

FREE THE 18
IMPRISONED
TROTSKYISTS!

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

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RED ARMY'S VICTORIES ALARM ALLIES

War Department Backs Forced Labor Proposal

Stimson Slanders Labor at Hearings On Austin-Wadsworth Bill; Assists Roosevelt's Drive to Incite Soldiers Against Workers

By Art Preis

Roosevelt's anti-labor drive, the most sinister feature of which is an officially inspired campaign to incite conscripted servicemen against organized labor, was further intensified last Wednesday by Secretary of War Stimson's statement before the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

Stimson demanded enactment of Roosevelt's national forced labor proposal at a hearing on the infamous Austin-Wadsworth bill, hypocritically appealing in the name of "men in the armed forces" who he alleged have "a strong feeling of resentment" at the "industrial unrest." Stimson slanderously accused organized labor of responsibility for conditions likely to "prolong the war" and threatened that this "will not be forgotten easily" by the soldiers.

His statements were intended to add fuel to the fire of anti-labor incitement which began to rage in full fury on Roosevelt's return from Tehran.

ROOSEVELT'S AIMS

The immediate purpose of this vicious lynch incitement against labor is to halt the mounting resistance to Roosevelt's wage freeze under the Little Steel formula. Roosevelt is likewise attempting to cover up his own failure to enforce price controls and to distract attention from the stink of Big Business frauds and war profiteering.

Roosevelt is now making a direct and open bid for the political support of the leading capitalists and the middle class. He contemptuously ignores the union bureaucrats who have slavishly supported him all along, confident that he has them "in the bag."

Stimson's widely-heralded statement before the Senate Military Affairs Committee came on the heels of the "anonymous" slanderous anti-labor blast of Gen. Marshall, which the Army and Navy Journal admitted was directly inspired by Roosevelt himself. Their slanderous charge that the workers' struggle against the wage-freeze has given a propaganda weapon to Hitler is intended to drive a wedge between the servicemen and the industrial workers and to convince the soldiers that their interests are opposed to that of the organized workers.

AIDS BIG BUSINESS

Stimson demonstrated clearly, however, in his reply to questions at the hearing, that his remarks

(Continued on page 3)

FARMER-LABOR PARTY SCUTTLED BY LEADERS

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Jan. 16. — After 26 years as a force in Minnesota politics, Farmer-Labor officials announced last week that the Farmer-Labor Party is quitting the field of independent labor political action by amalgamating with the discredited Democratic party. The announcement came within 48 hours of Roosevelt's call for a forced labor law — a proposal which is an open demonstration of the rightward, anti-labor trend of the present administration and the national Democratic party.

In a statement to the press, Elmer Benson, chairman of the Farmer-Labor State Association, and Paul Tinge, state chairman of the Farmer-Labor Party, said that "it was understood that our political action would be through the Democratic party, although the Farmer-Labor Association will remain an educational organization and continue its service in that way."

At a time when the need for independent political action is be-

Monopolists Oppose Socialized Medicine

By Miriam Carter

"Give me an out-and-out crook like one of your old line Tammany politicians — who cheerfully admits taking graft — and calls it graft — without any hypocritical pretensions. But save me from the medical politicians who piously prate of 'medical ethics' when they mean plain economics, and who sanction... practices so corrupt, so rapacious, so callous of human life and health, that the stomach of even a hard-bitten wardheeler might be turned."

So wrote Albert Deutsch, PM columnist, on Dec. 14 in his conclusion to a series of articles baring the sinister practices of the American Medical Association in their campaign against the Wagner - Dingle - Murray bill.

This bill provides for the liberalization of old-age and unemployment insurance and its extension into the brackets of professional and small businessmen. Death and maternity benefits are added to the present social security system.

The provision most hateful to the medical politicians involves the setting up of a federal system of medical and hospital insurance, by which medical aid would be provided for workers and their families who have contributed 6% of their wages and are covered by old-age and death benefits. Doctors can associate themselves with this system or not, as they please.

POWERFUL CLIQUE

The AMA is supposed to be a "non-profit, scientific" organization, interested in promoting the "health and welfare" of the people. In its desperate fight against the Wagner-Murray bill, however, it has shown itself to be nothing but a giant corporation trafficking

in human lives in order to protect the interests of the big pharmaceutical trusts and the economic position of a powerful clique of wealthy physicians.

A glance at the financial sources of this campaign discloses the real forces and reactionary motives behind it. Sixty percent of its finances comes from doctors, according to the National Physicians Committee for the Extension of Medical Service. This front organization for the AMA in this campaign should really be called the "Committee Against the Extension of Medical Service."

It squeezes money from the doctors through the AMA apparatus. In many county and state societies doctors are assessed sums which go directly to the NPC. For example, the Erie County Medical Society (New York) assessed its members \$25.00 each for the NPC. Recalcitrant doctors unwilling to pay the assessment are faced with the alternative of being barred from practicing in recognized hospitals. Since almost all hospitals are under AMA control, this action virtually ostracizes doctors from the profession.

Here's the Model!

American workers are given a revealing glimpse of the British forced labor system, so loudly hailed as a model for this country since Roosevelt's Congressional message, in an AP dispatch from London, Jan. 21. The dispatch reports:

"About 100 youths of the recent conscripts sent into coal mines were reported to have gone on strike today at a Doncaster colliery. They contended that after paying for meals and lodging they had only \$1 left from their weekly wage of \$8.80."

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BIG BUSINESS HELPS

The other 40% of its income, the NPC states, comes from the medical industry. In addition to contributing money, firms like McKesson-Robbins Wholesale Drug Co. and United Cigar-Whelan Stores Corporation, have distributed literature denouncing the bill to their customers. The Whelan company sent similar literature to every doctor in the United States.

The profit-greedy drug firms rush to the aid of the AMA, because the AMA is one of its best sales promoters. The "impartial" stamp of approval of the AMA on the products of drug firms are of invaluable aid in their sales campaigns. The drug firms, in turn, do a vast amount of advertising in the AMA "Journal," netting the AMA 600,000 tax free

(Continued on page 2)

Sign This Petition To Free The 18

Free The 18 Minneapolis Prisoners

FIRST TO BE CONVICTED UNDER THE SMITH "GAG" ACT FOR THEIR IDEAS AND UNION ACTIVITIES

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
WHITE HOUSE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The undersigned respectfully petition you to grant unconditional pardon and immediate release to the 18 members of Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO and of the Socialist Workers Party now serving twelve and sixteen month prison sentences.

These trade-union and socialist leaders have been persecuted solely because of their opinions and their activities on behalf of labor. The U.S. Supreme Court in an unprecedented action refused to review their case even though the infamous Smith "Gag" Act under which they have been convicted clearly violates the constitutional rights of free speech and free press.

We believe that the unjust imprisonment of the 18 provides a dangerous precedent that is a threat to the democratic liberties of the American people.

We therefore urge you to uphold the Bill of Rights by pardoning the 18 Minneapolis prisoners.

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Teheran -- The Newest Gospel Of Stalinism

By Norman Daniels

Teheran represents to the American followers of Stalin in many respects what God is to a religious fanatic. God, the Bible says, created the world in six days. Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill, according to the Stalinist version, have recreated the world in four days at Teheran. But the feats of the Jehovah actually pale in comparison with the achievements at Teheran. Obviously it is much easier to create a new world than to transfigure the existing world of sin and crime and mass murder into a world of peace, harmony and brotherly love—a world of beauty and saints—in short, the kind of world the Stalinists proclaim has been created at Teheran.

Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill, meeting at Teheran, Browder and Co. assure us, have turned the trick and evolved the formula for reshaping the world into a modern Garden of Eden. To be sure, this formula is kept in strict secrecy, but no one must ask why. For the success of the formula, you see, depends on faith, piety, docility. Just leave it to Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt.

In speaking of Teheran, the Stalinists employ an extravagance of language, typical of religious devotees. The very first day the Teheran declaration was made public,

—that is, sometime before Browder rose to the dizzy peaks of ecstasy, the Daily Worker wrote editorially (Dec. 7, 1943): "Like no other event that men and women of our generation can remember, the meeting of our President with Marshal Joseph Stalin and Premier Winston Churchill overwhelms the imagination."

