

MINE STRIKE SHOWS URGENT NEED FOR UNITED ACTION OF ALL LABOR

Murray Urges Joint Labor Parley

Calls On All Union Leaders To Resist Anti-Labor Drive

In response to Truman's threat to send Congress "the strongest message he knows how to prepare" demanding anti-labor legislation, CIO President Philip Murray has called for "united action" by the AFL, the CIO and the railway unions.

Truman in a press conference Dec. 3, bared his anti-labor legislative aims as the government drove to smash the mine strike. He said he will demand revision of the Wagner Labor Relations Act. He hopes particularly to end the closed shop. He will demand passage of vicious legislation like the Case bill to put labor in a strait-jacket.

Knowing the Republican-dominated House and Senate plans



MURRAY

to cripple the labor movement with repressive legislation, Truman said he hopes to "steal the march" and "beat the Republicans to the punch."

Three days after Truman's announcement, Murray declared in a letter to other labor leaders that "it has become self evident that there is a deliberate and monstrous movement underway to cripple, if not destroy, the labor movement of this country."

"Since V-J Day the large industrial combines," Murray continued, "together with their representatives in Congress, have directed an unabated attack against organized labor." They have used "vicious propaganda" to "place the blame for the resulting hardships" of inflation "at the door of the American workers."

Murray cited the record of the 79th Congress which "under the dictatorship of a reactionary coalition, refused to enact any legislation designed to improve the economic well-being of the American people, such as broadening and extending the mini-

mum wage law, providing an adequate housing program for veterans and others, extending the social security law" and so on.

The election results have "obviously encouraged" the "predatory interests" to "deepen their attack upon organized labor," Murray said.

"The stage is set for the 80th Congress to be met by national hysteria, deliberately fomented and inspired. In essence, the attempt is to divert the attention of the American people from those interests which are actually causing national hardships for the common people through inflation."

REAL ROOTS

"The real roots of our present difficulties," Murray continued, are "the fantastic profits of American industry today."

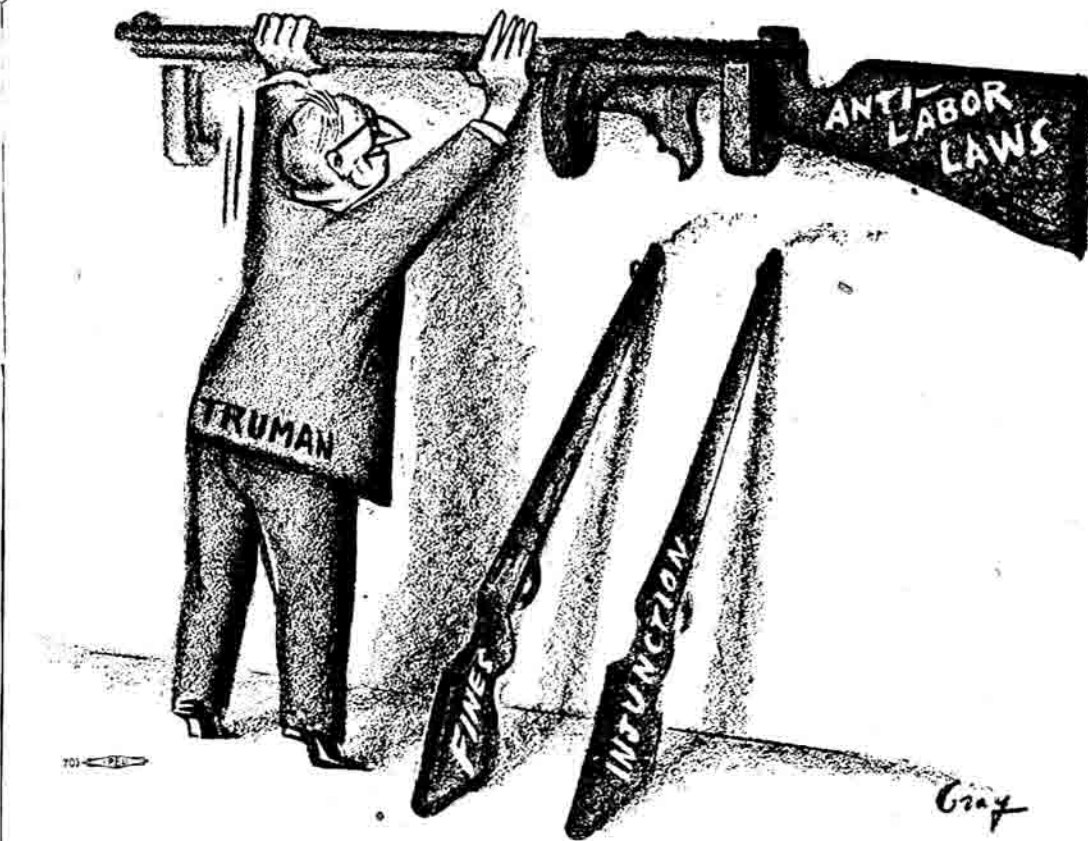
"All the social, economic and legislative gains of the past decade are in dire danger," Murray declared. "The recent court injunction against the United Mine Workers of America and the vengeful fine imposed is but the first step."

Murray called for the leaders of the three national labor organizations to "meet as quickly as possible for the purpose of devising in unity a common program of economic and legislative measures."

The importance of Murray's call is obvious. In the face of mounting reaction, the workers must combine their forces. They must begin organizing seriously to get labor's own representatives into Congress and break the political monopoly of Big Business. The Militant has urged a conference of labor since 1943 to take up these burning problems.

Today the sentiment for uniting the labor movement for more effective struggle is sweeping the unions. Even bureaucrats like Murray who profit from union divisions and duplications and who fear independent political action are now forced to recognize this militant mood of the ranks.

Every unionist must push for practical steps to carry out Murray's proposal for a labor conference. The anti-labor drive of Big Business can be stemmed only by prompt action.



Oakland General Strike Halts Cop Scab-Herding

By Robert Chester
(Special to The Militant)

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 5 — The tremendous power in action of the working class, shown here since early Tuesday morning in a mighty general strike of more than 100,000 AFL workers, today forced the strikebreaking city administration to agree to the conditions demanded by the union steering committee.

This 34-hour demonstration of labor's fighting strength ended at 11 a.m. today after City Manager Hassler accepted union terms that "the city government of Oakland officially state they will not in the future use the police department as escorts to guard professional strike-breakers in and out of the city of Oakland for the purpose of breaking legal strikes; that they refrain from taking sides in any issue between labor and management and that they strictly confine themselves to their duties as prescribed by law."

Militant pickets this afternoon still swarmed around the entrances of Kahns and Hastings, the two strike-bound department stores where the use of police last Sunday to escort strikebreaker-driven merchandise trucks had set off the explosive force of the general strike. The month-old strike

over recognition of the AFL Department Store Clerks at the two stores continues while arbitration is being discussed.

Al Brown, president of the AFL Central Labor Council, today stated that "the steering committee recommended calling off the general strike because we had accomplished our purpose, a protest against use of police in protecting strike-breakers."

CLOSED DOWN

"The labor holiday" of all AFL unions threw business and industry here into a state of suspended animation. Street cars, buses and trains stopped running; restaurants, department stores and retail shops closed. Workers proudly displaying union buttons responded to the "holiday" call on Tuesday by invading the downtown streets and converging on the two struck stores.

Tightly packed circles of pickets, white and colored, sealed off every entrance to both stores while thousands of sympathetic unionists flooded the streets, ebbing and flowing through the whole area, ready to give aid at a moment's notice to the pickets.

The "holiday" was called in support of AFL Department and Specialty Store Clerks Local 1265 which has been fighting a drawn-out battle to organize the clerks. The store owners, organized into the Retail Merchants Association, have stubbornly refused to bargain with the union which claims the majority of the employees in the two stores. They demand that the union obtain a majority in all the stores in the association before they enter negotiations.

After several attempts to negotiate failed, the union filed a request for an NLRB election, and struck on Oct. 31. AFL workmen ceased all repair work at Kahns, while the teamsters stopped hauling merchandise and supplies to both stores.

Last Saturday, Nov. 30, the unions received word that plans were afoot to bring in scabs to work merchandise. James Marshall, president of Teamsters Local 70, claimed that "Chief of

Police Robert Tracy promised us that no plan to bring in scabs was being considered."

However, early Sunday morning, 250 policemen began to move into the streets around the stores blocking all approaches. All pickets and cars were ordered to leave. Cars, whose drivers were not found, were towed away.

Then, under escort of 12 radio cars and 15 motor-cycles, six trucks belonging to a "Veterans Trucking Line Inc." crashed picket lines established before the police lines and unloaded.

(Continued on Page 2)

General Strike Set In Detroit To Aid Miners

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Dec. 7 — News of the ending of the mine strike came this afternoon as Detroit labor awaited the call for a city-wide 24-hour general strike in support of the miners.

Frank X. Martell, president of the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, AFL, yesterday announced that a committee of 100 AFL local union presidents would meet within 48 hours to make plans and set the date for a general strike.

"We will solicit the cooperation of every trade union in the city," Martell said. "Plans are now under way to involve every AFL local and we invite the cooperation of all independent unions and the CIO as well."

Had the mine strike continued, there would have been every likelihood that the CIO auto workers, 250,000 strong here, would have responded to a man to a call for a 24-hour general strike.

It is reported that the International Executive Board of the CIO United Automobile Workers, scheduled to meet this coming Monday in New York City, had placed as the first point on the agenda the question of action to aid the miners, including a Detroit general strike.

SWP's Proposal To Defend Miners

The day after the decision of the federal court to fine the miners and Lewis \$3,510,000, James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, issued a statement urging the leaders of all unions "to demonstrate the labor movement's fullest support and sympathy with the embattled miners by calling a nation-wide 24-Hour General Protest Strike."

"Only such an action," said Cannon, "will give pause to the Big Business - government conspirators who have launched the attack on the miners as part of a scheme to crush the labor movement."

Lewis Retreat Due To Failure Of Old Methods

By Art Preis

Bowing before the fiercest strike-breaking assault ever unleashed by the capitalist government, John L. Lewis last Saturday abruptly ordered the 400,000 striking coal miners back to work until March 31, 1947 without any gains.

The union faced the threat of Supreme Court action to uphold the monstrous \$3,510,000 fine levied against the AFL United Mine Workers and Lewis for "contempt of court."

Lewis ended the strike claiming that he wanted the Supreme Court, Wall Street's highest judicial agency, to be "free from public pressure superinduced by the hysteria and frenzy of an economic crisis."

Thus, in spite of the courage and militancy he had shown up to this point, Lewis retreated. This retreat came as the elements for victory were developing with express-train speed.

The miners themselves stood solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. The government's legal blows had not intimidated them, but roused them to greater fighting fury.

The militant ranks of the 15,000,000 organized workers were just beginning to move in defense of the miners and against the government's savage anti-labor drive.

Under intense pressure from the ranks, CIO President Philip Murray had appealed to all labor leaders for a joint conference to map a program of united action. Word had gone out in Detroit — industrial heart of America — for a giant general 24-hour protest strike. By the hundreds, local unions of every affiliation were announcing their desire to take action in support of the miners.

Everything pointed toward a showdown battle between the mighty American working class and the tiny clique of the American plutocracy and its government. In such a struggle, the odds favored labor.

Why did Lewis yield? Was it because organized labor is weak, incapable of beating back the capitalist government's attacks? The answer is an emphatic "No!"

The weakness lay in the limitations of Lewis
(Continued on Page 2)

SWP Opens National Drive For \$20,000 Party Fund

Members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party are swinging into action this week to raise \$20,000 within a three-month period to sustain the activities of the organization and speed its transformation into a party of mass action.

Delegates to the Twelfth National Convention of the SWP held in Chicago from Nov. 13 to Nov. 18 unanimously decided to launch this \$20,000 Emergency Fund as a demonstration of their confidence in the ability of the party to head the fight for emancipation from capitalist rule in the United States.

The resolution on the prospects of the socialist revolution in this country adopted by the convention set forth the grounds for unshakable optimism regarding the revolutionary future of the American working class and its vanguard party. The resolution explained why American capitalism was confronted by an-

other colossal crisis which would inevitably impel the advanced workers to organize themselves into an independent political power, just as the crisis of the Thirties led to the creation of a militant trade union movement 15,000,000 strong.

To prepare itself today for leadership in these coming struggles, the Socialist Workers Party needs immediate financial assistance. The seriousness of the situation was emphasized by Farrell Dobbs in his report to the Convention on the organizational work of the SWP.

The considerable progress being made in party recruitment, in circulation of its press, in trade union influence, in the Negro struggle and many other branches of activity showed, he pointed out, how favorable are the opportunities for building a mass working class party in the stronghold of world capitalism. The convention itself, largest in

the 18 years of American Trotskyism, attended by militants of the major unions from coast to coast, reflected the party's success in winning the best workers to its program.

Together with these workers in its ranks, the SWP has been extremely hard-hit by the inflation. Printing costs, for example, have more than doubled in the past year and further price increases are on the way. These skyrocketing prices have already forced the reduction of The Militant from eight to six pages.

The Socialist Workers Party is calling upon all its members and sympathizers to help it meet the present financial emergency by contributing as much as they can afford to this special \$20,000 Fund.

The need is urgent. The response should be swift.

For further details see Page 5.

The Need Of The Hour

An Editorial

The need for a national conference of all labor unions, as proposed by CIO President Philip Murray the day before the mine strike ended, is now more urgent than ever.

