

DEFEND LABOR'S POLITICAL RIGHTS

AN EDITORIAL

As the day — January 7 — for the convening of the new Congress drew nearer, the press reported last week that a group of labor-baiting Congressmen had already met and had drawn up plans for a general drive against the labor movement.

This is no idle threat, as is indicated by the fact that the majority of the Democratic majority comes from the thirteen Southern states, stronghold of reaction. Undoubtedly the leaders of the "solid South" were foremost in drawing up these plans against the working class.

The reactionary caucus informally announced to newspapermen that its objectives included sharp reductions in overtime pay, elimination of the right to strike, abolition of closed-shop and maintenance-of-membership agreements in all war plants, etc.

That these assaults on the labor movement are coming is generally realized in the trade unions.

There is, however, still another assault being planned by the same reactionary caucus which is less understood in the trade unions. As these Congressmen told newspapermen, they have decided to press in the new Congress for an amendment to the Corrupt Practices Act which would prevent trade unions from making contributions to political campaigns. Every worker must understand the full implications of this reactionary move.

Most of the labor-baiters who want this new law have, of course, never received any financial contributions from the unions, for they are out-and-out enemies of labor and are known as such. One of the reasons for the amendment they plan to introduce is that they want to prevent their rival candidates in the capitalist parties, posing as friends of labor, from receiving the benefits of union contributions to campaign funds.

But there is another and far more important reason why the anti-labor Congressmen want to cripple the political activities of the labor movement. They have carefully studied the results of the November elections, and they recognize that the unprecedentedly low vote, especially in the industrial centers, is a sign that a large section of the masses see little difference between the two capitalist parties and is becoming dissatisfied with both of them.

The reactionaries in Congress fear that this growing dissatisfaction will result in the formation of a nation-wide INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY based on the trade unions. By enacting their amendment to the Corrupt Practices Act, they hope to prevent labor's own party from coming into being. Such a law would hamstring already-existing labor political organizations like the American Labor Party which necessarily depend on trade union contributions.

Labor's fight against the coming assault in Congress must be a fight all up and down the line. Labor must defend not only its traditional economic rights but also its political rights. Today many workers, indifferent to the old capitalist parties, may think a trade union's right to donate funds to political campaigns is not important enough to fight for. Tomorrow, however, these same workers will be wholeheartedly supporting a very different kind of political campaign — that of an INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY formed by the trade unions.

Because of that tomorrow — which is sure to come — every thinking worker must make it his special responsibility to see that his union raises hell in Washington when the reactionaries try to castrate labor of its political rights.

BAN ISSUE OF MILITANT AND DEC. FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

The Post Office, which has been holding up from the mails various issues of *The Militant* since the beginning of November, declared on December 28 that the Dec. 19 issue of *The Militant* and the December issue of the Trotskyist magazine, the *Fourth International*, are "nonmailable" and ordered them destroyed.

This is the fourth issue of *The Militant* to be declared nonmailable and destroyed by the Post Office. The *Fourth International* for December is the first issue of the magazine to be suppressed.

As in previous cases, the Post Office authorities gave no reasons for their action.

The first three November issues of *The Militant* had previously been withheld and ordered destroyed. The last November issue of the labor paper and the first two December issues were withheld and then delivered to subscribers after delays ranging from 14 to 7 days.

MANY PROTESTS

This arbitrary action by the Post Office department, in withholding and suppressing the *Militant* has been protested by many labor and liberal organizations and publications. Among those who have condemned the action are the American Civil Liberties Union, the New Republic, the Nation, the New Leader, the Reading Labor Advocate, Labor Action, the Weekly People, the Midwest Socialist, and the Call.

The only group which has openly supported the Post Office authorities in this suppression of freedom of press, has been the Communist Party. The Stalinists not only support this action against the labor press, but advocate a witch-hunt against any and all papers critical of the administration and opposed to the reactionary Stalinist policies.