The Transfiguration at Teheran

This event which "overwhelms the imagination," and which overshadows anything "that men and women of our generation can remember," grew in dimensions with the passage of time. About five weeks later, it was revealed to the editors of the Daily Worker that "The program of Teheran is the kind of world program for which all peoples have fought for generations." (Editorial, Jan. 16.) Universality and timelessness are the very warp and woof—the very fabric of religion. In order to emphasize further the universality and timelessness of their religion the same editorial in the Daily Worker adds "...Teheran constitutes the greatest turning point in world history."

History has indeed known great turning points. It has known the birth of religions, great social transformations. Thus, there was the great French Revolution which overthrew feudalism. Again, the American Revolution, which gave the United States its

independence and started it on the road of unprecedented capitalist development. There was the Civil War which abolished slavery. Finally, to mention but one more, there is the Russian revolution, the first successful seizure of power by the working class. But according to the Stalinist mania, none of these compare to Teheran. "Teheran constitutes the greatest turning point in world history."

From Darkness to Light

Strict secrecy of the deliberations and decisions as a rule arouse suspicions. Only conspiracies are hatched in secret. Why should anyone hide a "world program for which peoples have fought for generations?" But to the Stalinists, the secrecy of the Teheran conference endows it with mystic powers.

From now on they vow that mankind shall know no other gods but Teheran. But weren't they socialists once upon a time? That was in their pagan days. That was in the dark, pre-Teheran era. It is this past that they wish above all to forget. They have seen the light now, and that light shines from Teheran.

The truth is, the Stalinists have really been in need of religion for a long time. Many lifelong criminals in their declining years, especially when afflicted with an in-

curable disease, turn to religion for solace. The Stalinists belong to this category; they have certainly lived a life of crime. Not only have they sold themselves to the beasts in the Kremlin, and lived by deception, lies and treachery; but they have been accessories to the murder of a whole generation of men and women who made the Russian revolution, who guided it through its most trying years of civil war. They have sunk lower than the most depraved criminals in the annals of crime.

They need solace.

The New Stalinist Religion

But the Stalinists shall never find solace in their new religion. For their religion is nothing but the product of their depraved, diseased imagination. How could anyone in his right mind bring himself to worship this meeting of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt?

Stalin is the chieftain of a clique that has slipped a noose over the Russian Revolution and has been slowly strangling it ever since Lenin's death. It is not Stalin's fault that the Russian revolution is not yet dead. It is proof of the vitality of this great giant. Stalin usurped power in the Communist International only to snuff all life out of it. In its place Browder now proffers Teheran—Teheran is the new "Internation-

al" of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.

Churchill, candid admirer of Italian fascism, who not so long ago employed all his eloquence in praise of Mussolini, is the second member of this unholy trinity of Browder's "International." Churchill is the head of the greatest empire in the world, built and maintained by brute force and chicanery. At this very moment when he is the object of Stalinist worship, millions of his agonized subjects are dying of starvation on the streets of India. Any one of these victims could ask: If "the program of Teheran is the kind of world program for which all peoples have fought for generations," why don't we Indians get our freedom? Churchill is frank about it, even if the Stalinists are not. He proclaims openly that he did not become His Majesty's first minister in order to dissolve the British Empire.

American Capitalism

Roosevelt is the head of the richest country in the world. He represents the most arrogant ruling class in the world, arrogant and brutal in its jailing of the 18 Trotskyists for the sole "crime" of advocating socialism. Arrogant and brutal in its attempts to enslave the working class by a compulsory service law. American capitalism, having at its command a productive

machine which the rest of the world combined cannot match, is just as arrogant in its policies abroad. It has created a huge army, a navy and a merchant marine larger than the combined fleets of the rest of the world. American capitalism is out to use its power for the control of the entire world, for the greater glory and profit of the Sixty Families.

No, the Stalinists will hardly find solace in their new religion.

Even when they come humbly to worship at the feet of American imperialism, they get kicked in their teeth by its arrogant spokesmen, who prefer to hire their own lackeys and bootlickers. The American capitalists, too, have nothing but contempt for those who would serve two masters. Such lackeys are not very reliable.

No, the Stalinists will not find solace in their new religion.

The American workers to whom they seek to peddle the opium of their new religion are not at all addicted to subservience, submission, slavishness. The American worker believes in his rights and believes in fighting for his rights. Those who built the CIO, who engaged in four coal strikes, who threatened a railway tie-up—these men will, surely, brush aside the Stalinist opium peddlers and march their own confident way forward.

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

As part of the government-corporation offensive against organized labor, the Senate last week passed an amendment to the new tax bill which would compel the unions to open their books and records to the scrutiny of the bosses and their government agents, and subject labor organizations to taxation.

For decades the American open-shoppers have tried to secure such legislation. It would provide them with a powerful weapon for invading the privacy of the unions, interfering in their internal affairs and securing the lists of their members. Through it, employers would attempt to cripple the unions financially and would seek in such traditional union practices as the maintenance of strike reserves the pretext for frameups on charges like "misuse" of funds.

One of the primary reasons for this latest crass union-busting move is the desire of the administration and employers to cripple independent labor political action. This was, as the capitalist press admitted, the "winning" argument which "clinched" the Senate debate.

Senator Josiah Bailey, Southern poll-tax Democrat from North Carolina, pointed the finger of horror at the CIO Political Action Committee, which is certainly not independent of capitalist politics, and told his colleagues that, the CIO has issued a "political primer" to its members, the alleged purpose being, in Bailey's words, "not to serve the United States but to serve the CIO." Bailey manfully confronted this dire menace with the boast, "They can't beat me, or any other Senator."

Although Roosevelt's demand for national forced labor did not mention any specific bill, his message was the cue for opening immediate hearings before the Senate Military Affairs Committee on the notorious Austin-Wadsworth bill—the only bill of its type actually up for consideration in Congress. This is the bill which last week secured the tacit endorsement of Secretary of War Stimson, when he called for quick action in support of Roosevelt's proposal at the hearings on the Austin-Wadsworth measure.

The bill provides for universal forced labor. Under its terms any worker could be forced to leave his home and be shipped anywhere in the country, and to work at any job assigned him, regardless of wages or conditions.

No matter what his previous wages and work were, he would have to accept the wages paid by the company to which he would be bound. He would lose the seniority and vacation rights that he enjoyed at his former job. Because of residence restrictions, he would naturally lose his voting rights. Although the worker would not be permitted to strike or quit, his owner could fire him without notice at any time. Though the bill says his former employer must rehire him, the jobless worker will have no means of enforcing this provision except through civil suit. That means as the cynical saying is, he "can go see city hall."

One of the most vicious features

of the bill is a proviso enforcing the open shop in industries where forced labor would be employed—which takes in all war industry. Senator Austin and Rep. Wadsworth had training for construction of such a thoroughly labor-hating bill. Their long reactionary record includes voting against the Wagner Housing Act, WPA work relief appropriations, the abolishment of poll taxes, and the old age assistance provisions of the Social Security Act.

In order to convince their deluded followers that they aren't the finks they are, the Stalinists are peddling slimey lies about labor's attitude toward the labor draft. Thus the Daily Worker, Jan. 22, issues the following brazen falsehood:

"One fact stands out beyond a shadow of doubt when we talk of labor's sentiment on the President's message to Congress, ALL LABOR (original emphasis), including even the miners if we leave out the Lewis bureaucracy, is behind it."

Outside of the Stalinists themselves, and their well-known union stooges like Harry Bridges, Joseph Curran and Julius Emspak of the United Electrical and Radio Workers, not a single union leader has endorsed Roosevelt's demand for forced labor.

On the contrary, Philip Murray, William Green, R. J. Thomas and virtually every leading figure in the labor movement, have violently condemned the proposal. And if there is a single rank and file worker who can be found favoring it, he must just have escaped from the booby hatch or be a thoroughly doped victim of Stalinism.

