

How To Fight Injunctions In GM Strike Discussed By Detroit SWP Organizer In Address Over Radio

The following is the text of the address on the General Motors strike situation delivered Sunday, December 30, over Detroit radio station WJLB by Arthur Burch, organizer of the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

By Arthur Burch

In order for the workers to win their struggle against General Motors it is necessary for them not only to measure their own strength, but to evaluate the power of the forces arrayed against them. The wealth and might of America's largest corporation are but a miniature part of the scales weighted against labor. Even more influential are the departments of government that are at the beck and call of the greedy profiteers. As the battle unfolds the true nature of the state becomes ever more apparent.

No sooner had GM flung its challenge at labor and forced the workers out on strike than the legislative servants of the Sixty Families howled in unison from their Congressional rostrum for the further shackling of labor. President Truman then bared his role as Big Business administrator by attempting to corral the workers back into the plants while some fact-finding commission went through the pretense of an impartial investigation.

When this aid to the monopolists failed to undermine labor's will to fight and win, they then resorted to their old reliable ally, the courts, to break the strike by means of the injunction. Thus the three departments of government, executive, legislative, and judiciary, are lined up solidly behind the bosses.

While labor has at least partially learned that it is necessary to combat the legislative and administrative arms of Big Business through its own pressure, and has applied this lesson in the GM strike, labor nevertheless retains its awe of the courts. Dressed in their feudal robes, these capitalist dispensers of injustice continue to befuddle many workers. Not that labor does not instinctively sense that the judiciary is part of the Big Business apparatus, but labor hasn't as yet fully learned how to fight against this subtle weapon. It still relies on its own smart labor lawyers to outwit the judicial shysters at their own tricky game, always with the same unhappy results.

Charles Evans Hughes, ex-Chief of the Supreme Court, correctly defined the Constitution and the law to be whatever the judges say. Through legal mumbo-jumbo the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution was converted from a dispensation of equality for all into a weapon of privilege for the corporations. And so, on through the years, the workers have continuously been cheated of their rights through such legal trickery.

How To Meet Challenge?

Unions were at one time held to be conspiracies and therefore illegal. This fraud was righted by the workers when through militant mass action they formed their unions nevertheless. When the profiteers were forced to recognize trade unionism, the judicial shysters then outlawed strikes. When the workers nonetheless insisted on using this indispensable weapon, then and only then, did strikes become legal. At a later stage the judicial tools of Big Business barred picketing. Picketing too became legal when the workers were determined to protect their democratic right to strike. So the pliant judges thought up the smart formula of limiting the number of pickets at the plant, stating that mass picketing was in violation of the law.

How will the workers meet this new challenge to their inalienable rights? By capitulating to this farcical interpretation of the law, as the United Automobile Workers leaders are now doing and advising? Or by following the militant traditions of the American labor movement which has made such strong strides forward in its heroic uphill fight against the ruthless profiteers?

The automobile workers have not forgotten the history of their own union, its militant tradition, its indomitable fighting spirit, its victory against overwhelming odds. In the days of the Union's first struggles in 1934, the capitalists obtained an injunction against mass picketing in order to crush the famous Toledo Auto-Lite strike. Thousands of workers and unemployed refused to surrender their hard-won rights and made a mockery of this fraudulent judicial weapon of the bosses. The Auto-Lite strike was won and the ground-work for the UAW-CIO was thus laid.

Again in Flint in 1937 the workers were faced with a court decree which ordered them out of the strike-bound plants. Back came the workers' answer clear and loud, forcing the black-robed puppets of Big Business to beat a hasty retreat. It was by such militant action that the auto workers saved their union and won higher working standards for themselves as well as for all American labor.

Injunction Issue Today

In their efforts to break the present strike, the auto magnates resort to the old motto of "divide and conquer." They attempt to set off the office workers against the men on the production line. Although the office employees have the same grievances as the production workers and are beginning to be organized and refuse to pass through

the picket lines of the struck plants, nevertheless the millionaire bosses are once more running to the courts for an injunction against mass picketing in order to force the office workers back into the plants.

Everyone knows that the function of the office workers, and this is even more true of foremen, is inconsequential with the production machinery at a standstill. Yet the labor-hating profiteers rely on this flimsy pretext to prevent mass picketing. They have in mind something else entirely — the use of thugs and gunmen as scabs in the very near future. This is the only hope that the parasitic owners of GM have of breaking the strike where the ranks of the men remain solid.

Unfortunately the bosses are aided by the policy of capitulation of the UAW leadership. Instead of fighting against the injunction tooth and nail in the traditional militant spirit of the auto workers, the UAW officials break the solidarity of the strike by permitting the office workers into the plants, hoping to prevent the issuance of injunctions by the plant judges. But their cowardly strategy is of no avail, for the auto magnates insist on using this strikebreaking weapon, and the judges are only too ready to comply.

Of course the capitalist press joins in the frenzied shout for injunctions against what they term "illegal" mass picketing. But this hysterical outcry on the part of the hired press is quite groundless. As everyone knows, this strike was called by the democratic decision of the auto workers. If they have the right to close the plants through strike action it follows that they also have the right to make their action effective.

Answer To Strikebreaking

The only way to prevent scabs from entering the plants is through mass picketing. That of course does not prevent the owners from operating their plants through their own labor power, but for this the parasitic owners have neither the inclination nor the know-how. Without making an equitable settlement with the workers they have only one means of operating the plants — through the use of scabs.

Of all the species of repulse, the scab is the most loathsome. No self-respecting man or woman would cross a picket line to replace a striking worker. The American people have long ago given their verdict on this vile method of breaking strikes and crushing unions. If the GM parasites still persist in this vicious scheme and try to legalize their banditry by means of injunctions obtained from servile judges, what decent person can have anything but contempt for this base judicial process?

Under the false premise that injunctions are issued to prevent violence, they have in fact led to endless bloodshed and brutality against innocent workers defending their legal right to strike and picket. No amount of judicial juggling will prevent the workers from safeguarding their unions. Scabs have no more legal standing than they have moral standing. And whenever injunctions for the breaking of strikes were granted by the black-robed partners of Big Business, the militant action of the workers protecting their inalienable rights has received the complete physical and moral support of the overwhelming majority of the American people.

Only a cowardly leadership can prevent the men from fighting for their rights. And unless they fight back during a strike they will find that the profiteers will not only use thugs to smash their union with the help of the legal process, but will at a later stage use these same thugs to impose a fascist dictatorship on the American people.

The laws of Germany were sufficiently adapted to the interests of the German monopolists to permit Hitler to take power legally. We can be sure that American Big Business can juggle the law in a similar manner through its control of the courts. And would we not be cowards and simpletons if we failed to resist such an interpretation of the law? We may not be able to prevent judges from issuing illegal injunctions but we must never forget the traditional militant method of fighting them. Like the bosses and their agents in the White House and Congress, the judiciary must be combated in the same militant manner.

The Socialist Workers Party once more puts forth its program to end the clique rule of the monopolists. This small gang of bandits on the loose keeps in chains the vast majority of the American people. It can do so only through its control of the two capitalist parties, Republican and Democratic alike. It will continue to do so as long as labor supports either of these two parties.

Labor must break with company unionism on the political field and form its own independent party of labor. Only then will the officials elected by labor's votes carry out the wishes of the American people. Once elected to office, labor's representatives will end monopoly rule and set up a workers' and farmers' government. That is the only way to preserve a decent standard of living for the majority of people in this country. That is the only way to end depressions, unemployment, and imperialist wars. A workers' and farmers' government is the only safeguard against the approaching danger of American fascism.

\$6-Billion Ship Steal Exposed By "Militant"

(Continued from Page 1)

during the war shot sky high under practically a cost-plus system of profiteering, a much lower "pre-war" production cost figure is arbitrarily selected by the representatives of the shipping interests on the Maritime Commission. This naturally amounts to a tremendous discount.

But this discount is only the beginning. The "prewar" figure in turn is discounted 50 per cent! Sounds like a pretty good bargain for virtually brand new ships. Congress, however, was in a most generous mood. On top of the fantastic 50 per cent discount, the buyer takes another five per cent for each year the ship has been in operation!

SCRAPING THE BOTTOM

Since the Government has paid for the upkeep of these ships under charter, most of them are in excellent condition. But just in case the buyer and his representatives on the Maritime Commission agree they aren't in top-notch shape, the Act provides for still another discount — the cost of putting a ship in "condition." This naturally will not apply to the ships still under construction in the shipyards.

The price is getting pretty low. It would seem possible for the shipping interests to relieve the Government of these modern ships at such give-a-way prices. The shipping trust, moreover, isn't exactly poor. It made staggering profits during the war, not to speak of the years of scandalous subsidies, out-right steals on hauling Government goods, and the high-smelling practice of buying ships from the Government for a song and then selling them back to the Government at incredibly high prices.

But the bottom of the pork barrel isn't in sight yet. Still another discount is added — a juicy three per cent for each year the ship was operated during the war. Wear and tear, you know.

Remembering how, following the First World War, the public was scandalized by the notorious ship steal then perpetrated, draw a line. The bottom price of



these ships cannot be set below 42 per cent of the actual cost for tankers and 35 per cent for freighters. The vast fleet of Liberty ships, however, is to be given away for 31½ per cent.

This minimum line, it must be added, is pretty shaky, inasmuch as the Act is written in the most obscure and tangled language of any legislation grafted through Congress in years. The proponents of the measure not only admitted this, but pointed out the ambiguous sections over which the lawyers can haggle.

The \$10,000,000 (billions) worth of ships can thus be knocked down for about three and a half billion dollars — a clear steal for the shipping interests of \$6,500,000,000 (billions)! This is more than three times the total cost of the Spanish-American war.

STILL MORE TO COME!

There is still more to come, however. The shipping barons don't have to pay cash for these bargain-counter ships. All they need to put on the line is 25 per cent of the sales price. The balance can then be paid off in 20 easy yearly installments. This burden is all the lighter since the Government with certain qualifications subsidizes the operating costs of ships sometimes to the tune of 50 per cent.

And on top of this, if the buyers want to trade in an old ship as part of the 25 per cent down payment, the Government will

grant them a most generous allowance. In fact, the trade-in allowance may be greater than the down payment!

A 24-carat, diamond-studded Christmas gift like this out of the public treasury ought to satisfy the greediest profit-hog. But some of the shipping interests wanted still more. Senator White of Maine, for instance, objected because the trade-in allowance for ships wasn't high enough! He also disliked the minimum sales price — he thought the ships should just be presented to the highest bidder without any further rigamarole.

GENEROUS CONGRESS

Senator Magnuson of Washington also tried to amend the Act. The Alaska shipping outfit, it seems, want a brand new fleet to replace their present ships. But they don't like the ultra-modern ships still coming down the ways. They want the Government to build ships to exact specifications for their needs and then turn them over on the same basis as the fleet now up for disposal.

Outside of White and Magnuson, no one proposed any changes worth noting. The Act passed the Senate without a roll call vote. The handful of Senators present turned over this stupendous amount of wealth to the private shipping interests with the same speed with which they carry out any other routine job for Wall Street.

Detroit General Motors Pickets Repulse Attempts To Crash Line

(Continued from Page 1)

fortified with drinks at the company's expense, this group of 40 returned and charged the gate in a body. They succeeded in entering the plant before picket reinforcements could be brought to the scene.

Local 735 immediately met the company's violation of its agreement with the union by terminating all passes. At a meeting of the Detroit city-wide strike committee held the same afternoon, it was decided to send additional pickets from other GM locals with instructions to admit no one the following day. Nearby beer gardens and grocery stores were asked to remain closed until noon, to forestall any trouble.

On Thursday, January 3, a thousand pickets, including reinforcements from Fleetwood Local 15, Diesel Local 163, Chevrolet Gear and Axle Local 235 and Chevrolet Forge Local 262, manned the gates at Detroit Transmission. In spite of remonstrances from the police, picket captains approached the salaried employees some distance from the gates and explained that it would be unwise to try to enter.

UNYIELDING LINE

Those foolish enough to avail themselves of police protection in an attempt to cross the lines, found themselves surrounded by hundreds of pickets, an impenetrable and unflinching mass of union men, who returned the

coops' beatings blow for blow. After a series of such scuffles during which no one entered the plant, the salaried employees, retired across the street, and the police sent for reinforcements.

Soon a truckload of police "commandos," the most vicious section of the Detroit police force, specially trained, and armed with riot guns, helmets, gas and other implements of warfare, drew up across from the main gate. Facing them was a massed army of pickets, in a fighting mood.

The general manager of the plant approached the gate stating that he was "going in and settle this business." Before he could get halfway across the street, he was met by a huge picket captain who told him: "If you didn't have brains enough to settle this yesterday when you had the chance, you're not going in today."

ANOTHER "SURPRISE"

It was a tense moment, with both pickets and "commandos" waiting for any move on the part of the manager which would start the battle. But after a second look at the mass of determined pickets, the manager's bravado left him, and he retired. The union had won the day.

Today no further attempts were made to crash the lines and Detroit Transmission remained closed to all. Taking no chances, however, Local 735 had close to 400 pickets on hand with reinforcements from the same four locals represented on yesterday's line. Around eight o'clock, word passed through the line that help was needed at Chevrolet Forge, where the management was trying the same "surprise" tactics on the Local 262 line.

Two hundred pickets rushed in cars to the Chevrolet Forge plant a mile away, but news of their coming had evidently pre-

ceded them. They arrived just in time to hear the Local 262 sound truck admonish the last group of foremen: "You'd better go on home boys, because we're not going to let you in." Scores of pickets ran in the direction of the foremen who had been lurking at the corner, but they had already disappeared.

Thus the "surprise" tactic of the corporation failed at Chevrolet Forge just as it had at Detroit Transmission. Strikers are on the alert for any further move from the company to break up the lines. This was indicated by Mike Lacey, president of Chevrolet Gear and Axle Local 235, who reported that there had been no incidents at his plant, but that the lack of incidents was "like the calm before the storm, and the local is taking no chances on reducing its lines."

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Bill Morgan

De Lorenzo Jailed

Another militant union leader is paying the price for loyal and courageous defense of the workers' interests. Thomas De Lorenzo, President of CIO United Automobile Workers Brewster Aeronautical Local 365, Long Island, was incarcerated for 30 days in the New York City Federal House of Detention on January 2.

During the war, De Lorenzo defended the strike actions of the Brewster workers. He was grilled by a House committee and upheld the right of labor to strike even in wartime. Thereafter he was subjected to a whole series of government attacks and persecution.

In an obvious move to "get" De Lorenzo, government snipers dug up a charge that he had falsified a civil service application by failing to state that he had once been arrested, though acquitted, in a labor dispute. Labor protest forced the judge to give him a limited sentence. The Army grabbed him first. After his release from service, the relentless arm of capitalist "justice" last week seized De Lorenzo, threw him into jail.

Cincinnati Strike

Ten tool and die plants have been struck by over 1,000 members of local 729, International Association of Machinists, AFL, in Cincinnati, Ohio. To support their demand for an hourly minimum wage of \$1.85 and to protest the abolition of the tool and die room at the Victory Electric Products Company, the workers threw picket lines in front of the ten plants.

Picket lines were withdrawn after the first day when plants were closed up tight, but Ralph Memke, business agent of Local 729, said picketing would be renewed at once "if employers try to start a back-to-work movement." At several plants production workers walked out alongside the tool and die men.

The Nicer Things...

A saloon columnist appearing in the New York Post, Cleveland News and other capitalist newspapers, recently interviewed Richard Frankenstein, a CIO United Auto Workers vice-president, at the swanky 21 Club, a New York City hangout for bankers, idle millionaires and well-heeled social butterflies. Admission is by appointment only and the management selects its guests carefully according to income and "social" standing.

Earl Wilson, the saloon editor, reports that Frankenstein was "relaxing from labor leading" at the bar and calling for "stingers" — a fancy drink at a fancy price. Frankenstein explained his presence: "I like the food... that's why I'm in the labor movement. I'm fighting so everybody can go to the 21 Club." He continued: "Today some industrialists are afraid of labor leaders; they think we have horns. A labor leader — just as any leader in any branch of American life — has a right to look forward to, and enjoy, the nicer things in life... Just as labor does..."