American capitalism has just drawn blood. Successful use of the courts to beat back the miners has emboldened Big Business to press its advantage. It is mobilizing to make the kill against labor when Congress reconvenes.

Rights won by decades of bitter struggle are menaced. Democrats and Republicans are vying to put over brutal laws against labor. Truman threatens to "beat the Republicans to the punch."

The developments of the mine strike have confirmed to the letter what The Militant has pointed out in every issue: It is no longer possible to win any major labor battle in the old way.

No matter where, or over what issue, any labor struggle begins today, it quickly broadens into a struggle against the whole government acting as the executive committee of the entire capitalist class.

Against a united capitalist class armed with every weapon of government rule and repression, a divided labor movement cannot win. Against the political monopoly of Wall Street, a labor movement lacking any independent political weapon of its own—a labor party—is helpless.

The sentiment for united labor action has begun to sweep the ranks of organized labor. In every struggle, the workers show their tremendous desire to join forces, regardless of union affiliation, and wage a common fight. That was seen in the Oakland General Strike last week. It was shown in the preparations by the local AFL in De-

troit to call a city-wide general strike to aid the miners.

Pressure of the ranks for united action is what forced Murray to call for a conference of the leaders of all unions to map joint action to combat the anti-labor offensive of Big Business and its government.

Along this road alone lies the correct answer to the burning question: What shall labor do now?

Labor has the numbers, the resources to defeat the power-drunk capitalists and their political hirelings. All that is needed is to mobilize these numbers and resources behind a program of united action.

The greatest obstacle to the scheme of the Congressional labor-haters to push through new anti-labor laws would be a tremendous National Conference of Labor that would convene right in Washington, D. C., simultaneously with the reconvening of Congress.

There, on the very door-step of Congress, rank and file representatives of every union local in the land should meet and draft a program that will inspire and mobilize the whole labor movement into concerted action to defeat Wall Street's anti-labor drive.

True enough, Murray's conception of such a conference is a back-room parley of a handful of top labor leaders. But the conference that is needed must be a broad representative body drawn from the fighting ranks.

Such a conference can be realized. The top labor leaders can be forced to act, if the initiative is taken by the local militants in every community. Call united labor conferences everywhere on a local scale! Demand the convening of a national conference! Act—act determinedly—act now!

Mine Strike Shows Need For United Labor Action; Lewis's Retreat Reveals Weakness Of Old Methods

(Continued from Page 1)
himself as a representative of the old-line union leaders. Lewis is unquestionably the most capable, courageous and aggressive of the traditional union leadership. But he lacked appreciation of the true scope of the struggle, the real issues involved and the means to victory. When he had exhausted all his maneuvers on top with the government, when he had tried all the old methods of union struggle, he was through. He never even consulted the miners when he called off the strike.

This was not just another mine strike. It was the beginning of a new stage in a great social struggle that has been unfolding between American labor and capital since the end of the war.

WALL ST. UNDERSTOOD

Big Business understood the real implications of a miners' victory. It would have inspired vast sections of labor for a powerful drive for new wage and social gains. Wall Street was determined to crush the miners and use their defeat as a springboard for a tremendous assault on the whole labor movement.

Success for the miners could have come only by extending and broadening their immediate struggle. It meant drawing millions directly into battle, widening the arena of combat, raising far-reaching demands that would have inspired the whole American working class.

But this is what the old-line conservative union leaders of the type like Green and Murray, and even Lewis, fear most. They can't lead any great social battles. They don't want to risk their bureaucratic privileges and narrow organizational interests in a show-down with the capitalist rulers and their government.

The workers, however, are ready to unite and fight. Every day inflation slashes deeper and deeper into their standard of living. They feel the growing arrogance of the employers, the pressure for speed-up. They want united labor action.

OAKLAND EXAMPLE

Just last week in Oakland we saw the temper and mood of the workers. Their great general strike was not approved by the top AFL leaders. They fought in spite of and against such leaders as Tobin and Beck of the

Bell Local Urges Political Answer

BUFFALO, Dec. 6—Demonstrating the sentiment among union militants here for a powerful political answer to the government's attack on the miners, the Executive Board of CIO United Auto Workers Bell Local 501 today issued a statement urging the formation of a national labor party.

The statement also said that "we nominate John L. Lewis as our candidate for President of the United States in 1948 on this proposed Labor Party ticket."

This statement was in response to Wednesday's announcement of the government's huge fine against the miners.

AFL Teamsters.

In Detroit, it was the local AFL leaders who called for a 24-hour general strike in cooperation with the CIO. But neither William Green nor Lewis lifted a finger to rally the 7,000,000 members of the AFL. They sought only a top deal with the government and hoped for a miracle.

When the miracle did not appear, Lewis retreated before the jackal cries of the boss press, the hysteria, the legalities of the capitalist courts and injunctions, the pressure of a tiny minority. This pressure was great because the capitalist class entered the struggle united. It mobilized all its resources and fought without compromise.

WORKERS POWER

But the resources of the workers are far greater. They have the power of vast numbers. It is the workers who make the wheels of society run. No power on earth can defeat them once they are united in militant action.

Labor has received a setback. The capitalists and their government agents are emboldened to take advantage of this setback. They will try to meet every future struggle with the same methods employed against the miners. They have tasted blood—and it has whetted their appetites. They think they have the answer on how to crush labor.

In reality, the labor movement is still as strong as ever. Its organizations are intact. It has

all the experiences of past struggles. Its ranks are hardened and seasoned. The workers are still eager for struggles on a broad, united basis. Their needs are growing daily and hourly; their conditions worsen. The show-down has merely been postponed. The great test of class strength is yet to be made.

It is necessary only that labor rearm itself—above all, to understand what happened and why it happened.

IMPERATIVE NEED

The workers must see the full implications of every important union battle today. These battles involve not merely individual corporations or even industries. The workers are confronted by a united capitalist class and all its government agencies, legislative, administrative and judicial.

More powerful weapons are needed to beat back the concentrated power of the employing class. The whole weight and dynamic power of the labor movement is required.

This is all the more imperative today as inflation rips the workers' living standards to shreds.

Now, more than ever, the immediate need of the hour is the convening of a National Conference of Labor, with broadest representation from the union ranks of every affiliation. Labor must be mobilized and unified behind a program of fighting action.

A program must be adopted for a new broader wage struggle to defend living standards against the skyrocketing cost of living. A National Conference of Labor should advance, as the most effective immediate answer to the consequences of inflation, the sliding scale of wages. All unions should demand an escalator clause in every contract, providing for automatic wage increases with every rise in living costs.

The National Conference of Labor should create the machinery to throw the whole labor movement into action at a moment's notice behind every union's fight for better wages and conditions.

At the same time, the National Conference of Labor should unify the workers' struggle on the decisive political arena. This is made all the more imperative as Congress prepares to pass laws depriving labor of its basic rights.

What the government's strike-

breaking has taught above all else is the need for an independent labor party that will serve as the most powerful weapon of the working class against the political machines and agents of Wall Street.

UP TO RANKS

The need of the hour is a unified labor struggle on the

whole economic and political front. But the workers must not wait for the top union leaders to take the initiative. These leaders will not move unless forced by the ranks.

It is up to the militant ranks and progressive local leaders to act now. The movement for a National Conference of Labor must be built from below. It

must take shape in local conferences in every community. These conferences will organize united labor action on a local scale, while pressuring the top union leaders for similar action nationally.

In this way, the lesson of the mine strike will be turned into weapons for victory in the very next stage of the struggle.

Oakland General Strike Wins Victory



This is just one of the huge demonstrations which tied up the city of Oakland, Calif., during a two-day general strike, forcing the city administration to agree not to use police to smash picket lines. The general strike was called by the AFL after cops crashed into picket lines of striking department store workers. Federated pictures.

Oakland General Strike Forces Agreement To End Scab-Herding

(Continued from Page 1)

The trucks then returned to a Berkeley warehouse, refilled and once again crashed picket lines to unload.

The Teamsters' union charged the "Veterans Trucking Line Inc." with being a professional strikebreaking outfit, imported from Los Angeles. An RMA spokesman admitted that the trucking firm was "not a regular strikebreaking outfit, but does move merchandise in cases of jurisdictional or organizational disputes."

News of this provocation spread immediately. Street car and bus drivers entering the "hot triangle" area left their vehicles and joined the pickets. Transportation in the downtown area was tied up for five hours.

AFL officials of the clerks, teamster and carmen's unions who had been active in the picket lines retired to the Labor Temple for a strategy meeting. The call for an AFL "labor holiday" resulted.

On Tuesday, over 100,000 workers downed tools. Many who were not notified in time walked off the jobs at the appearance of a single picket. Restaurant workers walked out during the morning. All eating

Akron Labor Rallies Support To Mine Union

(Special to The Militant)

AKRON, O., Dec. 4—True to its militant tradition, the Akron labor movement has issued clear-cut declarations of solidarity with the embattled miners.

The CIO Council here, at its meeting on Nov. 25, denounced the government's injunction attack on John L. Lewis and the AFL United Mine Workers.

Speaking for tens of thousands of rubber and other industrial workers, the CIO Council addressed a message to the UMW pledging any form of aid the miners might need.

President I. H. Watson, of Firestone Local 7, United Rubber Workers, made a stirring speech on behalf of the miners. Explaining that "support of the miners' struggle does not mean that we endorse the personal record and policies of John L. Lewis," Watson urged CIO action to aid the miners "because the outcome of the mine strike will affect the future of the entire American labor movement."

Goodrich Rubber Local 5, at its Dec. 1 regular meeting, adopted unanimously a resolution attacking the government's strikebreaking and offering full support to the miners. The resolution was introduced by the local's Executive Board.

These resolutions only mildly reflect the forceful expressions of solidarity with the coal diggers heard on every hand in the rubber shops. "Let's find a way to put Truman and Krue in the clinic" and "If they put Lewis in jail, we'll shut the whole country down tight as a drum" were typical comments in the plants.

The Democracy Of Andrew Jackson

What is the truth about Andrew Jackson's role in history? In school-books and the capitalist press he is called "the great democrat." But he was the slaveholder's president, as Harry Frankel explains in the December issue of Fourth International:

"The ten-hour day for workers, extension of the vote to the proletariat, attacks upon the factory system and other such agitations, typical of the Jackson period, represented no direct economic threat to the planters. But during that very same time barbarous slave legislation multiplied . . ."

Single copies 25c, yearly subscription \$2; order from Business Manager, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.

establishments were closed by noon. Hotel residents found themselves forced to clean their own rooms and make their own beds.

Picket cars cruising roads entering Alameda County halted all trucking. No buses or street cars operated. Instead the uniformed drivers and conductors joined the picket lines. Only banks and some offices remained open, but they did almost no business.

The four newspapers in the county were shut tight, a token picket or two being sufficient to stop the presses. James F. Galliano, counsel for the Central Labor Council stated "We refuse to give any information to the newspapers until they give us a commitment in writing that they will publish our releases when and as given, which they have not done in the past regarding Kahn's and Hastings' strikes."

Full support was pledged by the Alameda CIO Council which charged that the city government played a strikebreaking role. Paul Schlipf, CIO Council secretary, stated: "The main issue in the strike is whether the police powers of the local, state and national administrations shall be utilized on the side of anti-labor business interests to smash the efforts of the working people to orga-

nize . . ."

While CIO members went to work, they stayed out of every building that had a picket before it.

That night an enthusiastic overflow mass meeting of 20,000 at the Civic Auditorium heard AFL leaders condemn the actions of the employers, police and city officials. Great crowds gathered outside in the cold rain to listen to the proceedings over the public address system.

Every condemnation of the strikebreaking actions of the city government brought a roar of approval. The greatest response came when the police and administration were referred to as "super finks." Union officials repeated the theme that "this is a fight to the finish." The meeting decided that the strike would go on.

At the crucial juncture yesterday, AFL Teamsters President Daniel Tobin and Dave Beck, west coast vice president of the Teamsters, intervened as outright strikebreakers by issuing a back-to-work ultimatum to the local truckdrivers. Beck, who sent the order in the name of himself and Tobin shrieked in the press: "I don't care what anybody says. I say arbitration. I say this damn general strike is nothing but a revolution. It isn't labor tactics. It's revolutionary tactics."

The local truckdrivers treated this order with the contempt it deserved. They ignored it. One local Teamsters official indignantly stated: "If Beck wants to enforce the order, he will have to come down from Seattle himself—and then I doubt if he could do it."

The magnificent solidarity of labor triumphed. After an all-night session between Hassler and the strike strategy committee, the agreement not to use police to escort strikebreakers and for the city officials to remain neutral in labor disputes was announced this morning.

This afternoon, while hundreds of jeering pickets looked on and pressed against police lines, a group of scared and bedraggled-looking scabs who had been holed up all night in Hahn's were sneaked through police lines into the nearby City Hall, from which several hours later they left in inconspicuous groups of twos and threes.

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 _____
STREET _____
CITY _____
POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____

TRADE UNION NOTES

When word came that the federal government is trying to squeeze a fine of \$3,500,000 from the AFL United Mine Workers, a number of UMW locals in Pennsylvania and West Virginia promptly sent their international union signed blank checks, with attached statements of local assets. The heroic miners are ready to sacrifice everything to preserve their union.

The members of United Mine Workers Local 1772, Grand Junction, Colorado, on Dec. 1 ousted Joe Allen, the local's president, after he urged them to return to work and support the strikebreaking government.

CIO Oil Workers International Union has published a new pamphlet, *The Oil Workers' Case for Wage Adjustments*. This pamphlet shows oil workers' real wages are down 20 per cent in a year and profits of the industry at an all-time peak. Over-all labor costs amount to only 10 per cent of total production costs.