The International Association of Machinists, AFL, and the United Automobile Workers, CIO, the two leading unions in the aircraft industry, signed a mutual agreement on January 8 to avoid jurisdictional disputes. The agreement pledges that where one union has a contract with a company, or has won an NLRB election, the other union shall not attempt to establish an organization.

The twenty-three day strike of municipal workers against the city of Montreal is ended. The workers voted to go back to work pending settlement of their wage demands by arbitration. The leaders of the unions involved agreed to the settlement on an eight-point government proposal under which all wage increases granted will be retroactive to Dec. 1, an increase in the cost-of-living bonus, and no discrimination against the strikers.

Clayton Fountain in his Jan. 7 column in the *Toledo Union Journal* says that the steel and railroad crises of last month are symptomatic of the social and economic injustice in this country "which did not end with Pearl Harbor."

"Labor in America is almost single-handedly battling those who would first bust the unions, then burn the books, and then bash in the heads of all opposition... the railroad and steel crises are basic to this battle."

15th Anniversary - \$15,000 Fund

By Rose Karsner, Director

With three weeks still to go in the 15th Anniversary \$15,000 Fund Campaign, comrades are showing their determination to finish the drive ahead of schedule. Ten branches have already filled their quotas. Two more zeros were erased from the scoreboard, and a third, we learn from a letter quoted below, will jump into the 100% row next week.

FROM THE BRANCHES

Los Angeles: — "Enclosed please find check for \$150 on our quota for the Anniversary Fund Drive. South Gate, our newest and youngest branch, was the first to complete the quota."

Dayton, R. B.: — "I am enclosing \$15 as a contribution toward the \$15,000 Fund. I recently received the issue of *The Militant* containing the account of the farewell dinner. The speeches were really inspiring, and renewed my feeling of pride in the comrades and admiration for their courage."

Quakertown: — "The enclosed check for \$32 puts Quakertown over the top. We feel here that meeting our pledge is the very least we can do at this time, when our comrades are jailed for the 'crime' of furnishing correct leadership to the Socialist vanguard of the working class."

Detroit, Arthur: — "Enclosed please find cashier's check for \$170 which I think brings us up to our goal of \$2000. We shall not rest on our laurels and hope to have additional money for you before the 15th of February."

Youngstown, J. W.: — "Enclosed is a money order for \$35 to apply on our quota. This brings our total paid up so far to \$135. We expect to have paid in full by the first of February."

Akron, D. S.: — "Enclosed is a money order for \$75. This brings us to \$125 with a balance of \$75. I am sure we will go over the top in the allotted time. We were deeply stirred by the grave, confident spirit of the farewell speeches."

San Francisco, Lois: — "Enclosed find check for \$100. At the last meeting of the Branch we voted to increase our quota to \$1500 and I am sure we will reach that figure very shortly."

Flint: — "\$100 is on the way to fulfill our quota. Sorry it will be too late to appear in this week's scoreboard."

FROM FRIENDS AND SYMPATHIZERS
That we have many more friends and sympathizers than we know of, is indicated by the large number of anonymous contributions coming direct to the National office in addition to those received by the local organizations.

Total, last report	\$388.00
Received since	
Mabel, N. Y.	200.00
Lexington, anon.	24.75
Texas, anon.	5.00
Gon, N. J.	5.00
Dayton	15.00
Friend, N. Y.	5.00
Total	\$642.75



A subscription drive is now under way in Detroit and if the excellent results obtained by other branches in sub campaigns is indicative, we can look for big things to happen in Detroit's drive. The agent enclosed three subscriptions in her first letter, which states:

"We have started a campaign here to get subscriptions for *The Militant* and *Fourth International*. The drive began January 16 and will end February 1." In addition, Detroit has requested that their *Militant* bundle order be increased by 100 copies.

Seattle's subscription campaign is bringing in results that once again confirm our theory that all we have to do to get subs is to go after them. Our agents write: "We have been distributing *The Militant* every Sunday at a par-

ticular housing project here. Last Sunday was the first effort to get subs from those to whom the paper had been given. The comrades came home with 17 subs. Will you send us more sub blanks?"

Another letter from our Seattle agent states: "Here are two more subs—our shipyard worker, mentioned in the *Militant* Army (January 8), has turned in four (including these two) since then. He leads in our subscription campaign now with 15 subs."

Subscriptions continue to pour in from San Francisco. The agent's weekly letter reads: "Enclosed find money order covering 10 six-month subscriptions to *The Militant*. We have succeeded in acquiring other newstands in the Negro district. . . If it is at all possible I would like to suggest

SCOREBOARD

	Quota	Paid	Percent
NEW HAVEN	50.00	75.00	150
SAN FRANCISCO	1,000.00	1,450.00	145
QUAKERTOWN	25.00	32.00	128
MILWAUKEE	25.00	27.50	110
BUFFALO	300.00	307.50	103
SAN DIEGO	100.00	100.00	100
ALLEN TOWN	25.00	25.00	100
TWIN CITIES	1,000.00	1,000.00	100
TOLEDO	100.00	100.00	100
DETROIT	2,000.00	2,008.00	100
New York	2,500.00	2,404.00	96
Boston	300.00	282.00	94
Reading	75.00	68.00	91
Newark	300.00	260.00	87
Members-at-large			
and friends	800.00	642.75	80
Los Angeles	2,000.00	1,587.16	79
Youngstown	200.00	135.00	68
Chicago	2,000.00	1,138.38	57
Seattle	1,000.00	535.00	54
Cleveland	200.00	100.00	50
St. Louis	100.00	50.00	50
Bayonne	300.00	122.00	41
Akron	200.00	75.00	38
East Chicago	100.00	35.00	35
Philadelphia	150.00	24.50	16
Flint	100.00	0	0
Rochester	50.00	0	0
TOTALS		\$12,583.79	84%

Lenin Meeting Held in New York

NEW YORK—Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party held an inspiring meeting on January 23 in the main hall of Irving Plaza to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the death of Lenin.

Art Preis, well-known Militant writer, paid tribute to Lenin's uncompromising revolutionary internationalism. "It can be said that Lenin's whole life, his entire struggle, was a battle for the establishment of a world social revolutionary movement, built first of all on the bed-rock of genuine proletarian internationalism, a movement devoted to but one end—the destruction of world capitalist imperialism and the creation of world-wide socialism. Thus, for Lenin, the supreme triumph of the Russian Revolution was that it was the first success in the struggle for world socialism, that in the fires of this initial battle had been forged the tactical and organizational weapons with which the world proletariat might achieve power. That, to him, was the imperishable and indestructible core of the October 1917 Revolution."

A feature of the meeting was the showing of "Tzar to Lenin." This historical film of the Russian Revolution, composed of authentic news-reels, official and privately photographed scenes, depicts the February Revolution, the conquest of power in October, 1917 by the Bolshevik Party under Lenin and Trotsky, and the battles against the counter-revolutionists and their imperialist allies. The audience was deeply stirred as they watched the chief figures in the October Revolution flash upon the screen, the men and women who led the workers and peasants to victory in the world-shaking revolution that helped end the First World War.

Comrade George Grant, organizer of Local New York, was chairman of the meeting. The enthusiasm of the audience was reflected in the generous collection of almost \$200, given for the work of the Socialist Workers Party.

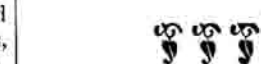
NOTICE

The National Office of the Socialist Workers Party is very much in need of a good typewriter for the next few months. If you have a typewriter you can loan for the next period or contribute, will you please communicate with the National Office, SWP, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

that you box the list in the paper for a month or so, as our newstand sales are increasing steadily.

Beginning this week *The Militant* will carry a list of newstands in various cities where the paper can be purchased.

