Stone, columnist for the N. Y. Compass and crusader against the witch hunt, revealed on Jan. 20 that the concentration camps for "subversives" which are now being opened by the Truman administration are authorized but not required under the McCarran Internal Security Act of 1950. That means the responsibility for this giant step toward a police state rests on Truman rather than McCarran, as is commonly believed.

"Under the provisions of this Act," Stone writes, "the President need not utilize the emergency detention provisions unless he wants to. The preparation of these camps is not a measure required by the law. It is a measure decided upon by the President. The responsibility is his. A step which would take this country closer to Fascism than anything which has yet happened in its history depends on the President even under the McCarran Act. He is preparing to take that step, though he won applause from liberals for objecting in his veto message that such detentions would be unconstitutional."

Under the McCarran Act Truman is "authorized" (not "directed") to proclaim an "Internal Security Emergency" after which he is "authorized" (not "directed") to seize and detain "each person as to whom there is reasonable ground to believe that such person will engage in, or will probably conspire with others to engage in, acts of espionage or sabotage."

Truman denounced this when he vetoed the law, later passed over his veto by a majority of Democrats and Republicans. But now, on his own initiative, he is preparing to use provisions of the law, which Stone says "embody pure police state practice. To lock a man up because he will 'probably' commit a crime is to do something one could only do justly if one had clairvoyant foreknowledge of the future. It is that good old Nazi custom, 'preventive arrest.'"

A bill was introduced last month which would enable Congress by concurrent resolution to declare an "emergency" and put the detention provisions of the McCarran Act "into full effect" whenever it wishes to. Stone thinks Truman may support this measure, and he concludes:

"This is an election year. Truman began his Smith Sedition Act roundups in the last election year, 1948. Will he stage new roundups under the Emergency Detention Act this year as another way of striking fear into anyone who may oppose expansion of the war?"

Sam Adams and the American Revolution: 13

NATIONAL BATTLEGROUND -- THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

By Harry Frankel

The First Continental Congress, which met for approximately seven weeks during September and October of 1774, was the national battleground to which Sam Adams transferred his efforts after his success in consolidating a radical opposition in New England.

Only in New England had the radical wing of the opposition to Britain won unquestioned leadership over the popular movement. Throughout the other colonies, the battles were still going on. In some places the radicals, in others the conservatives, appeared to have the edge.

When the proposal for a continental gathering was first made, it was supported by all factions. The conservatives felt that they would dominate such a Congress, as they had the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, and would compel the Massachusetts radicals to back down.

The choice of Philadelphia as the meeting place of the Congress seemed to support this view. This city was the center of the conservative opposition to Sam Adams. As a matter of fact, Pennsylvania had chosen one of its delegates, Joseph Galloway, extreme rightist who was to become a leader of Tory forces in the Revolutionary War.

Adams Prepares for the Congress

The Massachusetts delegation included Sam Adams and his cousin, John Adams, who had by this time decided it was safe to come back into politics since Cousin Sam had won a big majority in Massachusetts.

Sam Adams had worked with great skill to have a delegation elected without the knowledge of the governor of Massachusetts, who would have dissolved any election meeting as "subversive."

Cromwell, English revolutionary leader, it will be recalled, turned Parliament out. Adams, in contrast, had to lock the Massachusetts Legislature in to keep Tory members from carrying word to the governor that Sam Adams was conducting an election of delegates to the Continental Congress. Even so, word got out. The Massachusetts members of the Congress were elected while the governor's man read an order dissolving

the Legislature outside the locked doors, and Sam Adams jingled the keys in his pocket.

This was the last royal assembly held by Sam Adams. Through clever and flexible tactics, he had been able to use the assemblies of His Majesty, the King, for revolutionary work. That stage was over now, and the work was to proceed in the future through extra-legal, revolutionary bodies.

The Congress which assembled at Philadelphia on Sept. 5, 1774 included all factions of the opposition, from the Adams radicals to the Galloway near-Tories. The representation was closely divided between radicalism and conservatism.

Sam Adams found support in the Virginia delegation. The southern planters, the rulers of their part of the country, were wealthy and "aristocratic." Despite this, they were extremely radical in the fight against Britain because they were being ruined by British colonial policy. Besides, being a farming class, outside the cities and exploiting slave labor, they were not nearly so fearful of the "mob" as were the merchants and city employers who were the direct oppressors of the masses that supported the radicals.

In the course of the sessions of the Congress, Sam Adams hammered together a majority bloc committed to the radical program. The greatness of this achievement is clear if we realize that he came to the Congress a much feared and hated man.

His own home territory was ready to follow him implicitly, but elsewhere he was suspected as a "demagogue," as "too close to the mob," as a Machiavelli and schemer, and so forth. Moreover, at the Congress Adams worked among snobbish and wealthy people, who did not like to accept a thoroughgoing radical democrat as a leader.

The Puritan Springs a Surprise

Adams was a Puritan, pious and ascetic. Massachusetts Puritanism was cordially despised in the southern and middle colonies, where Episcopalianism dominated. The New England Puritans, on the other hand, held the Episcopal Church in the deepest contempt, deeming it akin to papacy.

Sam Adams' motion on the opening day of the Congress came like a thunderclap: He proposed that the opening prayer be made by an Episcopalian clergyman, saying that he "could hear a prayer from any man." This conduct was so completely the reverse of everything the delegates had been led to expect by tales about Adams, that they were thrown off balance, and many suspicious people were disarmed. Of course, Adams was ready to sacrifice a minor point of this kind in order to gain sympathy and trust that he would use to good advantage later on when the important matters were discussed.

He Overcomes Prejudice

Adams remained behind the scenes, operating quietly throughout the Congress, so that the latent prejudice against him would find no issue upon which to seize. By dint of energetic caucusing, long private discussions in which he employed his justly famed persuasive talents, he made his way to power in the Congress.

The conservatives soon felt the firm hand of their quiet antagonist. First, the Congress chose to meet at Carpenters Hall, home of the Philadelphia Carpenters Guild. This came as a shock to Joseph Galloway, who had offered the State House, and felt that the choice of Carpenters Hall was a symbolic gesture by the Congress to the working people of Philadelphia.

Next, the Congress picked Charles Thomson, sometimes called the "Sam Adams of Philadelphia," as Secretary. Thomson had previously been defeated by the Pennsylvania conservatives in the elections for the Congress.

In the most decisive contest of the Congress, the radicals defeated, by only one vote, a conciliatory scheme put forward by Galloway. Chief floorleader in these battles was Patrick Henry, eloquent Virginia radical, described by an observer as "Moderate and mild, and in religious matters a Saint, but ye very Devil in Politics."

The positive action of the Congress was entirely in favor of the radical program. Far from advising Boston to pay for the tea that the people had dumped into Boston harbor, as the conservatives hoped, the Congress backed Boston to the limit, organized a relief campaign for the blockaded city, and proposed a nationwide boycott of the British similar to Sam Adams' Massachusetts Solemn League and Covenant.

Significantly, the Congress took the management of the boycott away from the merchants, as had been done in Boston. This was achieved by making it a directly popular boycott, organizing the people not to buy British goods instead of organizing the merchants not to import them.

Further, enforcement was put in the hands of local peoples' committees. One historian has estimated these actions as follows:

"The merchants had clearly been demoted from command to a humble position in the ranks: the committees frequently demanded that their ledgers and invoices be opened for inspection and maintained a far more effective watch upon shipping than had the custom house officers."

All of these actions bore the Adams stamp. Adams had put his program into operation on a national scale. The skill and delicacy required for this operation were very great. Sam Adams had once again proven his right to be listed among the great masters of revolutionary politics.