Of course, like all labor fakery, Frankenstein isn't waiting for the workers to attain the "nicer things" — which don't include consorting with rich bums, anyway.

Truman's Defender

With practically every labor leader and active trade unionist in the country protesting the pro-Big Business acts of Truman, it remains for Daniel J. Tobin, AFL Teamsters Czar and Democratic Party National Committee member, to rush into

print with an apology for his part in the White House.

In the January, 1946, issue of *The International Teamster*, Tobin writes, "President Truman... somewhat different in his methods of approach and action. We cannot blame him. It is his nature to be mild and kind and persuasive. But his own associates in the Senate, members of his own party, are taking advantage of his decency, his honesty, and his kindness, and they are not supporting him or even the principles upon which the Democratic platform pledged itself."

Yes sir, it's a shame what they're saying about the decent, kind, mild presidential graduate of the Pendergast machine in Missouri. Why even doddering William Green, AFL President, so far "misunderstood" Truman's demand for anti-strike legislation as to threaten: "We are different from the laboring men of Great Britain. When driven to desperation we too will turn to the left."

"Free Enterprise"

The Texas State Industrial Union Council, CIO, has issued a bulletin exposing the fascist-like organization known as "Fight for Free Enterprise," which is spearheading the drive of the Texas employers against the growing CIO.

Behind this latest reactionary outfit is the Lt. Governor himself, John Lee Smith, who admitted having made a financial contribution. Smith writes for the "Free Enterprise" racket under his title of Lt. Governor, and has issued paid advertisements attacking organized labor.

The leaders of "Fight for Free Enterprise," says the CIO bulletin, are attempting to "shut down" business men and industrialists for funds. Even the "Better Business Bureau" of Fort Worth was impelled to issue a warning to its members not to fall for this racket.

The "Fight for Free Enterprise" gang, under the guise of helping veterans, has been purchasing advertising space in an Abilene newspaper to slander organized labor and incite union-busting activities.

It was W. Lee O'Daniel, notorious Texas reactionary politician, who said, "No man in overalls is worth more than \$1.50 per day." The Texas employers are desperately trying to bust the thriving CIO, which is out to prove that O'Daniel is very wrong.

Ford Local 400 Denounces Plan For Strike Fines

(Special to THE MILITANT)

DETROIT, Jan. 1.—At its regular membership meeting on Saturday, December 29, the Ford Highland Park Local 400, CIO United Auto Workers, went on record rejecting the union-busting company security plan which has been offered the Ford Motor Company by top officials of the union's Ford Department.

After a stormy discussion which lasted for two hours, the 800 members present voted overwhelmingly against the proposal, adding an amendment that all other Ford locals be notified of their action.

The plan, which proposes to fine "wildcat" strikers, was presented to the membership by Carl Bolton, Local 400 delegate to the Ford National Negotiating Committee. In his report, Bolton urged the local to back the "company security" proposal as a means of curbing "unauthorized" strikes, claiming that he himself used to "organize" wildcat strikes purely to bolster his "personal prestige."

"PRESTIGE" SINKS

Bolton's "prestige" sank to the zero level at the meeting, as one member after another took the floor to oppose him. Hindmarsh, former president of Local 400, asked why the workers should give the company any security after the billions it had coined in profits during the war. "It's the workers who need a security plan," he said.

Discussion was finally closed for lack of speakers in favor of the company-security proposal. Ford Highland Park is the first of the Ford locals to go on record opposing this plan. Two weeks earlier, the Press Steel Unit of Ford Local 600 unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing it. From sentiment in the ranks of all Ford workers, it is expected that the opposition will spread rapidly to other units and locals.

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Allied Troops Halt Uprising In Trieste

"Fifteen thousand American soldiers and about the same number of British soldiers are sitting on the lid of a Communist revolution here today," Allen Raymond, writing from Trieste, Yugoslavia, made this his opening sentence in the first of a series of articles printed in the Paris edition of the Herald Tribune. "Only their presence, according to most Allied observers," continues Raymond, "prevents its explosion and balks forcible annexation of this rich commercial city to the new federated Yugoslavia."

Raymond describes Trieste under Mussolini: "For years the Slovene minority have been subjected to all the rigors of unrestrained capitalism under Fascist strong-arm methods. For years they have been discriminated against as aliens and their schools in the Slovene tongue have been abolished in a vain effort to Italianize them."

"If ever any people had justification for Communist underground plotting and rebellion at the first possible opportunity," continues Raymond, "it was the Slovene population in this region, and when the Nazi-Fascist collapse came these people were ready."

PEOPLE'S COURTS

"They had their tightly-disciplined organization. They had their armed Partisans. They had their people's courts to wipe out Fascist oppressors and their people's committee ready to take over Trieste from their masters and run it in the way they wanted to run it."

"In the few days when they were the top dogs they did a good deal of murdering and kidnapping. They started to have a real reign of terror for overlord, reminiscent of the Bolshevik Uprising of 1917." Through the screen of Raymond's slanderous remarks, which are cut to pattern for the capitalist press, it can be clearly seen that the people of Trieste did rise in the spirit of the October 1917 Russian revolution to put an end to capitalism with its horrors of fascism and war.

Raymond next describes what the Allies did: "Then Lieutenant General Sir Bernard C. Freyberg and his tough New Zealanders arrived at industrial Monfalcone, where the big Italian luxury liners and battleships used to be constructed. They saw what seemed anarchy and bloody revolution and they stopped it cold. . . . They disarmed what partisans they could. They moved in the Allied Military Government, which was partly American, and gradually the high Mediterranean command here has moved in this 88th Division of Americans, with their raw replacements, to help the police in exasperating situations."

In the second of the series, Raymond continues: "Once the Anglo-American Allies had put down the Communist revolution in western Venezia Giulia, the responsibility for governing the place became temporarily theirs."

Besides "gun-toting British and American military policemen" the American head of civil affairs under the Allied Military Government "has a new and growing police force of native

inhabitants whom he and American professional policemen are now engaged in training."

Raymond reports an ironic incident: "When the Allies created the new force, they took surplus British battle-dress uniforms and dyed them what was supposed to be a dark green, for the new police uniforms. The dye did not work exactly as the Allies expected and the new uniforms are black. Consequently they remind the down-trodden Slovenes of the Fascist black-shirts, and in their propaganda they ring charges on the new Allied black shirts which have taken the place of Mussolini's old ones."

The Allied Military Government, says Raymond "is supposed to be an impartial trustee of the region but . . . in reality is protecting its status quo and therefore its rule by Italians and by capitalist society, against both of which the Slovenes are here in violent rebellion."

In his third and concluding article, Raymond declares, "This territory has always been run on capitalist principles, and capitalists here, although still moderately well heeled are pretty frightened."

SCARED CAPITALISTS

"The capitalists are frightened of revolution and of Yugoslavian claims. Meanwhile, however, 'they live on their fat . . . and live very well. If the great world powers decide to hand their city over to the Yugoslavs, I am informed, a lot of people who have been accustomed to running Trieste will be running for shelter in some other country, abandoning everything they own and cannot carry with them.'"

The food situation is bad. "The best Allied estimate of the rise in the cost of living for Trieste citizens since war broke out in 1940 is 1,000 per cent. Butter, for instance, costs \$5 a pound. Multiply the price of most things by ten and you get the picture. 'The Allies have brought in military rations and are actually feeding the entire population 800 calories daily at a controlled low price . . . This is equivalent to about eight medium slices of bread. The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the minimum requirements a day are 3,000 calories."

Raymond concludes his article: "These UNRRA goods have become a political weapon because when you have large masses of hungry people, you can buy the loyalties of many with food." However apparently Wall Street will have to make a higher bid than 800 calories a day to buy the loyalties of these people, for Raymond declares in his final sentence: "It is one of the many little ironies around here that the Allies are feeding a great many people who are making war on them to the best of their ability."

100,000 Workers Stage Paris Rally

(Special to THE MILITANT)

PARIS, France, Dec. 13 — Despite inadequate transportation, some 100,000 striking civil service workers demonstrated yesterday at the Velodrome d'Hiver against Plevin, Minister of Finance.

"We want our 1,000 francs!" shouted the demonstrators. "Down with Plevin!"

This demonstration is a highly significant indication of the militant mood of the French workers. It is the first strike of the civil service employees in years. The last demonstration occurred February 12, 1934, when these workers protested against the rising danger of fascism. But not even that demonstration was comparable in size to the present one.

If the de Gaulle government threatens the strikers with disciplinary reprisals, declared Jean Neumeyer, head of the Federation des Fonctionnaires (Federation of Civil Service Employees), a general strike will be called. Such a strike will have the approval of the CGT (General Federation of Labor).

"WILL NOT DISCUSS"

The day before the huge demonstration, Andre Malraux, de Gaulle's Minister of Information, declared that "the government will not discuss under the strikers' threat." The day after the demonstration, however, a placard signed by the whole personnel under Malraux was posted at

the entry of his Ministry threatening a general strike if the General Federation of Labor gives the word.

Unless the government meets the strikers' demand of a wage rise of 1,000 francs (\$20) a month, the general strike may well take place. The cost of living in France has risen from eight to 12 times its 1938 levels. The wages of state employees meanwhile have risen only about three times.

The difficulties faced by these workers can be judged from the fact that a stenographer who only gets \$100 a month has to pay about \$60 for a simple pull-over sweater.

STRUGGLE SABOTAGED

A porter making \$80 to \$100 a month, has to keep his family in food and clothing on these miserable wages. But a suit of clothes costs from \$400 to \$600.

The civil service workers began pressing for a wage rise last summer. The Stalinists and Socialists, however, sabotaged the struggle, since they are following the policy of supporting the government and collaborating in its drive to straitjacket the working class.

Indo-Chinese Continue Heroic Fight Against French Imperialist Rulers

Fighters For Freedom



Indonesian fighters for freedom from imperialist rule, many armed with sharpened bamboo poles and a few with rifles, massed at a youth meeting in Java.

Belgian Regime Bankrupt Official Figures Show

By E. Germain

(Special to The Militant)

BRUSSELS, Belgium, Dec. 15 — The declaration of the Stalinist minister Lalmand, placing the real index of the cost of living around 400 or 450 while the government has stabilized wages around the index 220, characterizes perfectly the social situation in Belgium, the complete bankruptcy of the Stalinist and reformist policy of collaboration with the government and the perspectives of great social struggles now manifest.

The slow increase in production the last six months now seems to have reached the limit of possible absorption by the home market. Compared with the other European countries, Belgium is in a favorable situation, because the war destruction was less and because large reserves of paper money were accumulated through the Congo's credit balance with the United States. By "stabilizing" the Belgian franc after a fashion through blocking credits — an operation executed exclusively at the expense of the middle classes — and by buying all the American stocks of food and textiles which fell into its hands, the government has succeeded in improving the food situation and in giving a certain impetus to production. But at the same time, the quantity of paper money in circulation has quadrupled, the credits in dollars are exhausted and the American loan will end in January. The increase in production has scarcely reached two-thirds of the prewar production (in metallurgy scarcely one-third, but in the coal industry 85 per cent) yet it already exceeds the possibilities of consumption by the masses.

The stores are filled with products, goods are accumulated by the wholesalers, but the masses can buy nothing with wages far below their real living needs. If the bourgeoisie wants to avoid a serious economic crisis, it must begin to export (Belgian exports today are only five per cent of prewar exports.)

But in order to compete on the foreign market with American products at the lower price made possible by much more modern technical methods, the bourgeoisie must decrease the cost of production. In order to do this immediately it must decrease real wages. In the long run, to accomplish this, the capitalists must buy new machines and this in turn can be done only through super-exploitation of the proletariat.

THE WORKERS' DEFENSE

The bourgeoisie has tried to open its economic offensive against the working class in two ways: first by increasing prices, and thus decreasing the real wages of the workers; then by decreasing nominal wages, or by refusing to put into effect the meager wage increases granted three months ago by the government.

The working class responded immediately to this second maneuver. An almost uninterrupted series of partial strikes took place in small factories and in large enterprises far from the principal centers of the country. As a matter of fact the bosses dared launch their offensive only in those areas where they believed the workers

before the entire working class of the country for the realization of a vigorous socialist program. If such a government does not act in a revolutionary manner, the workers will be able to free themselves from the reformist and Stalinist influence, and thus find the road toward the Bolshevik party!

General Strike Near In Colombo Say Trotskyists

"At the present moment nearly 2,000 workers are on strike in Colombo, and the rumblings of another General Strike (the third for 1945) are making themselves insistently heard," reports the Ceylon Trotskyist paper *Fight, Fight* is the official organ of the Bolshevik-Leninist Party (Ceylon Unit), Section of the Fourth International. We have just received the November 20 issue which tells about the strikes in Colombo.

"The working class of Colombo," declares *Fight*, "is moving into the inevitable struggles of the postwar period with the greatest militancy. Their main demands everywhere are for (a) an eight-hour working day; (b) for a legally guaranteed minimum wage for all industrial workers based on a rate of 1.50 rupees (about 45 cents) for an unskilled worker a day. All the current struggles center around these demands, and will find their climax in a General Strike, for which there have been two rehearsals already this year, in March, and again in September."

Fight reports that "The pressure of the working class is compelling all petty-minded political sects and partisan Trade Union leaders . . . to unite together on the basic working class demands set out above."

"The Bolshevik-Leninists," states *Fight*, "are in the forefront of the preparation of this united front."

GI's Demonstrate In Manila, Flay U. S. Imperialism

By Mike Cort

American imperialism in the Orient is not running like a well oiled machine—not at the moment. For the ordinary soldier, the man who is expected to sweat and fight and die to win and hold markets and raw materials for the monopolies, is beginning to balk.

On January 7, three thousand angry and jeering enlisted men marched through the heart of Manila for the second mass demonstration in two days and the third in two weeks. They marched four abreast to the headquarters of Lt. Gen. W. D. Styer and submitted to him hotly worded protests against the War Department's delay in returning home high point veterans.

According to the N. Y. Times, the demonstration exploded spontaneously when the troops read in the Stars and Stripes a War Department announcement that Pacific demobilization would be cut from 800,000 to 300,000 monthly because of difficulties in obtaining replacements. A few soldiers started marching through the streets and were joined by hundreds of others as they passed canteens and military establishments. By the time they reached headquarters the procession had swelled to 3,000 men.

Slogans shouted by the men indicated that they clearly understood the role intended for them by American capitalism. In mimeographed manifestos they charged that "the State Department wants the Army to back up its imperialism" and that "redeployment has been deliberately slowed down to force compulsory military training."

Petitions and letters were prepared for Congressmen at home, telling them that if they didn't see that the GI's were returned to the United States, the GI's in turn would see that the Congressmen were not returned to Washington.

The significance of these demonstrations was not lost on the military caste. Understanding that political and economic issues were involved, it was Col. J. C. Campbell who denounced the previous Christmas Day demonstration by shouting to the men, "You men forget you're not working for General Motors."

"BAD INFLUENCE"

And Lt. Gen. W. D. Styer received a five man delegation from the January 7 demonstrators with the warning that their actions would have a bad influence on the people of the Philippines. He might well have added that the demonstrations would have a "bad influence" on all colonial peoples who see that American soldiers are reluctant to use bayonets to subjugate them to their imperialist masters.

Col. Campbell was entirely correct when he saw a relationship between the General Motors strike and the Manila demonstrations. Both the workers and the soldiers are struggling against a common enemy — American monopoly capitalism which is now engaged in imperialist adventures abroad and a fight for low wages at home. The troops and the workers must join hands in defense against this common foe and the workers must do all within their power to see that the soldiers are returned home at once.

The struggle of Indo-Chinese fighters for freedom against the brutal attempt of French imperialism to restore its despotic rule continues with undiminished vigor. Confirming previous reports in *The Militant*, Selden Menefee states in the January 3 *Christian Science Monitor* that a "news blackout . . . has engulfed Indo-China in recent weeks."