We Still Have In Stock a Limited Supply of the Following Bound Volumes:



The Militant	
1939 (two volumes)	5.00
1940	4.00
1941	3.00
Fourth International	
1938	\$5.00
1939	5.00
1940-41	4.00

Complete your library while these bound volumes are still available

Order from
Business Manager
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

Medical Monopoly Opposes Progress

(Continued from page 1)

dollars per year. It does not matter to the AMA if the product they endorse is a patent medicine that does no one any good, or even if it is a product that does real harm. One recent scandal of the scientific journals is the persistent approval by the AMA of mechanical resuscitators for victims of carbon monoxide and other asphyxia, although three commissions, British and American, have declared this machine dangerous to human life.

In addition to financial support, the talent of its Big Business allies has been placed at the disposal of the AMA in its gigantic effort to defeat this bill. The NPC is headed by a high-powered advertising executive, John M. Pratt. Frank Gannett, millionaire publisher, has placed his arch-reactionary "Committee for Constitutional Government" at the service of the AMA.

Every argument that could be salvaged from the dung-heap of reaction has been used in their drive to perpetuate scarcity in medical aid. "Totalitarianism! dictatorship! communism!" shrieks the CCG pamphlet, written by Samuel Pettingill, finance chairman of the Republican National Committee. Pratt's pamphlet, 15 million of which have been issued by the NPC, proclaims: "Human rights as opposed to state slavery is the issue."

The fact that the vast majority of the American people are not getting proper medical attention because of exorbitant costs means nothing to these well-fed parasites. When they howl about "human rights," they do not mean the right of workers to medical care. Nor by "human rights" do they mean the right of every doctor to make a decent living since under the present anarchic system the vast majority of doctors earn less than \$5000 a year. They mean by "human rights" the privilege of physicians who have achieved financial comfort and power to continue capitalizing on their profession, catering to those who can pay, even though hundreds of thousands of people suffer from inadequate medical care.

When one reads the roster of crimes against the American masses, even against the majority of doctors, that the AMA has perpetrated, it is no wonder that the Supreme Court in January, 1943 was finally forced to uphold the conviction of the AMA as a "monopoly in restraint of trade."

FIGHTS ANY FEDERAL AID

Although a federal system of medical aid, financed by taxes upon profiteering corporations, would greatly benefit the workers, the Wagner-Murray bill is not socialized medicine, despite the loud and frenzied cries of the AMA. In fact, the bill provides an additional tax burden on workers by stepping up present social security taxes from one to six percent.

But the medical businessmen who have transformed the AMA into a powerful trade association for the benefit of the few at the expense of the many will not tolerate even this small encroachment upon their privileges and income. With the sympathy and support of the drug monopolists, they are waging war to the death against any projected national medical service.

Banker Heads Allied Commission

Just how tough the Anglo-American capitalists intend to get with the Big Business backers of the fascist regimes in Italy and Germany is indicated by the financial adviser recently appointed to the Allied Control Commission in Italy.

He is John L. Simpson, executive vice president of the J. Henry Schroder Banking Corp. of New York, a branch of the notorious international private banking firm which, before the war, was closely tied to leading Nazi cartels and banks and aided the financing of imports of strategic war materials into Nazi Germany. The American bank is a branch of J. Henry Schroder & Co., of London, which is connected in turn with the banking house of Schroder Gebruder in Hamburg, Germany.

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RED ARMY VICTORIES ALARM STALIN'S ALLIES

(Continued from page 1)

not really settle matters at all, even though, as Browder now brazenly confirms, Stalin at Teheran did agree to try to prevent the proletarian revolution from spreading to Western Europe. In his speech announcing the dissolution of the American Communist Party, Browder declared:

"British and American ruling circles had to be convinced that their joint war together with the Soviet Union against Hitlerism would not result in the Soviet Socialist system being extended to Western Europe under the stimulus of the victorious Red Armies." (Sunday Worker, Jan. 16.)

Western Europe of course includes, above all, Germany. "Convincing British and American ruling circles" means that Stalin himself supplied his signature along with sufficiently "convincing" guarantees at Teheran.

CAPITALIST OBJECTIONS

But the whole point is that the capitalists refuse to reconcile themselves to the price that Stalin needs and demands, that is, the strengthening of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe. Stabilization of capitalism in Europe is impossible without a capitalist Poland as a "buffer" in order to keep the Soviet system isolated in preparation for its eventual destruction. Churchill and Roosevelt know this, and are working to this end.

The establishment of the Curzon line, that is, in essence the preservation of the 1939 borders gained by Stalin through his previous deal with Hitler, would weaken Poland as the pivot of this indispensable capitalist "cordon sanitaire." Furthermore, implicit in the Kremlin's territorial demands is the extension of Soviet property forms to the whole of Poland. That this threat is not distant is borne out by the latest pronouncement by Stalin's Union of Polish Patriots calling not only for the inclusion of Silesia, Pomerania, East Prussia and Danzig in a "New Poland," but also

for the seizure of Polish landed estates, their division among the peasants and "the nationalization of industries and mines taken from the Germans." (Daily Worker, Jan. 28.)

Inasmuch as Polish industry is almost wholly in the hands of the Germans, the realization of this program would signify the complete destruction of Polish capitalism and a giant step in the inevitable extension of Soviet property forms far beyond the frontiers of 1939.

THE TWOFOLD DANGER

In its turn, this carries a twofold threat to capitalism: first, in addition to strengthening the USSR immeasurably, it would greatly hamper further attempts to isolate it. Second, the revolutionary wave in Europe, especially in Germany, would receive so mighty an impulsion from such developments in the territories of former Poland, let alone Silesia, East Prussia, etc., that the attempt to drown the coming European revolution in blood would be rendered well-nigh impossible.

In any case, Roosevelt and Churchill will not voluntarily surrender to Stalin a single sector of capitalism, no matter how tiny. Each advance of the Red Army, however, poses this issue pointblank and brings more and more sharply to the forefront the basic antagonism in the camp of the "United Nations" — the irreconcilable class conflict between the "democratic" capitalists and the Soviet Union, even in its degenerated condition under Stalin.

Among the voices already to be heard demanding another Teheran is that of Senator Burton of Ohio. The present crisis may be patched up temporarily, with or without another Teheran. But the irreconcilable class forces underlying the new crisis cannot be definitely suppressed or overcome by Stalinist intrigue and imperialist diplomacy. Inescapably they must and will manifest themselves in a life-and-death struggle between the forces of "democratic" capitalism and the Soviet Union.

Comrade L. H. Van Ryan

Comrade L. H. Van Ryan died in his home in Memphis, Tennessee after nine days of influenza, at 2 P. M. December 31, 1943.

Van, as he was called by his friends, had served and sacrificed for many years in the labor and radical movement in the heart of the South. He worked with the Communist Party during the wild adventures of the Stalinists in the early 1930's when they promised to "take up Memphis brick by brick." He was active in the building of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in its early days and was chased off his farm because of his activities.

In 1939 Van Ryan met a Trotskyist and, after hearing the principles of Trotskyism, said: "That is what I have been looking for."

A REAL REVOLUTIONIST

Despite the fact that he was past middle age, Van had been very active for the past few years, aiding the growing Mem-

phis CIO movement and farm labor through the S. T. F. U. He had great difficulty in finding permanent employment because of his color, his age and his record as a good union man and fighter for the underdog. A friend put it aptly when he said: "The bosses that didn't know him were told about him by the other bosses."

To work for the CIO, for the sharecroppers and tenant farmers, for the unity of black and white toilers, and for Trotskyism in the dictatorial domain of Democratic "Boss" Crump in Memphis and in the adjacent Southern lynch-belt demanded the utmost courage, self-confidence and good sense. Comrade Van Ryan shouldered these great pioneer tasks like a Bolshevik revolutionist.

Shortly before he died, he wrote to a comrade that the flu had him feeling bad but he had a job where there were two unions "and I can do some good, so I am going to make myself be a good hand."

He never had time to take care of himself. Van was too busy fighting to make this a better world for others.

PIONEER PARAGRAPHS

HOW GOVERNMENT "PUNISHES" WAR FRAUDS OF PROFITEERS

The government pleaded with the corporations to cooperate, to discontinue their cartel deals and violations of the anti-trust laws, and to let other companies use their patents for war production; the corporations flatly refused. Early in 1942 the government—in order to prevent the complete breakdown of the war program, that is, in order to protect the interests of the capitalist class as a whole—was finally compelled to institute a series of suits against a number of monopolies, making public the damning facts about which the government had been aware for many years.