The OWIU recently won an 18-cent an hour wage increase from the big Sinclair Oil Co. This contract also contains an escalator clause that provides an automatic wage increase every three months for every three point rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics cost-of-living index.

Another significant sign of the times is the growing union militancy of so-called white collar workers. There is a wave of strikes spreading throughout the country involving teachers, newspaper editorial workers, bank employees, etc.

As a result of the magnificent teachers' strike in St. Paul, the AFL teachers in the other Twin City, Minneapolis, are reported to have secured substantial salary increases for 1947 and 1948 without resort to strike action.

Just in the past week, there have been several reports of threatened and actual teachers' strikes. Teachers at 42 schools in Newcastle County, Delaware, have proposed strike for Feb. 1 and have advocated similar action by all Delaware teachers. Pawtucket, R. I., teachers have voted to walk out on Dec. 9 if their pay demands are not met. New York City's thousands of school teachers are beginning to talk tough. And Coal Township's 94 teachers, in the Shamokin, Pa., hard-coal area, walked out on Dec. 2. They've learned something from the miners.

A bitter 12-week strike by the CIO American Newspaper Guild against the Hearst-owned Los Angeles Evening Herald-Express was ended last week with a 14 per cent wage boost, and provisions for further negotiations. Meanwhile, the fierce strike of the Guild against the "liberal" Philadelphia Record and Camden, (N. J.) Courier-Post, owned by J. David Stern, continues. Police have been assaulting the picket line just like in any strike of industrial workers.

13,000 Pickets Demonstrate In Strike At Allis-Chalmers

By Bill Crane
(Special to The Militant)

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 4—More than 13,000 pickets and 8,000 onlookers demonstrated their solidarity with the striking Allis-Chalmers workers today in picket lines that completely sealed up the many entrances of the vast plant.

The workers came from as far as Kenosha, CIO United Auto Workers officials estimate 2,000 Nash workers came from there to join the picket line.

Police brutally assaulted 16 arrested pickets. In melee that broke out two cops were injured.

The demonstration, comparable to the record rally of Nov. 25, marked the 20th day of the strike.

R. J. Thomas, UAW-CIO international vice-president, declared: "After what I saw this afternoon I am sure Allis-Chalmers will never break the strike, and will have to sit down and bargain across the table."

Main demands are union security, a 25 cent wage increase and grievance procedure (the company wants grievances to be presented to the foreman first and the union to pay for all time lost by stewards).

The CIO Committee set up to aid the Allis-Chalmers strikers has pledged continued mass picket demonstrations.

These demonstrations are, in part, a smashing answer to the company's attempts to disrupt the strike and destroy the union by vicious red-baiting.

MILWAUKEE
Holiday Bazaar
For
European Workers
Relief
Sunday, Dec. 29
Workmen's
Circle Center
2479 N. 15 St. 8:30 p.m.

Penn 4-City Bazaar
Saturday Evening, Dec. 14
Militant Labor Forum
1303 W. Girard Ave. Philadelphia
Entire proceeds for American Committee for European Workers Relief.
Cooperating ACEWR chapters: Philadelphia Reading, Pittsburgh and Allentown-Bethlehem.

Mail This Coupon With 50c For A 6-Month Subscription To

THE MILITANT

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
116 UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Published in the interests of the working people. The only newspaper in this country that tells the truth about labor's struggles for a better world.

You may start my subscription to The Militant for 6 months I enclose 50 cents, (coin or stamps) ☐

Send me The Militant at your regular rate of \$1 for 12 months. I enclose \$1, (coin, stamps or Money Order) ☐

Name _____ (Please Print)

Street _____ Apt. _____

City _____ Postal Zone _____

State _____



SWP Convention Pays Tribute To Martyrs

By James P. Cannon

Following is the text of the speech which opened the Twelfth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party in Chicago, Nov. 15 to 18:

In the name of the National Committee, I announce that the Twelfth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party is now in session.

Our first thoughts and our first words are dedicated to the memory of those comrades who have fallen in the struggle. Since we last gathered in national convention we have suffered the great and irreparable loss of the veteran of our movement, the honorary member of the National Committee, Antoinette Konikow. We have suffered the loss of Comrade John Harrington of Lynn, Massachusetts. We will miss the friendly counsel of these comrades and

the inspiration of their example, their dauntless enthusiasm and courage.

Since the convention two years ago we have reestablished communications and intimate relations of our party with the various sections of the Fourth International throughout the world who were cut off from us during the dark and terrible days of the war. We have learned with great joy that in spite of everything, the cadres of the Fourth International everywhere survived the terrible ordeal, continued their activity under all conditions and continue to work and struggle. But our joy at the reestablishment of contact with them has been sadly tempered by sorrow at the news of the loss of so many comrades who perished in the fight.

In France, in Germany, Holland, Belgium, China, Greece — from all these

countries — we heard reports of the decimation of our forces during the war by our enemies on every side. We learned of the death of Comrade Blasco, pioneer Italian Trotskyist and one of the founders of the Fourth International, who was assassinated in a Nazi concentration camp by Stalinists.

We learned of the death of Comrade Lezoll, pioneer Belgian communist and also one of the founders of the Fourth International, who died in a Nazi concentration camp. We learned of the death of the Greek leader, Comrade Pouloupoulos, and the shocking assassination of more than 100 members of the Greek section of the Fourth International by the Stalinists, and scores of others by the fascists.

But no hardships, no persecution, no terror could break the Fourth International.

This was due to the dauntless spirit and the unshakable conviction manifested by our cadres of the Fourth International, which included those who have fallen in the fight.

Heavy indeed has been the toll which the struggle for the liberation of humanity has taken from the ranks of the Fourth International. Our martyrs are many. Long live their great innumerable names. Even in death they participate invisibly in our work and inspire us to greater efforts.

The Presidium proposes that the Convention should rise and stand for a moment in silence in honor of the martyrs of the Fourth International. (The audience rises and stands in silence.)

While the martyred dead can participate only invisibly in our deliberations, the work

which they had to cease has been continued and fructified by the living. Since the last convention of the Socialist Workers Party we have inducted into our ranks a total of 1013 new members. Here at the Convention we formally welcome the new recruits into the ranks of the party.

The party offers to them hard work, heavy sacrifices and many hazards. The party demands from them unconditional and undivided loyalty. But in return for that the party promises to the new recruits the satisfaction of struggling jointly with many others for great goals; the satisfaction of living a life that is inspired by purpose and meaning, a satisfaction that can come only from serving a cause that is greater than self.

And this great cause which we serve is

on the march. Yesterday we counted only scores and at most hundreds under our banner. Today this cause commands the allegiance of thousands in the United States alone, and tomorrow it will mobilize millions in the grandiose struggle for the liberation of mankind.

History is working on the side of our victory. Our victory is assured if we also work for it. This Twelfth National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party, celebrating at the same time the 18th Anniversary of our glorious party, will help to prepare the victory. In this confidence we begin the work of the Twelfth Convention, with the consideration of the recommendations for the organization of our work which have been prepared by the National Committee.

Wages, Prices and Profits

Inflationary Effects Of New Printed Money

By Warren Creel

The current inflation, which is boosting the prices we pay, comes in the main from handouts of money which the government has given to the capitalists in an effort to save the sick capitalist system. There are several lesser aspects of the inflation, but this is one of the major aspects.

All the capitalist politicians have supported this hand-out policy for many years, ever since the start of the depression of the Thirties. Capitalist economists like Prof. F. A. Fetter, say inflation had been going on in the U. S. through eight years of peace and four years of war. President Hoover started it in the early stages of the depression when he set up the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC). His Democratic successor, Roosevelt, continued and extended it with full support from both parties. All the capitalists not only approved but demanded medicine for ailing capitalism. The war financing greatly speeded up the same process.

By the present time the accumulation of the capitalists' medicine has dislocated their own money system, lowered the value of their dollar.

The economic system has been loaded with a "five to eight fold" increase in the supply of money in the period from 1933 to 1945. The capitalist economists, alarmed by this flood of new money, point out that "nothing comparable has ever occurred before in our financial history." From some place came more and more new printed currency, boosting the supply from 6 billion dollars to 29 billion dollars. From some place came more and more new credits for bank accounts, boosting them from 15 billion dollars to 106 billion dollars. And slowly the overflow of this new money is getting to the market, pushing up the prices.

The place it came from was the government, which laid out billions for the capitalists. First, the government spent for pump-priming in the depression, to make a market and save capitalism from collapse. Next the government spent much more and much faster for war. The money came from government printing presses, both by printing new dollar bills, and by printing new government bonds as a basis for bank checks which buy goods just like printed dollar bills.

The money went in to the pockets and bank accounts of the capitalists. We know the workers don't have that mountain of billions, and the official statistics confirm this. The capitalists have it, as capital and profits.

The whole depression program of capitalism was to stimulate markets by "government spending" or "deficit financing." When you strip off all the disguises, that means inflation. In the end it means old-fashioned printing press inflation.

Capitalism in decline must have markets, it must expand or perish. Faced with that, the capitalists have turned to the same remedy in all capitalist countries. They created markets with false money, that is, through government spending of income from nowhere. That's what they call "deficit financing."

They didn't want to use this remedy, because they know it is slow poison for capitalism. They only turned to it after they were sure of quick collapse if they didn't. Fictitious income from the government is poison for capitalism because it lowers the value of money. It brings the result that we now see. We know that normal money income has value because it comes from production of goods. That's why there are goods to buy with it. New money income from government printing presses isn't backed by production. It puts more money than goods on the market. That's inflation. That's what sends the dollar down to where it only buys 60 cents worth of goods.

The capitalists didn't decide to take poison just to end it all. Not a bit. They expected to use inflation as a temporary stimulant for a few months only, until capitalism got back its youth and vigor again. But the passing months didn't restore youth to capitalism; the years brought only a more advanced stage of capitalist decline. They brought only a desperate need for still more dangerous stimulation. Years ago the accumulation of artificial money passed far beyond the point that even the most optimistic capitalist economists considered possible. Since then they've been holding their breath and watching for signs of the crash that inflation always brings.

So far only the overflow of the artificial billions has reached the market. The capitalists don't spend the bulk of these billions, they hold them as money capital to draw interest, even though it is paid in depreciated dollars. Therefore, while the accumulation is going on the largest part of this fictitious money doesn't come to the market to demand goods.

But capitalism is so loaded with this medicine that even the overflow coming to market shoots prices up, and dislocates production by causing producers to turn to luxury lines of business, to the capitalist customers who have the most money.

Next week: Labor's Defense, the Sliding Scale.

U. S. Imperialists Prop Hated Franco Regime

By Larissa Reed

The resolution submitted by Washington on Dec. 2 to the United Nations hypocritically advises Franco to "surrender the powers of government" and invites him to quit.

This diplomatic move is designed to camouflage Anglo-American imperialism's continued support of the fascist Franco regime.

It's true that the imperialists might be willing to make a concession, such as replacing Franco with a less hated dictator. But they fear even that shift might lead to a renewal of the revolutionary struggle of the Spanish masses against capitalism.

Thus, as the Nov. 30 Christian Science Monitor points out, "everything that has been attempted so far" in the gestures of Anglo-American imperialism against Franco, "has appeared to strengthen him." This is confirmed by the N. Y. Times which states, Dec. 3, that now the Franco regime has "such a lease on life that he has since given every indication of trying to stay on indefinitely."

PRIMARY CONCERN

The U. S. imperialists are concerned primarily with holding down the oppressed peoples of Spain. To make the public record, however, the U. S. resolution cynically invites the Spanish people to "peacefully restore self-government in Spain" — while Franco's firing squads continue their bloody work.

The prize piece of hypocrisy

is the statement that "the U. S. is fully committed to the fundamental principle of non-intervention." This brazen lie is made in the face of the intervention of U. S. armed forces in both Europe and Asia.

"NEUTRALITY"

The infamous record of U. S. "non-intervention" in Spain goes back to 1936-37, when the Spanish workers and peasants rose in defense of their legally constituted Republican government against Franco's fascist assault. Hitler and Mussolini sent soldiers and vast quantities of modern weapons to aid Franco, while Washington refused to aid the Spanish government and clamped a "neutrality" embargo on arms and equipment for Spanish fighters for freedom.

Roosevelt recognized Franco as soon as this fascist butcher succeeded in crushing the legal government and establishing his bloody dictatorship. Today, Washington is selling military supplies at bargain prices to dictator Franco, thus helping him maintain fascism in power in Spain.

Supporters of Franco's regime in the UN bluntly demand that Franco should be left alone. They cite the example set by the U. S.

New Greek Partisan Movement Fights Police-Terror Regime

As fighting between the new Greek partisan movement and the government spread from northern to central and southern Greece last week, representatives of the reactionary Tsaldaris government tried before the UN Security Council to justify and even reinforce the presence of British imperialist troops in the country by charging Yugoslavia and Albania with provoking border disputes.

In the southernmost end of Greece the government in one day reported that 13 soldiers and a civilian had been sentenced to death for "subversive activity and mutiny" and that three were executed and 22 soldiers sentenced to life imprisonment for "offenses against the state." But this was only a small-scale development alongside of the much bigger battles taking place in northern Greece.

EXTEND CONTROL

In recent weeks fighting in the north has been intensified by the reinforcement on both sides of important forces in men and heavy weapons. Thanks to the support of the population and the mountainous nature of this area, the partisans have not only driven back the attacks of Tsaldaris' troops, which are motorized and supported by an air force, but have even extended their control over more than 100 villages of West Macedonia.