The censorship is significant, says Menefee, "because it means that despite claims that the situation is 'calm' in Indo-China, this important link in the chain of nationalist movements throughout Southeast Asia is strong."

Seeping through the censorship comes news that "contact is being maintained between the northern nationalists and those in the French-controlled southern zone," Menefee says. This contact is principally among sections of the Viet Minh.

Bearing out a report in the November 3 *Militant* which told of connections between the Japanese and Indian nationalist movements, Menefee states that "the beginnings of regional relations are seen" in the frequent exchange of messages between nationalist leaders.

INTERNATIONAL LINK

Attempts are being made to maintain communications between Ho Chi Minh, head of the Viet Minh and head of the Annamese Republic; Maj. Gen. Aung San, leader of the Burmese Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League; Dr. Soekarno, head of the Javanese independence movement; and Jawaharlal Nehru, nationalist leader in India.

Nationalist forces dominate the interior of Indo-China. Although French armor and infantry are present in large numbers, Menefee says, so far they "are unable to control the nationalist movement in the south. They have a precarious authority in Saigon and some other cities, but are without influence in much of the countryside."

A native boycott—"in the shape of a widespread refusal to sell food and other goods to the French—is thought to be still effective," Menefee declares. "Underground newspapers," he continues, "are being circulated in the Saigon area, urging Annamese not to cease resisting the return of French colonial rule."

Viet Minh is the largest and most powerful of the nationalist groups in Indo-China. Its leader, Ho Chi Minh, is a former Communist, according to Menefee, who says that he was known as Nguyen Ai Quoc. This corroborates the surmise made by Daniel Guerin in the November 24 *Militant*. Guerin stated that Quoc's book "The Process of French Colonization" is known to all friends of the Indo-Chinese people.

Menefee says that Ho Chi Minh "was a member of the early Cantonese revolutionary group, and when Chiang Kai-shek repudiated this group in 1927 Ho fled to Russia with Michael Borodin." This would indicate that Ho might at one time have been under the influence of Stalinism but his present politics cannot be verified.

VIRTUAL CONTROL

An Army officer recently returned from Indo-China said, according to Menefee, that the Viet Minh League has "almost universal support of the Annamese people. Prior to the arrival of the British in Saigon, it controlled virtually the entire country. It functioned well enough to keep the utilities running and the people working and eating."

In their determination to prevent the return of hated French rule, the Annamese are scorning the earth. British officials claimed that between 5,000 and 6,000 tons of rubber "were destroyed New Year's night by Annamese who set fire to six of twenty-four sheds" at a dump northeast of Saigon. "The sheds were guarded," stated a January 6 Associated Press dispatch, "by twenty-six Japanese under British control. The incendiary attack was repulsed with casualties on both sides."

British and French are supplied with modern American weapons. They are aided by the Japanese. All the imperialist powers are determined to crush the independence movement in Indo-China. Despite this imperialist combination the masses continue their valiant struggle. Their determination is expressed by huge slogans still covering the walls of public buildings in Hanoi — "Independence or Death."

The struggle for freedom likewise continues in Indonesia. The British are spearheading the onslaught of the imperialist brigands. "British artillery blasted Indonesian concentrations around Soerabaja," according to a United Press dispatch for January 7. The Indonesian radio urged nationalist fighters to hang on and promised that Soerabaja would soon be recaptured.

TOWN DESTROYED

Netherlanders burned to the ground the homes of about 500 natives in a southeastern Batavia suburb of Meester Cornelis. This was done in retaliation for the storming of a Netherlands civil police station by a large crowd of Indonesians, the Associated Press reported on January 3.

This atrocity was the sequel of one in Padang. Allied officers "burned down" more than 200 houses," states the Associated Press. This was in reprisal for the reputed killing there several weeks ago of a British major and a woman Red Cross worker.

The unrecognized Indonesian Republic strongly protested the Allied atrocities at Padang. The dispatch does not say whether the Indonesians were subjected to wholesale bombardment as they were during the razing of Bekasi a few weeks ago.

Such atrocities, equalling in every respect the cold-blooded destruction of Lidice and the massacre of its inhabitants by the Nazis, are perpetrated by the British in Java without censure from the complacent Wall Street press.

Journalist lackeys of imperialism are equally callous in their handling of news from China. Only brief and well buried items in the press reveal that Washington is keeping American troops in China solely to bolster the ruthless dictator Chiang Kai-shek.

"BROADER" U. S. TASKS!

Maj. Gen. Keller Rockey, Commander of Marines in the China theater, was forced to admit recently that the mission of the United States Marines "has undergone considerable broadening during the past two months," according to a January 2 dispatch to the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Rockey belatedly explained that "most of the Japanese soldiers in the area occupied by the Marines have been disarmed and repatriated, and the 50,000 Marine troops are being used chiefly to guard Chinese railways and coal mines."

This admission comes after a long series of denials by Washington officials and Brass Hats. They asserted that Marines were in China for the sole purpose of "disarming the Japanese."

Another well-known fact that has likewise been kept quiet was admitted by General Rockey. He said that about "15,000 armed Japanese troops are being maintained by the Marines to help guard rail lines around Tientsin and to guard Japanese warehouses in the Tientsin-Peking area."

The railways guarded by the Marines are extremely important to dictator Chiang. "If the rail line were to fall into the hands of unauthorized guerrilla bands who have been attempting to sabotage the sea supply port, it would have isolated Chinese Nationalist troops now pushing into Manchuria," says the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Chiang's troops are not only moving into Manchuria with the aid of American vessels and air transport, but are also driving into Stalinist held Jehol from American held bases.

Marines have no taste for the imperialist task assigned them by Washington. Their "morale" is low. They want to go home. Brass Hats hope to replace the embittered men with fresh troops. General Rockey says that 17,000, instead of the originally announced 10,000, replacements are on their way to China to relieve men stationed there.

This is additional proof, of course, that Washington has no intention of withdrawing troops from China in the foreseeable future.

Baltimore

Militant Labor Forum

Sunday, January 13

"The Meaning of Socialism Today"

Workers' Circle Lyceum

1029 East Baltimore St. R. 5

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8 P.M.

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Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

—Leon Trotsky

Hail Stamford Labor!

The AFL and CIO workers of Stamford, Conn., have earned the commendation and gratitude of all American labor for the inspiring demonstration of class solidarity in their one-day city-wide general strike.

Never has the American labor movement stood more in need of the kind of unity in action so effectively shown by the Stamford workers.

Big Business and its government tools are engaged in a ferocious campaign to undermine and smash the unions. This campaign, gathering momentum with each day, is directed against every union in the land, irrespective of affiliation.

The workers, whether CIO or AFL, have a deep and urgent desire to join forces, to unite and beat back the ruthless common enemy of the whole American working class—American Big Business.

How true was the statement of AFL Machinists' Vice-President Samuel L. Newman to the gigantic Stamford strike demonstration: "Right here you will find members of the CIO and AFL who are brothers and sisters right in their own homes, who eat at the same tables. How can you part them—or separate labor?"

The example of Stamford has particular meaning for the titanic, bitter General Motors strike. This struggle, as everyone is aware, is spearheading the battle for living wages and security of all labor.

Yet, to date, not even the sister Internationals within the CIO have given the embattled GM auto workers effective fighting aid—that is really decisive—that will really win.

The beginning of the GM strike should have been a signal for action by the leading sections of the CIO. The CIO unions—the steel workers in particular—should have been mobilized on the picket lines without the undue delay that has marked the preparations for their own scheduled walkouts.

"An injury to one, is an injury to all," is a key slogan of labor. That is the slogan the Stamford workers upheld in action, and that is the slogan which the CIO workers must put into effect without delay by a timely spread of the strike struggles.

Important Evidence

How the Roosevelt Administration planned entry of the United States into the Second World War is clearly indicated in letters written in 1941 by Admiral Harold R. Stark. These letters were received by the Senate-House Committee investigating Pearl Harbor. Many of the letters when written were of such obviously damning character that Stark had advised the recipients to burn them.

As early as April 19, 1941, President Roosevelt told Stark to maneuver the Pacific fleet in such a way as "to keep the Japs guessing." When Stark asked the President where the fleet should go after a cruise to Australia, Roosevelt replied "anywhere" including North. This would give the "State Department a shock," since it would be on Japan's flank and the Japanese had an "unholy fear of bombing." These letters thus prove that long before Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt was attempting to force Japan into counter-maneuvers that would lead inevitably to war.

When Hitler attacked the Soviet Union, Admiral Stark urged immediate American entry into the war. In a letter dated July 31, 1941, addressed to Capt. Charles M. Cooke, Jr., Admiral Stark revealed:

"Within 48 hours after the Russian situation broke, I went to the President, with the Secretary's approval, and stated that on the assumption that the country's decision is not to let England fall, we should immediately seize the psychological opportunity presented by the Russian-German clash and announce and start escorting immediately, and protecting the western Atlantic on a large scale; that such a declaration, followed by immediate action on our part would almost certainly involve us in the war, and that I considered every day of delay in our getting into the war as dangerous, and that much more delay might be fatal to Britain's survival." Roosevelt, it will be recalled, actually did follow a step by step policy of increasing belligerency on the high seas.

Stark reminded Roosevelt "that only a war

psychology could or would speed things up as they should be speeded up; that strive as we would it just isn't in the nature of things to get the results in peace that we would were we at war."

This letter likewise reveals the attitude of the Roosevelt Administration toward the Soviet Union:

"We shall give aid to Russia. I hope she and Germany may break upon each other. Europe dominated by the Communists is no more an attractive picture, in fact less so, than a Europe dominated by the Nazis. Here's hoping that we have neither, but rather that they exhaust themselves."

The Stark letters are important evidence. On reading them, one cannot help but ask: Are there not war criminals in this country just as guilty as those now on trial at Nuremberg and Manila? Do not these letters prove that America's rulers deliberately plunged the country into war? Don't they prove that America's rulers wanted war not to safeguard lofty democratic ideals but simply to advance the imperialist aims of Wall Street?

Manila Trials

In Manila, officials of the American armed forces are judging selected officials of the Japanese armed forces for war crimes.

Many Japanese officers were undoubtedly guilty of war atrocities. They stand condemned in the opinion of working people everywhere, as do any Allied officers who committed atrocities.

But what about the power represented in the judges' seats? Is this power wholly impartial in passing the severest possible sentences upon the defeated opponents? Is this power unmoved by race prejudice? Or is it hoping to load onto a scapegoat the entire guilt for plunging the nations into the Second World War?

A bit of history casts a sardonic light on the objectivity of the "justice" at Manila. After the Spanish-American war, American imperialist troops "pacified" the Philippines. Horrible, shocking atrocities were committed against the Filipino fighters for independence.

But in the trials that were later held, the guilty officers were let off with sentences often no heavier than a reprimand!

In case after case, American officers who tortured victims were given mild fines. Wall Street saw to it that the Brass Hats who spearheaded its drive to suppress the Philippine freedom movement were saved from the sentences demanded by justice.

Now at the scene of these crimes of American imperialism, this same imperialism, posing as an impartial judge of the crimes of others, freely hands out the death sentence.

Justice at Manila, history shows, is strictly tempered to the needs of the imperialist conqueror.

An Imperialist Treaty

Great Britain has just signed a treaty with Siam. The terms of this treaty are harsh and brutal. Far from carrying out the ideals held up in the Atlantic Charter as the alleged aims of the Anglo-American powers in the Second World War, this treaty does not breathe a word about "democracy," "freedom," or "independence."

The British imperialists have disclosed instead what some of their real aims were in this war. In the case of the small, weak country of Siam, these aims include such items as delivering to the British war profiteers one and a half million tons of rice free of charge. They include turning over to the British until September 1947 the entire surplus of Siam's rice crop at a price to be fixed by imperialist-dominated boards.

On top of this, Siam must return to the British imperialists all areas taken back during the war. These areas were stolen by the British in 1909 from Siam. British banking and commercial concerns, etc., taken over during the war must be restored to their former British holders and permitted to resume exploitation of the Siamese people. Any damage must be compensated. Siamese currency seized by the British must be redeemed in sterling.

Debts to the British which could not be collected during the Japanese occupation must be paid up "with the addition of interest at an appropriate percentage."

And Siam must not dig a canal connecting the Indian Ocean and Southwest Pacific. Such a canal would shorten shipping lanes, but it would likewise decrease the importance of Singapore as a British naval base.

Moreover Siam must agree to regulate the export of her principal products, rice, tin, rubber and tea, in accordance with the decisions of the imperialist powers.

The sordid character of this treaty forced on Siam is all the more glaring in view of the heroic battle the Siamese people waged against Japanese imperialism during the years of occupation. The British were compelled to recognize in the treaty itself that they are "not unmindful of the services rendered by the resistance movement in Siam during the war with Japan."

United States imperialism bears equal responsibility with the British for this vicious treaty. The State Department in an official statement agreed to the terms. To Wall Street, Siam is simply a colonial area to be divided up as spoils of war among the victor powers.

Thus the treaty discloses once again why the imperialists plunged into the Second World War. They participated in the frightful blood bath not to bring "Four Freedoms" to the world, but simply to maintain old colonial empires and to grab new colonies, markets and spheres of influence.



"You'll simply have to postpone your strike, operator—I'm expecting some very important calls."

Workers' BOOKSHELF

WARTIME CRIMES OF BIG BUSINESS, By George Breitman. Pioneer Publishers, 1943; 16 pp., 5 cents.

A new and deeper character was introduced into the American labor struggle when the General Motors workers accompanied their demand for a 30 per cent wage raise with the demand: Open The Books Of The Corporation!

General Motors, U. S. Steel and their fellow-monopolists are howling in frenzy at the very suggestion that the secret records of their stupendous profits and robbery of the workers should be exposed to union scrutiny.

Not the least of the fears that lend stridency to the Big Business clamor about the "inalienable prerogatives of management" is its knowledge that any real investigation of the books of the big corporations would expose the full extent of the frauds and criminal practices, illegal even under capitalist laws, whereby Big Business tremendously increased its wartime loot beyond "legitimate" profits.

So crude and extensive were these crimes, which cost the lives of countless servicemen and milked the taxpayers of billions, that some of them could not be completely concealed. George Breitman's "Wartime Crimes of Big Business" graphically describes these known criminal practices and offers a wealth

of information that can well serve as a weapon to aid the fight of militant trade unionists for the right to examine the company books.

Breitman relates case after case of ruthless chicanery: the sale of faulty ships that snapped in half and sank in icy waters; of defective communication-cable and combat wire sold to the government although its use would leave troops helpless and isolated; of faulty airplane engines that leaked gasoline, condemning entire crews to blazing deaths. In addition to this type of fraud, almost all the war contractors padded their costs to get bigger profits. Inspection reports were falsified.

Why did the corporations, which mouthed such patriotic phrases about "our boys in the foxholes," endanger their own war for the sake of bloody profits? Breitman lays bare the real reason for all Big Business crimes, in war and peace:

"The explanation for the policies and activities of the monopolies and corporations is always to be found in the profit motive. No employer keeps his factory running unless there is profit to be made from it. This is as true in wartime as in peacetime, with only one difference: In wartime there is usually more profit to be made and the capitalists, maddened by greed, sweep aside all restraints and obstacles in the way of ever great-

er profits. Rare indeed is the case of an employer who has said: 'I have got enough.' The tendency of the ruling class is always to go after more and more."

The author goes on to cite facts, figures and statements demonstrating the utter corruption of America's Sixty Richest Families and the social system they impose upon the toilers.

Standard Oil, du Pont, General Electric, ALCOA, General Motors and other big corporations formed cartels with their fellow monopolists in Germany, Britain, Japan, Italy, etc., for the purpose of restricting production, maintaining monopoly and raising prices," while they demanded that the workers of America endure speedup and inhuman hours, to "increase production."

Breitman points out that the CIO United Auto Workers drew up a series of proposals in June, 1943 calling for government ownership after the war of "monopolistic industries and of industries strategically essential to the national safety."

The present demand of the UAW workers to open the books of the corporations, will prove a spur toward the broader demand for government ownership and operation of industry under workers' control.

Reviewed by
Ruth Johnson

Congressmen At Work

Wall Street does not always require clarity of expression in the legislation passed by Congress. In fact to put over its deals and steals Wall Street sometimes prefers language that cannot be penetrated by a cold chisel and a sledge hammer. The "Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1945," for instance, should prove a joy and comfort to the corporation lawyers for years to come as they dig into the six and a half billion dollars in ships it turns over to the operators. Here is a typical clause:

"The dead-weight tonnage of vessels chartered under this subsection to any chartering nation (and its nationals) at any time shall not exceed such percentage of the tonnage under charter or defense aid transfer on September 1, 1945, to the member nation which has suffered the largest merchant ship war losses, as the tonnage of war losses of such chartering nation is to the said war losses of such member nation, except that the amount chartered hereunder to the chartering nation may in any event be equivalent to the tonnage of vessels under charter or defense aid transfer to such nation on September 1, 1945."

Wall Street's Congressmen were really fascinated by this tangle of flapper. Senator Knowland of California thought it "one of the most important pieces of legislation which has been before the Senate in the brief time I have been a Member . . . and perhaps one of the most

"Working" for "Peace" "I am disappointed and I am grieved that less than 50 of our 425 members are on the floor when we are working on the very peace of the world for generations to come." (Rep. Robinson of Kentucky, at opening of House session to debate United Nations Organization bill.)



important that will be before the Senate during this session of Congress."

Magnuson of Washington agreed with "the basic philosophy of what the Senator from California has said . . ."

OBSCURITY TEST

Wall Street's political representatives proceeded to test the Act for obscurity. Saltonstall of Massachusetts said he had "read the language" and did "not understand it." The principal proponent of the bill, Radcliffe of Maryland, agreed "with the Senator that the language does not contain in it the element of simplicity."

Later when Radcliffe read a sample, Senator Byrd of Virginia dramatically declared: "I throw up my hands!"

Mentioning that "ordinarily Members of the Senate do not actually write bills," Senator Byrd characterized the ship sales act as "one of the most difficult, confusing, and vexing pieces of legislation that has ever been presented to the Senate."

Senator White of Maine, after probing a bit, admitted that "there has been no explanation of it which was adequate to my dull understanding."

Senator Green of Rhode Island, likewise jumped on the bandwagon: "I have had limited experience in the Senate, this

being the beginning of my second term, but I do not remember any bill presented to the Senate which is an example of worse drafting than the bill before us."

LATIN AND LOGIC

Radcliffe was moved to quoting Latin: "... the suggestion was made, as I recall it, when a dictator was selected in Rome . . . The language was vague ne quid res publica detrimenti copiat."

Senator White observed sourly: "I think the Senator's Latin is as poor as his logic."

Radcliffe, thinking of the billions of dollars of ships going to Wall Street, interpreted the Latin as meaning, "the dictator should see to it that the republic should suffer no harm."

Senator White was thrown right back to his early childhood by the language of the Act, and recited his grandfather's version of the old nursery prayer:

"When I lay me down to sleep, I curl myself up in a heap; If I should die before I wake, It would puzzle the devil to pull me straight."

Having survived all these rigid tests, the bill was passed by the Senators. They didn't even bother to take a roll call vote over a measure that so obviously met Wall Street specifications.

'Lucky Strike' Struck

Some 2,500 workers of American Tobacco Company plants in Philadelphia, Trenton, N. J., and Charleston, N. C., have been on strike since October 15, 1945. They are members of the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union. They ask all union members not to reach for a Lucky . . . or a Fall Mail, Melachrine, La Corona, Bock y Ca, Henry Clay, Casanas, Antonio y Cleopatra, El Roi Tan, Chancellor or Creme.

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

The Real Defenders of Veterans' Seniority

With hundreds of thousands of veterans looking for jobs, the question of seniority rights is bound to come increasingly to the forefront. In all discussion about seniority, boss propagandists consistently avoid mentioning the fact that unions inaugurated the seniority system and that real seniority exists only where the workers are organized.

Furthermore, it was through the insistence of the unions that Congress wrote Section VIII of the Selective Service Act. It wasn't written so clearly and unambiguously as the unions had asked, but it offered some guarantee to men "who left a position other than temporary." These men were assured restoration to "a position of like seniority status and pay," if they applied within 90 days, and if they were "still qualified to perform the duties" of the position they had left.

The latter clause was clearly inserted as an out for employers. In recent months slightly disabled veterans have been refused their former jobs on the pretext that they are no longer "qualified" to perform the duties. Another concession to the bosses provides that a veteran need not be rehired if "the employer's circumstances have so changed as to make it impossible or unreasonable to do so."

The employers have gained still more from the fact that the administrator of the Act, General Hershey, director of Selective Service, has interpreted its provisions to the detriment of the unions.

A recent circular from Hershey's office gives the employer the privilege of deciding whether or not an employee was "temporary." And if a boss decides to re-employ a veteran he can do so, according to Hershey's interpretation, even if it means discharging a non-veteran with greater seniority. The unions have labeled this as "super-seniority" and are contesting it in the courts.

Hershey's interpretation makes it possible for employers to remove workers with many years of seniority, men who are often the most militant union members. Bosses hope to replace these men with veterans carefully screened as to their union sentiments.

The unions contend that veterans are entitled to "the totality of job rights" they would have had if they had never been drafted. Therefore they refuse to agree that an employer can hire a veteran if it means laying off a non-veteran with greater seniority.

Contrary to capitalist propaganda the unions have done more for both union and non-union veterans than any other sector of society. Both the CIO and AFL have tried to make provisions for the great bulk of the veterans, the 80 per cent who have no "legal" rights to jobs.

They urge their member unions to bargain with the employers for the inclusion of clauses granting every veteran synthetic seniority for his time in the service, after he's been hired. The bosses are definitely opposed to this proposal.

The major auto companies proposed that no one hired since May 1, 1940, have any seniority whatsoever. The demagogue Ford, posing as the great benefactor of the veterans, wanted to lay off any worker in the plant to make room for a veteran. His motive is clear. He hopes to replace union militants with veterans selected for their anti-union views.

The three major veterans' organizations—the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans—officially support the policy of the bosses. They are in favor of Hershey's anti-labor interpretation of the Selective Service Act. They urge that seniority for time in the service be imputed for purposes of new employment.

These "solutions" are loaded with dynamite for the veterans and their allies—the organized workers. They are calculated to aid the bosses in weakening the unions. Without strong unions to defend the interests of all workers, the bosses would be able to drive the living standard of both veterans and non-veterans down to the level of tenant farmers in the deep South.

"Billionaires' Club" Continues To Thrive

By Jeff Thorne

Remember when Roosevelt promised that the Second World War, unlike the First, would create no new crop of millionaires? Not only millionaires have sprouted like mushrooms under the golden shower of World War II profits, but numerous new billionaires.

In December, 1941, just before Pearl Harbor, there were 32 billion-dollar concerns in the United States. Today there are 43. Heading the roster of this Billionaires' Club are the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the Bell Telephone System and the Chase National Bank. Each of these now possesses more than \$6-billion in assets.

The recent reports of the biggest banks demonstrate how the financial interests are piling up assets at top speed while millions of workers have been laid off and many millions more are being forced to strike for a living wage.

In the last three months of 1945 alone, the two largest banks in the United States, Chase National and National City Bank of New York, have added over \$2-billion to their assets. These banks are controlled by the Rockefeller and Morgan interests. In the last quarter of 1945, the assets of the Chase National Bank increased by the record-breaking amount of \$1,127,207,000. This makes Chase, which has long been the world's largest bank, the first to pass the \$6-billion mark in assets.

The National City Bank of New York set a new high by gaining \$964,686,135 in the past three months to reach total assets of \$5,434,372,000. With the City Bank Farmers Trust Company, wholly owned by National City, the latter's combined assets total \$5,631,340,638.

Twenty other New York banks reported year-end assets totaling over \$17½-billion. With Chase and National City these 22 banks hold about \$29-billion or nearly one-twelfth of all American wealth. Their combined assets total 43 per cent of the assets of all the Federal Reserve Bank members.

These figures show that since the war began more and more of the wealth of the country has passed into the control of a handful of big banks dominated by Wall Street. Through these gigantic concentrations of wealth the bankers and big business men direct and dictate the operations of the chief sectors of American economy for their own enrichment.

WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of "The Militant". Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Soldier in Manila Describes Protests

The Militant of January 5 mentioned the protest demonstration by American troops in Manila, who were demanding ships to take them home. I have just received a letter from one of the soldiers there, which tells much more than the capitalist press carried:

"This may be Christmas, but you'd never know it here. That day order was cancelled. Yesterday, or the day before, the fellows in the 29th Replacement Depot marched on the headquarters and demanded that they be sent out right away, instead of the low-point units that have been getting the ships.

"Well, as a result, they were put on ships instead of those units, which is OK. But mysteriously, our ship was taken away! To the Colonel of the 21st Depot (ours) anticipated trouble and set a time for general complaint session tomorrow at 10 a. m. The fellows stole the march on him, though, and marched to headquarters this afternoon.

"There are only about 4,200 men here (so I've heard) but it looked like more than 5,000 this afternoon. Anyway, the fellows demanded an immediate statement and he gave one, without saying anything. His main saying was 'You aren't working for General Motors, you're in the Army.'

"He did say that the ship had been suddenly taken away from the depot, and that there was no explanation given. Another ship (5,000 men) has been assigned to us, but it doesn't arrive in Manila harbor until tomorrow or the next day.

"There was no real organization to the demonstration. Some fellows made some big banners and some others used big cans for drums, and they went up and down the rows of tents until practically everyone was behind them. Then we all marched up the road to the headquarters. After it was all over, about 300 fellows went out on the main highway with their banners and stopped all the traffic for quite a while."

A Reader
New York, N. Y.

Philadelphia Incident Shows Stalinists Losing Influence

Perhaps it isn't the usual thing to write about an unsuccessful attempt to distribute The Militant—but the circumstances of our recent failure do not reflect unfavorably upon us.

The Philadelphia Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, determined to get The Militant into the hands of Stalinist-influenced workers, decided to distribute papers at a "Hands Off North China" mass meeting called by the Communist Party for December 20, at Town Hall, one of Philadelphia's largest meeting places (seating approximately 2000). For a week, the Communist Party had sound trucks cruising throughout the city, advertising the meeting with slogans such as "Get your GI home for Christmas. Send a post card to Truman. Tell him to withdraw Marines from North China," etc. Thousands of leaflets were widely distributed, also.

When our comrades reached Town Hall, the vicinity was deserted and we feared we had missed the crowd. The usual Stalinist goons, however, came out of the hall to threaten our people, saying that the American working class had no use for traitors and the CP was prepared to use violence on us. Puzzled at the absence of people to whom we could offer The Militant, we withdrew. However, we sent several comrades into the hall to find out what had happened. The report we got back was amazing.

Despite all the publicity, the size of their membership and influence, the Communist Party could muster only 84 people to fill the 2000 seats of Town Hall. Of course, the chairman called the meeting off, using the excuse of bad weather. The same weather, though, did not materially affect the attendance at our weekly forum the next night.

It has become apparent in Philadelphia, as elsewhere, that the "new face" of Foster leadership has not only failed to provide the CP an opportunity to regain the confidence of the American workers which it had lost with its sellout support of the war and its support of the no-strike pledge. It has also failed to halt the disintegration of the Communist Party itself.

Yes, the American working

class has no use for traitors. Undoubtedly many workers in sympathy with the struggles of the colonial people saw the treachery of a Mass Meeting called to protest American intervention in North China that completely ignored the struggles of the peoples of Java, India, and Indo-China. They were repelled by the treachery of a Party that was only concerned with the plight of colonial people when their struggles were of aid to the foreign policy of Stalin.

Robert Oliver
Philadelphia

Stamford Boy Learns Early

Today I was impressed by a simple incident, as I distributed Militants at the mass meeting of the Stamford general strike. This trivial incident made me realize how irresistible is the truth that our paper brings to all exploited people.

While I was surrounded at one point by a pressing group of workers clamoring for The Militant, I felt something tugging at



the back of my pea coat. I turned around and saw a ragged little boy, 10 or 12 years old, very small for his age. He wore a man's cap flopped on one side of his head, a jacket that was much too big for him, and a little pair of well-worn jeans that ended above his ankles. Under one arm he clutched a shoe-shine box, and with the other, he reached out to me, saying, "Please give me one, mister."

I took a moment to push a paper in his direction before the workers again surrounded me to take my bundle of Militants in record time.

Later, while I was standing a little apart from the attentive mass of workers listening to their union representatives speak, the little boy came back to me, with the paper opened to Laura Gray's cartoon of Mrs. Rich B. scolding her dog for not eating its fancy steak while people go hungry.

There was real understanding in the boy's eyes, as he looked up at me and said, "I bet rich people really act that way, don't they?"

Pete Morgan
New York

More On Socialism Vs. Nationalism For Negro People

I want to thank Victor Howell for the brilliant letter he wrote to the Negro Nationalists. I have read many of Mr. Howell's writings but this one is the best I have read and it proves he really is aware of the ignorant teaching of the Garvey movement.

I have been in Harlem for five years, and recently I have heard more about the return to Africa than I heard when Garvey was preaching his fantastic salvation of the Negroes.

I am not well informed on socialism, but from what Mr. Howell writes, I think it sounds practical, because I know there is little the Negro can do without some help. It is easy to see that the writer of this brilliant letter really has the interest of his people at heart. I have read a great deal of his writings and have attempted to write a letter of encouragement for him to continue striving and at the same time to say that Mr. Howell and his party should get busy and really work to bring Harlem the truth.

If Mr. Howell has any spare time, I wish he would visit me for a talk, and perhaps I can play a small part in his effort to reach his people.

M. T. R.
New York, N. Y.

From a Worker Of the "Old School"

When our committeemen or shop stewards saw a fellow-employed working out of his job classification, he was told where he got off, which was O.K. with

me, or any other brother in good standing. But two days before our strike with GM, every bit of machinery, rough work and finished work—in fact the whole damn joint was oiled and greased from top to bottom, well preserved for a long rest.

Thanks to our president, vice-president, committeemen and stewards, in fact, the whole local union, the men turned out to be grease monkeys, regardless of their job classification.

Now we are on the picket line and we must come to a halt in letting the bosses and white-collar help cross the picket line. Yes, we also have a committeeman to see that they are not molested. Boy, are we a bunch of sissies!

How about this ad in our paper: GM GETS TAX REBATES; UAW-CIO STRIKERS WANT OUR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

R. M.
N. Arlington, N. J.

Requests Poem By Ralph Chaplin

I wonder if you would print the poem "Mourn Not the Dead." It is a favorite of mine and is worthy of being in a paper such as The Militant.

Charles Fox

GM Office Workers Show Respect For Picket Lines

I would like to relate a few incidents that happened this morning while we were distributing The Militant on the picket lines in Detroit.

We went to Detroit Transmission Division of GM first because this local was maintaining large picket lines and attempting to keep out the office and supervisory help. A number of Fleetwood workers had joined the picket line as volunteers.

Before I reached the main line, I saw a young girl, very noticeably one of the office help. I gave her a copy of The Militant. She said, "I know I shouldn't have come to work today, but those ads in the newspaper said 'ordered and instructed back to work,' so I came down."

"Trying to get through the picket line?" I queried. "Hell, no!" she said. "They'll never get me to go to work passing a picket line."

This was just an indication of the mood of many office workers when they were confronted by a large, impressive picket line, where workers shouted slogans telling the office and supervisory help to stay out. I was given to understand that many of these workers are being laid off.

One gets a wonderful feeling at seeing office workers who won't cross the line. As a matter of fact, I saw a picket captain invite a group of five office workers into the strike kitchen for coffee after they had refused to cross the picket line.

At this same plant I saw, for the first time, women on the picket line. There were at least 10. They all accepted The Militant and many didn't put it in their pockets—they read it as they picketed.

At Chevrolet Gear and Axle, we distributed between 400 and 500 Militants. Here there are many gates, and numerous picket lines, with a minimum of 15 (30 is usual) at each gate. We have been here week after week and the men know us. It's wonderful to hear them say:

"Where have you been all week? You had better make The Militant a daily paper so we can get it more often."

These men are a very jolly bunch, and even help us with the distribution. Often they ask for a number of papers to be left for late-comers on the line.

Rose Young
Detroit, Mich.



J. G. Wright Tells Inspiring Growth Of SWP Observed During Tour

By John G. Wright

On December 23, 1945, in the city of Pittsburgh I concluded a national tour, covering more than a score of cities in a period of approximately three and a half months. In the course of such a tour one naturally gathers a great many impressions. But from the outset, what struck me

most forcibly was the tremendous vitality and the great and growing attractive power of American Trotskyism, the Socialist Workers Party.

From their very first contact with our movement, an indelible imprint is left on workers' minds by the spirit of Trotskyism. In virtually every city I heard appreciative comments from workers, singling out our spirit. And this is indeed the hallmark of our movement. The spirit is the same everywhere, in branches both large and small, in areas where we have deep roots as well as those where we are just breaking ground. Everywhere—the same enthusiasm, the same confidence, devotion, selflessness, seriousness, indefatigable perseverance, loyalty.

In his "History of American Trotskyism," Comrade Cannon reported that in the course of the May, 1934, strikes in Minneapolis the workers locally became convinced that "these Trotskyists mean business. When they undertake anything, they go through with it." I can vouch from my personal experience that this same sentiment is today being expressed by more and more workers on a national scale.

"Yes, you Trotskyists mean business!" I heard this on the lips of workers from one end of the country to the other. Many of these workers had never attended a working-class political meeting before, let alone a Trotskyist meeting. The spirit of our movement and this conviction in the workers' minds concerning our seriousness invests the Socialist Workers Party with great moral authority.

STEADY INFUX It explains in large measure the steady influx of workers into our ranks. In locality after locality we have doubled, trebled and even quadrupled our membership.

THE SECRET OF THE ATTRACTIVENESS, growth and success of Lenin's Bolshevik Party in Russia lay in this, that it was a party of workers. The same thing applies to the Socialist Workers Party which is continuing the policy and practice of Lenin and Trotsky in the United States today.

Parallel with the growing influx of workers into our ranks is the gravitation of the youth toward Trotskyism. On the coast, especially in Los Angeles, we now have important and sizeable youth formations. We have a similar development in the East, and promising beginnings throughout the country.

MOURN NOT THE DEAD By Ralph Chaplin

Mourn not the dead that in the cool earth lie—
Dust unto dust—
The calm, sweet earth that mothers all who die
As all men must;

Mourn not your captive comrades who must dwell—
Too strong to strive—
Each in his steel-bound coffin of a cell,
Buried alive;

But rather mourn the apathetic throng—
The cowed and the meek—
Who see the world's great anguish and its wrong
And dare not speak!

Navy Gold Braid Refuses Transfer To Old-Time Sailor

I am a constant subscriber of The Militant. I am very much pleased with the work you are trying to do.

My husband has served in the U. S. Navy for nearly 27 years. He has been going to sea all these years and now he has asked his superior officers to give him a transfer close to his home, so that he can help raise his children, who are not in good health. But with all these years in service, he can't get any consideration. Instead of being transferred close to his family, he was sent thousands of miles away!

My husband is very anxious to finish 30 years of service, but he is getting very disgusted over the way he is being given the run-around. He has had a perfect record. Don't you think he should get a little consideration?

A Reader
California

GM Worker Writes On District Five

I have some information I think you might be interested in. As you know, General Motors cancelled its agreement with the United Auto Workers. From a union standpoint, the agreement was lousy. A meeting was called by the GM department of the UAW for the Fifth District to be held December 29-30 at Indianapolis. Well, this meeting was called off.

The committeemen at Local 25, which is the GM local in St. Louis, are plenty hot, because they had planned to get at this meeting an agreement that would have some teeth in it. Now they are trying to find out who called off the meeting. The only conclusion they have come to is that someone higher up

I know of very few occasions in the history of the labor movement when it was possible for young girls and boys to obtain revolutionary training under such favorable conditions as those now offered by our movement. My impression is that the Trotskyist youth is both aware and appreciative of this. And this is an additional reason why they are true party patriots.

Among the noteworthy things about our party membership, both adult and youth, is that we are rooted not only in the basic industries but in the localities. We have many "home-town" members. It will not be so easy as was the case in the past for professional red-baiters to raise the hue and cry about "imported" radicals and "foreign" ideas in trying to combat the spread of Trotskyism.

And now, a word about The Militant. My experiences on the tour brought sharply home the prestige and influence of this swiftly growing national workers' weekly. The workers are proud of The Militant, and justly so. The most common reference among workers is to "my paper," and that paper invariably turns out to be The Militant. It is playing a major role in the class struggle generally and in the growth of our movement in particular; it is destined to play a far greater one in the immediate future.

GREAT CHANGES

At the conclusion of her tour in September 1945 Grace Carlson noted: "Great changes are taking place in the United States, particularly in the habits of thought of the American workers. They are losing faith in American capitalism."

My observations a brief few months later enable me to corroborate this conclusion. Larger and larger sections of American workers are beginning to look with disfavor upon the regime of the Rusted Sixty Families and their agents. The advanced elements are already in process of making the transition from a purely negative attitude toward capitalism to a positive standpoint in favor of socialism.

In this process the Socialist Workers Party is fulfilling the role of a polarizing agent. We are now absorbing by the scores workers without previous working-class political affiliation. These scores today are the harbingers of hundreds and thousands on the morrow. Confidence in our future imbues the ranks, from the old-timers to the newest recruits. In its turn, this confidence is the best guarantee of the victory of our cause—the cause of socialism—in the United States.

Pioneer Notes

The First Five Years of the Communist International (Vol. I) by Leon Trotsky, has been delivered to Pioneer and is now being shipped out to the Socialist Workers Party branches. This volume contains the manifestos, articles and other documents written by Leon Trotsky in the period of the first three World Congresses of the Communist International, 1919-1921.

This book will fill a need long felt by Marxist students to whom this important material was previously unavailable in English. The very thorough index, and the section of explanatory notes, make the book especially valuable for students of this early period of the Communist International.

Those in New York who have received their copies are filled with enthusiasm. One friend said:

"I am especially enthusiastic about Trotsky's 1924 introduction to the Russian edition. In it he sums up the revolutionary events to that date, analyzing in particular the tragic defeat in Germany in 1923. Of all the reading I had previously done on those events, nothing made so clear to me why the young Communist party of Germany suffered such a defeat."

Another friend exclaimed over the physical aspects of the book: "The type and printing, the paper, and the colorful jacket are excellent. From all appearances it is technically the most beautiful book Pioneer has ever published."

The First Five Years of the Communist International, by Leon Trotsky, cloth, \$2.50; paper, \$1.50. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.



The accurate reporting of day to day events in the current General Motors strike coupled with the excellent analysis of the policies of the United Automobile Workers' leaders is evidently meeting with the approval of workers who receive The Militant at plant gates. This is reflected in the following excerpts from letters we've received:

H. Spangler of Connecticut: "I am enclosing nine subscriptions. Five of these are from Bristol where a large GM plant is located. These striking GM workers are very enthusiastic about The Militant although they have seen only two issues of the paper. We expect to get a large number of subscribers among these UAW workers."

Milt Alvin of Akron: "We have been distributing copies of The Militant at factory gates and the CIO Council. The cold weather makes it difficult to stand out doors to distribute for very long, but the distributions we've had have been very successful. A good number of delegates at the CIO Council know The Militant, in addition to which several are subscribers."

Dorothy Lessing writes from Baltimore: "While I was at the UAW-GM headquarters here, the president of one of the locals commented on how clear our reporting of the strike was. He was anxious to see the next issue of The Militant, and asked if I had it with me."

"The copy of The Militant that goes to the union hall is well-thumbed, and no doubt thoroughly read. Most of the workers active in the strike have received copies of the paper every week since the strike started."

The Socialist Workers Party branches are maintaining their high rate of new subscriptions as well as renewals, and appear to be vying with one another in order to be listed in this column. Among this week's top scorers are:

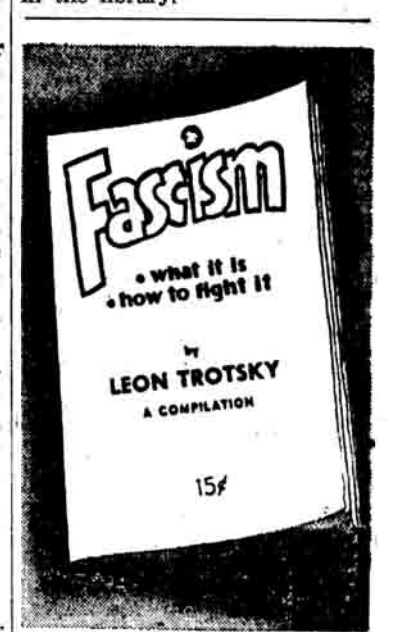
Los Angeles—8 six-month.
New York—6 six-month, 1 one-year, 1 6-month renewal.
Buffalo—6 six-month.

Pittsburgh—4 six-month, 1 one-year combination sub to The Militant and Fourth International.
San Francisco—1 six-month, 2 one-year, 1 one-year renewal.
Youngstown—6 six-month.

The following subscriber, E. J. Carmona of New York who was introduced to The Militant in our spring subscription campaign, sent us the following letter which we quote verbatim: "I paid one lousy quarter coin ago, and I've been receiving The Militant ever since. Nobody calls to remind me, or anything. A paper can't run by itself."

"I like The Militant. I've learned quite a few things through reading it. When other papers do say anything, they sugar-coat it so well it really reads well even when they don't mean it at all."

"Please use the enclosed \$3 contribution. All right, you don't have to tell me; I know exactly how much a year's subscription is. After the holidays I'll send in my 1946 subscription. Send The Militant to all who can read. I usually leave mine by accident in the library."



OUR PROGRAM:

1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!

A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay!
A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living!
Government operation of all idle and government-built plants under workers' control!
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment!

2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!

No restriction on the right to strike!
Withdraw union representatives from the War Labor Board!

3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!

4. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!

5. Working class political action!

Establish the workers' and farmers' government! Build the independent labor party!

6. Tax the rich, not the poor!

No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
A working class answer to capitalist militarism!

7. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!

Trade Union wages for all workers in the armed forces!

8. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!

For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!

Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!

Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
116 University Place
New York 3, New York

- I would like:
- ☐ To join the Socialist Workers Party.
 - ☐ To obtain further information about your organization.
 - ☐ To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME _____
(Please Print)
STREET _____
CITY _____
POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____

Memorial Meeting To Honor Carlo Tresca, Murdered Anti-Fascist Fighter For Labor

By Ruth Johnson

On January 11, 1943, Carlo Tresca, tireless fighter for the working class, was shot to death by unknown assassins on Fifth Avenue and 15th Street in New York. This week, friends of Tresca, meeting to honor his memory, will demand that the District Attorney's office end the evasion and indifference which for three years have kept this case shrouded in official silence.

New disclosures about the murder will feature the New York meeting at Cooper Union Hall on Thursday, January 10, at 5:15 p. m. According to Norman Thomas, Chairman of the Tresca Memorial Committee, recent criticism of District Attorney Hogan's office "has opened up fresh leads to information about groups and individuals whom Tresca counted as enemies."

Tresca, editor of the anti-fascist *Il Martello*, and famed for decades as an irreproachable and courageous leader of labor, had been under attack for years both from Stalinists and the native Italian fascist elements. His death was universally recognized as a political murder. Yet a known pro-fascist Assistant District Attorney Louis Pannucco, decorated by Mussolini — was first put in charge of the Italian end of the case!

Vigorous protests forced the removal of Pannucco from the investigation. But little else has been done. The FBI refused to enter the case. In three years of supposed inquiry, one of Tresca's closest friends has not even been asked to tell what he knows of Tresca's enemies!

"WITNESSES" RELEASED

Only two persons are known to have been held in the case, both as "material witnesses." Carmine Galente, ex-convict, was said to have been seen two hours before the murder, entering a sedan which was abandoned nearby on the same night. After being held for months on high bail, Galente was returned to Sing Sing prison as a parole violator.

The second "material witness" was Frank Nuccio, "small-time racketeer and petty bootlegger," taken into custody in September, 1943. According to the daily press, Nuccio was found by the police to have been the lessee or owner of the garage in which the "murder car" was kept. Nuccio was freed two months later.

Assistant District Attorney Elmer Lipsky was assigned to the case in October, 1944. In January, 1945, forced into action by public indignation, he reopened the case and began to call witnesses. But this investigation too, bogged down. Lipsky was given other work to do; recently he resigned.

It is not surprising that New York's police and the FBI have

shown no real interest in finding the assassins of Carlo Tresca, for Tresca, as a militant leader of the working class, was himself the victim of frequent police persecution.

POLITICAL EXILE

Tresca was a political exile from Italy. As one of the great figures of the Industrial Workers of the World, before the First World War, he led historic strikes in Lawrence, Massachusetts; in Paterson, New Jersey; in the Mesabi iron range of northern Minnesota. When, in 1923, Tresca was railroaded to Atlanta penitentiary on trumped-up charges — instigated by Mussolini's ambassador — it was his thirty-sixth arrest!

Carlo was among the first to join the long struggle which finally freed Tom Mooney and Warren Billings. In the 1920's, he was instrumental in smashing a frame-up against two Italian workers who had been wrongfully accused of killing two fascists at a meeting in the Bronx. A few years later, he saved the life of Athos Terzani in another fascist-inspired frame-up. The defense committee on which Tresca served not only freed the innocent man but proved that a fascist Khaki-Shirt officer was the real murderer. The frame-up of Sacco and Vanzetti, their murder in the electric chair for a crime of which they were innocent, was fought by Carlo throughout the country.

EXPOSED MOSCOW TRIALS

It was natural that Carlo Tresca should become one of the leading fighters against the greatest frame-up in modern history: Stalin's Moscow Trials of the Old Bolsheviks who had led the masses of Russia to victory in the 1917 revolution. Tresca was one of 10 members of the Dewey Commission of Inquiry which reported, after a year and a half of investigation, that Leon Trotsky and his son Sedov were innocent of Stalin's false charges.

In 1941, when the Roosevelt administration, preparing for war, proceeded to railroad to prison the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Local 544-CIO in Minneapolis, Tresca again sprang to the defense of persecuted revolutionists as vice-chairman of the Civil Rights Defense Committee. Thus to the very hour of his death Carlo Tresca was battling against legal frame-ups and political murders. That is why the workers of America will not rest until his murderers are uncovered.

Honored Working Class Fighters



Carlo Tresca, valiant defender of labor's rights, is shown in the above picture, shaking hands with "Big Bill" Haywood (right) in 1912, when both were leaders in important strike struggles.

January "Fourth International" Analyzes The Role Of Zionism

The terrible plight of the Jewish people in Europe, and the brutal shooting of Jews in Palestine by British imperialism, give special emphasis to "The Role of Zionism" in the January issue of *Fourth International*. Writing from Jerusalem, T. Cliff outlines the role of Zionism as a puppet of imperialism.

Whether it be British imperialism, as in the past, or American imperialism. "Zionism occupies a special place in imperialist fortifications," says the writer, a Palestinian Trotskyist. "It plays a double role: first directly as an important pillar of imperialism, giving it active support and opposing the liberation struggle of the Arab nation, and second as a passive servant behind which imperialism can hide and towards which it can direct the ire of the Arab masses."

Analyzing the root causes of the old and ever-recurring friction between Arabs and Jews in the Middle East, the author, who writes from first-hand experience as well as from an historical viewpoint, correctly concludes that "if imperialism continues to rule over the world, then whatever the Jews do they are doomed. If the world revolutionary wave rises to the heights, then all the weak peoples, including world Jewry, will be saved..."

FATE OF ASSYRIANS

In a particularly gripping section, "The Fate of the Assyrians — A Precedent and a Warning," the writer describes the betrayal of the Assyrians by the British imperialists during World War I. The British cold-bloodedly used the entire Assyrian people as living pawns in their plans for controlling the rich oil lands of Turkey and Iraq. In the end the Assyrians were decimated in a horrible slaughter.

The January issue of *Fourth International* likewise features an extremely timely and pertinent analysis of "Wall Street's War Against Labor: The Meaning of the GM Strike." The author, George Clarke, graphically explains the significance for labor of Wall Street's offensive against the American working class, and points up the urgency of the need for an inde-

pendent labor party to speak for the interests of the workers.

In addition, the issue contains an article on Indo-China, discussions on revolutionary policy in Europe by William F. Warde and Felix Morrow, a manifesto on Germany by the European Trotskyists, and the second section of "Facing the New Revolutionary Period in Spain," begun in the December issue of the magazine. The month's editorial brilliantly explains the world role of the Fourth International, the world party of the Socialist revolution founded by Leon Trotsky.

Gala New Year's Party Held By Philadelphia SWP

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—The new year, 1946, will be a memorable period in the history of the local branch of the Socialist Workers Party, if the gala New Year's Eve "Gay Nineties" Party is any indication.

In a spirit of great hilarity and comradeship, 100 SWP members and friends celebrated the arrival of the New Year. In the opinion of all, including many who were new readers of *The Militant*, attending an SWP function for the first time, the affair was a great success.

Among the highlights of the entertainment were "Gay Nineties" musical selections sung by comrades Kirby, Birch, and Miller. A surprise feature of the entertainment was a series of lively piano solos that set everybody to dancing. The unexpected pianist was a new friend who had come to deliver beer to the Hall, and impressed by the spirit of the affair, stayed on. By dawn he had become a subscriber to *The Militant*.

Reading Branch Celebration Held

By James White

READING, Pa., Dec. 30.—Today the Reading branch of the Socialist Workers Party celebrated its achievements in the recent *Militant* subscription campaign, with one of its traditional indoor picnics. Rain and sickness interfered with the attendance, but not with the enthusiasm and spirit of comrades, friends of *The Militant*, and their families.

John Russo, local organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, acted as Master of Ceremonies and introduced the speakers. Comrade Justine Lang, national campaign director, gave a brief report of the national campaign. Short talks were also given by James White, local campaign director, and Clarence White, a militant trade unionist.

Climax of the affair was the presentation of two valuable books, given by the National Office of *The Militant* and the Reading SWP, to Comrade Clara Raymond, our leading sub-getter, who placed second nationally. Comrade Raymond related some of her experiences, making particular note of the manner in which *The Militant* was received in the homes of workers she visited.

Koreans Demonstrate Against "Big 3" Rule

By Charles Carsten

Angry Koreans demonstrated in the Streets of Seoul, threw rocks at American troops, and tied up the city with a four day general strike in violent protest against proclamation by the Big Three of a trusteeship for Korea.

Posters cried out against the bandit decision of the Moscow conference. Nationalists called upon the Koreans "to be prepared to shed their blood in the cause of freedom."

Before dawn of the first day, December 29, signs posted in the capital's streets called "for a general strike against the United States Military Government, the closing of the schools, the shutting down of the factories and the staging of widespread demonstrations," according to a N. Y. Times dispatch.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 Koreans demonstrated their hostility to the Big Three decision. Seoul was completely paralyzed by the general strike. Likewise a general strike shut down everything at Port Incheon a few miles away.

Showing their hatred for their new masters, Koreans tore down American flags. Nationalist newspapers recalled pledges of early independence made at the Cairo Conference of the Big Three in December, 1943. Koreans were angry and embittered by the callous breaking of this promise.

It took a heavy snowstorm to drive the demonstrators off the streets. Later the puppet "nationalist" leaders "called off" the demonstration.

Koreans experienced the harshness of one "trusteeship." They want no more of it. They remember that Korea was placed under the trusteeship of Japan by the Portsmouth Conference of 1905. In this meeting of imperialists, President Theodore Roosevelt helped Czarist Russia and Japan carve up Korea.

Koreans recall that five years later, on August 29, 1910 Japan established complete domination of the country. The Koreans still suffer from the poverty and oppression of that period.

ROBBERS' AGREEMENT

Wall Street brazenly cooperated with the former slavemaster of Korea. In 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt sent Secretary of War, William Howard Taft to Tokyo. He negotiated and signed a secret pact with the Mikado's Prime Minister in which it was agreed: (1) that the United States would not touch Japan in Korea; and (2) that Japan would make no demands for concessions in the Philippine Islands.

This agreement was approved by President Roosevelt. However, it was kept a deep secret. During Taft's presidential term the Japanese established complete control over Korea. Japan had Taft's signature on a document which said he would not protest this imperialist steal.

To the Koreans, the 1945 Moscow Conference decision had the same rotten odor as the decision of the 1905 Portsmouth Conference.

While the people of Korea demonstrated, more than half of Shanghai's 8,000 Koreans protested at a mass meeting against the Allied "trusteeship" of their homeland. They carried banners and shouted slogans denouncing the Big Three.

In letters to the Russian, American and British consuls, the Korean Association in Shanghai demanded "formation of a democratic government with confidence of the nation, for immediate freedom and complete independence of Korea."

The demonstration in Korea was so deep-rooted and widespread that the so-called "Provisional Government," which has been currying favor with the Allied Military Government, was forced to present formal demands to General Hodge. These demands prove that, contrary to official assertions, American troops intervened in the demonstration.

The "Provisional Government" demanded that "American forces release Koreans arrested during the recent demonstration and that the Americans do not interfere with the demonstration." Pressure exerted by the masses forced General Hodge to promise an investigation of the cases of those arrested and to assure the nationalists that those who "did not have police records" would be released. He also told the "Provisional Government" representative that he did not intend to break up the demonstrations by force of arms.

However, such statements of the Brass Hats cannot be taken at face value. The real role of the AMG in Korea is one of brazen intervention in the internal affairs of the country. The policy of AMG, Wall Street's military arm in Korea, was described by Gordon Davis, staff writer for *Stars and Stripes*, in the November 26 issue. He declared:

"1. That the Democratic Party officially favored by AMG, represents no more than a few hundred Koreans, many of them open collaborators with the Japs before the Americans arrived

by the Japanese for their political activities. The Stalinists appear to be playing a leading role in the party.

The People's Republic demands outright confiscation and free distribution rather than sale of Japanese property. It advocates government ownership of the major industries. The party has a "tremendous appeal among the Korean masses who intend to resist any exploitation by their richer countrymen," says Robert Martin.

In a dispatch on January 1, Martin reports that only the politically left organizations have been able to organize the people. They were chiefly the People's Republic — which Gen. Hodge outlawed...

Last month in the town of Namwon "five People's Republic leaders were arrested on charges of interfering with the military government. Hundreds of Koreans demonstrated in front of the police station. When military police warnings to disperse were not heeded, the MPs opened fire on the unarmed crowd and three Koreans were killed," Martin reported.

Thus Wall Street brings the Four Freedoms to Korea! Leaders of the People's Republic did not support the demonstrations. Later on January 3, according to the Associated Press, at a mass meeting and parade, they shouted support of the People's Republic. The leaders of the People's Republic and the Stalinists, says the dispatch, urged support of the Moscow decisions.

According to Martin "high U. S. officers were quoted by Koreans as saying we 'should support the Rightists because they are rich and cultured.'" Brass Hats openly violate freedom of speech. "Newspapers were closed because they were 'proletarian Communist,'" declares Martin.

CHIANG'S PUPPET Other political tendencies mentioned prominently in dispatches from Korea are the Stalinists and followers of Dr. Kim Koo. Kim Koo, chairman of the "Provisional Government," headed the exile government in China. He came to Korea from Chungking where he spent the latter part of his long exile under the wing of the Kuomintang. Dictator Chiang Kai-shek is interested in pushing Kim Koo to the front as Allied puppet head of the "recognized" Korean government.

The Stalinists are completely subservient to Moscow. Stalinist leadership in Korea did not participate in or support the great anti-imperialist demonstrations, although many rank and file members of the party did.

In the United States the Stalinist *Daily Worker* of January 1, attacked the demonstration as "violent outbursts" which "appear to have been provoked by extreme right-wingers of the so-called Provisional Government..." Thus the Stalinists once again demonstrated their servility to the Kremlin and its treacherous betrayals of the working people.

But fighters for freedom throughout the world hailed the anti-imperialist demonstrations in Korea.

French Strikers



Group of French civil service workers in demonstration during strike of 100,000 government employees last month. (See story on Page 3).

OFF THE PRESS

THE REVOLUTION BETRAYED

By Leon Trotsky

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Wisconsin Workers Protest Firing of Pro-Labor Teacher

By Jack O'Connell

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 31 — Domination of the public school system by the employers and their direct agents on the school boards was brought sharply into focus again in the traditionally progressive state of Wisconsin, where J. R. Cotton, outspoken supporter of labor, was railroaded off the faculty at Milwaukee State Teachers College last September. Cotton's demand for a thorough investigation and impartial hearing of the facts behind his ouster is gaining increasing support in the student, labor, cooperative, and progressive movements in Wisconsin.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the advances made during the socialist and Farmer-Labor administrations in the state cannot be protected without the re-establishment of the political independence of the labor and progressive forces here through a national Labor Party. The hook-up of the labor and socialist politicians with the old-line parties is coming to nought with one gain after another wiped off the books, and vicious anti-labor laws straight-jacketing the unions and workers' parties.

Recognizing that Cotton's removal is a direct attack upon the labor movement, the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and Local 1111, UE-CIO, have already adopted protest resolutions and pledged support to Cotton. The entire CIO and UAW are expected to line up behind him. Cotton earned the undying wrath of the industrialists when he supported the heavily bombarded 76-day strike of

Milwaukee SWP Holds Celebration

The grand opening of the Milwaukee Socialist Workers Party headquarters will be celebrated January 12, with music, dancing, entertainment and refreshments. The quarters at 424 E. Wells St. were recently enlarged and improved, so that more attractive meetings and social affairs can be held. Plans are being made to make the SWP a social as well as political center for friends and readers of *The Militant* in Milwaukee.

Local 248—UAW at Allis-Chalmers in 1941. Defending the union, he said: "The first line of defense for the American workers is not on the Rhine, but out at Allis-Chalmers."

At the University of Wisconsin all student organizations have formed a united-front Cotton Committee for Academic Freedom. The Executive Board of the Midland Co-operative Wholesale representing the Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa area is ranging full support and publicity behind the Cotton case, as are the Socialist Workers Party, the Socialist Party, the Progressive Party, and other organizations.

The Socialist Workers Party in Milwaukee will be glad to supply further information on the Cotton case to anyone interested. Visit or write to the *Militant* Bookshop, 424 E. Wells St., Room 215, Milwaukee 2, Wisconsin.

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Truman's "State Of Union" Speech Is Futile Bid To Halt Labor Crisis

By Art Preis

Attempting to project a program to allay the deepening and spreading class struggle between American labor and Big Business, President Truman on January 3 addressed the country by radio on "The State of the Union."

The "state of the union," Truman confessed, is not a happy one. "First among the obstacles" to the universal security and prosperity which the war government promised for peace, said Truman, "have been labor-management disputes."

Thus, Truman dealt primarily with the decisive problem vexing American political life since V-J Day — the tremendous conflict between American labor and capital.

TRUMAN'S "SOLUTION"

Truman proposed to alleviate this conflict by passage of a single piece of legislation, the "fact-finding" bill initiated by him on December 3 when he made his strike-breaking "request" for the GM workers to end their strike. In his speech, he again called for a federal law to establish semi-compulsory arbitration government "fact-finding boards" and to prohibit the right to strike for a "30-day cooling-off" period.

This proposition was met with bitter hostility and denunciation by virtually all sections of organized labor when it was first propounded. But once more it is advanced by Truman as his "solution" to the irrepressible class warfare provoked by the union-busting, wage-slashing offensive of America's war-profits bloated corporations.

Truman, of course, claimed his program to restrict the right to strike "contains nothing harmful to labor." For, he argued, "there is no reason why a strike cannot be postponed for thirty days" so that the government can "step in to obtain all the facts and report its findings to the country."

DANGER TO LABOR

In general, any law to restrict the right to strike would be an opening wedge for more drastic anti-labor legislation and in its very essence can be only dangerous to labor.

Under the particular circumstances now prevailing, Truman's measure would have a specifically pernicious effect upon labor's struggle. The present strikes are being called after months of delay and stalling, as a last desperate resort of the workers to win their just demands. The proposal to enforce a further 30-day delay would serve only to interpose another obstacle to strike action at the most timely and strategic moment.

If, in addition to this, the workers cannot strike before they submit their demands to a hand-picked government "fact-finding" board, we have nothing less than the establishment, even though in limited form, of compulsory arbitration. Moreover, the American workers have had a sufficient and bitter experience with these red-tape government boards.

But along with his attempt to show what a "good thing" his "fact-finding" plan is for labor, Truman also claims, with far more truth, that "on the other hand there is nothing harmful

to management in this proposal."

He explains carefully that "no detailed information obtained from the books of any company is to be revealed." This is simply assurance to the corporations that the administration proposes to suppress any facts whose publication might be injurious to the interests of the profiteers.

TALKING INTO VACUUM

But even with this proposition, so favorable to the corporate interests, Truman has found himself talking into a vacuum.

For the reality of the situation is that America's power-drunk ruling class, the clique of Wall Street monopolists, is determined on nothing less than unconditional surrender of the labor movement.

This was made patent by the arrogant action of General Motors in walking out of Truman's fact-finding hearings in the GM strike — an action which evoked only the feeble complaint from Truman that "you have seen how the General Motors Corporation has refused to cooperate with this fact-finding board."

Moreover, Congress, which so completely reflects the interests and desires of Big Business, has pigeon-holed Truman's "fact-finding" proposal, a matter of considerable distress to the President. Congress is preparing far more savage anti-labor laws.

For its part, organized labor, 15,000,000 strong, is no longer amenable to the type of government intervention it experienced during the war under the War Labor Board. Whatever the inclinations of the labor leaders may be, the union ranks are determined to fight for their rights tooth and nail with their most effective economic weapon — strike action.

TRUMAN'S CHOICES

In this situation of a remorseless Big Business union-busting offensive and a defiant, militant resistance by labor, Truman's attempt to dampen the conflict with a proposal unacceptable to both class contenders, is a futile one.

Nevertheless, he is impelled to this futile course, at this moment, by considerations of political expediency. Fundamentally he represents the interests of Big Business. But he is fearful of any decisive move against labor which will irretrievably sever labor's powerful political support from the Democratic administration.

Truman's attempt to reconcile the bitter class opponents without sacrificing the basic interests of Big Business or granting genuine gains to labor is utterly utopian. He will soon have to make the choice: either to crack down with full ferocity and all the power of government compulsion upon the striking workers, as Wall Street demands, or yield substantial concessions to the mighty insurgent labor movement.

Magnificent Labor Solidarity In Stamford



A small section of the mighty crowd of 20,000 demonstrators in the Town Square, Stamford, Conn., during the one-day joint AFL-CIO city-wide general strike, January 3, in support of the Yale & Towne workers who have been on strike over two months.

Stamford AFL, CIO Unions Join Forces In City General Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

right kind of law and order!" he shouted. Retorting to Monson's charges that he was being intimidated by the workers, he said:

"The only intimidation I have seen around here is from Yale & Towne! You have slandered me because I refused to send police down there to crack skulls." The spectators roared approval.

When the company was finally forced to begin negotiations, Stumm, the union attorney, presented to Monson the main demands of the union. "We have two issues to decide today," he began. "One, the question of wages. Two, the union's demand for a closed shop." He pointed out that the union had been negotiating without results, from last March to October. Monson muttered: "Let's leave out the open shop as a separate consideration."