The corporations had been caught red-handed. But the government, once having gotten their promise to permit the use of the patents during the war, dropped the charges and let these corporations escape virtually unpunished. To make the government's attitude unmistakably clear, Arnold Biddle, Secretary of War, Stimson and Secretary of Navy Knox wrote Roosevelt on March 20, 1942, in the midst of the public revelations about the cartels, and said that "some of the pending court investigations, suits and prosecutions under the anti-trust statutes by the Department of

Justice, if continued, will interfere with the production of war materials. . . In those cases we believe that continuing such prosecutions at this time will be contrary to the national interest and security." This was some more "blackmail," a threat to hold up on production if the prosecutions were continued, with government officials covering up for the corporations.

The same course has been followed in connection with the defective war material cases. Reluctantly the government has been compelled to prosecute in a few of the more flagrant cases, but each time high government representatives have stepped forward to make light of the corporate crimes.

The War Production Board held a closed meeting on the U. S. Steel case, but its only outcome was a statement by WPB chairman Donald Nelson deploring a "more than usual" vigilance on the part of steel plant inspectors and a WPB telegram to several steel companies urging them not to lean over backwards while seeking "unattainable perfection" in meeting production specifications.

Whatever else one may con-

Capitalist Persecution And Socialist Internationalism

(The following article was written by Comrade Morrow, editor of Fourth International, shortly before he went to Minnesota to serve his prison sentence.)

By Felix Morrow

The audience of *The Militant* — an audience of comrades, friends and working class militants — scarcely needs to be told that going to prison has been part of the day's work in every generation of proletarian revolutionists and working class militants since the Communist Manifesto of 1848. Frederick Engels, in his definition of the state, gave a central place to its prisons, and the truth of his definition has been verified by the experience of countless thousands of revolutionists and working class militants.

For how many decades were the prisons and places of exile of the Czar the most horrible experience on this globe! Yet, in those fearful places where Russian reaction sought to destroy the bodies and souls of its victims, were hardened and steely the men and women who made the three Russian revolutions.

SAME PROCESS

Essentially the same process has been repeated in every country. We know that neither execution chambers nor prison walls will crush the communist movement. We know it not as a matter of faith but as the record of history.

Still, it is necessary to add that, under certain conditions, even principled revolutionists have been spiritually broken, demoralized or disoriented by confinement.

There comes to mind the pitiful example — really the ludicrous example — of the famous socialist orator of the pre-1918 period, Kate Richards O'Hare, who emerged from prison with only one interest in life — prison reform. To this day she is busy at it as an officer of a prison reform association. Apart from getting curtains put on dormitory windows, Kate hasn't improved the prisons very much.

A much more important example is that of the whole leading cadre of the I.W.W. after its imprisonment in 1919 and 1920. These I. W. W. leaders were made of the best revolutionary stuff, they were men of unquestionable courage and integrity. Yet it is a fact that after emerging from prison — and they were not in prison for many years — they never regained their positions in the leadership of the advanced workers.

What happened to the I. W. W. leaders? During the time in which they were arrested, tried and imprisoned, events on a world scale took a course which the primitive



James P. Cannon, Albert Goldman, Vincent Dunne, and Farrell Dobbs, four of the 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO, framed-up under the Smith "Gag" Act. They are photographed in the Minneapolis party headquarters shortly before leaving to begin their sentences at Sandstone Federal Penitentiary.

doctrine of the I.W.W. had neither foreseen nor could explain. Not syndicalism but revolutionary Marxism showed itself to be the doctrine capable of leading the masses to the overthrow of capitalism. The star of October shone above them as they emerged from prison; it should have been the inspiration for redoubled activity; but the I. W. W. leaders did not understand that guiding star.

WE ARE MARXISTS

We are Marxists and that means, among other things, that we ask ourselves the most searching and fundamental questions. May there be an analogy between the fate of the imprisoned I.W.W. cadre and that of our cadre which is now going to prison? Will our cadre emerge from prison with redoubled determination or will it come out into a world in which it will find itself bewildered by events we had not foreseen and new revolutionary movements for which our doctrine had not provided and to which we will be unable to link ourselves?

We shall be in prison for only a year or so and at other times one could count such a period of

imprisonment as a short interval. But what a year this is certain to be! Certain to be one of those years in which world history moves more speedily than it has previously moved in whole generations.

ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE

The essential difference between our situation and that of the IWW leaders is that the question of world perspectives simply did not pose itself to the IWW cadre. They understood that the class struggle exists everywhere, but they never really understood that internationalism is not a matter of sentimental solidarity but that a world party of the socialist revolution is absolutely indispensable for conducting the struggle anywhere. They never understood that the tempo of the class struggle in America, and the nature of the revolutionary organization which would lead that struggle, could be determined by events in other parts of the world. The IWW mentality would not be able to understand today that what happens to the revolutionary movement in Europe during the coming years is a life and

death question to the American revolutionary movement.

That is the essential difference between the IWW leadership and that of the Socialist Workers Party. Our cadre has preoccupied itself for decades with the strategy and tactics of the world revolution. Our cadre has given the most scientific and assiduous study to the tasks of the world party. Our cadre is bound by the most unbreakable ties to our co-workers throughout the world. And that is why our program, our conception of the strategy and tactics of the world revolution, has withstood the test of events over the decades and perhaps even more important has withstood the test of events during these four and more years of the second world war.

Still greater events are to come but we have the assurance, by the tests our program has already met, that we are programmatically prepared for what is to come far better than any previous cadre in the history of the revolutionary movement. The actual record of the Trotskyist movement is our best guarantee for the future.

'MERCHANTS OF DEATH' EXPOSED IN CARTEL DEAL WITH BRITISH TRUST

(Continued from page 1)

maintained in deliberate violation of federal laws. It included as a partner, at least until several months after Pearl Harbor, the huge Nazi chemical trust, I. G. Farbenindustrie. These international trusts sought to establish "spheres of influence" where each would have exclusive control of markets, raw materials and manufacturing facilities. They limited production, fixed monopoly prices and attempted to eliminate all independent competition. They exchanged patents and trade secrets, acting to protect each other from outside competitors.

That the duPont dynasty, which is said to have received the largest volume of government war contracts, deliberately planned to violate the anti-trust laws, and continue the cartel agreement "irrespective of Governmental Action," was indicated by the Justice Department. The complaint quotes the personal correspondence between Lord McGowan, head of the British trust, and Lamont duPont, both named personally in the suit.

"Everything possible is done to ensure that no prospective political or legislative action on the parts of governments is permitted to influence relations between duPont and ICI," wrote Lord McGowan to duPont.

To which, duPont replied: "I feel the same:—If legislation or international agreements are brought about which affect these ICI-duPont relations, I am

convinced from these government actions, it is safe to say that they do not have the effect of strongly discouraging war frauds.

(From "War-time Crimes of Big Business," by George Breitman, pages 12-13; published by Pioneer Publishers, 1943, 16 pages, 5c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Pl., New York 3, N. Y.)

sure we will be able to adjust ourselves so as to get the continued benefit of our agreement." The government further charged that when the war in 1940 interrupted duPont relations in Argentina with I. G. Farben, the Nazi trust, "the duPont company informed I. G. that they intended to use their good offices after the war to have I. G. participation restored."

Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge, describing the effect of this and similar cartels, declared that they have "plagued us with shortages of critical materials, lack of know-how and industrial skills during war, and unemployment and idle plants during peace." The cartel agreements, he said, "are nothing but private treaties—as far reaching as any governmental action but free from Congressional sanction."

Berge admitted after the suit was brought that the government is seeking only a consent decree from duPont to discontinue certain of its practices. He informed Washington correspondents that the trial might be postponed, as has happened with similar cases in the past three years, and might not be taken up until after the war.