TEST CASES

The suppression of *The Militant*, followed by the action

Giraud Chosen High Commission's For French Africa

Darlan's Policies of Colonial Suppression Will Be Continued

By MICHAEL CORT

Gen. Henri Giraud, French rightist and bitter opponent of the Soviet Union, is now High Commissioner for the French African colonies. He was appointed to the post on Dec. 27 by the "French Imperial Council" set up by his predecessor Darlan.

Thus Darlan has been succeeded by a man who shares Darlan's hatred of the workers and all democratic institutions. Giraud will continue Darlan's policy of oppression of the colonial peoples of North Africa.

It is precisely Giraud's lack of democratic sympathies which make him the ideal man for the job in French Africa. His principal task will be to "preserve law and order." That is, he must prevent any native struggle for independence.

Giraud's anti-democratic background is so marked that even such French commentators as Pertinax felt impelled to denounce

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against the Fourth International, has become the most important test case of World War II involving the right of free press. Should this action go unchallenged, a precedent will have been set by which the administration can silence every voice of criticism especially from the labor press, by means of arbitrary bureaucratic suppression.

The *Militant* has called upon all labor and liberal groups to support its fight for a free labor press, by protesting to the Post Office department, and by sending funds to the *Militant* Defense Fund, 116 University Place, New York City.

Stalin's Policies Barrier to Final Soviet Victory

By Howard Hogan

According to Moscow dispatches, huge successes are being made by the Red Army in its second winter campaign. Four major counter-offensives are rolling forward "despite chilling temperatures and lack of roads." Since December 16 great amounts of matériel have been captured, 56,000 prisoners taken, and 60,000 German soldiers killed. *Red Star*, the Red Army newspaper, announced that the Stalingrad offensive had already "sealed the fate" of 22 German divisions who have been encircled.

The Middle Don offensive is within 150 miles of Kharkov and 130 miles from Rostov. On the Central Front northwest of Moscow, Soviet troops are battling near Velikiye Luki. In some areas Moscow indicates important gains have been made because of the demoralization of the Nazi troops.

RED EQUIPMENT GOOD

On top of this, Moscow communiqués report that Soviet troops are now better equipped than the German troops, both in armaments and clothing. According to Henry Shapiro (*New York Times*, Dec. 27, 1942) the Red Army has a gun called the "Katusha," and "so far the Germans have been unable to cope with it." While Ralph Parker, the *N. Y. Times* correspondent reports (Dec. 27) that the Soviet troops are more warmly clad, "Maybe," he concludes, "somewhere there is a well-equipped German army, but the Russians so far have not encountered it."

Nothing could be more heartening to the defenders of the Soviet Union and to all workers desirous of the defeat of fascism than to learn that the Red Army is now better equipped, is rolling back the German armies and that these armies have begun to disintegrate. However, in view of the empty Stalinist boasting and exaggerations in the past, not to speak of the doubt that an announcement of major offensives in the Russian winter arouses in one's mind, other explanations of the situation cannot be ruled out in advance.

REVOLUTIONARY METHOD IS MISSING

In the absence of revolutionary methods of warfare which under Lenin and Trotsky proved the most powerful weapon of the Soviet Union in meeting invading armies, it is highly doubtful that the "demoralization" of Hitler's armies has reached profound proportions.

There is also room for doubt that the Red Army is today superior in equipment. The German conquests have seriously impaired the Soviet productive system through the capture of the granaries in the Ukraine, and North'n Caucasus and the seizure of the USSR's principal iron and armament industries and her chief coal supply. No less grave have been the losses in the communication system, especially the railways which are of utmost importance above all in winter. All this has a direct bearing on the striking power of the Red Army.

Hitler's armies have likewise suffered grave losses, last winter as well as throughout 1942. It is not at all unlikely that Hitler's troubles this winter may far surpass those of last year. But even this would not of itself shift the relation of military forces decisively in favor of the Red Army. Moscow's claims in this field appear somewhat premature.