"Oh, no, you won't," retorted Stumm. "That's why we are striking. This strike was voted by the workers, as their only means of self-preservation. Carey wants an open shop. He's out to shove the men back to sweatshop conditions at the 38 cents an hour he used to pay. Like Sewell Avery, he is acting as the spearhead of a group of anti-labor employers here who think this is a good time to wreck the union. But we intend to have the kind of contract we want, and we intend to fight until we win."

Meanwhile Milton Enzer, \$14,000-a-year publicity agent for the company, was passing out stacks of multigraphed company propaganda, filled with fake figures and bluntly demanding the return of the open shop. But as the morning wore on, the company representatives and their publicity agent found themselves increasingly isolated and on the defensive in the labor-dominated court room.

MARCHERS ARRIVE

The negotiations were broken up shortly after noon by the noise of the demonstration outside. The company representatives quietly vanished during this recess. The union leaders went out to the top of the steps, to speak over the microphone to the sea of shining, expectant faces banded around the main entrance to the Town Hall.

In the vanguard of the marchers, still pouring in from all directions, were the Yale & Towne

workers with Richard L. Thurer, IAM International Representative at their head. "We Will Not Yield Victory," they declaimed on their placards. "Stamford Is A Union Town, So Let's Keep It," and "Stamford Is All-Out for the Yale-Towne Workers," etc.

Joseph Ficarro, union negotiator, greeted the oncoming union brigades over the microphone as they appeared. "Here comes Local 83, Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers, CIO—the Atlas Powder boys! Let's give them a big cheer!" The crowd eagerly responded. The big brass band led by Local 102, AFL American Federation of Musicians, planted itself in the center of the crowd, and gave out lively music at appropriate intervals.

MORE LOCAL UNIONS

More local unions marched up: Local 1069, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL; Local 147, International Ladies' Garment Workers, AFL; Local 845, Journeymen Barbers' Union, AFL; Local 123, United Gas & Chemical Workers of America, CIO, from Freyburg Brothers; Lodge 166 of the Norma Hoffman Bearings Corp.; Local 41, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders and Local 503, International Typographical Union, AFL, both of the Conde Nast press; Local 226, Gas & Electrical Workers from the Schick Razor plant; Local 102 of the CIO at the Baer Brothers plant; Local 23693, AFL, from Phillips Chemical Co.; CIO Steelworkers, Local 552, Stamford Rolling Mills. Another placard read simply "Shipbuilders-CIO."

A group of girls from the Northam-Warren Cutex plant, carrying a hastily improvised placard, came up and announced their solidarity. Viola Amoroso, 76 Summer St., shop steward in the plant, said: "We are proving our labor solidarity — we have sent checks to help them out!" Thomas Anthony Pompa, president of Local 41, I B of B-AFL, also called out: "It's the workers who count in Yale & Towne." The favorite song of the demonstrators was "Hail, Hail, The Gang's All Here." They shouted: "You bet we're all here."

Placards from all these sister unions bore solidarity slogans: "Mr. Carey—Labor in Stamford Is United." "Throw Carey Out." "We Are With You, Workers of Yale & Towne." Some appealed to the small businessmen. "We

Who Toil Pay For Everything" and "Stamford Merchants, We Lose, You Lose." At the top of the Town Hall steps stood a group of soldiers in uniform carrying placards of support. From Local 83 a group of some 10 veterans of World War II, including Atlas Powder workers, was led by a kilted piper.

SPAKING TO CROWD

Just before the speeches started, someone remarked: "Monson once promised to come out and 'speak to the people.' Now's his chance!" Some one else replied: "Oh, no. He won't. He'd be tarred and feathered by this crowd!"

Samuel L. Newman, IAM-AFL vice president, was the main speaker. "Why shouldn't the two organizations, AFL and CIO, join together in a common cause?" he asked. "Only a few short months ago, it was the CIO that the employers opposed. Today it is the AFL. Right here you will find members of the CIO and AFL who are brothers and sisters right in their own homes. How can you part them—or separate labor?"

Justin Y. Sturm told the massed workers: "Let me say that the music I hear outside this building today is far sweeter than the music we had to listen to inside." The crowd laughed its appreciation.

"The top leaders of the CIO and AFL should look out here today and see what it means to have the toilers get together in a struggle like this!"

ADOPT RESOLUTION

A resolution to Secretary of Labor Schwelienbach in Washington, D. C., was read by Sturm, protesting the anti-labor actions of Yale & Towne. The crowd unanimously roared "Aye." Someone contemptuously shouted: "The only 'No' is Carey's—and he isn't even here!"

Robert Schrank, president of the N. Y. Council of Machineists, said this was the first general strike since the 1934 San Francisco General Strike. "I am here with a delegation of shop stewards from New York City because your fight is the fight of all workers and we are here to support you. Like General Motors, Carey is trying to build up a case of 'illegal picketing.' The answer to the industrialists is being given here today.

"No sooner was the war over than Big Business took off its gloves to try to smash the strength of organized labor. But all over the country now there are preparations for strikes. The labor movement is coming off the defensive to meet the offensive of Big Business, which is out to smash our trade unions."

SETTING AN EXAMPLE

"Here in Stamford you are setting an example before the entire nation. You are the Minute Men of today—because you are on the front line of the fight for

all labor. Our slogan for today should be—'We have just begun.' Yale & Towne workers need plenty of support. But out of this action, we will get new strength, new determination and new help."

Other speakers included David Abrams, Local CIO head and Chairman of the Stamford Combined Labor Organizations, and Joe Cronin, President of the New England CIO Council, who came in from Hartford. All the speakers were greeted with cheers, applause and songs.

A fitting conclusion to the demonstration was the distribution of The Militant. All available copies were eagerly seized by the workers. And over the local radio station, temporarily set up on the roof of the bus terminal in the center of the square, this event, too, was recorded over the air: "The workers' paper—The Militant—is now being distributed."

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX

by CHARLES JACKSON

Gibson "Gives" Again

The eminent Mr. Truman K. Gibson is in the news once more. As we recall, this is the same gentleman who formerly held the fat job of civilian aide (Negro cover-up boy) to the Secretary of War. He was supposed to be looking out for the Negroes and seeing that they got the best of everything in their Uncle Samuel's Jim-Crow Army.

We remember that last year he executed what was his conception of that job by publicly accusing the all-Negro 92nd in Italy of having too much yellow running down their backs. Although the leading brass in this theatre reported the opposite, Mr. Gibson stated that the colored troops fell back in mass in the face of enemy fire.

Now again, on the 27th of December, speaking before a convention of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in Columbus, Ohio, Gibson came out in support of universal military training — a proposal which has been openly opposed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and by every sensible Negro in America who has experienced or has heard about Army Jim Crow.

Attempting to "explain" his support of such reactionary regimentation, Gibson states: "When I say I believe in such a system (universal military training) I certainly do not state a belief in a Jim Crow plan of putting such a system into execution. The two certainly don't logically follow. They have been needlessly confused."

In all seriousness, how could Mr. Gibson even remotely expect such a set-up under the present administration to be anything but Jim Crow? We have Jim Crow in the Army, the Navy and in the present Veterans' Administration, including hospital facilities. The Army brass hats and the reactionary congressmen who fashioned this enforced separatism then, are still in power now. Furthermore, Big Business, which is the real ruling force in this country today, is still in the saddle and is still as interested as ever in using the Negro as scapegoat.

Official government separatism under the Jim Crow army training camps was the greatest purveyor of prejudice that this country has seen in this generation. Yet Truman Gibson calls for an extension of this system when he knows full well that the authors of the present arrangement are still at the helm. Furthermore, even a larger issue is involved here. An analysis of the facts will prove that the present plan for universal military training EVEN IF NOT JIM CROW bodes no good for and must be opposed by the Negro workers. Why? Because of the reactionary use to which the trainees would be put by the U. S. Government whose policies are dictated by Wall Street.

Is such analysis of this question news to Truman K. Gibson? Has he just thoughtlessly overlooked this angle in his bubbling zeal for universal military training? The weather vane of events points the other direction. It is saying No!

Gibson, in coming out with this present stand, is only following out the same Uncle Tom tactics that have characterized his claim to fame. He is merely playing up to the "big brass" and selling out the interests of his own race and of all working people, all over again.

In Italy instead of denouncing Army Jim Crow and resigning from his post, he denounced the Negro soldier in a slanderous attack. His purpose then was to more firmly grab the coat-tails of the brass hats and rub their hair the "right" way. His motivation in this case can be no different. Knowing all the "powers that be" are favoring compulsory training, he is jumping on their wagon. He is saying what he believes the "boss man" would want him to say.

Gibson has, we must admit, reestablished his legitimate claim to the grand championship of all Negro sell-out artists. He is now the undisputed Uncle Tom Cat who reigns supreme over all Tom kittens.

Flint, Mich.
Socialist Workers Party
Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 13:
Charles Jackson
"The Negro's Stake In
The GM Strike"

YWCA
First Street And Harrison
8 p.m.
Admission Free

Socialist Workers Party Branch Activities

AKRON — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open Tues. and Thurs. 2 to 4 p.m.; Mon., Wed., Fri. 7 to 9 p.m.

ALBANY — Visit the Militant Branch meeting every Thursday, 8 p.m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Albany.

BOSTON — Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Mondays and Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m.; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

BUFFALO — Every Saturday night, Current Events Discussion and Open House, at Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO — Visit SWP, 180 N. Wells, R. 317. Open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7562.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St.

DETROIT — SWP Open House every Saturday at 6108 Linwood. Forums on topical questions every Sunday, 8 p.m.

Classes every Thursday: "How To Prepare A Speech" and "History Of Russian Revolution."

KANSAS CITY — SWP Branch meets Saturday, 8 p.m. Rm. 203, Studio Bldg., 418 E. 9th St., for study and discussion.

LOS ANGELES — Visit SWP headquarters, 106 Venice Blvd. or San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

Lecture Series On Current Strike Wave: "Wages," John Patrick; "Profits," Al Miller; "Prices," Gordon Bailey;

"Jobs," Myra Tanner Weiss. Schedule: Central, 106 Venice Blvd., near Main: "Wages," Friday, Jan. 18; "Profits," Jan. 25; "Prices," Feb. 1; "Jobs," Feb. 8.

East Side, Folks Hall, 424 N. Soto: "Wages," Wednesday, Jan. 16; "Profits," Jan. 23; "Prices," Jan. 30; "Jobs," Feb. 6.

San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214: "Profits," Jan. 18; "Prices," Jan. 25; "Jobs," Feb. 1.

MILWAUKEE — Visit the Milwaukee branch of the SWP at its headquarters, 424 E. Wells St., any evening from 7:30.

MINNEAPOLIS — Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Forum every Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

NEWARK — Open forum every Friday at the Progressive Workers' School, 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30.

NEW YORK — Registration open at 116 University Pl. for classes in Principles of Marxism, Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure.

Harlem Discussion Group meets every Sunday 7:30 p.m., 103 West 110 St., Room 23. Office open Monday to Thurs., 1 to 4:30, also Fri. and Sun., 7:30 to 10 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA — SWP Headquarters, 405 W. Girard Ave. Open forums every Friday 8 p.m. on current topics.

Socialist Youth Group meets on alternate Saturdays, 8 p.m.

PITTSBURGH — Militant Reading Room, Seely Bldg., 5905 Penn Ave., corner Penn. Ave. & Beatty St., E. Liberty. Open evenings, 6:30 to 9:30, also Saturday 2-9 p.m. Circulating library. Class on fundamentals of Marxism every Sunday evening.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W. Washington, 3rd floor. Tel. ATwater 3992. Open 1 to 4 p.m., daily except Sunday, and 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday.

SAN FRANCISCO — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Friday night study groups: "Introduction to Trotskyism," 7:30 p.m.; "History of Democratic Centralism," 8:40 p.m.

SEATTLE — Study groups every Friday, 7:45 p.m., at Seattle School of Social Science, 1919 1/2 Second Ave.; 1. Imperialism; 2. Introduction to Socialism.

ST. LOUIS — Visit our headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday through Saturday from 12 to 2 p.m.; Monday, Wednesday, Friday, from 8 to 10 p.m.

TOLEDO — Forums every Tuesday, 8:45 p.m., Roi Davis Bldg., Room 304, 905 Jefferson Ave. Open evenings, 7-9.

YOUNGSTOWN — Youngstown School of Social Science, 225 N. Phelps St., open to public Tuesday and Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5; also 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

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Speaker: Charles Carsten
116 University Place 8 p.m.

Harlem:
"Eyewitness Account of the GM Strike"
Speaker: Evelyn Atwood
103 West 110th St. Room 23 7:30 p.m.

Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalsky

We cursed when we saw the snow. At first it came quietly, a little white dust that sifted out of a gray, blank sky and powdered the yard, lightly covering the frozen ruts of brown-red mud around the rails and switches. It sifted quietly down into the empty cinder ladies and melted instantly when it touched their scalloped steel sides. It looked like very little, it seemed unimportant, this little scattering of light, powdery snow that whitened the ore-stained mud of the yards and melted in the ladies and on the furnace floors, but we cursed it with anger and gloom, for we knew it would come again and again and make life harder.

Afterwards it was not light and powdery, Great flakes tumbled and swirled out of the dark winter skies, and the dark winds screamed and howled at us in the night. With the dawn there came more snow careening down at us from the north, out across the Great Lakes, whipping down on the ragged wind, cutting our faces with the sear and slash of bitter cold, numbing our fingers, dragging at our breath. At noon, it was still there. Heavily it sank from the sky in the deathlike lulls between gusts of wind. The sun was dead, and high noon was dull and sick. We cursed the snow as it fell, for we knew from other winters that it is to work in a steel plant when the snow lies thick and heavy upon the ground.

We searched our lockers for last year's rags of ore-reddened, clay-stained, coke-blackened, worn wool and cotton. We bought caps with ear-flaps. We wrapped ourselves with every old sweater, vest, jacket, every discarded coat, with whitish lining bulging from the torn armpits, that we could produce, and yet the sweat in our undershirts would thicken into a jelly of cold that clung to our bodies and wrapped us in a tormenting covering of ice.

We plodded through the snow to our jobs, slipping on the ice-hardened ruts, the uneven,

gashed paths, plunging our heavy work shoes into wide puddles of brown water, wetting our socks, shivering . . . and cursing. The snow kept falling, sometimes dropping slowly, ponderously out of the gray winter sky, sometimes whirling horizontally through the cold air like a swirling, eddying haze that blocked our vision and muffled our hearing. Over at the side of the yard, we knew, was the trestle and near us the furnaces. But a looming blur, a rust-colored tower rising out of a battered shed and disappearing into the gray smoky haze was all that we could see.

At the end of our shift we plodded out of the locker room, stumbling and groping through the drifts, setting our faces toward the whipping wind, bending our heads in the gusts and blasts that tore at our throats, turning our steps past the open hearths and mills toward the gate and home. We cursed the snow and the wind and the winter. Only one little Spaniard walking with us did not seem angry with the fierce impotent anger that stirred us to curse the weather. "Ah," he said with a stoical shrug, "No weather good for the poor man."

We stopped for a moment in Emil's place. There it was warm and cheerful. Outside the feverish wind howled and moaned. Outside the snow drifted into new footprints, filling and covering them in a few moments. But there in Emil's place was a fat, black, old coal stove. Behind the brown, worn, wet bar were bottles of all shapes and colors shining at us, waiting for the clink of silver coins on the bar.

But that was just an oasis in the desert of snow, a warming place in the winter day. Outside the waiting wind howled for us, and out we went toward home.

But home, too, is a warming place. Black months of angry, cold, furious, lonely, despairing winter wait beyond the door, outside the thick-frosted windows, and life will be hard for the steelworker. So we curse the winter with cold, impotent rage. We curse the snow and the wind and the job.

But then, after all, "No weather good for the poor man!"

Notes Of A Seaman By Art Sharon

The pirates who at one time preyed on merchant shipping exacted their tribute with cut-throat and cannon. They were pikers compared to their modern descendants, the capitalist shipowners who conduct their operations in a far smoother manner. Instead of the "jolly roger" these modern pirates hoist the dollar sign, and under that flag succeed in draining millions in tribute from the public treasury in war and peace.

Witness the present outrageous attempt of the infamous Dollar interests to regain control of the American President Lines. Few of the greedy and parasitical shipping fraternity have a more flagrant record of outright looting of the public treasury than the Dollar family. The American President Lines, known for years as the Dollar Line, was taken over by the government in 1938 because of the scandalous diversion of funds, owing to the government, into the personal pockets of Dollar. For over seven years its ships have been operated by the Maritime Commission. Somewhat rehabilitated, the Line is being put up for sale.

But the pirate Dollar is not so easily defeated. Sailing savagely to the attack with a crew of high priced and equally greedy attorneys, this gang is now seeking by one lawsuit and another to regain control of property that was fraudulently obtained in the first place.

The old Dollar Line operated ships that it picked up for a song after the last war. These ships, through the connivance of the old U. S. Shipping Board, became the means of extracting juicy super profits. One of the Dollar enterprises was a firm known as the Pacific Light-erage Corporation. Although this firm had physical assets of only \$10,000, in a five year period, 1924-1929, it paid the Dollar family a cool million dollars in profit. Did piracy in the Caribbean ever pay higher dividends than this?

The golden stream that poured into the coffers of Dollar and the other parasites of the maritime industry never found its way into the

pockets of the men who sailed the ships or worked the cargo. It is a common story among seamen that when old man Dollar was informed that the sailors were on strike for decent wages and better conditions he cynically retorted, "Wages? All they need is a bottle of whiskey and a whore, that's all the wages they need!"

The stakes are now high. A tremendous fleet of merchant ships built with public money is the glittering prize that has whetted the appetites of the parasitical ship operators. By all the laws of capitalist accounting these operators are irresponsible bankrupts. Every authoritative report on the maritime industry confirms this with hard facts about the financial manipulations and scandalous operations that resulted in the notoriously run down pre-war merchant marine. But so sacred are the laws of capitalist "free enterprise" that these freebooters are once again being allowed to get their hands on the merchant ships. And once again they are preparing to get their grubby hands through government subsidies.

Nothing in the pre-war record and certainly nothing in their war record gives the ship operators any claim to a legitimate place in the operation of merchant ships today. The organization of the War Shipping Administration during the war and its operation of the ships showed how little confidence even the capitalist class and its state had in the ability of the private operators to serve the military needs of American imperialism. The private operators who acted as agents of the War Shipping Administration took on no more responsible tasks than routine bookkeeping. Their widely-advertised "know-how" came in only when the war profits melon had to be cut.

No, the existence of ship-operator pirates is an unnecessary luxury. The time has come for them to go. Only those who sail the ships have a legitimate right to run the maritime industry. Today more than ever the slogan of the Socialist Workers Party seamen points the way. "Stop the mismanagement of the ship-owner parasites! Let the men who man the ships control the industry!"

YOUNGSTOWN STEEL WORKERS GIRD FOR BITTER INDUSTRY-WIDE STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)
coal, etc., a commissary committee to arrange round-the-clock feeding of pickets; and a publicity committee which will publish a strike newspaper. A women's auxiliary is being formed. At the Ohio Works one is struck by the number of workers wearing saucer-sized buttons which proclaim that the wearer has contributed a dollar to the local's Food Fund Campaign. This campaign, inaugurated a week ago by Local 1330, is to build a special and separate fund for the purchase of food for the strike kitchen. It has been enthusiastically greeted by the union members as a proof of

their local's practical planning for the coming big strike. Local 1462, at the Brier Hill plant of Youngstown Sheet and Tube, a local with a very militant tradition, last night also set up strike committees on the Local 1330 model.

Local 2163, also Sheet and Tube, likewise laid similar strike plans last night, and voted that all men assigned to maintenance work in the plant during the strike would contribute 40 percent of their take-home pay to the local strike fund.

The Executive Committee of Republic Steel Local 2216 has strike plans well worked out and will present them to the membership this coming Thursday.

Republic Steel Local 1331, whose members will remember the bloody days of Girdlerism in the 1937 Little Steel strike, has made preparations to shut down production 100 percent. In addition to its other committees, a Rumor Committee has been established to track down and refute those vicious anti-labor rumors which the bosses spread during a strike. Local 1331's already existing Ladies' Auxiliary will feed the pickets during the strike. Strike meetings will be held daily and leaflets explaining developments will be issued.

WANT NO DELAY

A city-wide Veterans' Committee has been set up by the Mahoning Valley CIO Council. It is expected that these work-

ers, just out of uniform, will play a leading and inspiring role in the coming struggles.

Evidence of the Mahoning Valley steel workers' determination to wrest that \$2-a-day increase from the steel monarchs and of their solidarity with the GM strikers, was the resolution passed unanimously by Local 1330. It was resolved to inform the International Union that any postponement of the strike call would be injurious to the entire labor movement and especially to the GM workers who up to now have been carrying the whole load for the labor movement in this country.

The corporations are indicating that they are preparing, in the event of a strike, to demand entry for large numbers of office workers, supervisors and petty foremen. This would be the thin wedge for eventually breaking the picket lines.

However, not only are the steel workers completely opposed to entry by any but skeleton maintenance crews, but the office workers themselves at several plants, who are organized, vigorously oppose the idea of going through picket lines.

It is clear that the lines of a great battle in the class war are being drawn in this steel valley. The steel bosses and all their agents are getting ready, there is no doubt. But the steel workers are determined that there shall be no repetition of 1937.

Flint CIO Council Calls On UAW Board To 'Wash Its Hands' Of Company Security

By Jerry Kirk

(Special To The Militant)

FLINT, Mich., Jan. 5.—The Greater Flint CIO Council, representing 50,000 organized workers, tonight at its meeting unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the "company security" plan proposed to the Ford Motor Company by the CIO United Auto Workers negotiators.

The council, which includes UAW locals representing some 40,000 striking General Motors workers, called on the UAW International Executive Board to "wash its hands" of any proposition to permit the firing or firing of union militants for so-called "unauthorized" strikes.

In addition, the resolution instructed the Flint Weekly Review, official organ of the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council, "to prominently and conspicuously in its columns and editorials begin an educational campaign about the dangers and harmful effects to the labor movement that can ensue from adoption of company security clauses in union contracts and agreements." Copies of the resolution are to be released to the press and radio and to be sent to all locals of the Greater Flint CIO to be read to the memberships.

GM STRIKE FRONT

On the General Motors strike front, with the office and supervisory employees being permitted to enter the Flint GM plants, the four UAW locals involved have started a campaign to organize the office workers. This is a continuation of the work started by some of the locals months ago.

Chevrolet local, which has been in the forefront of this organizing campaign, has appointed a committee to direct the activity of the local in organizing the clerical help in Chevrolet. This past week several handbills were distributed explaining the benefits of union organization.

The other locals, Fisher Body, Buick and AC Spark Plug, have taken up this issue and are instituting similar campaigns to remove threat of office workers being used by the corporation management against the striking workers.

"FACT FINDING"

As the GM strike enters the seventh week the UAW members here are watching carefully for the forthcoming announcement by Truman's fact-finding committee. After a round of the picket lines, it is clear that these men do not intend to permit anyone to sell them short in their demand for a 30 percent increase in wages.

Their thoughts are best summed up by the comments of the men at Chevrolet Plant four who are the veterans of the

37 sitdowns and the battle of "Bulls Run." The morning after Truman's address to the nation, they stated: "It was a fine speech but we can't see where he said anything that you could sink your teeth into, when all he needed to say was that we rate a 30 per cent wage increase. We didn't hear him say anything like that."

At the Buick Plant Forty gate the pickets commented on the speech in this way: "When you boil it all down he is trying to give us a Full Employment bill which isn't worth the paper it is written on and in return we are supposed to accept a fact-finding committee. We still can't see where the fact-finding committees will do us any good."

"COMPANY SECURITY"

That the pickets are anxiously awaiting the report of the Fact-Finding Committee is apparent by the way the discussion continually drifts back to what they may possibly suggest for a settlement. At all gates and almost without exception, the men are agreed that they will not accept any wage increase that has tied to it, corporation security clauses or production speedup clauses. The Plant Ten men of Chevrolet stated emphatically, "We have been on strike for over six weeks and we may as well stay out until we get what we want."

General Motors will have a difficult time trying to convince these union men to accept corporation security or speedup clauses. Almost all of them remember the speedup and they would much rather reject any wage increase than to return to slave-driving supervisors and speedups in the departments. None of the local union officials have indicated any support for this proposal. They are consciously aware that a terrific explosion would take place against this proposition and against them if they dared to accept it.

The striking militants in their constant discussions on the picket lines are beginning to realize that the speedup clause is tied up in every way with corporation security. When the pickets learned from the columns of The Militant that the Press Steel Unit of Ford Local 600 had rejected the Leonard proposal to fine and fire union men, they exclaimed: "Well, it's about time they woke up at Ford's!"

Veterans Shipped Like Cattle In Crowded, Unheated Cars

By Winifred Nelson

(Special To The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 20.—Wearing whiskers because water on the troop trains they rode in was frozen and they could not shave, 765 naval enlisted men paused here en route from Seattle to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station for discharge. They protested bitterly against travelling in unheated coaches in freezing temperatures.

The troops, ex-combat sailors from the South Pacific, declared that only part of the time were lights available, and that sanitation was bad due to unworkable toilet conditions. Travelling through Montana, the cold was so intense that men burned "canned heat" to keep warm.

Backing up protests of the enlisted men was the troop train commander, Lt. (jg) Robert Oates, who stated that the last three coaches of the 17-car train had no heat during the entire trip, causing the sailors aboard to threaten mutiny. He revealed that one man was removed from the train suffering with pneumonia and added, "The train was unfit for travel."

Typical remarks of the discouraged sailors were: "I've been around a lot but this is the worst I've ever had to take. It doesn't make a very good welcome home."

"There's been a cold wind whistling down this car ever since we left Seattle. I've got a cold and feel sick and tired of the whole thing."

"So many of the guys have got the sniffles that there isn't even an APC pill left."

Servicemen arriving on other troop trains have made like

NEGROES in the POST-WAR WORLD
By ALBERT PARKER
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PIONEER PUBLISHERS
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On To The Picket Lines!



Western Electric workers in Kearny, N. J., pouring out of plant at strike deadline on January 3 to establish militant picket lines, as 21 plants of the big electrical trust in the New York-New Jersey area were shut down tight.

Western Electric Strikers Halt Attempt To Smash Picket Lines

(Continued from Page 1)
ees reported, over 1,000 company men in a surprise move attempted to storm the main gate to the big Kearny plant here.

Although heavily outnumbered, the battling pickets repulsed this attack, and only 14 company men managed to break through the line. The union immediately planned for mass picketing tomorrow to thwart further company strike breaking.

A CRUDE HOAX

Having initiated this violence against peaceful picket lines, the company, a few hours later, resorted to a crude hoax. Five taxis were brought to the main gate and the company demanded the right to drive them in to pick up "injured" men and take them to the "hospital." The real injuries were sustained by several pickets, who were slugged with brass knuckles.

Union officials decided to let the cabs in, but once they were loaded, pickets stopped them at the gate and Frank J. Fitzsimmons, WEEA president, opened each cab door and examined the occupants. As far as could be determined by press representatives, no company man suffered a serious injury. This crude attempt to blame the union for violence immediately backfired into the company's face.

Charles K. Pomeroy, Union Publicity Director told this reporter: "Evidently Western Electric is competing with Yale & Towne for national No. 1 strike-breakers' prize. But they won't be any more successful than their competitor in busting this strike."

GOVERNMENT AIDS TRUST

The government has already twice come to the aid of the company. Yesterday, two hours after the opening of the strike, a telegram was received from Labor Secretary Schwelmbach requesting postponement of the strike. The telegram had been sent to the wrong address! The workers immediately felt that if Schwelmbach had not even bothered to get the correct union address, he certainly is not interested in the clear merits of their just demands.

Then, immediately after the company had tried a direct storming of the picket lines, the government attempted a flank attack. The union committee was requested to meet with Captain Charles Donnellan of the Navy Contract Termination Division, who presented a Navy proposal to let all workers engaged in removing government material and equipment return to work. Since over 1,000 workers are involved, this constitutes a clear Navy attempt to undermine the strike.

The union's Board agreed to permit authorized Navy personnel to enter the plant, but decisively rejected the request to permit entry to 956 workers.

VETS BACK STRIKE

After months of futile negotiations with the arrogant Western Electric trust, the workers know they are in for a long hard fight. Feeling ran high when the report came in that at the Passaic plant, Arthur Auerbach, a returned veteran on the picket line, was knocked down by police, kicked, and had to be hospitalized.

The veterans are extremely active in the strike. A. C. Pesca-

rank-and-file is dramatically conveyed by Tommy Krasnolutsky, who lost a leg above the knee. He does his full share of picketing on the main gate at Kearny and was knocked down in this morning's fight. "I'm going to be on the line every day because it's fellows like me," he said, glancing at his crutch, "who know what the union means, how it fights for you, and how you must fight for the union."

FIGHTING SPIRIT

The active role of the women employees was emphasized by Ludy Palladino, who came into the main union office to secure additional picket signs for the Clifton, N. J., strikers. "We're out 100 per cent in Clifton, as everywhere else," she said. "The girls are very active up there. Many left the plant and immediately hit the picket line and have signed up for regular picket duty."

The fighting spirit of the

While the WEEA workers prepared a mass picket line to stop tomorrow's company attack, they were cheered by the news that phone operators in Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va., staged a one-hour sympathy strike. Commenting on this action, President Fitzsimmons declared: "It looks like the beginning of a sympathy move throughout the telephone industry." With such support in the office, the WEEA workers are determined to fight the company to a finish.

Unity Is Pledged In Packing Strike

(Continued from Page 1)
statement continued, is not sufficient to "permit them and their families to live in decency and comfort."

"We cannot underestimate the terrific obligation that our international union owes the men and women in our industry," continued the AFL statement. "We will not at such a critical time permit a condition to arise . . . where half the workers in the industry would be on strike and the other half would continue their employment, especially when there evidently is no hope at present of the packers offering us more than 7 1/2 cents per hour, which is their bid for peace."

The AFL union has called a meeting of delegates for January 11 in Chicago to take final action on the recommendation of their officials that they join the CIO walk-out. AFL support of the strike will probably mean a 100 per cent shut down of the packing industry.

HAIL SOLIDARITY

Officials of the UPWA-CIO stated, "We appreciate the fact that the Amalgamated Meat Cutters are willing to support us in our fight for a living wage. It is only through the economic solidarity of the working people that we can better our position."

This strike will be the climax of more than two months of fruitless negotiations with the barons of the packing industry, men who have coined millions in profits from the sweat and

toil of the workers. Prices have soared close to 50 per cent in the last three years. But hourly wage rates have been frozen and the work week is now being reduced to 40 hours and less, with overtime eliminated. The workers are determined to take militant action to bring take-home pay in line with the cost of living.

This determination on the part of the workers was demonstrated by their overwhelming vote for strike. The vote was 20 to 1 for strike throughout the country, and in the Chicago district it was 24 to 1.

According to the UPWA, the packinghouse workers are among the lowest paid industrial workers in America, with average hourly wage rates at 87 cents. Two-thirds of these workers receive less than 87 cents an hour and half of them receive less than 80 cents. Wage levels in the packing industry are, low compared to the high profits prevailing in the industry, as well as compared to wages paid in other mass industry.

Common labor rates, basic to the entire wage structure, start with 77 1/2 cents an hour for men on the West Coast and go as low as 46 1/2 cents for women in Georgia. Rates in the Big Four plants in the south are all below 65 cents an hour for men. The work load per job in the southern plants is the same as in the northern plants.

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