Lord McGowan came into public notice in this country recently through his campaign seeking repeal of the American anti-trust laws to permit continuation of cartels. The British fear that only by means of such cartel "truces" with the all-powerful American trusts will they be able to stand up against intensified American world trade competition.

That the American monopoly interests in general do not envisage permitting the British monopolists to strengthen themselves in the world arena is indicated by the emphasis in the Justice Department charges that it is ICI in particular which is aiming at world control of the chemical in-

Forced Labor Plan Backed By Stimson

(Continued from page 1)

were motivated entirely by solicitude for profiteering Big Business. Stimson admitted that he desired a forced labor draft "even without" the adoption of Roosevelt's accompanying proposals for taxing war profits, maintaining the war contracts renegotiations law, and instituting strict control of food prices. It should be remembered that Roosevelt screened his previous wage-freezing program with similar proposals, like the \$25,000 salary limitation, none of which were enacted.

This anti-labor campaign and incitation of the soldiers do not merely serve immediate ends of enforcing the wage-freeze and safeguarding profits. They lay the ground-work for the long-term designs of Big Business to strangle organized labor altogether. Just as Hitler and Mussolini mobilized many despairing and jobless ex-soldiers of World War I as strikebreaking battalions and storm-troops, so the American plunderbund, aided and abetted by Roosevelt, is preparing now to organize veterans of this war against the American working class. Their fascist minions, like Gerald L. K. Smith, head of the "America First Party," have recently seized upon the current agitation against labor to issue open appeals for support from servicemen.

So hostile and nakedly anti-labor has Roosevelt's campaign become, that even the bureaucratic trade union leadership, servile to the Roosevelt war machine and the bosses, has been panicked into sharp protest against the proposed forced labor bill. Only the finky Stalinists and their union stooges, like Harry Bridges and Joseph Curran, have dared endorse Roosevelt's call for a National Service Act.

BUREAUCRATS FAIL

But aside from deploring and lamenting, the union bureaucracy continues to give political support to Roosevelt, or, like sections of the AFL, is bidding for the favors of the hard-shelled reactionary Republican Party. The top union leaders are trying to knife in the back every movement toward genuinely independent labor political organization and action. In the arena of economic struggle against the universally condemned Little Steel formula wage freeze, they have failed to take the elementary step of uniting the unions for joint action, and continue to permit Roosevelt and the bosses to deal separately with each isolated union.

They have failed to counteract effectively the demagogic incitation of the soldiers against the workers by vigorously pushing a program to protect the interests of the worker-soldiers and ex-servicemen and unite the whole working class in a militant fight against the real enemies of soldier and worker alike, the big monopolists and their political agents. This latter failure is a particularly shameful neglect of fundamental duty, because the workers are not only producing under terrible conditions of speed-up, long hours and wage freezing all the instruments of war, but have provided the bulk of the armed forces doing the fighting and dying. Factory workers and mechanics alone, without speaking of

other sections of the wage earners, have provided 42 per cent of the armed forces, the Jan. 15 Cleveland Trust Co. bulletin states.

LABOR'S PROGRAM

The labor movement must do more than "view with alarm" the progress of the present labor-baiting drive. Organized labor must beat back this ominous offensive, spear-headed by Roosevelt's demand for a national forced labor draft, with a united, militant, all-sided counter-attack of its own.

Further, that other anti-labor salient, the Little Steel formula, must be smashed by joint action of the entire union movement. To this end, CIO President Murray, whose steel union is now in nego-

Mike Gold's Stomach

Mike Gold, who does a sort of "My Day" column for the Daily Worker, on Jan. 14 squeezed out a last tear for the good old days when the Communist Party at least paid lip-service to socialism. Gold wailed:

"His (Browder's) suggestion that we give up the old minority dream of socialism... was perhaps the biggest and most bitter of new pills."

"As for pledging to aid capitalism to stabilize itself, this is a pill fit only for a horse. Where is the human who can swallow it?"

Whereupon, in succeeding paragraphs, Gold himself avidly downs, without so much as a belch, the "pill fit only for a horse."

tations, should call an immediate united action conference of every CIO union as the first step in the organization of a broad united front of organized labor.

An effective program in the interests of the worker-soldiers and ex-servicemen should be formulated immediately, and labor should be mobilized in force to press for this program. The demands should include: 1. democratic rights for the soldier ranks, including the right to elect committees of their own representatives to defend their rights and present their grievances; 2. military training and officers training for workers, financed by the government, under trade union control; 3. full political and voting rights for all members of the armed forces; 4. adequate muster-out pay to tide discharged veterans over any period of unemployment; 5. provisions for jobs and real security wages, under union conditions.

Above all, this program must be implemented by effective political action. An end must be made at once to company unionism in politics. Labor must break once and for all with the political machines of Big Business. The workers must begin to build now a party of their own, a mighty independent labor party, free of capitalist taint or control. That is the way labor can make its voice count in the affairs of this nation. That is the way the workers will be able to halt the anti-labor offensive of government and Big Business.

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To defend the USSR as the main fortress of the world proletariat, against all assaults of world imperialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of every class-conscious worker.

— LEON TROTSKY

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1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
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4. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
5. A rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
6. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.
9. The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

Rising Wage Scale

Last week, after a run-around that extended over a period of eighteen months, the railroad workers finally gained a wage increase of from 9 to 11 cents an hour. These modest increases were won only after a year-and-a-half of negotiations, prolonged hearings before various mediation boards, awards made and broken, and finally, a strike threat that precipitated a major labor crisis. Simultaneous with the termination of the rail wage dispute, the steel workers' demand for a 17 cents an hour increase, was moving through the same labyrinth when the United States Steel Corporation asked that the wage demands of the United Steel Workers of America be certified to the War Labor Board.

Speaking for U. S. Steel, John A. Stephens, vice-president in charge of industrial relations, said that the wage demands of the steel workers were "of such a nature as not to permit solution in collective bargaining." The steel tycoons passed the ball to Roosevelt's War Labor Board, that graveyard of grievances which Philip Murray has accused of having already prejudged the steel workers' case. At the same time, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union announced that wage negotiations had broken down after a five weeks conference with the employers. Julius Hochman, union spokesman, complained: "I am compelled to conclude, following very frequent meetings with the employers, that some of their representatives are taking advantage of labor's no-strike pledge to prolong negotiations." Hochman then proceeded to call in those past masters of the art of "prolonging negotiations," the government mediators.

These developments, together with the impending wage negotiations of a large section of the CIO, foreshadow the beginning of a new labor crisis. In order to win even a part of their wage demands, these unions must crash through the Little Steel formula. The experience of the past period has shown what a tremendous expenditure of energy is required from one union after another in the struggle to gain a few cents an hour increase. The coal miners went through four strikes to win a modest wage increase. After 18 months the railway workers had to set a strike date before they were able to gain an equally meagre wage increase.

The workers have seen that even when these struggles succeed in gaining a few cents per hour, the rising cost of living quickly wipes out such gains and the bitter struggle has to be fought all over again. The more advanced sections of the la-

bor movement are seeking a way out of this predicament. The United Automobile Workers Union (CIO) is demanding the inclusion in its contract of an escalator clause—a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL) is also demanding "an anti-inflation clause based on the 'escalator' principle fixing a relationship between wages and living costs." The escalator clause is becoming recognized as the only realistic solution to the problem of adjusting wages in the race to keep up with the rising cost of living.

With Roosevelt and his henchmen on the War Labor Board still holding the wage freezing line against the workers, it would be fatal to continue the policy of pitting one union at a time against the powerful government apparatus functioning as the executive committee of the bosses. Only the united effort of the entire labor movement will be able to secure an effective wage policy. It is imperative that a conference be called of all unions, regardless of affiliation, to initiate a nation-wide drive by organized labor to end wage freezing by uniting in common struggle for a realistic wage policy—the escalator clause—a rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.

Allies And France

The reasons given by the Anglo-American authorities for their refusal to provide arms to the French anti-Nazi underground movement provide a fresh demonstration of the anti-democratic character of the Roosevelt-Churchill war aims.

These reasons are openly expressed in a special Washington dispatch on Jan. 21 to the *N. Y. Times*, which admits that not merely "technical difficulties" but "political difficulties" stand in the way.