The most chastened participant in the Congress was undoubtedly Joseph Galloway. He, who had earlier sneered at Sam Adams, now felt compelled to write of him:

" . . . a man who, though by no means remarkable for brilliant abilities, yet is equal to most men in popular intrigue and the management of a faction. He eats little, drinks little, thinks much, and is most decisive and indefatigable in the pursuit of his objects. It was this man, who, by his superior application, managed at once the faction in Congress at Philadelphia and the factions in New England."

And, we might add, managed Joseph Galloway, too.
 (Next Week: From the Boston Tea Party to Concord and Lexington.)

Cleveland NEGRO HISTORY WEEK MEETING

Panel Discussion:

"A Historical Perspective on the Negro Struggle"

Speakers:

CHARLES LUCAS
 Executive Secretary, Cleveland NAACP
 LEE MORGAN
 AFL union representative
 JEAN SIMON
 Militant staff writer

Thursday, February 14 8 PM

Auspices:
 Militant Forum
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The Miami Bombings

By Jerry Warren

The current wave of racist terror, which is spreading throughout the Southeast and threatens to invade the North, appears to have had its immediate origin in a series of unpunished bombings in the Miami, Florida, area. There have been at least 20 actual or attempted bombings in Florida in the past few months, culminating in the bomb-lynching of Mr. and Mrs. Harry T. Moore. Fifteen of these bomb cases occurred in the Miami area.

The bombers' targets have been Jewish synagogues and community centers, a Catholic Church, an Indian Village, and a Negro housing project. As accompaniment of the terrorist acts there have been the shooting of a Negro, burning of fiery crosses and Ku Klux speeches reviling the Negro and Jewish people.

The New York Post recently carried a series of articles by its Miami correspondent, Charles Abrams, which give much interesting information on the bombings of the Negro housing project and the role of the police.

The Negro population of Miami is 60,000. Most Negro families live in overcrowded, rickety, three-room shacks overrun by rats. The owners of these shacks extract monthly rents of \$65 up from their tenants. Wretched housing conditions plus malnutrition due to low wages have brought, among other things, a tuberculosis rate for Miami Negroes more than three times that for whites. A few years back the prevalence of flea-carrying rats resulted in an outbreak of typhus in the Negro districts. While Miami whites average 11 persons per acre for living space, Miami Negroes live 200 persons to the acre. Yet the authorities and racist terrorists refuse to allow the colored population more space for housing.

The attitude of the city authorities is well expressed in a six foot stone wall erected by them around a Negro housing project which borders the lily-white part of town.

Carver Village is a privately owned housing project adjoining the Negro section. When the owners failed to find white tenants for more than half of the 16 units, they offered to rent the unoccupied buildings to Negroes. Racists and reactionary politicians raged as Negro tenants moved in. Huge white-supremacy meetings, advertised in the press, were called. Negroes and Jews were denounced, although the owners of Carver Village were not Jewish. It was openly boasted that the Negroes would be driven out of the project.

Israeli Seamen Strike

By Arye Kishoni

The recent strike of Israeli seamen in which the U.S. government acted as strikebreaker by interning and then deporting striking seamen was the climax of a lengthy struggle.

The first strike of Israeli seamen occurred in the summer of 1951. The men struck all the ships owned by "Shoham," a firm which is owned jointly by private capital, the Jewish Agency, and the Histadrut (a trade union organization which embraces the bulk of the workers).

This first strike, which began in the port of Marseille, was caused by the refusal of the company to grant the men an adequate sum of foreign currency for use in port. The solidarity and aid given them by the French seamen in Marseille was a real factor in awakening the consciousness of the Israelis and emboldened them to take strike action. This first militant action got little sympathy from the rest of the Histadrut locals, who were still cowed by the cry of the Histadrut officials that the strike constituted sabotage of the shaky Israel economy. The strike lasted only a few days, and the seamen agreed to turn their grievances over to an arbitration committee.

Meetings of the arbitration committee brought to light many scandalous cases of misuse of office by the Histadrut bureaucrats, who exerted themselves to hinder the work of the committee. By November 1951 arbitration had still yielded nothing. The seamen decided that in order to get results it was necessary to dismiss their executive board, which had been bureaucratically appointed by the Histadrut officials, as is the custom in all Histadrut locals. Elections were held and a new executive board was chosen, which now included in its demands: an independent hiring hall; union control of the hiring of foreign seamen; and the right to strike in foreign ports.

However, the Histadrut refused to recognize this new executive board, and on November 13 the seamen again struck all Shoham ships. This time they were engaged in a struggle for union democracy against the ultra-Zionist union officials, and they carried their case very energetically to the entire labor movement. The response of the other Histadrut locals and of the population as a whole was really overwhelming. The firmest support came from the Refinery Workers, the Railway Workers (whose recent strike was crushed by the Histadrut), the Metal Workers, the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Harbor Workers, the left-wing

City officials backed the threats. The city administration moved to condemn the project and build a jail, a park, something, anything, on the site. Of the much-needed new housing units one city commissioner declared: "Knock 'em down." Moves by the city to acquire the project and evict the Negro tenants were stalled by court action but the plans to "knock 'em down" proceeded outside the law — by bombings.

On Sept. 22, 300 pounds of dynamite were exploded under one of the Carver Village buildings. Two Negroes were arrested by the police and charged with the dynamiting. After being held incommunicado and grilled they were finally released. The police commissioner issued statements that "communists" had done the bombing. At the same time police began a campaign of harassing Negro tenants in various ways, one of which was handing out parking tickets wholesale.

City authorities had advance knowledge of the second bombing of Carver Village. A telephone call to the mayor's wife delivered an ultimatum about getting the Negroes out. What the police did is not yet clear. Tenants testify that upon being jolted out of bed by a second blast on Nov. 30 and running to the window they saw a police car parked 100 feet from the wreckage. The police commissioner claims that this was a minute and a half after the blast and that the efficient Miami police had just arrived. Since the police car was empty this story doesn't hold water. The question is: Did the police themselves do the bombing or were they just cooperating with the terrorists?

The third bombing of the project on Dec. 2 followed the same pattern. The mayor was "warned" in advance, yet police made no arrests. In an interview with Police Commissioner Headley, Abrams reveals that the police still stick to their "theory" that "communists" are at the root of the bombings. Headley held out no hope of solving or stopping the bombings. "You know," he told the reporter, "in Dallas, Texas, they did finally blast the Negroes out of the housing project there."

Meanwhile Negro tenants have refused to move. City commissioners publicly call on the police to warn "all people to move out of the project." The Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan is invited as a guest speaker to the Conference of Florida Sheriffs. Some Negroes in Carver Village are reported to have prepared themselves for self-defense.

kibbutzim (collectives), and full support was given also by the Mapam Party (left-wing Zionist), the Maki Party (pro-Zionist Stalinist) and the Communist-Internationalist Party (Trotskyist). Wherever the seamen appeared, thousands would gather to hear what they had to say. Numerous mass meetings were jammed beyond capacity. Twelve thousand pounds in cash were contributed to aid the strikers.

The widespread system of corruption and privileges practiced by the Histadrut bureaucrats (whose sole reason for existence is to promote a Zionist National Front); their utterly dictatorial domination of the union locals; and their suppression of all efforts by the workers to struggle for better conditions, has made the Histadrut officials notoriously unpopular with the rank and file. Their strike being aimed at these officials, who are at the same time leading members of the Mapai Party (social-democrats) the leading party in the government — the seamen were able to arouse and rally the entire working class. Cries of "sabotage of the State of Israel," fell mostly upon deaf ears.

The strikers greeted with enthusiasm the following words spoken by one of their elected representatives: "The propaganda against us is that we are sabotaging the State and Zionism. I can't see why only the seamen have to sacrifice for the State, and not the bosses. The real sabotage is done by putting inexperienced seabs aboard the ships. Zionism or no Zionism, the seamen must fight for their rights."

The next step on the part of the Histadrut and the government, was to draft several hundred strikers into the army, and to use the police to force the men off the ships, despite the bloody fights which ensued. The United States government lent a hand to the Company, by interning in Ellis Island the crews of two Shoham ships which were struck in New York and Baltimore, and then shipping the men back to Israel aboard a Greek ship.

Their strike having been crushed by these measures, the seamen were finally permitted to return to their ships. The men returned in good spirits, their morale high. Despite the fact that they could not buck the forces lined up against them, they were conscious of having "shown the way" to the rest of the labor movement, and they continue to receive from the rank and file workers the high esteem which is their due.

Notes from the News

INSURANCE CO. LICKED ON JIM CROW HOUSING. . . . The struggle to prevent the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., owners of a huge city-subsidized housing project in New York City, from evicting 19 anti-discrimination families has been victorious. The 10-billion dollar corporation grudgingly announced that its eviction plans have been abandoned and that the Hendrix family, Negro, which moved into the project two years ago as guests of white friends, will be accepted as a regular tenant.

"HE WAS SUCH A NICE MAN" . . . Town officials of Walsall, England, are in quandary about an engraved silver punch bowl they bought for presentation to U.S. Army Colonel James A. Kilian, who commanded the nearby Litchfield guardhouse during World War II. Kilian ran the camp on Gestapo lines. Revelations by GIs of the tortures practised in Litchfield forced a trial of Kilian just before the ceremonies at which the punch bowl was to be presented. Kilian was white-washed and only got a \$500 fine, but the local squires were left holding the bowl and they are jolly well getting tired of it.

CIO ON THE AIR. . . . The CIO has begun a series of 13 Saturday evening broadcasts (7 p.m. EST) over the ABC network. The 15-minute programs will feature recordings from the recent steelworkers' special convention, labor songs by Joe Glazier, guitarist and singer, and short talks by CIO officials.

U.S. UNPOPULAR ABROAD. . . . Leslie Goonewardena returning to Ceylon after an extended visit in Europe, where he attended the World Congress of the 4th International, is quoted in Samasamajist, Trotskyist paper as follows: "There is universal apathy towards America amongst the European masses today, principally because everybody is aware that slowly but inexorably American imperialism is dragging them into a third world war. Even the bourgeoisie of the countries of Western Europe share this antipathy, but, propped up as they are by American aid, they have no alternative but to follow the behests of their American masters."

AUTHOR MEETS THE CRITICS television program of Jan. 17 featured ex-Attorney General Francis Biddle who recently wrote "Fear of Freedom." The following is an account of part of the program: Right-wing critic, Leo Cherne, twits Biddle for inconsistency in objecting to the Smith Act today. Asks whether or not Biddle, when he was Attorney General, prosecuted and jailed another minority party, the Trotskyists, under the Smith Act.

Biddle smiles lamely and mutters, "That was only to test the constitutionality of the Smith Act."

Cherne pursues the matter further, pointing out that 18 men were jailed.

Biddle: "What would you do if you were the Attorney General sworn to uphold the law of the land?"

Cherne: "I would resign."

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Pickets Win Jim Crow Fight



The pickets shown above at Stuyvesant Town in New York City forced the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. to back down on its Jim Crow policy. These landlords agreed to cancel evictions of 19 families who opposed ban against Negro tenants.

COURT DECISION SNARLS "LOYALTY OATH" FIGHT

SEATTLE, Jan. 25 — The Washington State Supreme Court today resorted to a legalistic subterfuge and refused to pass on the constitutionality of the "loyalty oath" for candidates for public office.

The court's legalistic trick consisted in declaring "moot" the appeal of Daniel Roberts, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle. Roberts had refused to sign the oath on the grounds that it is a violation of the right of free speech guaranteed by the Federal and State Constitutions. The Supreme Court declared the Roberts case "moot" because of a state law which provides that all candidates in a municipal election must be certified for the ballot thirty-five days before the election. As the election is to be held on Feb. 11, the Court claimed it lost the power to act in this case after January 7.

In his oral pleadings before the Supreme Court, Kenneth MacDonald, attorney for Daniel Roberts, stated that for the court to declare the issue "moot" would make it impossible for a candidate to ever obtain a review should his candidacy be unjustly refused. "If the time is too short in this case to permit a review, it will always be too short," he pleaded.

Arguing the merits of the case, MacDonald urged the Supreme Court to establish the principle that running for public office is a civil right belonging to every citizen, and not a mere privilege. "There are no cases on record," he stated, "where this principle has been clearly established, although there are a great number of cases which point in that direction. If running for public office is a civil right, as we contend, then surely the legislature cannot restrict it on account of a citizen's political beliefs. The free speech clauses of the Federal and State Constitutions would guarantee the right of anyone to run for public office regardless of what beliefs he teaches or advocates. The loyalty oath required by the legislature would be unconstitutional since it rules off candidates because of their opinions," he said.

In another part of his pleadings, MacDonald stated, "If the

Legislature has the power to add qualifications for public office that impinge on a citizen's beliefs, then we will see an end to free and equal elections."

A supporting brief was filed in the Roberts case by two attorneys, Solie Ringold and John Harlow, representing the American Civil Liberties Union. Their brief pleaded the same free speech and free election contentions as submitted by Frederic Post and Kenneth MacDonald, attorneys for Daniel Roberts. The ACLU endorsed the SWP challenge to the loyalty oath from the very start.

The Stalinists, however, once again committed an act of sabotage in the struggle for free speech. C. T. Hatten, attorney for the Progressive Party in Washington, filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief in the Roberts case which stated in its conclusion: "We pray that the court declare the (Roberts) action moot . . . or adjudge that . . . (the oath) is unconstitutional."

The major portion of this Stalinist-inspired brief is devoted to proving that the Roberts case is "moot" and only a small part attacks the oath as unconstitutional. Commenting on Hatten's brief, Daniel Roberts said: "We would have welcomed a supporting brief from the Progressive Party. But we consider their weasel-worded appeal to the court — 'declare the issue moot or unconstitutional' — a stab in the back. By it, the Stalinists will only make it harder for any future candidate — including their own — to obtain a court review in a dispute with election officials. 'The Stalinists were so anxious that the courts should not rule in our favor that they helped to establish a dangerous legal precedent. Their unprincipled, factional conduct will boomerang against them as it always has in the past. But unfortunately, it meanwhile plays into the hands of the enemies of civil rights.'"

SWP Branches Report Progress In "Road to Peace" Sales Campaign

NEW YORK — Pioneer Publishers reports that it has mailed out orders of over 2,000 copies of "The Road to Peace" by James P. Cannon. Branches of the Socialist Workers Party, which is engaged in a campaign to spread the timely pamphlet, have taken 1,933 copies.

Reports from SWP branches indicate that "The Road to Peace" is well received. Minneapolis which originally ordered 100 has re-ordered 50 more. Detroit reports sales of 50 and Chicago of 85. Other branches

report steady sales. Many different sales techniques have been used. Sales at meetings of the Progressive Party, Stalinist Peace Rallies, Community Churches, union meetings, etc., have brought results. Other cities report success with door-to-door sales. February 15 marks the end of the three month campaign to spread the anti-war pamphlet.

For a copy of the 48-page pamphlet "The Road to Peace," send 25 cents to Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

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Briggs Workers to Take Strike Vote on Speedup

By Everett Kennedy

DETROIT, Jan. 27 — More than 5000 Briggs workers, members of Local 212 of the UAW-CIO, unanimously approved authorization for a strike vote today as a smoldering speedup problem came to a head. The meeting, held at the new Hudson Local 154 Hall, was the largest and most militant gathering of Briggs workers since the great organizing days in the late 30s.

CUTS MANPOWER

A full week of militant struggle against manpower cuts led up to Sunday's meeting. The previous Monday night, the management of the Briggs Mack Avenue plant stepped up their speedup cutting manpower by six jobs on one of the lines in the Trim Shop, the largest department in the plant. When the remaining workers refused to carry the additional work, the

management "disciplined" a number of workers involved by sending them home. The rest of the department immediately walked out in support of the victimized workers.

The following morning the day shift workers on the same operation demanded restoration of the six jobs which had been chopped off. The day shift workers had been working under protest for several weeks with reduced manpower, having yielded temporarily to company coercion, trickery and intimidation. Encouraged by the refusal of the night shift workers to perform the work with the reduced manpower, day shift workers "rode the line." The company responded by discharging two of the men. Word passed quickly through the department. Everyone stopped work and the fight was on.

This type of resistance to the manpower cut continued all week. The workers refused the additional work and the company responded by shutting the plants and sending the workers home. By Thursday the company had shut down six other Briggs plants not affected by the operation in dispute, and the Plymouth Plant of the Chrysler Corporation was forced to suspend operations as well. By midweek, more than 20,000 workers were out of the plants as a result of the dispute.

OFFICERS CHANGE TUNE

The key factor in the spirited response of the membership to the struggle was the fact that for the first time in years they were given the backing and even leadership of the Local 212 Reutherite administration headed by president Ken Morris. The issues themselves were no different fundamentally from those in dozens of similar disputes. But this time, for reasons which we shall outline, the administration felt compelled to give support to the struggle.

In previous struggles, the local 212 leadership, like the Reutherite leadership elsewhere, had condemned the actions of the workers in resistance to speedup as "unauthorized," "wild-cat," "undemocratic," "unconstitutional," "politically inspired" and so on down the line. In previous speedup disputes, they had insisted that "grievance procedure must be followed." This time, however, the local officers and their committeemen supporters in the Mack Plant gave full support and encouragement to the men involved in the dispute.

The four top officers issued a scorching attack upon the Briggs Manufacturing Company in a leaflet which urged all Briggs workers to back up the Trim Shop workers in the fight up to and including strike action if necessary. It was in response to this kind of appeal that workers in all Briggs plants expressed their solidarity. Even skilled trades departments have walked off the job to back up the Trim Shop workers.

The explanation of this flip-

flop by the Local 212 officers is important not only in itself but as it previews what can be expected on a larger scale by the Reuther-type leadership when confronted with similar conditions.

The Local 212 administration is now in its fourth term of office having been first elected in the Reuther sweep in 1948. Since that time they have had easy sailing in the local union with complete control by their machine. They had been returned to office by overwhelming margins in the past several elections and their position appeared impregnable. However, beginning with the last UAW-CIO convention and continuing since that time, there has been a growing dissatisfaction among the rank and file of the union.

This general dissatisfaction has been accelerated as more than 120,000 auto workers remain unemployed in the Detroit area in spite of the one-man, grandstand campaign of Walter Reuther on this question which has been making virtually no headway in this unemployment fight. The Reuther administration, recognizing its growing unpopularity and with an eye on the local union elections several months hence, has felt compelled to allow a little aggressiveness on a Local union level. Moreover, in the Briggs set-up, there has been a virtual breakdown of bargaining since the unemployment hit. The Reuther-Mazey-Morris machine has been unable to obtain even enough concessions to hold its own following in line.

These conditions have produced a phenomenal growth of the "Nu-Slate" opposition in Local 212 under the leadership of former administration supporters. Inability to dominate recent membership meetings after complete control for several years and the enthusiastic turnout of almost 1000 Briggs workers to a recent Nu-Slate Caucus Party, served notice on Morris and his associates that a sharp change was necessary if they were to stem the rising opposition tide. In addition, the afternoon shift in the trim shop where the fight began was a Nu-Slate stronghold. These were the considerations which prompted the 212 leadership to "open the gates" to the pent-up dissatisfaction of the Briggs workers.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

It is one thing to start a fight. It is another to finish it with a full victory. At the general membership meeting, the officers asked for and received authorization to take a strike vote. Pending negotiations, workers were instructed to return and do a "fair days" work with assurance that no speedup or victimization of workers would be tolerated. It remains to be seen how far the Briggs Company is prepared to press its speedup at the present time. It also remains to be seen how far the Reuther local leadership will go in fighting back.

Mass Action Is Needed For Detroit Job Crisis

DETROIT, Jan. 26 — Soaring unemployment, which is due to get much worse, is the cause of increasing restiveness among Detroit area workers. Over 120,000 are jobless here, 20,000 of them having already exhausted their unemployed benefits.

This condition has been aggravated by the "business as usual" policy of the auto corporations, who are channeling war contracts into out-of-state areas. The Big Three auto producers are building new plants, renewing their equipment, and decentralizing their industrial empires at taxpayers' expense, while thousands of idle walk the streets. They seek to strike a powerful blow at the concentrated and militant union movement here by the twin devices of layoffs and speedup.

As already reported in The Militant, UAW Briggs Local 212 recently passed a resolution calling for a mass motorcade to Lansing to exert pressure for adequate unemployed benefits. Even before this, several hundred unemployed members of De Soto Local 227, led by their officials, picketed the company's employment office, protesting Chrysler Corporation's farming out work to Higgins in New Orleans.

Forced to pay attention to this growing problem, Michigan U.S. Senator Moody and Congressman Dingell have introduced a bill in

Congress calling for a federal supplement to unemployment benefits paid to workers laid off due to war conversion. Characteristically, the bill of these "friends of labor" undercuts the union's demand for compensation equivalent to forty hours pay, by providing that benefits be limited to two-thirds of wages for single men, and three-fourths for married men with families. It will soon be the turn of reactionary Congressmen to whittle it down still further. Legislation, liberalizing state benefits, has been introduced in Lansing.

Instead of mobilizing the auto workers behind a program of mass action for adequate jobless compensation, Walter Reuther, president of the auto union, is busy scurrying around Washington, trying to get more scarce materials allotted to auto production. The union has been pushing an "8 point program," calling for such "remedies" as the initiating of a national scrap metal drive, finding substitutes for critical materials, etc. Reuther is seeking to awaken a sense of "social responsibility" in the politicians, brass hats, and auto barons with his "labor statesmanship" approach.

A special conference of local union presidents held in Washington on January 13th and 14th to consider this question, was organized into "teams" and sent off to buttonhole Congressmen, after

listening to a two-hour-fifteen-minute talk by Reuther. Reuther is urging Governor Williams to call a "Michigan Conference on Defense Unemployment." He has recommended that invitations be sent to "representatives of management, representatives of labor, representatives of retail industry" and assorted politicians.

It is of great importance to point out that only the militant mass mobilization of the auto workers, both employed and unemployed, can provide the pressure needed to pass relief legislation that is in any way adequate. Other action, while not ruled out, is secondary to this main task.

Already reactionary politicians are declaiming against additional benefits to the unemployed, because it would take away their "incentive" to find work. It is significant that the House Committee on Un-American Activities has picked this time to decide to hold open hearings here sometime in February. This disclosure was made by committee member, Congressman Potter at a speech given at a Wayne County Republican meeting on January 21. He told the audience that they "would be shocked to learn in the near future to what extent Communist infiltration has progressed right here." No doubt the committee hopes that the fear inspired by its witch hunting can be used to still the mounting protests of thousands of hungry workers.