This whole area is "slipping from the control of the government," declared Kanellopoulos, one of the leaders of the Parliamentary Center in the Chamber of Deputies after a recent tour of Macedonia.

The new partisan movement was formed by elements who had belonged to the ELAS as well as other workers and farmers opposed to the monarchist regime of terror. The movement shows definite left-wing tendencies, and at least part of its leadership is rather reserved and distrustful of the Communist Party (Stalinist). On the territory they control, the partisans have reestablished telegraphic and telephonic communications, opened the schools and formed popular courts.

To discredit the partisan movement and get added support in fighting it, Tsaldaris has launched a demagogic campaign pretending it acts under the orders of Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania and that it desires autonomy for Macedonia.

There can be no doubt that

The Coming Crash

"Is the U. S. Heading Towards a New Depression?" asks the December issue of *Fourth International*. The editors point to the goods stock-piled in warehouses, the stock-market slumps, the tightening of credit. They conclude:

"... American capitalism is again heading for a crash. What is sure is that Karl Marx's ghost has again reappeared to plague the Wall Street 'brains.' What is sure is that they cannot escape the crisis of capitalist 'overproduction.' What is sure is that America has entered the period of deep-going social and political struggles."

Single copies 25c, yearly subscription \$2. Order from Business Manager, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Stalin and Tito are interested in exploiting this struggle on the international field. But this by no means explains the revival of the partisan movement, provoked primarily by the new monarchist dictatorship. The United Press correspondent in Athens published on Nov. 21 the first communique of the "New Democratic Army," answering Tsaldaris' allegations.

FIRST COMMUNIQUE

Signed by the captains Yphlantis and Lassanis, this communique denies that the partisans get any help from abroad, stating most of their weapons are obtained by raids on army and police depots, and especially from the prisoners they take from the monarchist bands equipped by the British army.

"The democratic army," it continues, "is born from the new British occupation and violence which the people suffer from the neo-fascist regime imposed on our country. It denies, once and for all, that its actions are directed against the country or are submitted to an influence from abroad. It denies the false of cruelty committed by its members; massacres and fires are the work only of our enemies."



FRANCO

imperialists in propping up Emperor Hirohito.

Meanwhile, in the debates in the UN around the ouster of Franco, the Stalinists are making similar diplomatic moves. They whine that Franco "won't just leave" as a result of a polite invitation. They propose that diplomatic relations should be broken off.

COVER UP

The Stalinists are trying to cover up their treacherous role during the Spanish Civil War, when Moscow participated in the Committee of Non-Intervention set up by the European imperialist powers to effect a blockade around Spain. Within Spain at that time the Stalinist policy was to mercilessly crush the most militant fighters against fascism, above all, the Trotskyists.

Then as now, behind a smoke-screen of radical phrases, the Stalinists blocked the road to revolutionary struggle by advocating reliance upon "democratic" capitalist powers, instead of the independent class action of the workers against Franco.

Dutch-Indonesia Pact Withholds Independence

Convinced that they cannot at this time crush the Indonesian masses through armed force, the Dutch imperialists have worked out a scheme by which they hope to keep the "treasure-house of Asia" still within their grip, and to get production rolling. In many ways the agreement recently arrived at resembles the "independence" set-up by which the British have kept control over Ireland.

The agreement between the Dutch imperialists and the Indonesian nationalist leaders was arrived at after 15 months of fierce armed conflict. Three autonomous states are to be formed: (1) the Republic of Indonesia, consisting of Java, Sumatra, Madura, and probably the adjacent smaller islands; (2) Dutch Borneo, a country almost the size of France; (3) the "Great East" comprising Celebes, the Moluccas, Dutch New Guinea and the Lesser Sund Islands.

Before the Dutch will recognize the Indonesian Republic, its leaders must agree to the formation by the three states of a federation to be called the United States of Indonesia, which will remain welded to the Dutch empire and by 1949 form the Indonesian-Netherlands union. The "independent republic" of Indonesia will thus remain within the framework of the Dutch empire.

The Dutch imperialists were forced to grant these concessions as a result of their own weakness and the tremendous power displayed by the Indonesian masses in their bitter struggle for freedom. But the agreement itself despite its concessions does not give the Indonesian people their full independence.

What the Indonesians have achieved is formal independence on the Irish pattern.

Wall Street Backs Chiang In Unleashing Civil War

Full-scale civil war is now unfolding in China with the recent collapse of negotiations between the Chiang Kai-shek Nationalist government and the Chinese Stalinists in the Yen'an government.

The rupture followed the attempt of Chiang Kai-shek to cloak his 19-year-old dictatorship in a new disguise through the device of a fraudulent Constitution. Hypocritically proclaiming that the Constitution promulgated on Nov. 15 marks "the beginning of government by the people," Chiang remains the same dictator with all his powers intact.

In Nanking, capital of Chiang's government and in Shanghai the first tremors of the coming eruptions sent prices to new highs. According to a Nov. 17 AP dispatch, householders "frantically bought commodities to hoard... housewives scrambled for provisions... business men grabbed for foreign currency."

The U. S. dollar jumped on the black bourse to 5,000 Chinese dollars—a 50 per cent increase. The price of coal went up from 350,000 to 450,000 Chinese dollars (\$97) a ton.

PROPPED UP

Chiang Kai-shek's rotten regime, hated by the Chinese masses, could not long remain in power if it were not propped up with the money and munitions supplied by the U. S. imperialists. So confident is Chiang of an unending supply of American-made tanks, planes and guns, that he is reported to have boasted to Assembly delegates that he would rid China of Stalinist troops in five months.

Even as Chiang was promulgating his new "democratic" Constitution, he was ordering his top generals who had come to the Assembly in Nanking, back to their posts at the fronts.

For the past month Yen'an, the Stalinist government's capital, has been feverishly preparing for all-out war. As the main center of opposition to Chiang, the Yen'an government represents a mortal danger to him. Chiang's planes over Yen'an have increased, his armies are massing in great strength for an imminent four-way attack "which will mark a crisis in the civil war," states a Nov. 14 AP dispatch.

EVACUATE YENAN

In Yen'an, women and children, hospital patients and household goods were being evacuated to undisclosed hide-outs in the surrounding hills. They streamed out afoot, on litters and on carts drawn by humans, mules and camels.

Some military sources expect Manchuria to be the focal point of the next large-scale battles. On Dec. 2 AP reported that 500,000 Stalinist troops are massing in central Manchuria. Chiang's armies are within 50 miles of Dairen, largest port in Manchuria, and unconfirmed reports state that on Nov. 19 the Chinese Stalinists took over control of Dairen, following the evacuation of Soviet troops.

In the midst of these war preparations, General George C. Marshall, who was ostensibly sent to China last December as a "mediator" between the two camps, took a tour of North China last week on what he called a long-deferred vacation trip. He visited American commanders at Tientsin and Peiping where U. S. marines are stationed.

A feature story by a N. Y. Times reporter written from Nunguan, Manchuria, on Dec. 2 gives striking confirmation of the intimate relations existing between Chiang's generals and U. S. army men, who act as their advisors on military strategy. The reporter rode in an armed jeep through the cold, bleak Manchurian battle lines, together with a Chinese general "dressed in American Army winter clothing" and Major Robert Rigg, assistant U. S. military attache for Manchuria.

PLAN TACTICS

At a military stopping post, the colonel and regimental commander invited them in, where, he writes, "maps are quickly brought out," the positions of



CHIANG KAI-SHEK

enemy divisions discussed, and plans made for attack. "We have American vehicles," the Colonel said, "and we are inflicting more damage on them than

they are on us because we are more heavily armed." He complained, however, that the Stalinist troops "travel light, strike across country and often operate at night."

The reporter notes the "American army helmets" on infantrymen, "American-type field telephone," the emplacement of "well-oiled, well-preserved American 75 mm. guns," the American ration tins, binoculars, etc. He winds up: "This is the war being fought today between the Nationalists and Communists in Manchuria."

The U. S. imperialists are providing this extensive military aid and financial outlay in an attempt to save the Chiang regime from overthrow by the Chinese masses. Wall Street is bent on exploiting this vast colonial market and utilizing it as a base for future war against the Soviet Union.

As a result of the certainty of continued civil war and economic crisis, even "U. S. officials are revising downward by more than two-thirds their V-J Day estimates of the size of the future market in China," states World Report of Dec. 3.

International Notes

The icy Antarctic Continent, believed to be rich in minerals and perhaps uranium, will be the object of increasing disputes in the next few years. The U. S. is preparing two expeditions, partly to give arctic training to Navy personnel, partly for research work to check on mineral deposits. Other nations claiming sections of the Antarctic are Britain, Norway, Chile, Argentina; the first mentioned already has an expedition in the area, the other three are now preparing to send ships too.

General MacArthur refuses to permit the following newspapers to send representatives on a trip to report on the occupation of Japan: Christian Science Monitor, N. Y. Herald Tribune, Chicago Sun, San Francisco Chronicle, PM and Daily Worker. MacArthur charges them with "known hostility to the occupation," by which he really means that on one occasion or another they have voiced some criticism of MacArthur's policies.

The strike of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, whose beginning was reported in *The Militant* of Nov. 30, came to an end last week after 26 days, according to the N. Y. Times of Dec. 6.

By a vote of 12 to 6 a United Nations Trusteeship sub-committee turned down South Africa's demand to annex Southwest Africa, which South Africa now holds under a mandate. The resolution adopted states that the "data before this General Assembly do not justify action of the General Assembly approving the incorporation." The statement is so worded as to leave the question open for adoption in the future. South African procedure was too openly a violation of the rights of the people of Southwest Africa for it to be approved at this time. Only the big powers can get away with that kind of stuff now. Besides, South Africa still holds the mandate which gives it almost as much control as if the annexation had gone through.

Gustave Noske, German Social-Democrat and Minister of Defense for the Weimar Republic, died in Berlin last week. Hated by the German workers for helping the capitalists to crush their revolution at the end of World War I, Noske was responsible also for the reign of terror which assassinated Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, beloved anti-war leaders of the working class.

The recently won 77-day Ha-

walian sugar strike gave 28,000 workers belonging to the CIO Longshoremen's Union a minimum wage of 71 cents an hour, as compared with a former wage of 42 cents an hour, and in some cases as low as 26 cents. The strike became an issue in the Nov. 5 elections, which ended with the Republicans taking control of both houses of the Islands' legislature. However, four Longshoremen Union members, backed by the PAC-CIO, were elected to the House of Representatives.

Now that constitutions consecrating capitalism have been adopted and subversive legislatures have been elected in the three states of the U. S. occupation zone in Germany, the occupation authorities are instituting a "tremendous increase in responsibility" for German "self-government." The state governments can now do anything they want... so long as it meets with the approval of the occupation officials.

The Japanese labor movement won another important victory last week when the Yoshida Cabinet was forced to yield not only on its stand to freeze wages, but to grant for the first time the equivalent of a sliding scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.

The government capitulation followed the threat of a four-hour blackout on Dec. 2 which was called off only after the All Japan Electrical Workers Union of 95,000 members won their demands for major wage increases. The agreement ended a 50-day dispute.

The Electrical Workers Union won an average wage raise of 330 yen monthly, obtained a guarantee of a minimum wage and the provision that wages must be constantly revised in terms of the cost of living. Wage revisions will be determined by a labor-management committee.

The settlement—more satisfactory to the union than the one rejected by the government about a month ago—is expected to provide a model for settling the demands of 1,500,000 members in other unions, including railroad, communications, public office workers and teachers.

AKRON

Christmas Bazaar
Saturday, Dec. 14
2 p.m. to Midnight
Sale of Gift Items
Dancing, Refreshments
8 So. Howard St.
Proceeds to American Com-

SEATTLE

Christmas Carnival
For European Workers Relief

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

Games, Circus, Sideshow
Music, Dancing, Refreshments

Proceeds to ACEWR

1919 1/2 Second Ave.

8 p.m.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the
Working People

Vol. X — No. 50 — Saturday, December 14, 1946

Published Weekly by
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N
at 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.
Telephone: ALgonquin 4-9330
PARRELL DOBBS, Managing Editor

THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per year; 50c for 6 months.
Foreign: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months.
Single orders: 2 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in the United States.
4 cents per copy for 5 copies or more in all foreign countries.

"Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 2, 1879."



"What purpose does Marxism serve in politics? To understand that which is and to foresee that which will be. Foresight must be the foundation of action."

—Leon Trotsky

Help The SWP!

The Socialist Workers Party has launched a national campaign to raise a \$20,000 Emergency Fund by March 1.

The Militant endorses this campaign and asks its readers to do all they can to put this fund drive over the top.

The Socialist Workers Party is fighting to end the capitalist system with its depressions, poverty and hunger. It is fighting for the only program that can prevent a Third World War and the horrors of atomic destruction. It is fighting for a world of enduring peace and plenty—a goal that can be accomplished if the rule of the selfish capitalist clique is ended and industry turned loose for maximum production under a Workers and Farmers Government.

The members of the Socialist Workers Party are self-sacrificing workers devoting their lives to this great cause. They are the most militant and class-conscious members of the working class. Their ability to maintain their principles in the face of persecution has been tested again and again.

During the war, 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party were railroaded to prison because they opposed imperialist war and advocated socialism. But not even these harsh measures could break these revolutionaries. The battle for socialism, however, requires not only people willing to fight to the very end. It requires finances too.

The Republicans and Democrats, the political parties of the capitalists, are backed by Wall Street. Millions of dollars are at their disposal. These vast funds constitute one of their main sources of strength.

The Socialist Workers Party, however, lacks such resources. Wall Street views its most unyielding political opponent with fear and hatred. The growth of revolutionary socialism weakens their power and spells the eventual end of their rule.

In contrast to the Republicans and Democrats, the Socialist Workers Party must depend for funds on the most advanced members of the working class who understand and appreciate the value of a party fighting for their political interests.

We ask every one of our readers to help the Socialist Workers Party. Send in what you can. Tell your friends about the Socialist Workers Party and how it advances the cause of the working class. Tell them how its work aids the workers in their daily struggles. Ask your friends to contribute to the \$20,000 Emergency Fund.

Every dollar hurts Wall Street. Every dollar helps in the march forward on the road to socialism.

Wyatt's Resignation

Amid the screaming headlines and millions of words denouncing the miners and John L. Lewis, the resignation of Wilson W. Wyatt as National Housing Expediter appeared last week as only a tiny ripple in the press.

But the circumstances surrounding Wyatt's resignation provide a most timely and instructive lesson in the contrasting attitude of the government toward the workers and the capitalists.

Wyatt directed the federal housing program ostensibly designed to provide 1,200,000 new housing units per year for 10 years to make up for the present shortage of an estimated 12,000,000 dwellings.

Right now, more than 4,000,000 veterans are walking the streets vainly looking for decent shelter for themselves and their families. Millions are doubling up with already crowded relatives; existing in trailers and shanties; packed into rooming houses and hotel rooms; paying extortionate rents for filthy, vermin-ridden, cold-water flats and tenements.

Wyatt resigned because the Administration, in the interests of the real estate and construction

interests, refused to direct the flow of building materials into the federal housing program. The building materials monopolies withheld supplies, boosted prices sky-high. The government bowed, as Wyatt put it, to the "profiteering motive" and "relaxed controls."

Truman and Congress act as if they were completely helpless before the greedy demands of the rich real estate, building materials and construction interests.

Now we come to the moral of this story. Just contrast the capitalist government's attitude toward the profiteers who sabotage the housing program with its treatment of the 400,000 coal miners who dared to ask for a little more of the wealth produced by their perilous labor underground.

Wyatt, following his resignation, declared that the housing crisis afflicting millions of the poor is the "number one domestic problem." But the "number one domestic problem," so far as the capitalist government is concerned, has been to whip the miners back into the pits, deny their just demands and protect the profits of the coal operators.

How savagely the government assails the miners for refusing to mine coal without a contract. How meekly the government bows before the housing profiteers who are denying millions of workers a decent roof over their heads.

Hands Off Greece!

In Greece the dictatorial government established by British imperialism is imprisoning, exiling and murdering political opponents by the thousands. This has led to the creation of a new partisan movement and the outbreak of civil war, particularly in the northern part of the country.

Unable to suppress this armed opposition by its own forces and anxious to secure greater support from world imperialism, the reactionary Greek government has presented to the United Nations General Assembly the charge that Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania are responsible for the resistance to its bloody rule.

In this situation there is every danger that Washington will throw its full resources behind the forces of reaction in Greece. On Nov. 24 the British Sunday Observer reported that Bevin had already raised the question of Greece in his conversations with Byrnes and that "negotiations are actually taking place in the U. S. for American cooperation for the purpose of giving Greece a better economical basis and for arming the Greek military forces."

On Dec. 8 Truman met with Bevin at the White House, and reports stated they were in agreement on the "necessity of keeping such nations as Italy and Greece financially on their feet to prevent a complete economic collapse that might encourage the spread of communism in eastern Europe."

What such a course would mean has already been amply demonstrated in China. It would mean supplies and arms and maybe U. S. troops for the dictatorial government to use against the rebellious masses. It would mean that the Greek masses would have to contend not only against the Greek monarchists and capitalists and the British imperialists, but also against the even greater power of Washington.

Public opinion polls have shown that the great majority of the American people are firmly opposed to the policy Washington is following in China. They will be no less opposed to the duplication of that policy in Greece. What is necessary now is the widest publicity for the facts, and the mobilization of the labor movement to make its opposition felt. In no uncertain terms Washington must be told:

Hands off Greece!

The CP Line

Workers in the Communist (Stalinist) Party hate to play the role of political flacks, peddling reactionary capitalist politicians to their shopmates as they were forced to do in the recent election.

This resentment was refracted through the prism of the CP National Committee at its latest meeting. General Secretary Dennis, according to the Dec. 4 Daily Worker, claimed "There is a distinction between the Democratic party apparatus and the Democratic party convention. He said it is possible the Wallace-Pepper Democrats and the Independent labor-progressive forces may yet succeed in influencing the outcome of the 1948 Democratic national convention."

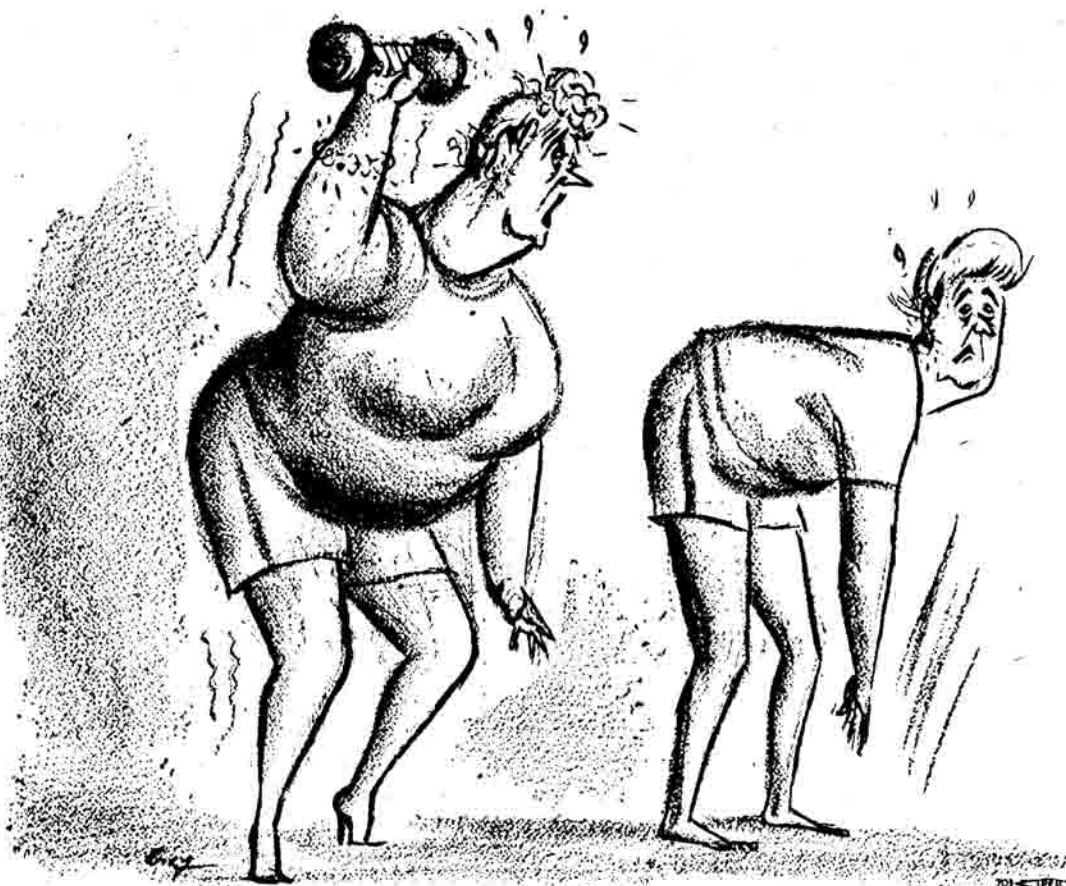
This is clear enough. Dennis is saying the CP will continue to support capitalist politicians of the Democratic ("fine the unions") Party.

Next day's Daily Worker, however, reported that Chairman Foster wanted the ranks to get busy "educating the people for a third party" presumably to participate in the 1948 elections. He said that "everybody in the labor movement will know that the main champions of a third party are the Communists."

This too is clear enough. Foster is saying the CP will fight for a third party instead of supporting capitalist politicians.

Is there a difference then between Foster and Dennis? Actually, there is none at all. Foster is supplying some soft-soap as a concession to the discontent in the CP and the growing sentiment for a labor party in the ranks of the unions. This "militant" soft-soap covers up the real policy of the Stalinist leadership which was stated plainly in Dennis' report. The CP course for 1948 is a continuation of its course in 1946—support of capitalist politicians.

If Foster were an advocate of genuine independent political action, he would have been expelled—just as scores of CP members have been expelled in recent months, with Foster's approval. Just as anyone else in the CP will be expelled who tries to interpret the present CP line as meaning a break with the capitalist politicians.



"My husband says we must be prepared for a knocked-out, dragged down fight against the unions—and here I am all out of condition!"

Workers BOOKSHELF

BABBITT by Sinclair Lewis.
Bantam Books, reprinted 1945.
406 pp., 25 cents.

This book was written by Lewis in 1922. Since then the word "Babbitt" has taken on special meaning throughout the civilized world. To be called a Babbitt is to be called mean, narrow-minded, uncultured, smug, reactionary and stupid. Who is this character? He is the typical American small businessman of the 1920's described realistically and ironically in Lewis' most famous novel.

Babbitt is not a worker or useful producer, but a small time speculator, buying houses cheap and selling them dear. One of his typical deals is to buy up an empty store next to some poor grocer and then threaten to sell it to a competitor unless the grocer buys the store at an inflated price. Through his connections with City Hall and his bribing of the street car company, he knows just where new street car lines are to be built, and speculates accordingly.

All of this doesn't prevent him from making unctuous speeches about the honesty and courage of the businessman, the "backbone of the nation." Lacking any culture and education, yet successful in money matters, he is scornful of "hi-falutin' things." "I can buy out any of these here professors," he boasts.

The rule in Babbitt's society is to conform in everything. He marries his wife because he is expected to. Only people skillful in business conniving are worth knowing. When a strike breaks out in his city he is obliged

to join the strikebreaking vigilante committee—even though he secretly sympathizes with the strikers. His life is a continuous adaptation to the needs and demands of the society which allows him to make his profits.

Although at the end the Babbitt family appear happy and prosperous, Babbitt is shown vaguely dissatisfied and frustrated. Seven years later in the depression of 1929, his whole world crashed down upon his ignorant, unsuspecting head. Ever since then, the Babbitts have been trying in vain to put the pieces together again.

—Julie Kramer

OOMAH by Ray Darby, with illustrations by John Phillips. Contemporary Publishers, Winnipeg, Canada, 1945. 32 pp., 25 cents.

Oomah is a little Husky pup, whose adventures, told in a jolly rhyme, teach the lesson of solidarity. A delightful change from the usual children's books which preach the capitalist principle of "each for himself and the devil take the hindmost!"

The mischievous Oomah runs off alone to see the forest. He pretends to be fierce, but he's just lonely and scared, especially when the wolves carry him off for puppy stew! But his rescue by the whole Husky team convinces Oomah that "by sticking together through thick and thin" they all can win.

Charming illustrations on almost every page, and clear type, make the book inviting for

those who are beginning to read.
—Ruth Benson

MAN AGAINST PAIN by Howard Riley Raper, Prentice-Hall, 337 pp., 1945, \$3.50.

Revolutionary discoveries in all fields are of significance to workers, who live today in the most revolutionary epoch of all history. This book is an absorbing account of man's conquest over pain through the discovery of anesthesia.

Today the conquest over pain is taken for granted, yet the discovery is scarcely a century old. Up to that time, over thousands of years, men considered pain a terrible punishment inflicted by angry gods, from which there was no escape.

In similar fashion, workers today are taught that there is no escape from the terrible social punishments inflicted upon them by the capitalist system and that they must submit to it for all time.

The book shows how these brave medical pioneers who succeeded in using ether to eliminate pain had to fight against the ignorant and vicious prejudices of their contemporaries. They remained undaunted despite a series of failures and personal persecutions, including imprisonment.

As in every epoch-making achievement of mankind, the discoverers of this great medical boon had to first overcome the reactionary forces in class society which block the path to progress.

—Larissa Reed

Banker Fears Strike Aids World Socialism

Cyrus S. Eaton, a leading spokesman of the powerful Cleveland group of bankers and industrialists, was reported Dec. 1 as fearing that a prolonged coal strike "and a consequent shutdown on coal shipments abroad would throw France, Italy and other European nations into Communist hands."

What was at the bottom of this banker's fear?

It is true that the breakdown of European economy because of the imperialist war has resulted in a great increase of coal shipments across the Atlantic. Prewar exports to Europe were about 50,000 tons a year. Today they range as high as 2,000,000 tons a month. Countries like Italy and Denmark get two-thirds of their coal supplies from the United States.

Obviously a prolonged stoppage of these coal shipments could have devastating effects on the war-ravaged industries of these lands.

A secondary effect of a prolonged coal strike would be a sharp decrease in shipments of food and goods like steel because of shutdowns in U. S. plants and transportation dependent on coal for power.

The close interconnection of world industry is thus revealed. What happens to American economy has profound repercussions on the economy of all other parts of the globe.

But the bankers, industrialists and stockholders could easily avoid such dire consequences by conceding to the just demands of the miners. If further paralysis of European industry occurred, responsibility would rest squarely with Wall Street and its Washington political agents.

Thus, what Wall Street really feared was not such eventual economic consequences, but the immediate international political repercussions of the militancy of the American miners.

All world labor had its eyes on the coal miners. The political consequences of the coal strike followed almost like a reflex on the latest press and radio dispatches. A victory for the coal miners would have given the working class of the entire world fresh confidence and courage.

A worker in India or South Africa, or the Far East or South America, thinks like this: If the workers can win in the very citadel of world imperialism, Wall Street, why shouldn't we be able to win against the weak native capitalists and agents of imperialism? Once the workers of these countries lead the masses in action against the capitalists, the political logic of their struggle heads them inevitably along the road to socialism.

Wall Street understands this perfectly. That is one reason Big Business became so angered with the coal miners and so determined to "put them in their place." That is why the capitalist papers were so frightened about Washington losing "prestige" abroad because of the strike. By loss of "prestige" they meant the weakening of the political strength of the main pillar of world capitalism, American imperialism.

If the miners had succeeded in winning the great victory that was possible, the political repercussions abroad would have been enormous. Seeing that even the Wall Street monster must bow before the power of organized labor, workers everywhere would have taken heart. The struggle to end capitalist anarchy and build socialism would have gained fresh energy.

That is what was really at the bottom of Eaton's fear of the international repercussions of the coal strike.

Fascist "Tool Owners" Camouflage As "Union"

An organization advocating a program modeled on fascist lines is attempting to incorporate as a "union" in the State of New York. Backed by big money, and tied in with the network of native fascist groups, this new assemblage of reactionaries who want to make sure it can happen here has been christened the "Tool Owners Union."

During the election campaign, this outfit splurged full page advertisements throughout the country. These ads ran a ten point program in the form of questions. A few samples will show how closely the Tool Owners have studied the demagogic platitudes of Mussolini and Hitler:

"Do you consider it the duty of government to encourage thrifty citizens to supply additional tools, and to defend their right to receive competitive payments (profits) for the use of the tools?" In plain English this fancy double talk means do you favor using government power to increase the holdings and raise the profits of Big Business?

Here is another question: "Do you consider it the duty of government to protect private property in the form of tools of production from trespass and damage at the hands of any one?" This Chamber of Commerce language means do you favor using police to smash picket lines?

Another sample: "Do you consider it the duty of government to prevent the use of threats and violence against any worker who desires to work?" This decodes into: do you favor government protection for scabs used by the company to break strikes?

And here's a juicy one: "Do you consider it the duty of government to break up labor-union monopoly as well as business monopoly?" The only language plainer than this is union-smashing action such as the Truman Administration has taken against the coal miners.

According to New York State law, incorporation of an organization that includes the word "union" in its name must be approved by the Board of Standards and Appeals of the State Department of Labor. At the hearing Nov. 27, the AFL and CIO filed objections to the Tool Owners using the word "union."

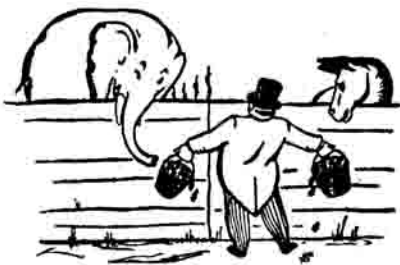
AFL attorney Emil Schlesinger questioned Allen W. Rucker, one of the founders of the Tool Owners, about Albert P. Haake of Chicago. Haake, a member of the National Advisory Committee of the Tool Owners, is an intimate of Lawrence Dennis and Gerald L. K. Smith, notorious representatives of native fascism. Rucker evaded the query with the cynical remark he didn't know "what is a fascist."

The Board will decide on the application probably by the end of December.

Only Victorious Socialist Revolutions Can Prevent The Third World War!

—the historic MANIFESTO of the Fourth International, April 1946
PIONEER PUBLISHERS

32 Pages 10 Cents
116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.



Build The Labor Party!

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.

Political Editor Learn's Labor's Side

I never thought it would happen—that the political editor of the Philadelphia Record would come over to labor's side! But he and the rest of the Record staff are out on strike now, and he's written an interesting article for their strike paper, The REAL Record. It all shows how times and people change! Here's the article:

Subscriber
Philadelphia, Pa.

What a difference a few weeks make!

Three weeks ago, we Guild members employed at The Record and the Courier-Post were ordinary folk concerned with our jobs, our families, our small pleasures, our everyday worries. Today we are strikers—pickets who parade under the sneering scrutiny of police, armed with guns, blackjacks and clubs that look like miniature models of the Louisville Slugger.

We are witnessing at first hand and participating in a reenactment of an age-old story:

"Police Vs. Pickets" or "Property Rights Vs. Human Rights."

I have seen many strikes—from outside the picket line—and the pattern never varies. The law, with its deadly arsenal always lines up on the side of the dollar.

It seems that there are never enough police to protect a community against vicious criminals and racketeers, but more than enough to war on decent people on strike. The regular police protection for property in a strike is invariably augmented. Private police are hired—tough operatives, some with black backgrounds and all willing to serve as strikebreakers for a fat fee plus expenses. And finally the Courts must be called on to back up the guns, with their legal mumbo-jumbo in the form of injunctions.

By Thomas P. O'Neill
Political Editor of
Philadelphia Record

Miners Inspired This One

How do you like this one?
You can lead a horse to water
But you cannot make him drink.
You can lead a horse to water
But you cannot make him sink.

E. K.
Detroit, Mich.

Akron High School Students Organize Socialists Youth Club

By Milton Genecin
(Special to The Militant)

AKRON, O., Dec. 9 — The formal establishment of a Socialist Youth Club was announced here last Tuesday night. At a meeting attended by 15 young people, steps were taken to adopt a charter, elect officers and plan activity for the club.

The movement to build an organization of young people devoted to the ideas of socialism began a few months ago during a student strike at Central High School. This strike compelled the school administration to give a few concessions to the students, concessions which have since been largely taken away.

Hearing of the plans to organize the Socialist Youth Club, the hated school principal, Mr. Stine, has been conducting a witch hunt and intimidation campaign against the students in an attempt to frighten them away from the club. Stine has been busy telephoning parents and calling students up on the carpet. However, his lying and threats have been to no avail. In other Akron schools intimidation against students who show an interest in socialist literature is being practiced. Pamphlets and copies of The Militant brought to school have been seized.

The charter adopted by the newly formed club provides for close collaboration between the youth and the Socialist Workers Party branch in Akron. The youth organization decided to adhere to and defend the program and principles of the SWP. Correspondence and cooperation with similar youth groups sponsored by SWP branches in other parts of the United States is planned.

The founders of the club have already interested more than 30



BUILD THE LABOR PARTY

Workers Can't Vote As They Wish

Editor:
In the U. S. we can "worship according to our conscience," but as I understand it, we cannot vote according to our conscience. No self-respecting, class-conscious worker can very well vote capitalist, but as long as only the two old parties are "legal," we have no chance to vote according to our convictions.

To the candidates of the SWP I will say, I hope the day will come when you shall sit in the peoples' assembly as the chosen representatives.

Wishing you the best of luck,
Mrs. M. M.
Minneapolis, Minn.

SWP Vote in 1946

Editor:
What was the total vote of the candidates of the Socialist Workers Party in the 1946 elections? Does this figure represent an increase over the SWP vote in previous years?

N. H.
New York City
Editors' Note: Thus far we have learned only of the total vote in two of the six states in which the SWP ran candidates: Minnesota, where the state vote was 11,421, and New Jersey, where the highest state vote was 9,829—a total thus far of 21,250. Results are not yet known in Washington, where the SWP was on the ballot, or in New York, California and Ohio, where SWP candidates were barred from the ballot and had to run as write-in candidates. The official figures will be printed in this paper as soon as received, although it is well known that write-in votes are generally not counted. Even so, the results already recorded show the SWP vote in 1946 increased greatly both numerically and by percentage.

Ex-CP Member Likes 'The Militant'

Editor:
There is an interesting story behind the subscription renewal I am sending you.

The man who took the sub happened to stop at my home about a year ago, while looking for some other people in my neighborhood. He recognized me and remembered being at my home years ago for a Socialist Party meeting. He was a member of the Communist Party at that time. During his visit, he got to talking about the strikes, unions, living conditions, etc.

It developed that he was completely disgusted with the CP and its policies. Naturally, I sold him a sub to The Militant and an armload of pamphlets. Later I received a phone call from him, and he stated that he liked both The Militant and the literature.

Today he came to my home to renew his subscription. We had a long conversation, and during it he said The Militant carried more real punch and spirit than any other workers' paper—and he takes them all. He greatly admired Farrell Dobbs' articles in particular, and said they impressed him by their sincerity, clearness and determination. Dobbs' articles leave no doubt as to the road ahead and the program to get you there. This subscriber says he simply couldn't do without The Militant.

Lorene Simkins
Hammond, Ind.

Thinks 'Militant' Should Cost More

Editor:
Please find enclosed \$4 for The Militant and Fourth International. I have always thought the two publications should not be any lower than \$2 each, so I send that amount now for as long as I can.

I have seen many editors and writers of workers' papers living poverty-stricken, many times for years.

Wayne LaGrange
Raymond, Montana

Youth Activities

AKRON. — Socialist Youth Club meets Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m. Followed by refreshments, dancing. 8 South Howard St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO. — Youth meeting Fridays at 8 p.m. Discussion on pamphlet Socialism On Trial. Games and refreshments. 777 W. Adams, 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES. — Socialist Youth Club meets every Tuesday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Educational after every meeting. Refreshments served.

NEW YORK. — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Open Forum: Every Friday, 8 p.m., at 116 University Place. Dancing, refreshments.

Sundays, 3 p.m.: "What Is Socialism?" 116 University Pl.

PHILADELPHIA. — For information call ST. 4-5820, from noon to 6 p.m.

Watch this column for further announcements.

AKRON
Current Events
Discussion
EVERY SATURDAY
8 So. Howard 8 p.m.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

from 10 cents to \$1.00
PIONEER BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS
Check The Items You Want:

- Build A Labor Party NOW, by George Clarke10c
- The Death Agony of Capitalism25c
- Fascism—What It Is—How to Fight It, by Leon Trotsky15c
- The Suppressed Testament of Lenin25c
- Trade Union Problems, by Farrell Dobbs10c
- A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, by Charles Jackson10c
- History of American Trotskyism, by James P. Cannon1.00
- American Workers Need A Labor Party, by Joseph Hansen15c
- The Russian Revolution, by James P. Cannon10c
- The Revolution Betrayed, by Leon Trotsky1.00
- The Struggle for Negro Equality, by John Saunders and Albert Parker10c
- Fascism and Big Business, by Jules Guerin1.00

PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

☐ Send me the items checked above.

☐ I enclose \$.....

☐ Send me a free copy of your complete catalog.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... Zone..... State.....

SWP Swings Into Action For Fund Of \$20,000

By William F. Warde
Emergency Fund Campaign Director

Inspired by enthusiastic reports from their delegates about the proceedings and perspectives of the Twelfth National Convention held at Chicago in mid-November, the local branches of the Socialist Workers Party are placing first on the agenda plans for raising their allotted quotas of the \$20,000 Emergency Fund.

First to report on its actions in this important financial campaign is Flint, Michigan. Organizer Sol Dollinger writes: "As you have heard, during the Convention our comrade George 'Scotty' Hunter was killed in a hunting accident. Scotty was a District Committeeman of Chevrolet Local 659 with twelve years' seniority, a World War II veteran as well as a leading member of the Executive Committee of the Flint SWP branch.

"We couldn't think of a better way of honoring this young working class leader who was so devoted to strengthening the influence of our ideas in this auto area than to launch a George Hunter 'Build The Party' Campaign at his memorial meeting in our headquarters. One of the main points in this campaign program is to fulfill our quota in the Emergency Fund drive.

"The plan has met with great success. Advance pledges from the workers present already amount to \$165."

Chicago is holding a special district-wide conference on Sun-

day, Dec. 7 to map out its plans for party action during the coming months and to start the ball rolling on raising its share of the \$20,000 Fund. Chicago's quota is \$1500 plus \$25 for the youth organization. We look forward to hearing about the results of this meeting and seeing how great a lift the Convention gave to the Chicago movement.

To start off its local fund-raising drive with appropriate ceremony, the Akron branch is having a banquet for members and friends at its headquarters Sunday, Dec. 7. Farrell Dobbs, Managing Editor of The Militant, is the featured speaker. He will talk on the role the Socialist Workers Party plans to play in the unfolding battles between capital and labor in the light of the discussions and decisions of the recent Chicago convention.

The Buffalo and New York City locals have already sent in preliminary payments on their quotas. Reports on the first contributions will be published next week.

Meanwhile we ask all branches to keep us informed about the methods they are using and the results they are getting in their own campaigns.

\$20,000 Emergency Fund Quotas

Branch	Quota
Akron	\$400
Akron Youth	10
Allentown-Bethlehem	75
Baltimore	20
Bayonne	50
Boston	400
Buffalo	700
Chicago Local	1500
Chicago Youth	25
Cleveland	30
Connecticut State	120
Detroit	1000
Flint	200
Houston	25
Los Angeles Local	2000
Los Angeles Youth	25
Milwaukee	200
Minneapolis	700
Newark	300
New York Local	6000
New York Youth	50
Oakland	250
Philadelphia	500
Philadelphia Youth	25
Pittsburgh	150
Portland	150
Reading	150
Rochester	75
St. Louis	50
St. Paul	300
San Diego	100
San Francisco	1250
Seattle	800
Tacoma	100
Toledo	300
Youngstown	500
General	1200
	\$20,000

St. Paul Teachers Picket School



Mrs. Dorothy Schultz, PTA member and Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress in the recent elections (fourth from left), joined the teachers' picket line at Maxfield School in St. Paul. The teachers demand wage increases and better school conditions.

—St. Paul Dispatch

St. Paul Teachers Strike Shuts Schools For 13th Day

By Grace Carlson

ST. PAUL, Dec. 7 — Solidly supported by St. Paul school-children and their parents, teacher pickets here have kept all public schools closed tight for the past 13 days.

Called by American Federation of Teachers Locals 28 and 43, this is the largest teachers' strike in the history of the country.

The first break in the deadlock, which has existed since negotiations with the City Council were broken off on Nov. 29, came yesterday. This was in the form of a Council proposal to increase the school budget for 1947 from \$3,826,497 to \$8,250,000 so that teachers' salaries may be increased and needed school improvements may be made.

In a statement issued today, the Teachers Joint Council said that the Council's action "will pave the way for a return of the teachers to the classrooms." A warning was added, however, that the teachers would not call off their strike until the City Council took concrete steps "to inaugurate the school betterment program agreed upon, effective Jan. 1."

A flood of resolutions supporting the teachers' strike poured into the City Council this week from all sections of the trade union movement, as well as from various civic groups. The complete solidarity shown the striking teachers by AFL, CIO and Railroad unions, Parent-Teacher Associations, the League of Women voters and others forced the City Council to take favorable action on the teachers' demands.

Not content with just resolutions, several hundred members of the Parent Teachers Association jammed the City Council's chambers on Dec. 3 to insist on immediate action on the teachers' demands. Jeers greeted the city officials who protested that they could not grant the teachers' demands because they lacked legal authority. During the meeting, the desperate Educa-



Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers At these Local Activities of The Socialist Workers Party

AKRON — Visit The SWP, 2nd floor, 8 So. Howard St., Akron 8, O. Open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturdays: Current Events Discussion, 8 p.m. followed by social. Admission free.

Sundays, 7 p.m. Public Speaking class.

BALTIMORE — For information write Box 415, Baltimore 3, Md. Monthly forums.

BAYONNE — SWP headquarters, 62 W. 23rd St. Open house 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

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

Sunday Forum—3 p.m. Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone Madison 3960.

BUFFALO — Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor. Phone Madison 3960. Open every afternoon except Sunday.

Open house and current events discussion every Saturday, 8:30 p.m. Admission free.

CHICAGO — Visit SWP 777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore.

Sat. night, open house.

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

DETROIT — Open house every Saturday, 8 p.m. at 6108 Linwood. Office open daily 12 to 5. Phone Tyler 7-6267.

Sunday forums, 3 p.m.

FLINT — Visit SWP and Militant headquarters, 215 E. Ninth St., Flint 3, Mich. Open Monday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.

LOS ANGELES — Visit Militant Publishing Assn., 316½ W. Pico

THE MILITANT ARMY

Three SWP Branches Top 'Militant' Goals



Comrades of the Boston, Pittsburgh and St. Louis branches surpassed the November goals they set themselves for getting subscriptions to The Militant. They accomplished this achievement through steady and persistent sub-getting.

J. Lang of Pittsburgh rushed in four subs, stating: "This makes 15 and puts us over the top!"

A. Arbeiter sent us six subscriptions for St. Louis which put them over the top with 17.

S. Brooks, Literature Agent for Boston, wrote: "I want to get these 16 subs to you at once so I'm writing in haste." Boston finished with 49 subs.

Milwaukee Branch came pretty close to reaching its goal. "With the enclosed subs, Milwaukee's total for November is only 22," writes Fred Martin. "A let-down from our quota, but our branch work was disrupted somewhat by the Convention and because we were looking for a new office."

Comrade Gregory topped the branch this month with four subs. She overtook our usual pace-setter, Helen Burns, who followed with three subs. A new sub was sold to the wife of a Stalinist when two of our comrades gave her a very enlightening discussion. The sub to be cancelled is for a deceased comrade — Comrade Zeich, 54 years old. But his daughter is taking a new sub to carry on in his place."

El Snyder sent in nine subs for Flint, explaining that one was obtained at their November Forum, one by a comrade in his shop, and the others by the good work of two comrades. "When we came back from the Convention," she continues, "we learned that one of our very active comrades was shot and killed while hunting and we are holding a memorial for him Sunday. Due to this we may not obtain our quota for November. But we will make up for it in December."

Pauline Ryder forwarded 11 subscriptions obtained by the Philadelphia comrades during the week.

Edith Lambeth tells us that San Francisco is determined to reach its monthly goal beginning December. "Due to our recent election campaign, the strike situation and the Convention, our sub-getting mobilizations have ceased. However, we expect to really get down to business and I'll probably send some subs in next week's letter. It will be impossible to complete our quota for November, but we will certainly try to make up for it in December."

Jerome Williams sent in three subs for San Diego.

Six subs were forwarded by Hildegard Smith for Chicago.

E. Brent of Detroit sends the following report of a literature distribution: "J. Gaynor covered a Ford Foundry union meeting last Saturday. He placed a pile of Militants on the steps going into the school and also a few Labor Party pamphlets, while he passed out some copies of the paper. He sold two pamphlets and received 20 cents for copies of the Militant AFTER the workers took the paper. That was good. This is something else I think we should do — start SELLING The Militant at factory gates and union meetings."

Mac Walker, Organizer for Toledo Branch, requests: "Please send a bundle of 100 Militants to the friend whom we met in the Ohio coal fields when on the election tour. Send him the issue which has the big spread on the miners' strike. This is being paid for by the Ohio State Organization." Comrade Walker refers to the Nov. 30 issue carrying the headline: "400,000 Striking Miners Demand Rights of All American Workers."

Below are listed the subscriptions sent in by each branch of the Socialist Workers Party during November.

NOVEMBER SUBS	
Boston	49
New York	43
Philadelphia	39
Chicago	29
Milwaukee	22
Connecticut State	18
Los Angeles	17
St. Louis	17
San Pedro	17
Newark	16
Youngstown	16
Pittsburgh	15
Flint	11
Detroit	10
Akron	9
Cleveland	8
Toledo	8
Minneapolis	7
Reading	5
Buffalo	4
San Diego	3
San Francisco	3
Los Angeles Youth	2
Seattle	2
Oakland	1
Portland	1
St. Paul	1
Allentown	0
Bayonne	0
Rochester	0
General	9

382

CHICAGO

Labor's Stake In The Coal Strike

Speakers:
V. R. DUNNE, SWP
National Labor Secretary
H. RASMUSSEN, just back
from the coalfields with a
first-hand report
Sunday, Dec. 15
777 W. Adams 8 p.m.

ters 1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor. Round table discussions, 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, 3:30. Phone: Court 6060.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Write to Socialist Workers Party, c/o C. M. Hesser, P.O. Box 3711, Portland 8, Oregon.

SAN DIEGO — Headquarters 623 Sixth Ave., open 3-9 p.m. daily.

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 4:30 p.m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1926.

SEATTLE — Visit our Headquarters, 1919½ Second Ave. Open Monday through Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. Tel. SE-0543. Library, Bookstore.

ST. LOUIS — Headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

ST. PAUL — 540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2, Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30.

TACOMA, Wash. — Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Oddfellows Hall, 6th and Pawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

TOLEDO — SWP headquarters at 108 Summit St. Toledo 4, O. Open daily. Phone Main 9919.

YOUNGSTOWN — SWP Headquarters, 35½ South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-3 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

More Innocent Victims

By Grace Carlson

Add to the list of imperialist crimes the damage done to unborn generations of Japanese children by the atomic bomb. In a recent interview in Washington, the Nobel Prize Winner, Dr. Herman Muller predicted that the unhappy descendants of the Hiroshima survivors might come to wish that their forefathers had been killed outright by the atomic explosion.

Dr. Muller's gloomy prediction is based upon his 20-year study of the effect of radioactivity upon heredity. By bombarding flies with X-rays, Dr. Muller was able to produce tremendous changes in their offspring. Monstrosities of all kinds resulted from the radiation: flies with extra legs and antennae or no legs and antennae; flies with every conceivable shape of wing or with no wings at all; flies with purple, white, green, brown and yellow eyes; flies with eyes that bulged.

What happened was that the genes which carry hereditary characteristics from one generation to another had been radically changed by the X-ray treatment. "Mutations" had been produced. Changes in the genes are not always noticeable in the first generation, but may lie concealed and produce "mutations" in a later generation.

The Negro Struggle

A Filthy Smear Of Negro Troops

By William E. Bohannon

A filthy smear of Negro soldiers is the best way to describe the so-called report of the Senate War Investigating Committee on conditions in the U. S. occupation zone in Germany.

How these people hate to see anyone treat the Negro as a human being! How they burn with anger when they observe that most of the people in Europe refuse to accept their doctrines of "white supremacy" and "Negro inferiority!" How eager they are to find a discreditable explanation for European rejection of Jim Crow practices!

George Meader, counsel of the Senate Committee, notes that Negroes in Germany are largely service troops, including truck drivers, and then declares:

"This has resulted in their moving freely and unsupervised among the civilian population. It has also resulted in their ready access to Army supplies, which they have used for the purpose of gaining favor with the Germans. The latter have been propagandized by Hitler into a psychology of moral laxness, and, in view of the food shortage, are unusually receptive to the generosity of the Negro troops."

See how simple everything is? Negroes are really a bunch of crooks; don't you remember when you were a child that they told you how Negroes just loved to steal watermelons? And on top of that Hitler made the German people "morally lax"—so lax that they even sink low enough to associate with Negro troops the same way they associate with white troops.

Add these two "facts" together—and you have a "statesmanlike" and "objective" report that

Genes are very stable hereditary units. Mutations are produced in nature as well as in the laboratory but they are rare. Occasionally, however, one reads of such a mutation as a two-headed baby. Biologists know that there are good as well as bad mutations. Darwin's contribution to biology was to show that through the law of the survival of the fittest, mutations are largely responsible for evolution.

But Nature took millions of years to evolve the present human species and, in the process, countless numbers of mutations lost out in the "struggle for existence." Certainly, no one wants to turn over to the American imperialists the job of speeding up the production of human mutations through the radioactivity of their atom bomb!

At any rate, Dr. Muller does not believe that the atomic bomb will cause a favorable evolutionary speedup. According to this year's Nobel Prize winner in medicine and physiology, most mutations are bad. He does not think that the "X-ray treatment" given the Japanese people at Hiroshima and Nagasaki will improve the human race. Quite the contrary! Convinced that a large number of human monstrosities will be born to the atomic bomb survivors, Dr. Muller recommends that that these people be made permanently sterile.

But when are we going to "sterilize" the atom bomb?

will not only get the hearty approval of Bilbo, Rankin and Co. but that is also sure to get wide publicity from the capitalist press.

This so-called report was dreamed up by a mind poisoned with race hatred. But notice how the "respectable" newspapers spread it far and wide without any challenge or note of dissent. There is nothing surprising in this, because the American ruling class share Meader's and Bilbo's hatred and fear of the Negro masses, and they show it by everything they do and say.

One thing they cannot do is tell the truth about us. For the truth would automatically win support among the white masses for our fight to achieve the second emancipation. Malice and spite are not the only reasons why they lie about us and slander us, as in this Meader "report." Another and more important reason is that smears and distortions help them in their efforts to keep us down and to prevent the unity of Negro and white workers against the common foe.

The lie is always the weapon of the ruling class. Pick up any capitalist newspaper today and you won't be able to add up the number of big and little lies, distortions and half-truths which they are dishing out in order to cover up one simple truth: that the miners need and deserve more wages and better working conditions.

The truth is on our side, and we must use it relentlessly against the liars in high office and strategic positions; otherwise, our position will become worse and worse. But of course it is not enough to merely answer lies by exposing the truth. It is also necessary to organize and work out an effective and militant program to take away from the liars the power to make mischief and misery for the masses.

Military Expert Goes "Intelligent"!

By Joseph Hansen

"It is not enough in the atomic age to wring our hands and cry, 'Havoc!' Intelligent action is essential." This pearl of wisdom was produced by the brain of no one less than Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert on the pay roll of Wall Street's leading daily, the N. Y. Times.

Baldwin's atomic-age concept of "intelligent action" will undoubtedly ring through the ages as one of the finest achievements in the evolution of thought. Baldwin has found the answer to the atomic bomb! Now everybody can stop wringing his hands and crying, "Havoc!"

When World War III breaks out and thirty to seventy million Americans are wiped out in a few hours, Baldwin envisages a highly organized and thoroughly trained "Home Front" guard immediately whipping into "intelligent action" for "relief of destitute or wounded."

The Home Front, he says, is "a new type of military force—a force with the sole mission of protecting the 'Home Front' and minimizing, in so far as possible, the enormity of any disaster such as atomic bombing or attack by guided missiles."

Like all mental pearls, Baldwin's contribution to atomic-age thought did not just spring out of his typewriter in full magnitude and radiance. It grew and matured from tiny beginnings in the hard shell of his mind, like

the laws of gravitation that came, according to fable, from a ripe apple dropping on Sir Isaac Newton's head.

Probably the Times editor called Baldwin's attention to Governor Dewey's approval of the first units of New York State's War Disaster Military Corps and asked the military expert to mull it over and let the Times readers know what he thought about it—in not more than a yard of type.

But like Newton, Baldwin had a burst of genius. "It is peculiarly fitting," he wrote, letting his phrases rise to the historic occasion, "that New York State should have had the foresight to have taken the lead in planning and organizing such a force." He even explained why it is peculiarly fitting: "New York City would be a most logical and lush target for any such form of atrocious attack."

Like all great thinkers, Baldwin is not afflicted with false modesty. He thinks his idea is good enough for the entire country. "The War Department, or other agencies of the Federal Government, must wake up and initiate and encourage a nation-wide program, on a military or semi-military basis similar to that sponsored by New York State."

If Baldwin's smashing idea catches on, everyone can look forward to "relief" if he survives the first day of atomic war, if he is destitute or wounded—and if enough Home Fronters themselves are left around to get going with their "intelligent action."

Notes of a Seaman

The "One After Another" Strike

By C. Thomas

The recent strike movement in the maritime industry disclosed a glaring weakness which, if not remedied, can prove disastrous in future struggles. The movement can be characterized as the "one after another" strike which finally petered out when the Mates and Engineers went back to work on the Pacific Coast without gaining their primary objective; a union security or preferential hiring clause in their agreement.

The movement began in June 1946 when a strike by the unions associated with the Committee for Maritime Unity was narrowly averted. The CMU, comprising then the CIO maritime unions plus the independent Marine Firemen, gained wage increases, reduction in hours and other concessions. Thereupon, the AFL unions demanded additional wage increases and the Seafarers International Union took job action on the East Coast and Gulf to compel the operators to sign.

When the Wage Stabilization Board in September rejected the wage increases granted the AFL as "inflationary," the unions struck, tying up shipping on all coasts. After eight days of strike-bound shipping the government capitulated. As the AFL picket lines were being withdrawn they were replaced by pickets from the CIO which demanded "wage equality" in the industry. This demand was granted after a few days and the men went back to work.

However, a week later, the Mates and Engi-

neers walked out in support of their demand for union hiring. After a few weeks the East Coast and Gulf operators reached an agreement with the licensed officers on a modified form of union security. The Pacific Coast operators refused to compromise on this issue and the strike limped along from day to day with apparently no prospect of an early conclusion.

Each of these strikes tied up a large part of American shipping. What started out to be a "short strike" in September extended over a period of three months. For the bulk of this time most of the men were not directly involved but were on the beach because of picket lines. The men became strike weary and the Mates and Engineers were compelled to call off their strike without having won their chief demand.

It was to guard against such a development that the slogan for a uniform termination date for the various unions was raised long ago. The unions on the Pacific Coast achieved this goal some time ago. With the establishment of the CMU, however, the Stalinists changed the termination date from September to June. Now the CIO union contracts terminate in June and the AFL in September. Thus a situation has been created that is fraught with danger. It is necessary again to push to the fore the slogan of uniform termination dates for all contracts to avoid a repetition of the "one after another" strike in the maritime industry.

PAGE SIX

THE MILITANT

NEW YORK, N. Y.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1946

PROBE WHITEWASHES LYNCH-INCITER BILBO

By Ruth Benson

The Senate Campaign Investigating Committee, headed by white-supremacist Ellender of Louisiana indicated on Dec. 5 that it is ready to recommend seating his colleague Bilbo in the Senate on Jan. 3, despite testimony of scores of Negroes who told how threats and beatings kept them from voting in the Mississippi primaries.

At the close of the committee's farcical four-day hearing last week in Jackson, Mississippi, Ellender proclaimed that he'd be "disappointed if the report is not unanimous" for whitewashing Bilbo.

Ellender acted as a prosecutor against Negro witnesses and a defense attorney for Bilbo. He harangued witnesses, without drawing a peep of protest from the other committee members, Maybank of South Carolina; Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma; and two Republicans, Hickenlooper of Iowa, and Bridges of New Hampshire.

Bilbo himself said he was "having the time of his life." Throughout the proceedings he exchanged sly winks with Ellender, and sent him advice.

Mississippi's Governor Wright had refused to provide protection for witnesses. But they thronged to the courtroom and told the effects of Bilbo's speech urging white men to "use any means" to keep Negroes from the polls.

TELL BEATINGS

Five Negro citizens testified that they had been severely beaten for trying to vote in the July 2 primaries. Among these were war veterans Richard Daniel and Varnado Collier, who were attacked by white watchers at the polls in Gulfport.

Collier escaped and appealed to the FBI, which refused to give him protection so he could return to vote. Daniel, thrown into prison, was mercilessly beaten again by a six-foot-six cop. When Daniel's blood-spattered suit was produced as evidence, the cop admitted that he had "slapped" Daniel "once or twice."

Joseph Parham of McComb testified that he was handled roughly, hustled off to the police station and warned not to vote. Ellender's cross-examination of Parham was typical of his conduct throughout the hearings:

"Did Bilbo have anything to do with what happened?" Ellender demanded.

"Well, I heard Sen. Bilbo's speeches, where he said the Negroes shouldn't vote and that there's lots of ways to keep them from voting."

Ellender hammered on, "But I thought you said Negroes never could vote in white primaries. Doesn't that mean you couldn't have voted no matter whether Bilbo was running or making speeches or not?"

Parham didn't flinch. "There was a new law," he explained, "where the Supreme Court said a Negro could vote in the primaries."

The law didn't stop Bilbo's cohorts. Another witness testified that a friend and supporter of Bilbo in Pass Christian said, "No Negroes are going to vote... unless they paint their faces white."

Even a white polling official confirmed how Bilbo's speeches intensified the lynch atmosphere. Emmett Reynolds of Winston County admitted that he warned Negroes not to go to the polls, and explained, "Well, it didn't do me any good to hear those (Bilbo's) speeches."

Bilbo didn't even try to deny that he said, "the best time to keep a nigger away from a white primary in Mississippi is to see him the night before," or that he boasted over the radio that "I'm a damn good lawyer. I've defended people in eleven murder cases in my life and got them off free."

All this, Bilbo smirked, was just recommending "vocal persuasion, not physical violence." In fact, he said, "I am rather strong on civil and political equality for niggers."

It was a lie, he claimed, that he advocated horsewhipping certain Negroes—he only said the whites should "ride 'em out of town on a rail."

The horsewhipping he did admit recommending for "anyone caught in the act of Negro-organizing, Communist-supporting, racial antagonizing acts" and wanted them also "tar and feathered and chased out of our beloved Southland."

Of course by "racial antagonizing," Bilbo means working for social, economic and political equality of all races.

When Bilbo concluded, it was clear that the "probe" committee was ready to accept this acknowledged Ku Klux Klanner and lynch-inciter as an honored member of the U. S. Senate.

The local formulated its demand for the "rising scale of wages or escalator clause in union contracts," as follows:

"1. A substantial general wage increase to compensate for the rise in living cost. Wages after this increase to be considered the minimum base pay.

"2. An automatic increase in wages of one per cent for every one per cent increase in the cost of living.

"3. The cost of living to be determined by regional 'cost of living committees' set up by Union, Working Farmers, Consumers, and Small Business Men."

Briggs Local Class Debates Sliding Scale

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Dec. 3 — In a lively discussion on "Wage Policy of the United Automobile Workers" last night at the Local 212 Briggs Educational Meeting, three speakers pointed out the inadequacies of the union's wage policy; and an "escalator clause" was advocated for inclusion in future contracts.

The representative of the UAW International leadership made a lame report on minor social benefits they are striving for and concluded with a 20 to 22 cents an hour wage increase demand.

All the other speakers criticized the "one-at-a-time" strategy of the International leadership and hit at the weakness of the present wage policy.

Ernie Mazey declared that a sliding scale of wages in the form of an "escalator clause" in new contracts is the best way to keep wages in line with zooming prices.

He cited the inclusion of such a clause in the recent Sinclair Oil Workers' contract. The escalator clause, he said, eliminates the necessity of a union engaging in long bitter struggles one after another in order to catch up with the skyrocketing cost of living.

This provoked such a discussion that a debate on the escalator clause has been scheduled for Dec. 16. Ernie Mazey and Erwin Baur will speak for it. The opponent speakers have not yet been named.

National Guard Jim Crow Too

"In accordance with War Department policies" the newly authorized National Guard units in the various states will be set up and operated on a strictly Jim Crow basis. It was revealed last week. Negroes and whites will not be permitted to serve in the same Guard units, just as they are not permitted to serve together in the Army.

14 Electrical Workers Free In Philadelphia Strike Trial

By Max Goldman

(Special to The Militant)

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 4—Fourteen members of the CIO United Electrical Workers today were found not guilty of charges of rioting, inciting to riot and unlawful assembly as an aftermath of a clash between police and striking workers of the General Electric Company last Feb. 28.

A jury of eight men and four women, including four Negroes, who had listened to eight days of police, prosecution and defense testimony, returned a "not guilty" verdict late yesterday afternoon after an hour and fifty minutes of deliberation.

The defendants' clear accounts of the two-day police terror last February against the GE picket line, demolished the lying accounts of "striker violence" presented for days by a veritable parade of policemen. Housewives from the neighborhood confirmed the unionists' tales of police brutality and gave the lie to the District Attorney's charges of "mob terror and mob violence."

The housewives' testimony, plus numerous newspaper photographs of club-swinging cops on foot and on horseback, showed clearly where the responsibility for violence lay.

One union man's wife told how she and her mother-in-law joined a parade on Feb. 28 to City Hall to protest an anti-picketing injunction. As the parade of singing strikers passed 65th Street, all hell broke loose. Policemen on foot and horse were everywhere swinging clubs and cracking heads. Too frightened to run, she stayed frozen to the ground. One of the strikers tried to help her, pleading with the police "to watch out for the women." Then a cop raised his club and brought it down upon the man's head. The woman fainted at the sight of the spurting blood.

Policemen after policeman lied they had seen no one hurt and had not lifted a club against any striker. Police testimony reached the height of absurdity in the attempt to explain away the brutal beating of Herb Lewin of UE Westinghouse Local 107. The picture, now nationally famous as an example of police brutality, shows Lewin on the ground, helpless, as cops with raised clubs stand over him.

The jury's verdict is the best indication of how they felt about police testimony.

State's witnesses consisted, with the exception of a Bulletin reporter, solely of plain-clothes and uniformed policemen, and General Electric and city officials.

District Attorney Tracy wrapped himself in the flag and appealed to the jury's patriotism. "Free these men," he screamed, "and the way is open for mob law and mob law." Referring to the veterans with an American flag who led the union parade, he said: "When the American flag is in the hands of a mob it is no longer the flag we revere." All of these lawyers' tricks were of no avail. The jury understood the real issue in the trial was an attempt by a powerful corporation and anti-labor public officials to victimize workers who dared to strike for better wages and conditions.

There is still another trial pending. Ten more union men are slated to go on trial on charges of contempt of court arising out of an injunction case. Harry Block, former president of the Philadelphia CIO Council, and other UE officials are among those indicted. General opinion in union circles is that the acquittal of the 14 should not let the labor movement into overconfidence. Constant vigilance to the danger of "government by injunction" is now a must for the labor movement.

Testifies Against Bilbo



President T. B. Wilson of the Miss. Progressive Voters League (left) testifies before the Senate Campaign Investigating Committee at Jackson, Miss. Scores of Negroes told of intimidation and terrorism that kept them from the polls in Mississippi. Federated Pictures.

Miners Tell 'Militant' Labor Needs Own Party

By Harry Braverman

(Special to The Militant)

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Pa., Dec. 7 — When word came to the Western Pennsylvania coal fields today that John L. Lewis had called off the mine strike, many miners were reluctant to go back to work.

What happens to our principle, "No Contract, No Work!" they asked.

The men were bitter about the vicious moves of the government and operators to break their union. They are thoroughly aware they were singled out for attack. "If they break our union they can break them all," said a leader of the miners in Washington County. "The men figure this is a fight to hold their union."

These miners are determined to save the United Mine Workers Union. "When a man is hungry," one man told me, "he is going to fight, and we were hungry in those open shop days."

They told me how the mounted Coal and Iron Police used to patrol the narrow lanes of the company towns. "Why you couldn't have gotten in to see me," said a miner. "The second you turned off the pike they would have stopped you, questioned you and turned you around. In those days they wouldn't even let a huckster with a pack of brooms on his back get in here."

Government operation of the mines was nothing but a fake, according to the miners I interviewed. "These shavetails they had up in Pittsburgh," one of the men told me; "they never had any more to say about running the mines than the man in the moon."

"We'd see some Navy personnel come through once in a while. They'd go in the office and chat with the superintendent. The pit committee would go to them about something. They'd say: 'We can't tell the company what to do.'"

All the pressing grievances which caused the strike still remain. That's why the miners say they're reluctant to go back to work without a settlement and a new contract. Terrible price increases have destroyed their wage gains and kept them working longer hours in the effort to keep up with living costs.

GOOD IDEA

When I asked the miners what they thought about organizing a Labor Party, their response was enthusiastic. "I'll say it's a good idea," said a leader of a miner's local. "The miners would like to have something like that."

"They thought the Democratic Party was going to be some good in Roosevelt's time, but since this guy has taken over they see that it's no good. We've often talked about the AFL, the CIO, the miners and the railroad workers getting together. They all come out for Democrats or Republicans. But why can't they all get together and have labor candidates?"

Another miner felt certain that a new party is on its way. He spoke of it as a "socialist" party. There is more talk of politics in the mine region now than ever before and even a lot of talk about socialism.

Subscribe To

The Militant

Use Coupon On Page 2

Portland Readers

The Socialist Workers Party has been deprived of its headquarters and until further notice asks its friends and Militant readers to write for notice of meetings and activities. Address: Socialist Workers Party C/O C.M. Hesser P.O. Box 3711 Portland 8, Ore.