"One is the fear of violent revolution which appears to haunt the molders of foreign and military policy in Washington and London, in the special case of France; another is a natural legacy of the Vichy policy."

The dispatch goes on to reveal: "To some Vichyites who, while appearing to collaborate with the Nazis, also served the purposes of our liaison-with-Vichy policy, the United States and British Governments seem to feel a certain obligation that an armed French underground might not share."

In short, Roosevelt and Churchill fear to arm the anti-fascist masses of France who would turn their guns first of all against the Vichyite industrial and financial collaborators with Hitler. Instead, these "democrats" intend to defend and protect the Vichyites—that is, the ruling capitalists in France and their political agents—and to try to keep them in power after Hitler's defeat.

Anglo-American imperialism would a thousand times over rather see the maintenance of reactionary dictatorships in France and throughout the world than to see the insurgent workers and peasants armed to overthrow their fascist oppressors. For the armed masses will not stop at a mere restoration of their political and democratic rights, but will fight on for full social and economic emancipation. They will threaten the property rights of the capitalists—and that is what the capitalist politicians, Roosevelt and Churchill, fear above all else.

Soldier Vote

For months the American people have witnessed the repulsive spectacle of a heated congressional debate on whether or not the servicemen, who are presumably fighting and dying for democracy all over the planet, were to be given the elementary democratic right of voting in the 1944 election. A so-called "States Rights" bill, previously adopted by the Senate and favorably reported out of the House Committee on Elections, represented an unconditional surrender to the poll-tax Democrats of the "solid South" and their northern anti-labor colleagues. This non-voting "voting" bill was so raw that even Secretary of War Stimson declared that "few if any members of the armed forces would be able to vote under the 'States Rights' soldier voting bill."

Such a roar of protest surged up from the soldier ranks that even the congressional "defenders of democracy" could not ignore it. They found it politically expedient to devise a substitute measure which, while pretending to grant all soldiers the right to vote, actually protected the poll-tax system and disfranchised millions of men in the armed forces. By a vote of 12 to 2 the Senate Committee on Elections turned this trick by reporting out a new measure embodying the provision that: "Election officials in the States would have the final say as to what ballots should be counted."

This means that, although soldiers are given the right to cast a ballot, the decision whether or not their vote will be counted is left entirely to the Democratic and Republican machine-controlled election officials of the various states. No wonder poll-tax Senator Tydings of Maryland exultantly "expressed the view that this provision gave State and local election officials the right to decide whether the ballots of service men who were not registered or who had not paid poll taxes, should be counted."

This sleight-of-hand performance, this cynical disregard for the simplest democratic rights of the soldiers, is typical of both capitalist parties. The labor movement has the duty to demand that every soldier's ballot should be counted in the elections. But it is not enough to win full voting rights for the soldiers; it is necessary to give them a party and a program worth voting for. The unions must create an independent Labor Party with a program covering the needs of the service men and guaranteeing their democratic rights. Only through such a militant Labor Party can workers and soldiers together defend their interests against the poll-tax Bourbons and anti-labor agents of Wall Street in control of the Democratic and Republican parties.

WORKERS' FORUM

The columns are open to the opinions of the readers of The Militant. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers, but keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed. — Editor.

Reader Inspired By 'The Militant'

Editor: The January 1st issue of The Militant is a real inspiration.

When the prison doors had actually closed upon our leaders, it seemed that I could not overcome a feeling of bitterness and depression. It was such a monstrous thing—this imprisoning of people whose only crime had been an unrelenting struggle to free mankind from injustice, starvation, oppression and war. Waves of revulsion and anger swept over me—revulsion for the injustice and stupidity, anger for the conspiracy of silence in the "free press."

But when I received The Militant for January 1st, with those inspiring speeches and biographical sketches, a new spirit possessed me. The hopelessness was replaced by a conviction that so long as humanity could produce leaders like these, humanity was not lost. The feeling of helplessness was replaced by the thought: "You have been doing

your bit; how about doing your best?"

I have taken extra copies of this issue to pass out to people of my acquaintance who are not revolutionary socialists. It seems to me that if they will but take the time to read these biographical sketches, at least a spark of interest must be kindled in them. Perhaps later the spark will develop into a flame.

D. K.
Los Angeles, Cal.

Layoffs and the Labor Draft

Editor: Roosevelt and Stimson are clamoring for a labor draft—to insure war production! Yet at my plant, thousands of workers are being laid off.

I work at Sperry-Gyroscopic, which had 20,000 production workers until a few weeks ago. Now the number decreases by hundreds every week. The company states, in the union paper (!) that "it is expected that voluntary termina-

tions, layoffs and the (soldier) draft will continue to take their toll of Sperry workers until the present force is reduced by about 20%."

I suppose the company means to get more production by speeding up and cracking-down on the rest of us. Every step it has taken in that direction has been accepted and even praised by the Stalinists who control the union. The workers' answer has been to quit, in large numbers—that's what's referred to as "voluntary terminations."

The company will continue with one-fifth less of us. What will happen to the 4000 who aren't needed? Under a draft-labor bill, we could be forced to take jobs at the lowest prevailing rate, regardless of our experience; to work under intolerable conditions; and there would be no way out. That seems to me to be the real reason for a labor draft at a time when thousands are being fired from their jobs.

R. J.
New York City

Workers' BOOKSHELF

"EMPIRE" by Louis Fischer. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York. 1943. 101 pp. \$1.00.

Louis Fischer was for many years one of Stalin's public apologists. When he broke with the Stalinists at the time of the Hitler-Stalin pact he admitted that for several years he had realized the treacherous character of Stalinism but had covered up for it nevertheless. His latest book demonstrates that he is now playing the same role of apologist, with just as much hypocrisy, for the British Empire.

For example, at several points in his book Fischer clearly reveals that he understands the imperialist character of the war. He states: "Some of the roots of this war grew in the rotten colonial soil of Asia and Africa" and that "Japanese imperialism clashed with (British) imperialism to produce this second world war." At other points however, hoping that his readers may have short memories, he pretends that "This is not a war about foreign geography. . . This is a war to remake the world." This procedure of skating around true facts at one point and then presenting falsehoods in the guise of generalizations at another is typical of the duplicity of the book—and of Fischer's whole career.

Fischer plainly reveals the character of the British imperialists and their determination never to give up India. The book is filled with quotations by Churchill of which the following is typical: "The loss of India would be final and fatal to us. It could not fail to be part of a process that would reduce us to the scale of a minor power." Fischer also quotes the equally cynical Leopold Amery, now Secretary of State for India, who said in 1933: "Who is there among us to cast the first stone and to say that Japan ought not to have acted with the object of creating peace and order in Manchuria and defending herself against the continued aggression of vigorous Chinese nationalism? Our whole policy in India, our whole policy in Egypt stands condemned if we condemn Japan."

In spite of this, Fischer insists that the imperial government in London with a little pushing from the liberals, can be depended upon to give India her freedom. Flying in the face of all reality, he maintains that "it would be to the interests of Britain" to free India.

Fischer completely whitewashes American imperialism. To believe him, the U. S. imperialists favor a "multi-national" form of colonial control, since the wealth and strength of American capitalism enable it to exploit the colonial nations most profitably by the methods of "dollar diplomacy." Fischer calls this Wall Street technique of financial domination "internationalism and the fullest development of subject peoples."

Side by side with these lies, Fischer provides some valuable material about India. The contrast between the great in-

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Side by side with these lies, Fischer provides some valuable material about India. The contrast between the great in-

dustrial development of the Soviet Union after the October revolution and the continued impoverishment of India is pointed out sharply by him, together with the similar contrast in the cultural levels of the two countries.

Fischer further points out that the landlords in India are opposed to Indian independence because British arms are the only thing that prevents the Indian peasants from overthrowing the feudal property relations that prevail in Indian agriculture. In their struggle for independence the Indian masses must and will make an agrarian revolution, throwing out the landlords in the same way that the Russian peasants did in 1917.