Last winter Stalin insisted that the German armies must follow the precedent set by Napoleon.

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New Regional WLB Set-Up Will Not Change Board's Anti-Labor Policy

Red Army Presses Back Nazis



(Federated picture)
Soviet troops march through the northern part of battle-scarred Stalingrad to reinforce its garrison, seeking to trap 22 German divisions in a pincers.

Manpower Commission Freezes More Workers

175,000 Workers in St. Paul-Minneapolis Now Chained to Jobs,
Proposed Clark Draft Bill Would Give Workers No Job Choice

By John Edwards

The War Manpower Commission, headed by Paul V. McNutt, followed up its order freezing Detroit workers to their jobs, with a similar order which in effect job freezes 175,000 workers in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area.

John C. Nord, WMC director in the Twin City Area, said the order was designed to "end wasteful shifting from job to job."

In reality, both orders are intended to prevent workers from seeking better jobs at better pay. The orders were given under the authority granted the WMC by President Roosevelt in his December 5 decree mak-

ing McNutt the virtual "Czar" over the destinies of the workers.

According to the WMC, the job-freezing order in the Twin Cities will probably be followed by similar action in the Des Moines, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska areas. These orders require workers to obtain certificates of release from their employers before leaving one job for another.

NEW BILL PREPARED

While the WMC was applying its new powers to the Detroit and Twin Cities workers, and moving toward more regimentation of the workers throughout the country, Grenville Clark, New York attorney who drew up the selective act, presented a new manpower draft bill to the WMC. This new bill is now under consideration in Washington.

The Clark manpower draft bill would place all workers in the status of conscripts, who could be sent anywhere to do any kind of work.

According to the provisions of this proposed bill, all men between 18 and 65 years of age and women between 18 and 50 would be liable for national "service" and could be ordered to do any type of work determined by a director of national service.

Such an act, if passed by Congress, would bring every man and woman into compulsory service, with no freedom of choice as to what job he or she would take. Thus, there would be no possibility for a worker to pick a plant where wages were higher.

Senator Austin of Vermont stated on December 26, that "voluntary methods of solving manpower problems will never work" and said he would press in Congress for a national service act along the lines outlined by Clark's draft. Austin is the same labor-baiting Senator who introduced the "work or fight" bill during the last session of Congress.

The dangers of such a bill to the labor movement are obvious. The whole system of job seniority would be wiped out. The union

hiring hall would be abolished. The basic rights of workers to choose their place of employment would be abrogated. A worker who left a job would be violating the law. It would create conditions under which it would be extremely difficult for the union movement to protect wage levels of the workers, and to fight for decent working conditions.

Labor must be on guard against such labor-conscription plans, which mean the further regimentation of the workers and an acceleration of the process of undermining the independence and effectiveness of the labor movement.

UNIONS ENDANGERED
The whole system of chanelizing

RATIONING PLANS LEAVE MANY LOOPHOLES FOR RICH

By C. Charles

The government has announced that 200 foods will be rationed starting in February. Almost all canned, frozen, dried and glassed fruits, vegetables and soups are involved in the rationing plans.

A cut is envisaged in the supply of these goods from 46 pounds a year to 33 pounds per person.

Capitalist spokesmen and the government are hailing the rationing program as a fair method of distributing food in present conditions of shortages. Their claims are not borne out by a

close examination of the plans. The wealthy will easily find ways of making sure that their stomachs will be well filled with vitamins and proteins, come what may. There are loopholes in the rationing plans wide enough for the wealthy to drive a General Grant tank through.

For example, all frozen and candied fruits and vegetables in containers over 10 pounds are excluded from the rationing provisions. Also not to be rationed are all fruit and vegetable juices and preserves in containers over one gallon.

The rich will be able to buy all they want in these larger quantities whereas the poor will not be able to afford to do so.

The plans leave unrationed food bought in clubs, hotels and restaurants. The wealthy will be able to dine out. The food they buy in the restaurants will not count against their rations. This method of supplementing their rations cannot be widely used by the workers.

Experience in all countries in

(Continued on page 2)

Unions Will Not Have Right To Appeal Region Decisions

WLB Acts to Decentralize in Reply to
Widespread Protests Against Delays

By Joseph Andrews

The War Labor Board, as a result of widespread union dissatisfaction with its delays and anti-labor policies, announced on Dec. 23 that WLB procedure was to be decentralized.

Panels made up of representatives from labor, management and the "public" will be set up in each major city to make recommendations on union demands to new regional War Labor Boards. There will be ten regional boards.

Regional directors of the WLB will be empowered by this plan to rule on cases involving no more than 100 workers.

Regional Boards will hear other cases, except those which the National WLB decides are of national significance and wishes to rule on itself.

APPEAL DIFFICULT

There is a clause in this new plan which provides for appeal of decisions of regional boards to the National WLB. But this is, in reality, a fraud. The union will not have the right to appeal regional board rulings. Only a member of the panel in the case, or the National WLB itself, can take a case from a regional board for appeal to the National WLB.

Thus, the rulings of Regional Boards will in most cases be mandatory and final.

It would be mistaken to assume that the new WLB set-up will correct the anti-labor effects of WLB policy. While the reorganization may speed up the process of settlement of union demands, it will have no basic effect on the anti-union results of WLB policy.

The widespread protests which brought forth the WLB reorganization were based not only upon the delays of grievances and demands brought before the board, but against the clearly anti-labor character of the major rulings of the WLB.

The WLB in its decisions has frozen wages to 15% above the January, 1941 level, in spite of the fact that the cost of living has risen much more than 15% since that time. Recent WLB rulings punishing unions for strike actions which were clearly provoked by the companies which have refused to settle grievances and which are conducting an anti-union offensive in the plants, have further alarmed the trade union movement.

UNIONS ENDANGERED
The whole system of chanelizing

ing every union grievance and demand through the WLB, which is dominated by pro-employer elements, has threatened to stifle the independence of the union movement, and convert them into mere appendages of the government.

The new WLB system will not correct this process. The anti-labor policy of the board will merely be put into effect by its counterpart in the regions.

In World War I the War Labor Board set-up was organized along similar lines, after widespread protests from unions against delays and stalling forced the government to take action. These regional boards during the last war served to hamstring the union movement and to prevent independent union action to achieve justified union demands. In only one out of 100 cases were appeals from the decisions of regional boards allowed.

There is no reason to believe that the new WLB set-up will differ to any extent from that of World War I.

NO POLICY CHANGE

The "Little" War Labor Boards in the regions will carry out the policy of the National WLB, which has turned down every major demand for wage increases, which has taken upon itself the right to rule over the conditions of all workers, whether they are in war industry or civilian industry.

The reorganization of the WLB will not change the situation. The WLB is still a weapon used by the employers against the union movement.

British Soldiers Forbidden News of Beveridge Plan

Ever since the British workers first had bayonets thrust in their hands and were sent charging against German workers similarly equipped, they have been deviled by the fear that they were fighting only for the benefit of their bosses' profit sheets.

It was partly to allay this fear that Sir William Beveridge published last month his modest plan for unemployment insurance. Think how this plan will inspire the soldiers in the field, reasoned Beveridge's supporters.

But they figured without Churchill. According to a United Press Dispatch from London dated Dec. 23, the British War Office has forbidden the circulation among the troops of any mention of the Beveridge plan.

A few military successes against their German rivals greatly emboldens the British bosses. They no longer feel the necessity of making concessions to their workers. Better that the soldiers never hear of the plan, than return home with wrong ideas about the post-war world.

Waste Endangers Food Supply — Pravda Warns

Kremlin Blames Local Administrators For 'Mistakes' in Huge Crop Losses

By John G. Wright

One of the most critical fronts in the Soviet Union today is the food front. An irreparable blow has already been suffered by the loss of the richest agricultural areas, especially those of Byelo-Russia, the Ukraine and the Kuban. Added to this are alarming conditions which prevail in the remaining agricultural areas.

The Stalinist-controlled Russian press refers to these conditions as "mistakes." Because of these "mistakes" a special resolution was adopted by the Council of People's Commissars and by the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party. The keynote of this resolution is: "the impermissibility of repeating last year's mistakes." (*Pravda*, Aug. 1, 1942.)

Soviet agriculture suffered enormous and unnecessary losses last year because of failure to harvest the crops.

"Certain collective farms (kolkhozi) and state farms (sovkhozi), admits *Pravda*, "lost a considerable part of the harvest because the getting in of the crops was not begun in time and then was dragged out too long." This delay was one of the main reasons for last year's losses which were very large. Thus, according to the Russian press, "certain kolkhozi and sovkhozi lost not less than 1½ to 2 hundredweights per hectare (one hectare is approximately 2½ acres)." (*Pravda*, Aug. 1, 1942.)

And we are furthermore told that "in 1941 a whole number of counties, provinces and republics prepared poorly for the getting in of the harvest." It does not take very many "counties, provinces and republics," for such losses to run into tens and even hundreds of thousand tons.

OTHER CAUSES CITED

But while delay in harvesting is an important source of losses, it is by no means the only one. "The sources of losses are varied," states the above-quoted leading editorial in *Pravda* and continues to enumerate instances of neglect or carelessness in storing crops, transporting them, sorting them, etc. etc.

Furthermore, "large losses of grain are incurred on the field trashing-floors which are left open and unguarded." In other words, while the country is threatened with famine, grain is left to rot in the fields and to be devoured by birds and rodents.

Because of these losses the deliveries of grain by the collectives to the state naturally suffered. *Pravda* even hints that there were cases of non-delivery: "Last year a number of counties, provinces and republics lagged behind excessively in the harvesting; they violated the dates of grain-deliveries (to the state) which are set by law and worsened the quality of grain delivered at the collection points. Such mistakes cannot be repeated again." (*Pravda*, Aug. 11, 1942). All this cut into the rations of the workers in the cities and the soldiers at the front.

THE BASIC CAUSES

What are the basic reasons for these conditions? They are of

Pope Denounces Marxian Socialism In Xmas Speech

By Edith Kane

Pope Pius XII in his annual Christmas message to the peoples of the world, departed from his accustomed tone of impartiality. During the entire lengthy speech in which he touched on problems of the world today and after the war, there were two points only on which he expressed himself unmistakably — Marxian Socialism and private property.

"The Church," he said "condemns the various forms of Marxian Socialism because it is her permanent right and duty to safeguard men from currents of thought and influence that jeopardize their external salvation." The Pope admitted, however, that the Church could not ignore the conditions of labor which cause workers to turn to Socialism in an effort to better their conditions.

Throughout his message, the Pope constantly bewailed the baneful influence of materialism in the world today, but his discussion of the problems of labor was hardly spiritual. Dealing with the concrete problems of the workers, the Pope proved by Bible texts that man is entitled to the goods of the earth. From this premise, the Pope concluded, flows the "fundamental obligation to grant private ownership of property, if possible, to all." This guarantee of the workers' right to private property as a solution to their problems is reiterated even more definitely in another section of the speech.

Although the church "does not intend to take sides for either of the particular forms in which several peoples or states try to solve the gigantic problem of domestic order" its preference was apparent. Among the fundamental points listed by the Pope as essential in society, was "the conservation and perfection of a social order which will make possible an assured private property for all classes of society."

On one subject alone the message of the Pope was consistently aloof and "impartial." To the millions of people now under the tyranny of fascist rule, or those who live in constant fear of its growth and seek a way to destroy it, the Pope had nothing to offer. They will look in vain throughout the entire speech, for even the word — Fascism.

The growth of the ideas of Marxian Socialism and the threat to all systems based on private ownership has penetrated even the walls of the Vatican. But Fascism, seemingly, does not constitute a problem equally grave to the Pope. His clear and forthright denunciation of Marxian Socialism, by name, is in striking contrast to the complete absence of the mention of Fascism, by name, anywhere in this year's Christmas message.

'The Neck of the Turkey'



(Federated cartoon)

The labor movement has protested vigorously because the War Production Board has appointed representatives of the big daily papers to decide how newsprint will be divided in 1943. The production of newsprint has been curtailed and the unions fear that the representatives of the big papers and magazines will try to undermine the labor press by unfair division of available newsprint.

Envoy Charged With Acting Against Bolivian Strikers

By Helen Marshall

The American Ambassador to Bolivia, Pierre Boal, stands accused of having intervened on behalf of the Bolivian bosses against the workers during the recent strike at the Catavi tin mines in Bolivia.

This accusation was made last week by Ernesto Galarza, chief of the Labor Division of the Pan American Union. A senatorial investigation of the Ambassador's activities has been demanded by James Patton, president of the National Farmers Union, and a series of questions on the subject was addressed to Sumner Welles, Under Secretary of State, by CIO Secretary James B. Carey. Galarza, citing this as a "clear example of how the foreign policy of the United States in Latin America is operating to prevent the raising of working standards and improving of living conditions of the masses of the people," stated in the December 23 PM:

"The workers of Bolivia have been demanding for many years the passage of a new labor code which would grant them the right of collective bargaining, freedom of organization, minimum wages, and the payment of wages at least every fifteen days. There are no provisions in the code which any American workingman would regard as extreme.

"This code was to have been approved by the Bolivian Congress on December 8.

"On the days immediately preceding that date, the Ambassador of the United States in Bolivia, Pierre Boal, communicated to the

President of Bolivia the viewpoints of the big mine operators and presented arguments and suggestions, the object of which was to delay or prevent the improvement of working conditions as set forth in the code."

When the Bolivian government tried to cover up the real reasons for the tin miners' strike by calling it a "Nazi plot," officials of the AFL and CIO protested and said that the strike was led by bona-fide labor leaders.

The 60,000 miners involved live in mass misery. Their wages are about 15 cents a day according to the CIO News. They hardly know what a dairy product is, and would find it difficult to obtain cereals and wheat even if they had the money.

While wages have remained frozen, the cost of living rose 37 per cent from January 1, 1941 to December 1941, and a further increase of 60 per cent from January 1942 to December 1942 is expected.

The owner of the Catavi mines, Simon Patino, is fabulously wealthy. He has played a waiting game with both the Axis and the United Nations. For this reason, and because of the fact that since the fall of Malaya his mines have been the main source of tin for the United Nations, the State Department is wooing him.

One way of doing this is to take the mine operators' side on the strike issue.

Thus the "Good Neighbor Policy" means being a good neighbor to Patino and not to the workers in Bolivia.

Giraud Represents The Capitalists Darlan Did

(Continued from page 1)

him—prior to his appointment as High Commissioner.

In the New York Times of Dec. 11, Bertinax wrote: "General Giraud belonged to the extreme right. On his staff of the Seventh Army was Guy de Wendel who was wont to exclaim: 'Between Hitler and Stalin I don't hesitate; I am for Hitler.'"

Here is a portrait of Giraud:

1. He is a confirmed opponent of capitalist democracy, even of the Daladier type. He used to deliver fiery denunciations of democracy to his troops during the regime of Daladier.

2. He is a rabid "anti-communist," that is, a foe of the working class and trade unions.

and preferred an Allied invasion of the workers' state to a war with Hitler.

4. He is a butcher of colonial peoples. He won his spurs "pacifying" the natives of Morocco.

On the day following Giraud's election as High Commissioner by the Imperial Council the New York Times said editorially: "The choice of General Giraud as Admiral Darlan's successor in North Africa is a fortunate development."

Fortunate for whom? Certainly not for the natives of North Africa who had no voice in the selection of their ruler, and who will continue to feel the iron heel of the French colonial exploiters. Certainly not for the Soviet workers, nor for the American workers, nor the German workers who hope for real democracy once Hitler is defeated.

A.C.L.U. Reviews Attack On Civil Liberties During 1942

The American Civil Liberties Union, in a statement issued Dec. 27 reviewing the status of civil liberties in America after one year of war, declared that "while it is clear that the general condition is far better than in World War I, the view asserted by government spokesmen that civil liberties are intact must be qualified by recognition of serious exceptions."

The chief exceptions listed by the ACLU are,

"1. removal of the entire Japanese population from the West Coast by military authority and their detention in virtual concentration camps, and the exercise of the power of removal of individual citizens from military zones without civilian review; 2. the international censorship of opinions concerning race discrimination; 3. censorship by the post office department of publications alleged to impede the war effort, without hearing or specifications in many cases, and without the application of the U. S. Supreme Court test of 'clear and present' danger in others; 4. certain federal prosecutions for utterances and publications alleged to encourage disaffection in the armed forces without a showing of 'clear

and present danger' of illegal acts."

SWP CASES

Two of the outstanding cases of governmental suppression of civil liberties are the withholding of the mailing rights of the *Militant* and the *Fourth International* without notification and without specifications as to the reasons for this action by the Post Office department, and the prosecution of the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544-CIO under the Smith "Gag" Act, which the ACLU has termed the most important civil liberties case in many years.

The suppression of the rights of the *Militant* and the *Fourth International* is continuing despite protests by the ACLU, and other labor and liberal organizations.

The December 19, 1942 issue of the *Militant* has been declared non-mailable by the Post Office department and has been ordered destroyed. The December issue of the *Fourth International* also has been ordered destroyed as non-mailable.

These acts of suppression of freedom of the press are danger signals to the whole labor movement. The suppression of the *Militant* and the *Fourth International*, followed by similar action against *Labor Action*, a working-class paper, can be used as precedents against any and all labor papers which in any way criticize the government.

The *Militant* has appealed to all labor and liberal organizations to protest the action of the Post Office department and to send funds to aid in its fight for a free labor press.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee, with offices at 160 5th Ave., New York City, is appealing the convictions of the 18 Minneapolis defendants to higher courts. The case was recently heard in the St. Louis Circuit Court of Appeals. Should the decision uphold the convictions, the case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

Rich Won't Feel Pinch of Rationing

(Continued from page 1)

which rationing has been used, show that the wealthy are able to evade the rationing restrictions through buying on the "black market," as well as by other methods.

Thus while the masses of Great Britain were and are hungry, the rich have found ways to eat luxuriously.

It is expected that other foods, particularly beef, will be rationed very shortly after the establishment of rationing of canned goods. Acute shortages of beef and dairy products are reported from many parts of the country.

The brunt of the shortages are being felt by the workers and their families, many of whom have not eaten beef, butter or eggs in weeks. The well-to-do generally are able to secure the scarce goods by paying higher ceiling prices.

At the same time food prices have kept right on climbing. In the week ending December 22 food prices reached the highest point in 22 years, according to Dun and Bradstreet, outstanding business statistics firm.

Rationing and pricefixing are absolutely necessary, but under the control of the government and the bosses they are frauds.

Real rationing and price fixing can be realized only under the control of democratic mass committees of unions, dirt farmers organizations, small business men and housewives.

These committees would have as their only aim the improvement of the living standards of the masses and would have absolutely no interest in maintaining the profits of the capitalist class, the banks, landlords, railroads, large stores and the middlemen.

These committees will assure the workers of a chance to get their share of the goods they need instead of letting the wealthy get an undue proportion because they have more money.

For a Rising Scale of Wages to Meet Rising Living Costs

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