Naturally, this sycophant of capitalism refrains from drawing the conclusion that the only way out for the Indian masses is through emulating the October revolution. But he cannot refrain from playing with this historically inescapable development. He hints at it:

"Probably not one Russian in a hundred had heard of Lenin or Trotsky when the Soviet Government was established. . . A leader has followed before his followers know he is alive. He fills a need for them."

The Indian Trotskyists at the head of the growing industrial working class are destined to lead the Indian masses because they alone "fill a need for them." The urgent need for correct and bold revolutionary leadership.

Reviewed by DAVE JEFFRIES

Two Methods of Fighting Against Anti-Semitism

Anti-semitic attacks are on the increase. From New York, Boston, Baltimore and elsewhere come reports of beatings and knifings of Jews by Christian Fronters and other hoodlums. Instead of protecting the victims of these assaults, the police shield their attackers or remain indifferent to them. This is confirmed by New York City Commissioner Herland's report which cites numerous cases of police failing to answer calls for help and condemns "police inaction and laxity."

In an official survey, 407 New York policemen admitted membership in the Christian Front. One of the most notorious cops named Drew who was fired because of his pro-fascist views and activities, was reinstated by the Police Commissioner with full pay for time lost. After a storm of public protest, Mayor La Guardia appointed a special "investigation committee" of two ex-judges and an ex-police commissioner which promptly whitewashed both Drew and his superior.

Then LaGuardia, upon whom the liberals and many Jews pinned their hopes, completed the whitewashing by clearing Drew of all charges in a personal interview with him over the municipal radio station.

While LaGuardia "fights" anti-semitism by protecting anti-semites, the Los Angeles labor movement has provided an example of working class action against anti-semitism which is worth more than a thousand appeals to capitalist politicians. When a Jew-baiting gang in Douglas Aircraft Co's Santa Monica plant circulated a filthy anti-semitic leaflet, the UAW-CIO local immediately set to work to stop this poisonous propaganda. It not only located the source of the mimeographing but also drew up and distributed among its members a counter petition pointing out the evils of racial hatred and calling for unity of all union members against anti-Jewish and anti-Negro attacks.

Not through dependence upon capitalist politicians and police departments honeycombed with fascist-minded cops but only in firm alliance with the labor movement can the Jewish and Negro minorities stop the spread of fascist doctrines and eliminate the threat of terrorist attacks against them.

Tax Bill Fails to Touch All-Time Record Profits

While Congress is engineering a tax bill which will leave the corporations higher profits than ever in 1944, the U. S. Department of Commerce reported on Jan. 22 that corporation profits for 1943, after taxes, reached an all-time record peak.

Actually reported net profits for 1943, which do not include billions in reserve and depreciation funds, were \$8,200,000,000. This is almost \$1,000,000,000 more than the 1942 record take-in, and double that of 1939.

This is also double the net corporate profits of 1918, the last World War I year, which evoked such post-war revulsion and scandals and led to Roosevelt's pre-war promise that there would be no war millionaires in this war.

In addition to these admitted profits, according to the government report the corporations will have piled up by the end of this year a net non-taxable reserve of \$26,000,000,000, which is expected to be boosted to more than \$55,000,000,000 by the end of 1945.

Total corporate profits before taxes were actually \$22,800,000,000—four times higher than those of 1939. Since the corporations have been able to double their net profits, despite increased taxes, it means that the masses by paying higher prices and providing the taxes to pay for war contracts are actually paying for all corporation taxes and providing a monumental profit to boot.

Despite these facts, the tax bill now before Congress will provide for less than a \$700,000,000 increase in total corporation profits taxes, since most of the \$2,100,000,000 proposed new taxes will come from further levies upon the masses.

The new tax bill also includes amendments to the war contracts renegotiations law which would exempt some of the worst war profiteers, such as the machine tool industry. This would also be of benefit to the mine operators who cleaned up four times more net profits in 1943 than in 1939.

Anaconda Gets Off Easy In Murderous War Fraud

That Big Business can get away with murder in their own courts is once more illustrated by the sentences in the Anaconda Wire and Cable Company war frauds and conspiracy case.

After the company, a Pawtucket, R. I., subsidiary of the giant Anaconda Copper trust, and five of its officials were found guilty two weeks ago by a federal jury of deliberately selling the Army defective war materials intended for combat use, the company was let off with a measly \$10,000 fine while four officials received jail sentences of one year to 18 months and another was placed on probation.

The evidence showed that the company, previously convicted for similar practices in its Marion, Ind., plant, had palmed off on the War Dept. over \$1,000,000 worth of improperly inspected and damaged wire and cable which Army officials testified seriously endangered the lives of troops in actual combat.

The company accepted the contract with full knowledge that it was not equipped to produce goods up to Army specifications. Nevertheless, it worked out all sorts of mechanical devices and tricks for fooling the government inspectors and cleaned up tens of thousands in profits on the contract. The profits realized in the fraud far exceeded the fine levied.

The relatively short prison sentences, in no sense commensurate with the crime, were meted against supervisory employees who were the scape-goats for the owners of the corporation.

Even the judge, who levied the small fine, admitted that the company was the "chief culprit" and that those sentenced to jail were secondary individuals swayed by "blind loyalty to the corporation."

What a contrast is shown in this treatment of profiteering corporations which deliberately endanger the lives of thousands of soldiers and the many exploited workers who have been framed and jailed for defending their living standards in union struggles.

International Notes

The Churchill government plans to aid in the restoration of King George of Greece, whose pre-war regime rivaled the vilest in Europe for bloody suppression and brutal exploitation of the masses. The British Tribune, Dec. 24, 1943, reports that "in last week's Commons debate. . . Eden held firm to the old line in Greek affairs, based on backing a discredited Monarch rather than the people."

A delegation of anti-monarchist EAM (Greek National Front of Liberation) leaders last August in Cairo demanded assurance from the British that they would not permit the King to return to Greece until a plebiscite had determined on the future constitution.

The Tribune reports that "its mission failed when it became known that Churchill had assured the King that it was the aim of the British Government 'to see him back on his throne.'"

Eden, before Commons, stated with regard to sending material aid to Colonel Zerva, a notorious agent of King George, that "I am going to send him supplies as far as possible," and that other Greek resistance movements would get only "a certain amount of help."

Eden represented Zerva as a "republican," although it is a well-known fact that Zerva, in opposition to all other tendencies in Greece, which are opposed to the

return of the Greek monarch, alone sent King George a telegram of loyalty and recognition.

It is apparent that Churchill, far from pursuing any democratic aims regarding the post-war regimes in the now Nazi-occupied countries, is working over-time to frustrate the will of the masses and foist upon them the most discredited and totalitarian rulers.

An estimated 1,500,000 political prisoners still remain in Franco's Spanish dungeons and concentration camps, according to information released two weeks ago in the Spanish News Letter, published in London.

This is added confirmation of the fraud Franco tried to perpetrate a few weeks ago by his announcement, given widest circulation and credence in the American capitalist press, that he had amnestied most of the political prisoners confined in his jails since the Spanish Civil War.

The bourgeois press has been using Franco's false claim in order to white-wash this fascist butcher of the Spanish workers and peasants as a budding "democrat."

A special feature article from London by James B. Reston, published in the N. Y. Times Magazine section, Jan. 23, attempts to boost the British forced labor system as a model for Roosevelt's

proposed National Service Act.

In two paragraphs, however, he lets slip some of the truth about what this system has meant to the British workers.

"Tens and hundreds of thousands of men and women have been moved from their normal communities and their normal jobs and have been dumped into sections of the country and into work which they knew nothing about. These migrant workers have often had to live in homes much worse than even the temporary structures thrown up for our workers at home in America, and, in many cases, they have been billeted compulsorily in homes where they were not wanted."

"Whole towns in Scotland have been stripped of their young women, who have been moved into England to supply the labor shortage in aircraft factories, and the British people would be the last to claim that this vast migration of women and men, with its doubling up of families in unnatural surroundings, has been accomplished without unfortunate moral and social effects."

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'THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL'