

Heroic Record Of Chinese Trotskyists In War Years

— See Page 3 —

VOL. XI — No. 23

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1947

401

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

Workers Of The World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

ANTI-LABOR LAW SURE, SAYS TAFT

Greek Trotskyists Face Death As Terror Reigns

A May 23 dispatch from Paris to The Militant reports that 13 Trotskyists are among the victims of the reign of terror unleashed in Greece since the monarchy was assured of Washington's financial and military support. All 13 are members of the International Communist Party, Greek Section of the Fourth International.

Three of them, including one woman, face court martial in Salonika and a possible death sentence. Five were arrested in Athens and accused of breaking the "public order" measures decreed by the reactionary Maxim-Tsaladaris cabinet.

The remaining five were condemned to two months imprisonment in the notorious dungeons maintained under the Glucksberg dynasty. The "crime" for which they were condemned was distributing a leaflet.

REACTIONARY DRIVE

The persecution of the Greek Trotskyists is part of the present campaign of the monarchy to suppress all popular resistance with the aid of arms and money furnished by the Truman Administration. Greek reaction took the vote of Congress to hand over a quarter of a billion dollars as the signal to get going. One of the first acts of the Greek government was to restore wartime censorship of civilian mail.

In the North government mercenaries are attempting to mop up the remnants of the partisan forces who resisted first the Nazi conquerors and then the British. But tight censorship screens the reports, and details of the struggle are meager.

American correspondents intimate that the monarchist forces are not advancing rapidly. The mountainous terrain hampers swift operations and the local populace offers no aid. "Apparently their only interest in the fighting," one reporter writes, "is a hope that it will pass them by with the least possible damage."

Nevertheless, the estimated

Socialist Workers Party Calls For Picket Line At Consulate

NEW YORK, June 3—Appealing to New York workers to join in a picket line protest demonstration at the Greek Consulate at 30 Rockefeller Plaza at noon Saturday, June 7, George Clarke, New York Organizer of the Socialist Workers Party stated:

"The wholesale arrests of Trotskyists in Greece and the savage sentences meted out for minor offenses is just another illustration of the reign of terror now prevailing in Greece.

"Backed by American dollars, the corrupt regime maintains itself in power by a complete denial of civil liberties to all opponents—from revolutionists to moderate liberals.

"The Maxim-Tsaladaris government—upheld by Truman as an outpost of democracy—has filled the prison camps with trade unionists, militant workers and every honest democrat who has dared to voice a criticism of one of the most reactionary governments in the world. It has persistently rebuffed proposals for a general amnesty to political prisoners urged upon it by embarrassed supporters in Washington.

"The picket line," Clarke concluded, "will raise the demand for the release of the imprisoned Trotskyists, for a general amnesty to all political prisoners in Greece, for a cessation of all financial and military support to the reactionary Greek dictatorship which is jailing and murdering today at the behest of Wall Street imperialism just as it once did for the Nazis during the German occupation."

The demonstration is being jointly sponsored by the New York Locals of the Socialist Workers Party and the Workers Party.

army of 150,000 troops is being deployed to the best of the ability of the fascist-minded generals ordered to carry out the Truman "doctrine" in Greece. Villagers who go outside their homes risk being shot on sight. The government mercenaries are empowered to give "prisoners" a brief court martial and execute sentence on the spot. Hundreds of people suspected of entertaining liberal or progressive ideas have been rounded up and thrown into prisons and concentration camps without so much as the formality of a trial. In accordance with the Truman "doctrine" these brutal acts are labeled as a fight against "communism."

Cabinet Shifts In Italy, Hungary Are Truman "Doctrine" Product

By Joseph Hansen

Wall Street's intensive preparations for war against the Soviet Union have led to tense diplomatic squabbles, saber-rattling, the menacing deployment of military forces, "incidents" around the whole perimeter of the USSR, and finally the announcement of the war-mongering Truman "doctrine."

This brazen avowal of an "anti-communist" foreign policy of world-wide intervention in the internal life of other countries gave new life to reaction on every continent. In France, for instance, it encouraged the dictatorial-minded de Gaulle to come out of political retirement and the flabby Ramadour regime to

kick the Stalinists out of the cabinet.

Last week the Truman "doctrine" had two more new and important consequences. In Italy, Premier Alcide de Gasperi, who has retained power thanks to Allied bayonets, dared to name a cabinet that excluded both Socialists and Communists. And in Hungary, the Stalinists answered the Truman "doctrine" by pulling a coup d'etat, ousting political sympathizers of Anglo-American imperialism from the regime.

RESPONSE SWIFT

The response of Secretary of State Marshall to these developments was swift. On his own authority June 2, he ordered cancellation of the unused half of a \$30,000,000 credit to Hungary which had been made February 15 to buy American surplus property. At the same time he wished "every success" to de Gasperi, intimating that he will speed the \$100,000,000 loan for which de

Gasperi has been negotiating.

De Gasperi's move to the right in flagrant opposition to the desire of the overwhelming majority of the Italian people to establish socialism was described by a N. Y. Times reporter as "one of the greatest political gambles of all time."

The gamble is that dollars, food — and perhaps more bayonets — rushed by the Truman Administration, can succeed in holding de Gasperi in office. But on June 1, the day after the new cabinet was announced, a Rome dispatch said that former Partisans in northern Italy were already "taking to the hills." These are the Partisans who fought the German armies from the underground and strung Mussolini up by the heels. If the report is true, their departure for the "hills" constitutes a storm signal of intensified civil conflict. Such conflict could end the feeble de Gasperi regime overnight.

This too is part of de Gasperi's (Continued on Page 3)

Favor Labor Party And 24-Hour Strike

ST. PAUL, May 31 — Support for a national 24-hour protest strike and the building of a labor party to fight the anti-labor offensive has been voted by the Executive Board of Local 209, a railroad local of the AFL Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

Denouncing the Taft-Hartley Bill as a measure to "put the whole labor movement in a worse straitjacket than the Railway Labor Act," the Local 209 Bulletin declares that a general protest strike is the only effective answer to the Wall Street-sponsored measure. Big Business is playing its hand for all it is worth. We must do the same.

"Since all the methods we have used so far have failed, we must now use our power — the strike weapon."

"Therefore, Local 209 urges all railroad unions to participate in the call for a 24-hour work stoppage. Local 209 further calls for the building of a Labor Party to stop this political conspiracy against us."

Michigan State CIO To Meet At Height Of Labor Crisis

DETROIT, June 2 — The June 16-18 convention of the Michigan State CIO will meet at a time of supreme labor crisis. Not only is the whole labor movement threatened by the passage of the Taft-Hartley Bill; but right here in Michigan, the home of the country's most powerful industrial union structure, the State Legislature has had the temerity to put forward one anti-labor bill after the other, each bill more savage than the one before.

What has been the answer of the Michigan CIO leaders to this campaign which threatens the very existence of the unions? The leaders are bewildered and stunned by the rapid advance of reaction and can do nothing but propose sending postcards to Congress and fighting rear-guard actions to here and there soften the anti-labor blows.

Thus far all attempts by the union militants to have the CIO leaders break with the bankrupt PAC policy of supporting the Democratic Party have been unsuccessful. These CIO leaders continue to cling just as tenaciously to a policy which has revealed its bankruptcy, as the AFL leaders cling to the policy of narrow craft unionism 12 years ago.

The coming Michigan CIO Convention, if these leaders have their way, will be dominated, not by a discussion of a program to hurl back reaction, but by the rotten clique fight between the Reuther and Thomas-Addes factions. The Reuther caucus leaders are busy lining up votes to retain the incumbent state leadership of August Scholle. The Thomas-Addes caucus leaders are busy lining up votes to oust the incumbent leadership. Either way, the rank and file

Time To Organize Powerful Protest Strike Grows Short

JUNE 3 — Wall Street's legislative drive against the labor movement is perilously near victory. So confident of success is the bitterly anti-

union Democratic and

Republican machine in

Congress that Senator

Taft and Representative

Hartley yesterday issued a

joint statement flatly pre-

dicting their slave-labor measure

"will become law. We have

no doubt of that."

The confidence of these Wall Street political hatchmen stems from the failure of the top AFL and CIO bureaucrats to take effective measures against the legislation while it was under consideration in Congress.

Only mighty protest demonstrations such as a nation-wide 24-hour protest strike could throw a scare into Wall Street's political representatives and force them to retreat. Only the serious threat that labor would organize its own political party and kick out the Wall Street machine politicians could bring hard-bitten political gangsters like Taft and Hartley to think twice before trying to cripple the union movement.

But the half-blind and completely paralyzed bureaucrats of the AFL and CIO have refused to take an energetic course of action such as that. They have ignored the demands for a 24-hour strike raised by international unions, councils and locals throughout the country. They have preferred to follow the cowardly example of the trade union bureaucrats in Italy and Germany who watched Mussolini and Hitler move toward power without lifting a finger even to save their own necks.

In the face of this criminal policy of the AFL and CIO bureaucrats, a handful of Democratic Senators who might have been pressured into voting against the measures were easily lined up by Taft. This handful who might have been persuaded to uphold a Presidential veto of the measure are now swinging still more solidly behind Taft.

Because really strong pressure for a veto has been lacking, Truman himself is weighing whether or not he should sign the measure. If a great protest movement had been organized by the CIO and AFL heads, this hesitation alone would have severely damaged his chances in the 1948 election. If a big enough fire were built under him, he would feel forced not only to announce well in advance that he would veto the measure but to use his influence as head of the Democratic party to line up the Senate votes needed to sustain the veto.

The final version of the Taft-Hartley bill as it emerged from the House-Senate conference is designed to smash the spine of the labor movement. It converts the National Labor Relations Board, for instance, into a ju-

Partial List Of Unions Wanting 1-Day Strike

The following national union bodies have gone on record for a 24-hour general protest strike against the Taft-Hartley Bill:

CIO United Packinghouse Workers; National Foundry Council of the CIO United Auto Workers; CIO United Office and Professional Workers; and five national CIO unions at a conference in San Francisco: National Maritime Union; International Longshoremen and Warehousemen; Marine Cooks and Stewards; Marine Engineers; American Communications Association.

A number of powerful local councils, central labor unions and joint labor conferences have also endorsed the call for a one day-strike. Among these are:

The CIO Industrial Union Councils of Akron, Flint, Newark, Mahoning County (Ohio) and Chester (Pa.);

The Mercer County (N. J.) Central Labor Union of the AFL; District 3 of the CIO United Electrical Workers;

Western Maryland Labor Unity Conference; Fulton County (N. Y.) United Labor Unions; and the Joint Shop Stewards Conference of Mansfield (Ohio) — all uniting AFL, CIO and independent unions.

In addition, scores of local unions in all parts of the country have expressed their desire to participate in a national protest strike.

Government by injunction is established, since any employer faced with strike action can ask the Attorney General to halt the walk-out for 80 days. Crippling damage suits can be slapped on the unions for alleged "violations" of contract. The closed shop is outlawed, and union hiring halls are apparently to be ended. Union political activity is barred. Collective bargaining is seriously restricted. Every union officer must swear that he is not a "Communist." Mass picketing, interpreted as "interference," is outlawed.

And these union-smashing provisions are only some of the main teeth in this measure that Wall Street counts on having on the law books very soon.

Senate Votes Passage Of Bill Granting Rent Boosts Of 15%

On the heels of passage of the Taft-Hartley slave-labor legislation, Wall Street celebrated another major victory over the people on May 29 when the Senate by a

hand-wagon vote of 48-26 passed

a bill permitting rent boosts of

15%. The bill also eliminated

building controls on new homes.

The rent boost clause was proposed by Senator Albert W.

Hawkes (R., N. J.), a well-known political representative of the big insurance companies.

The rent-relief provision for the monopolists at the expense of millions of workers and other low-income groups had already been approved by the House on May 1. The House and Senate versions now go to conference where differences will be straightened out before the final bill is placed on Truman's desk. Truman is expected to sign the measure.

The clause permits landlords to raise rents where tenants enter contracts "voluntarily." Senator Hawkes argued that tenants will "welcome" the opportunity to pay 15% more rent.

Last year, when he first proposed the 15% boost, he claimed that tenants widely sympathized with landlords unable to raise rents because of controls. The real estate interests have insisted that because their profits during the war did not soar to such mountain-high proportions as the profits of other sections of the capitalist class they have been suffering "hardship."

Florentino LaGuardia, head of the National Rent Committee, called the "voluntary" rent boost provision a "blackjack clause." Senator Taylor (D., Idaho), who opposed the increase, described the clause as "a pistol at the head of the little people to come across or else." And Senator Charles Tobey (R., N. H.) said, "Real estate and landlords' interests are singing a Te Deum and a Hallelujah over its adoption."

New Jersey Layoffs Sound Warning Signal To Unions

By A. Stevens

NEWARK, June 2 — Unemployment is hitting many workers in the Greater Newark industrial area, and the unemployment compensation offices are congested nowadays as unusually large numbers are filing claims.

Last week the Central Foundry Company, Essex Division, laid off 200 workers and discontinued operations indefinitely. Over 150 were given their walking papers at the Phoenix Brass Company in Irvington, and production drastically cut. The same happened at the C. A. Goldsmith Foundry.

The electrical industry is the hardest hit. At the General Instrument Corporation in Elizabeth 500 have been given termination notices, and 200 were cut off the rolls at National Union Radio.

At the East Newark and Clifton plants of Federal Telephone and Radio Corporation, an IT&T subsidiary, 5,700 were laid off indefinitely in a lockout because they resisted a corporation speedup. This was not a case of unemployment, but the corporation's attack on the union was made easier because of slackening production orders.

The district office of the CIO United Electrical Workers estimates that even before the Federal shutdown, between 15,000 and 20,000 electrical workers had been laid off in New Jersey, not counting the Camden area.

Layoffs amounting to 2,000 are also announced for the Western Electric plant in Kearny, and the big RCA plant in Harrison is reported to be preparing a complete shutdown for two weeks, after which wage reductions will be made.

The significant aspect of the shutdown at Central Foundry and the layoffs at Phoenix Brass is that these plants are manufacturers of essential materials



ALCIDE DE GASPERI

Supreme Court Ruling Hit By CIO

The CIO last week asked the Supreme Court to re-hear a case involving the right of police to search private dwellings without a search warrant. Despite the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits illegal search, the Court had approved such procedure in a 5 to 4 decision handed down last month in the George Harris case.

The CIO brief declared that "the destruction of any of the guarantees of the Bill of Rights constitutes a threat to the existence of that climate of democratic liberty which is essential to the functioning of free trade unions."

See editorial, Growing Unemployment, on Page 4.

Notebook Of An Agitator

Farewell To A Socialist Pioneer

An old socialist pioneer died in Rosedale, Kansas, the other day at the age of 89, and I went home to his funeral. I was bound to him personally by many different ties and indebted to him for many things of value beyond computation. He was the first to explain to me that truth and justice are important, and he proved to me, by his life-long example, that he meant what he said. He really believed in freedom, equality and the brotherhood of man, and thought these things attainable and worth striving for. That was his "principle," and he lived up to it.

It was from him that I first learned about socialism; he took me into the movement, 36 years ago, and thus shaped my life in a pattern which has never been changed. Remembering and reliving all that on the long train ride to the old man's funeral, I thought of him not only as a friend and counselor, but also as a true and worthy representative of that noble generation of pioneer socialists who went before us and prepared the way for us. We are here because they were there. We should never forget that.

His socialism—the predominant mid-western American socialism of his time—inspired by the great spirit and burning eloquence of Debs, was broadly humanitarian, more ethical, perhaps, than scientific, and putting more emphasis on the goal than the road to it. But it was right in the essence of the matter, and there was a great driving force of conviction and inspiration behind it. In my opinion, the modern movement, with its more precise analysis and its necessary concentration on the struggle, would do well to infuse its propaganda with more of the old emphasis on the ultimate meaning of the struggle; speak out, as the old pioneers did, for human rights and human dignity, for freedom and equality and abundance for all. That is what we are really fighting for when we fight for socialism.

Ben Hanford, the great socialist agitator of an earlier day, once wrote an encomium of a collective comrade whom he called Jimmy Higgins—the man in the ranks who busies himself without ostentation, recognition or reward to do all the innumerable little and unnoticed things which have to be done to keep the "movement" going and keep the torch burning. Such was the old man. He was an old-timer from away back—a "labor man" from the days of the Knights of Labor and the eight-hour movement; a Debs' man from the A.R.U. strike of '94 on; and a socialist activist all through the twenty-year rise of the Socialist Party after the turn of the century. He ardently sympathized with me in all my work and struggles, and gave all the prac-

tical help he could, up to the recent years when he was too old and tired to do any more.

An account of his quiet and sustained activity for socialism could stand, with only a few unimportant changes, as a composite biography of the whole fraternity of anonymous activists whose unrecognized labors and sacrifices, freely given with unflinching faith, transformed an idea and a hope into a movement which lives after them and will yet prevail.

He was no "leader," but a simple rank and file man who "talked socialism" to all who would listen; hustled the subscriptions for the papers; arranged the meetings, rented the hall and drummed up the crowd for the speaker; and always had his hand in his pocket for a contribution he couldn't afford, to help make up the deficit. In addition, he could always be counted on to "put up" a traveling agitator at his home and thus save the party expenses, although his own financial means were all too narrow.

The old man was the friend and partisan of all good causes, always ready to circulate a petition, help out a collection or get up a protest meeting to demand that wrongs be righted. The good causes, then as now, were mostly the unpopular ones, and he nearly always found himself in the minority, on the side of the underdogs who couldn't do him any good in the tough game of making money and getting ahead. He had to pay for that, and his family had to pay, but it couldn't be helped. The old man was made that way, and I don't think it ever once entered his head to do otherwise or live otherwise than he did.

That's just about all there is to tell of him. But I thought, as I looked at him in his coffin for the last time, that's a great deal. Carl Sandburg said it this way: "These are heroes then—among the plain people—Heroes, did you say? And why not? They give all they've got and ask no questions and take what comes and what more do you want?"

That devoted band of pioneer socialists who lived and worked unselfishly for socialism, who did what they could for the "movement" and kept it alive so that a new generation coming along would not have to begin at the beginning, did not live in vain. They were far more important for the future of America and the world than they, with their modesty and their renunciation, could possibly realize. The old man was one of them, and I say farewell to him with gratitude and love. His name was John Cannon. He was my father.

—J. P. C.

Joint Labor Victory In Oakland Election Points Road For Workers In Other Cities

By Ed Davis

OAKLAND, Calif., June 2—The recent election campaign, in which the labor-backed Oakland Voters League won four of the five City Council seats being contested, merits the close examination of union militants throughout the country. While it is true that there were some special circumstances in Oakland—a general strike last December, and a working unity between the AFL, CIO and Railroad Brotherhoods—conditions of this kind will appear elsewhere as the labor party movement develops.

Political action was the next step obviously indicated after the general strike. The retail clerk's strike, which led to the general strike when the city administration gave police protection to professional strikebreakers, resulted in a stalemate. The picket lines were expensive, and even more important, labor could not feel secure in the East Bay.

The critical and test case nature of the clerks' strike was recognized by everyone, as was the need for taking some positive action against the City Councilmen. As a result joint labor ac-

tion was achieved, primarily at the top. Only the Teamsters' leadership remained outside this working unity.

Rank and file unionists began to come out with speeches and resolutions stressing the need for candidates "from the ranks of labor" in the city election. However, the Stalinists and AFL bureaucrats felt that a "straight" labor ticket could not possibly succeed. They felt what was needed was a respectable ticket which could rally support from the middle class.

THEIR CHANCE

If ever a "coalition" slate had the chance of garnering in the middle class vote, this slate should have been the one. Not only were the candidates and their program middle class, but in Oakland for almost two decades the middle class has made repeated attempts to unseat the political machine which has run the city in the interests of the Downtown Merchants Association and the United Employers Association.

Yet the campaign was hardly begun before the Joint Committee realized that their coalition slate idea was doomed and that they would have to rely on their own strength. No significant section of the middle class leaders rallied to the support of the slate. With the exception of a handful of PCA people and some fellow-travelers of the CP, the middle class leaders made their choice in favor of the incumbents. It quickly became clear that the entrenched city machine was being challenged, for the first time in two decades, by labor—and labor alone.

Fortunately, the Joint Committee took up the challenge and proceeded to speak more openly in the name of labor—although never going as far as they should have. The candidates added the plank of "no strikebreaking" to their program and began to lay more emphasis on their union affiliations, meager as these were.

SHOT IN THE ARM

The primaries, which the Voters League slate carried by big pluralities, served as a shot in the arm to the whole labor movement. Nothing had so captured the workers' imagination since the beginning of the CIO. Volunteer precinct workers appeared from almost everywhere.

The Voters League had little or no access to the daily press and the important radio stations.

Chicago Packing Unions Decide To Cooperate

CHICAGO, May 31 — By agreement between the CIO United Packinghouse Workers of America and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, the NLRB election scheduled for May 28 in the plants of the Chicago Packers Association was called off and will not be held.

Last November District 1 of the UPWA filed a petition for an NLRB election in seven AFL organized independent plants involving about 1,000 workers. By agreement now the election has been called off and the AFL union will continue to represent the workers in these plants.

A statement by the UPWA district officials called attention to the anti-labor drive in Congress and declared:

"Now is not the time for workers to fight one another on union affiliation. All unions must unite to fight the common threat to all. Especially must the packinghouse workers work in close cooperation if we are to obtain increased wages in the negotiations now taking place in our industry."

"We hope that by withdrawing from this election, we will set a precedent for a 'no-raiding agreement' between our respective unions and will effect closer cooperation in action from now on."

ENDORSED STAND

Representatives of the local unions of the Amalgamated issued a statement heartily endorsing the stand taken by the CIO union, calling attention to the fact that the two international unions were cooperating in negotiations for wage increases with the major packers, and describing the elimination of jurisdictional differences in Chicago as "another move in the direction for united action."

The UPWA voted at its recent convention to work closely with the AFL union in seeking a 15 cent wage raise. Last week Patrick E. Gorman, international secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated, reported that the AFL union had agreed to this and that no settlement with the packers will be made without agreement by both unions.

but that made little difference to the success of the campaign. Nor did the meager financial outlay seriously retard the campaign—the League operated on a budget of \$20,000 compared to the \$250,000 the machine was reputed to have spent.

Three things were done to get out the vote. First, the wide distribution of three leaflets—a general one for mailing, a trade-union leaflet, and one addressed to the large Negro population. Second, a real precinct organization recruited from the trade unions. And third, an election day drive to get out the vote, with cars made available to take voters to the polls.

SLATE LED

In those precincts where voters were talked to, and in which the election day campaign was carried on, the slate led by hand-picked majorities. In those precincts where only the mailing was done, the candidates either just held their own or trailed. The house-to-house work really paid off.

Working class interest did not die down after the election, nor has the Knowland machine accepted the defeat. It has dropped the red-baiting and now is trying to buy out the candidates by one means or another. These tactics will become more persistent. Labor won a victory whose effects are far reaching. Locally, the campaign has resulted in the successful end of the clerks' strike, and in the soft-pedaling of police brutality towards strikers.

Statewide, the victory was responsible for the defeat of an anti-full-crew law for railroad workers. Inquiries are coming in from all over the state and from other states asking the CIO Council how it was done in Oakland.

The big question is what next—what becomes of the Oakland Voters League? Plans are in the making to keep it alive on

its present footing. A dinner is planned for all precinct workers and a victory dance is scheduled for the night the candidates are sworn into office.

But what the AFL bureaucrats want is to tie the League to the Democratic Party, even though the local Democratic Committee came out the day before the election in favor of the incumbents. The Stalinists for their part are not too sure what they want, although they are not satisfied with things as they are, and are inclined toward a "people's" committee with labor unions represented by individual participants.

DELEGATED BODY

The union militants, on the other hand, are pushing for a delegated body through which unions can call for an accounting by the candidates. Some have already initiated a resolution drive in the unions built around the central idea of continuing the Voters League as a delegated body with labor leadership predominant.

This idea is meeting with some success. The workers understand immediately that this is the answer to the old game of electing candidates only to see them sell out. Some Stalinist rank and file members think it is a good idea too. In one union the Stalinist PAC director withdrew a resolution for a loose people's committee—which had been prepared for him—in favor of a resolution for a delegated labor body.

Resolutions of this kind have been passed in two CIO steel locals, one AFL union and one railroad brotherhood. It is thus sure to come before both the AFL and CIO central bodies.

Finally, the successful campaign in Oakland is sure to have repercussions in San Francisco which will have a municipal election next fall.

Stalinist Grip On Buffalo UE Shaken By Militant Caucus

BUFFALO, May 31 — One of the hottest union election campaigns in the Buffalo area has been concluded at the new Westinghouse plant, which is organized by Local 1581 of the CIO United Electrical Workers.

Although the Rank and File Membership Caucus, whose slate was headed by Tony Marino, lost the election for president by a narrow margin

of 20 votes, (430 to 410), it nevertheless succeeded in electing the vice-president and three members of the executive board.

Until now, the Stalinist machine that dominates the UE has been receiving opposition mainly from right-wing dissidents and red-baiters running on a program that does not differ much from that followed by Fitzgerald, Matles and Co. But the election campaign in Local

1581 presented an entirely different picture.

For in this local the Rank and File group opposed the so-called "Unity" slate of the Stalinists on the basis of a clear-cut, militant labor program. In addition to raising various plant issues, the Rank and File program called for vigorous opposition to the anti-labor offensive; a sliding scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living; and the building of an independent labor party based on the trade unions.

The so-called "Unity" slate raised a campaign of vilification and slander against the leading Rank and File candidates, especially Tony Marino. In the last days of the campaign, they issued leaflets branding the Rank and File candidates as "strike-mad" and "disrupters" who "if elected would have a program of nothing but strike-strike-strike."

The Stalinist-dominated slate also stooped to encouraging undercover red-baiting against leading members of the Rank and File caucus, which had taken a clear and principled position against red-baiting as a bosses' weapon for smashing the labor movement.

The closeness of the vote all along the line showed that the slanders and red-baiting did not have the full effect intended. With only another 30 votes, the Rank and File caucus would have won a majority of the Executive Board.

Although the Rank and File slate had limited financial resources, it put up a much more active and vigorous campaign than the "Unity" slate, which had the full support of the UE International machine.

I wouldn't budge an inch for a CAMEL!



This poster, issued by the CIO Food, Tobacco, Agricultural & Allied Workers, on strike against the R. J. Reynolds Co., makers of Camel cigarettes, expresses the attitude of union labor on scab products. Copies of the poster are available at FTA headquarters, 20th and Race Sts., Philadelphia, Pa. Federated Pictures

Tri-State Fabricators Resist Fringe Demands In Contract

By Art O'Brien

YOUNGSTOWN, June 1 — An unholy alliance between the small steel fabricating companies in a tri-state area in this region appears to have been formed against the union contract terms signed by Big and Little Steel.

These fabricators seem disposed to grant the 12½% increase won from both Big and Little Steel.

But on the questions of retroactive pay, paid vacations and other fringe demands they are stalling in the hopes that an early passage of the proposed anti-labor legislation will give them an injunction club to wield against the union. They are also putting up a solid front against the union shop demand which many union locals in the fabricating part of the industry are making.

The union made a small crack in the anti-union front by defeating three small fabricators: Hill-Hubbell, Trim Edge and Mackenzie Muffler recently. But these are very small companies and do not carry very heavy weight.

The larger concerns such as

JUST OUT!

—A documented record of betrayal in the American labor movement.

—An exposure of the reactionary role of Stalinism in the Maritime Unions.

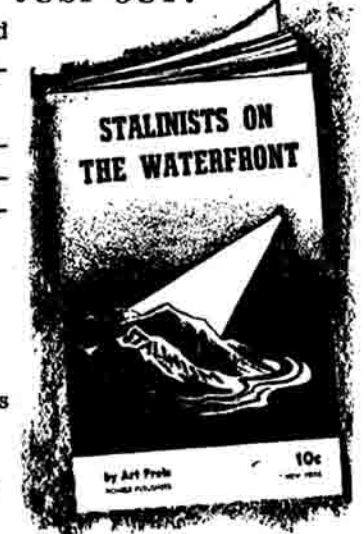
By ART PREIS

Editor of THE MILITANT

32 pages 10 cents

Order from

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



10,000 Aircraft Workers Threaten Strike In Seattle

By C. Kaye

SEATTLE, May 28 — Ten thousand workers at the Boeing Aircraft Corporation's giant Northwest plant here, never before struck, will strike if the company does not revise its present contract offer in the next few days. At a jammed meeting of the Aero Mechanics Union, Local 751, IAM, on May 22, thousands of indignant unionists overwhelmingly voted to reject the bosses' offer.

In a second vote over 94% called for a strike. The union immediately petitioned the Machinists' International in Washington for strike sanction.

The continued arrogance of the bosses after three months of negotiations spurred the union membership to this militant action. All the company's offers are conditioned by their insistence on nullifying the present seniority agreement by excluding any 10% of the working force from seniority coverage. The workers are justly refusing to sacrifice this prime guarantee of their job security in the plant.

Other union demands are a

ten cent per hour wage increase; consolidation of the present ten labor grades into five to allow for swifter advancement and simpler administration; eight paid holidays; liberalized vacation plan; double-time pay for overtime work; greater shift differentials; paid sick leave; and official inclusion into the contract of minor conditions gained by the members during the past years (these include smoking time and extended lunch periods). A company proposal to institute a staggered work week is likewise strongly opposed by the union.

Boeing foremen and supervisors, organized into Lodge 1750 of the IAM, have similarly filed strike notice, as have the plant guards and Building Service Employees Union members working at Boeing.

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 _____



Join the Socialist Workers Party!

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

I would like:

☐ To join the Socialist Workers Party.

☐ To obtain further information about your organization.

☐ To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME _____ (Please Print)

STREET _____

CITY _____

POSTAL ZONE _____ STATE _____

How German People Are Being "Re-educated For Democracy"

By Ernest Germain

All the plagues which have struck Germany—the dismembering of the country, plundering of its industrial equipment, stagnation of its production, disintegration of its economic and cultural structure—all these are justified, according to the occupation powers and their advocates, the legal German parties, by the "collective guilt of the German people" in starting and "barbarically conducting" the war. The occupation has to be continued, they say, in order to "re-educate" the German people and make them "fit for democracy."

A recent manifesto of the Fourth International exposed the detestable lie of this myth about the collective guilt of the German people; we don't need to go into it again here. (See June 1947 issue of *Fourth International*.) It could also be pointed out that the frightful misery existing in Germany today is hardly a favorable environment for such "re-education." But let us not linger over these general considerations; let us look more closely at the kind of "democracy" the Big Four have brought the German workers after their emergence from twelve years of brutal fascist dictatorship.

The political regime which rules Germany today is one of military dictatorship. It begins by denying the German masses their most elementary democratic right: the right of free self-determination. It then thrusts them into the dismembered and outmoded framework not only of the four zones but of two dozen states ("Laender"), each with its own "parliament" and its own government.

FRAUDULENT FREEDOM

True enough, these "parliaments" are "elected" by the population. But in the elections only those parties which have accepted the Potsdam agreement can participate, that is, parties which accept the military dictatorship!

Even these parties, however, are "free" only in appearance. The American newspaper, *Neue Zeitung*, issued for the German population, puts it to them bluntly in its issue of August 19, 1946: "... AFTER THE ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLIES ALSO, THE GOVERNMENTS (of the various states) WILL CONTINUE TO BE, AS PREVIOUSLY, DEPUTIES (Charges d'Affaires) OF THE OCCUPYING POWER, AND NOT PARLIAMENTARY ORGANS OF POPULAR REPRESENTATION ... !"

This is by no means simply a juridical formula, but the precise expression of what actually goes on every day. The occupation powers change the governments, flout "parliamentary" decisions, remove "elected" representatives from their posts, and intervene in all German affairs as they please.

The British authorities, under cover of the "progressive" and "humanitarian" phrases of the Labor Party leaders, showed what they understand by democ-

The Third In A Series Of Articles On Germany 1947

When last October they dissolved all the mine-workers' committees democratically elected in the Ruhr mines, because they refused to call on their fellow-workers for extra work in the mines. The Russian military administration removes a whole string of mayors, provincial leaders and ministers who don't obey its orders strictly enough.

The "democratic rights" granted the German masses consist of the "right" to do whatever suits the occupying powers!

STRICT CENSORSHIP

Strictest censorship exists. A newspaper cannot be published without a government license, and of course the government grants such licenses only to those who give satisfactory "guarantees" of their submissiveness. No attack upon any act of the occupation forces is permitted. The editor of a Coburg daily got six months in prison for some completely innocuous remarks which the German military tribunal considered "insults."

Demonstrations and strikes are strictly forbidden and punishable by law. Just as in the countries which Hitler occupied, the death penalty hangs as a threat over anyone possessing arms. The workers are still denied the right to a national trade union organization!

Can all this be explained by the fact that the Big Four have no "confidence" in the Germans because they are still "pro-Nazi," as the imperialist and Stalinist propaganda tries to maintain? But the worst of the comedies staged by the occupying forces has been the so-called "denazification." A few scapegoats have been hanged. A whole crowd of smaller fry have lost their lives.

But for every Nazi the Allies have removed, they have put three into their service. This comedy has been partly hidden from public knowledge by mutual blackmail among the four occupying powers: "If you denounce my Nazis, I will denounce yours." From time to time a big scandal breaks, but with far from the whole story being told.

The British zone is generally considered the Nazis' paradise. The head of the iron and steel sector in Düsseldorf is a Dr. Dinkelbach, former director of the "Vereingete Stahlwerke" which was Hitler's most consistent financial backer. During the war Dr. Dinkelbach was the Nazi looter-in-chief of Holland. Hitler's former banker Pfordheime has become a functionary for the British in Cologne. The steel magnates Klockner

and Mannesmann remain in the good graces of the "Labor Party" moguls.

The picture is hardly better in the American zone. In Bavaria, the minister for denazification is himself a former Nazi! When a German denazification tribunal declared the designated Prime Minister of Bavaria, a certain Mueller, to be unfit for the post, Mueller took a plane for Berlin, saw General Clay and was promptly cleared! In the French zone a vast number of fascists have reassembled.

As for the Soviet zone, much more noise has been made about "denazification," but many a Nazi officer is today being used by the GPU as police spy in the universities, and the bureaucracy has taken Nazi technicians and inventors into its service by the hundreds.

When we add that the American authorities have actually had the Nazi books burned; that not a single piece of foreign literature has been published; that the only cases where large-scale propaganda is allowed are the church in the Western zones, and the Stalinist party in the Russian zone—we can then get a fairly good picture of the kind of "democracy" they are trying to accustom the Germans to. The *New York Herald Tribune* expressed it quite frankly: "On May 8, 1945 one police regime came to an end and was replaced by another police regime."

In the rubble-covered streets of Munich, a street car passes. On the front is the sign, "For Occupation Forces Only." A few people in uniform are comfortably seated inside. And on the back of the car a human swarm clings to the steps. A father goes by with his child, and the boy asks: "What is that, papa?" The German replies, without irony or hidden meaning: "Why that, son, that is democracy ..."

(Next week: From Potsdam to Moscow.)

Heroic Record Of Chinese Trotskyists During The War

CHEN CHI-CHANG



Member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Trotskyist underground printing press functioning, despite the terror regime. News of his death at the hands of the Japanese police was received in February 1946.

The Position Of Stalinism After The Renault Strike

By Pierre Frank

PARIS, May 15. — As a result of the governmental crisis developing from the Renault strike, the French Stalinists find themselves, for the first time since the "liberation," outside the governmental majority and, except for the brief interlude of the "all-Socialist" Blum government, for the first time out of the government itself.

Thus, paradoxically, a militant working class action in a left direction has resulted in a governmental turn to the right. How can this be explained?

The Stalinist party has behind it the majority of the working class and effective control and leadership of the CGT. But its active collaboration in the policy of freezing wages, in the fallacious hope of stabilizing and lowering prices, has resulted in a certain deterioration of the Stalinist hold over the working class.

This fact is strikingly attested to in the recent elections of the administration of the social security program in France. While the Catholic trade unions groups received more votes than they have members, this was not true for the CGT, which received less votes.

SPLIT THEIR VOTES

What is even more important is the fact that many voters split their tickets, refusing to vote for some Stalinist bureaucrats who had been placed at the head of the list. In the Seine region, for example, the Stalinist secretaries of the CGT unions, Raynaud and Henaff, came out at the bottom of the list, while the Stalinist deputy, Costes, secretary of the metal workers union—who for years has had the Renault plant at Billancourt under his thumb—was defeated.

Working class dissatisfaction has ended up by outflanking the Stalinists in France's largest factory to which the workers have always looked for leadership in times of struggle. For eight days at the Renault plant the Stalinists chased after the workers, changing their slogans from day to day in a vain effort to capture the leadership of the action.

Under present conditions, however, the capitalists are interest-

ed in and concerned with the Stalinists only insofar as they control the masses. If they can't control the masses, the Stalinists are worthless for the capitalists. The Renault strike was strong enough to weaken the Stalinist position in relation to the capitalists.

But the spread of the strike to other plants and industries can have the effect of forcing the capitalists, willy-nilly and quickly, to agree to the participation of the Stalinists in a new government, in order to hold the strike movement within limits.

The Stalinists, on the other hand, cannot permit themselves to be outflanked on the left and consider it necessary to stay out of the government long enough to strengthen their weakened influence over the workers, and thus be in a position to control the strike movement, which has spread further than was expected. And of course, they hope their position in the next government will be considerably stronger.

UNDERSTOOD MANEUVER

It is thus that the departure or exclusion (either word is valid) of the Stalinists from the government was a pitting that took place without great acrimony on either side, since each understood the maneuver perfectly. The capitalist press and parties did not hesitate to praise the moderation of the Stalinists and the "understanding" attitude of Thorez in relation to the government. The seeming paradox of a left push of the masses and a governmental turn to the right becomes clear.

This is a magnificent example for those imbued with parliamentary cretinism, who don't understand the contradictions produced by the class struggle in the government machinery of the capitalist state.

This is also a magnificent example against those who incorrectly equate Stalinism with the working class. Stalinism has been

beaten, and most seriously, not on the parliamentary scene alone. It was beaten by the Renault workers, who have won a great political victory. For the first time since 1923 an important section of the vanguard of the working class has succeeded in freeing itself from the stranglehold of Stalinism, challenging Stalinism in struggle, understanding the Stalinist maneuvers ever more clearly and consciously.

"You have dealt us a first blow," a Stalinist worker said to a Trotskyist worker in one of the metal plants in the Paris region. Indeed, the Renault strike opens a new chapter in the class struggle, that of the decisive stage in the struggle against Stalinism for the leadership of the working class.

In leaving the government, the Stalinist party immediately gave the capitalists the guarantees they required as to the former's intentions: "We remain a government party," the CP spokesman declared.

In an interview granted to an American paper, Duclos stated that those who think that the CP will call for a general strike are "imbeciles." He expressed the firm hope that they would return to the government soon. He indicated that his party would not permit itself to be outflanked on the left.

A GOVERNMENT PARTY

For a week the Stalinist party has been demonstrating that it is a government party. It has moderated its attitude on the question of Madagascar, raising no protest whatever against the arrest of the Madagascar deputies and the dissolution of the native organizations. On the food question, which is becoming ever more critical, it has confined itself merely to denouncing the USA.

It is obvious that the Stalinists are concentrating all their efforts in order to re-establish their hold on the workers. The leaders of the CGT have had an interview with the Premier on the wage question, which proved to be fruitless. In this respect, the Stalinists are beginning to show their teeth somewhat.

Frachon and Raynaud are in a bad humor, but the "action" they propose does not go beyond a two-hour walkout demonstration, which can only lose two hours' wages without bringing any results, while several days of an energetically conducted strike could assure victory for the workers' demands.

The Renault workers have shown the way. Their example will not be lost. In the days to come, great masses of workers will show they have learned the lesson.

CHINA, May 15 — The Trotskyist organization, the Communist League of China, was cut to pieces in the first year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Every local unit had to rely on its own initiative and courage to meet the emergencies. Only common ideas and traditions continued to bind us together. No news, no communication could be exchanged.

Even after the war, we had to wait another year and a half to draw a complete picture of our organization on a national scale. Everywhere that we had a group of comrades or a unit, we had a glorious epic too. We say that without any exaggeration. Let us give you some brief sketches now.

SHANGHAI STRUGGLES

Our comrades in Shanghai maintained the official organ, *Tao Tsing Pao* (Struggle), even under the most difficult conditions. They continued the revolutionary activities among workers and students. Our young student comrades served in the Tam Car Company and other factories as workers. They successfully contacted the ranks of the Communist Party and made some headway among them.

One of our women workers led a series of strikes in several weaving factories and was finally put under arrest by Japanese policemen. A girl student comrade paid a careless visit to the prisoner and was taken into custody at once. Completely terrorized by the brutal torture, she went mad and betrayed everything she knew. A group of young comrades were arrested soon. Comrade Liu Chia Liang, who just left the hospital after a serious operation removing a tubercular kidney, had a narrow escape.

Comrade Peng also escaped from the deadly hands of the Japanese butchers. It is difficult to adequately describe the heroism of this old Bolshevik who not only showed his great abilities and resourcefulness in meeting a series of emergencies, but went hand in hand with us even under the most dangerous conditions of wartime. In spite of the fact that our enemies knew his name very well, he bravely lectured in two universities under a pseudonym, and converted a group of Stalinist students to our cause.

After the wholesale arrests and raids, our Shanghai organization almost broke down. Other responsible comrades were forced

to hide, and Comrade Liu lay paralyzed in the sick bed again. Yet Comrade Peng boldly and calmly stuck to his post.

Not long before the Mikado's surrender, our comrades in prison were set free. They went through a heroic struggle in the iron grip of Japanese policemen and they could and did stand all kinds of cruel threats and torture. Without their heroism and self-sacrifice, we could not even dream of the revival of the Trotskyist movement in postwar China.

SHANTUNG WARFARE

Our comrades in Shantung Province became the best fighters in the guerrilla war. Some comrades fought in the Stalinist Eighth Route Army. But as soon as they were discovered as Trotskyists, they were shamefully shot one after another. One of our young comrades died an especially heroic death. Before the first Stalinist bullet killed his voice, he made a revolutionary speech to his fellow-fighters attacking Stalinism and upholding the revolutionary slogans to his last breath.

How many comrades lost their lives at the criminal bloody hands of Stalinist murderers? We cannot yet give an exact account.

We met the same fate in the Kuomintang-controlled area. For instance, Comrade Cheong Tzi Ching, one of our leading comrades in north China, was brutally killed by the Kuomintang.

Immediately after his release from Nanking prison in August 1937, Comrade Cheong had formed a guerrilla detachment in his native country in Shantung. But the guerrilla detachment was no sooner formed than it was disarmed and wholesale imprisonments took place in a special concentration camp. Cheong tried to escape, but was recaptured and shot. He also "drank the bullets with a smile."

Another group of Shantung comrades, headed by a brave young comrade Cheong Li Ming, set up a small guerrilla detach-

ment on the border of Kiangshu and Anwei. They had to conduct their guerrilla war not only against Japanese armies, but also resisting the murderous attacks of Kuomintang and Stalinist armies. They, however, successfully overcame all obstacles and managed to win their way to eastern Chekiang. There, their small detachment rapidly swelled to an army of two thousand fighters. Comrade Cheong Li Ming was elected a commander.

STALINIST MURDERS

Even the native Stalinists held a mass meeting to welcome "the most loyal anti-Japanese fighter—Commander Cheong." Comrade Cheong's army attacked Japanese armies frequently. Its dynamics made a deep impression on the peasants. And its popularity caused a great envy in the top ranks of the Stalinists, who ground their teeth in rage. Only the unfavorable position bound their murderous hands.

But when Cheong's guerrilla army suffered a fatal defeat in the battle of Tzin Hwa, the Stalinists seized their golden chance. Comrade Cheong and his wife were captured in the Stalinist-controlled zone. Together with them, a wife and a small son of another comrade, a Formosa revolutionary who had recently been converted into a devoted Trotskyist, and several women, were all placed under arrest.

At first, the Stalinists tried to get a denunciation of Trotskyism from Cheong's mouth. When they found out that it was hopeless to bend his will, they mercilessly beheaded him. His wife and all other captives were shot wholesale. Even the six year old innocent boy was not spared by the Stalinist beasts. He was thrown into the sea and drowned. As can be seen, there is nothing abstract about the Chinese Trotskyists' understanding of Stalinism or our struggle against it.

UNDER THE JAPANESE

In Southern China, our comrades stubbornly maintained the party nuclei in Japanese-controlled factories and docks. They worked hard and led a "life even worse than that of an ox or a horse" in Hongkong and Canton. We note with pride that our base in Canton was established only after the beginning of the Pacific War.

The emergence of our organization in Canton meant that the Communist movement was again beginning to take root in the traditional revolutionary soil after a lapse of fifteen years since the Canton Putsch. We owed the initiative for this significant work to Comrade Fun, one of our leading members in Southern China, who was unfortunately killed by an American bomb on his way from Hongkong to Shanghai.

Comrade Su, a printer and also another leading member of our Southern organization, conducted brave activities among his fellow workers. Once he led a strike in defiance of the Japanese authorities. A Japanese agent threatened him in a terrible manner, demanding that he choose either death or signing an order to stop the strike.

Some friendly workers advised him to submit. But Comrade Su said calmly before the strikers and the Japanese agent: "I prefer death to an order of surrender." All the strikers admired and supported him. Their enemy was dumbfounded by this proletarian heroism, and finally conceded. From then on Comrade Su won a great popularity among the printers of Canton and Hongkong.

It should not be forgotten that our comrades were working under the most brutal rule of the Japanese occupation army. Only Trotskyists could stand it.

UNDER THE KUOMINTANG

In Southwestern China, especially in Chungking, the stronghold of "free China," our comrades suffered no less persecution under Chiang Kai-shek's regime, because they alone had the courage to conduct strikes and criticize the treacherous policy of the Kuomintang government. They met raids and arrests several times. A great part of our comrades in the interior went through the hardship of concentration camps or hard labor camps. Even now, we still have several comrades in these camps.

That is the true picture of the movement of Chinese Trotskyism during the war. Numerically, it seemed small. But a group of tested cadres emerged from it. That was the thing most valuable and significant in our eyes. And that is the cause too for our unlimited optimism. In post-war China our movement was actually revived by their efforts. And the foundations of a new party will surely be laid by their hands.

Italy, Hungary Cabinet Shifts Truman "Doctrine" Product

(Continued from Page 1)

gamble. After two world wars in a quarter of a century and more than two decades of fascism, the Italian masses want no more of capitalism. Under revolutionary leadership they would already have set up a Workers' and Farmers' Government. But a provocative shift in the direction of open reaction such as de Gasperi has just undertaken can likewise precipitate revolutionary action.

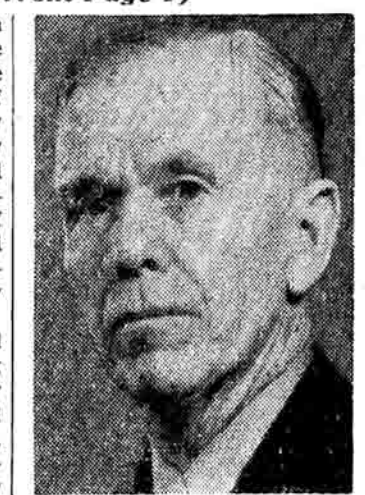
The Stalinists and the Social Democrats, however, are helping de Gasperi win his gamble. They have done their utmost to head off revolutionary developments. They have restrained and curbed the masses, blocking every rank and file attempt to end rotting capitalism with its horrors and unendurable misery.

Even after the announcement of their exclusion, the Stalinists and Socialists still clamored for posts in the cabinet. And rather than call on the masses to take action against the mounting threat from the right, they limited themselves to calling for a general election—next October.

IN HUNGARY

In Hungary, where the masses have decisively rejected and repudiated the Stalinists, the coup d'état was engineered behind the scenes. The Stalinist bureaucracy dominates Hungary by virtue of the occupying Red Army. A government can rule there, consequently, only with Moscow's approval.

The leaders of the Small Landholders Party won a majority in the last election and took office. The Stalinist bureaucracy soon began preparations to remove them in a typical Moscow manner. Last December the Russian military authorities announced



GENERAL MARSHALL

discovery of a "plot" and arrested Deputy Bela Kovacs, former Secretary of the Small Landholders.

On May 28, Matyas Rakosi Deputy Premier and leading Stalinist hatchetman in Hungary called a cabinet meeting. Premier Nagy of the Small Landholders, warned in time, was on "vacation" in Switzerland. This meeting ordered Nagy to return. When Nagy refused, his "resignation" was officially announced.

On May 31 a new Cabinet was installed with Lajos Dinnyes, described as a Stalinist stooge, named Premier. And on the same day, a "confession" wrung from the long-imprisoned Kovacs told about a "conspiracy" involving nearly all the top leaders of the Small Landholders Party.

This shady, complicated machination to cut down the Truman forces in Hungary's government was the Kremlin's way of answering the exclusion of the Stalinist ministers from the cabinets in France and Italy.

Now Available (In French)
LA LUTTE DE CLASSES
Sous la Premiere Republique
The Class Struggle Under the First Republic
by Daniel Guerin
Author of: "Fascism and Big Business"
An exhaustive Marxist study of the French Revolution from 1793-1797
In Two Volumes:
Volume I — 512 pages; Volume II — 474 pages
Price: \$6 for the two volumes
Order from: PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Vol. XI — No. 23 Saturday, June 7, 1947

Published Weekly by
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N
at 118 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.
Telephone: ALgonquin 4-9230
FARRELL DOBBS, 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 copies: 5 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 3, 1879.



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

Leon Trotsky

Growing Unemployment

In the midst of all the talk about the coming depression, not enough attention is being paid to the fact that unemployment has been steadily rising since April. Almost one out of every ten workers in this country is now without a job, through no wish or fault of his own. For these workers, the effects of a depression are already here, even though prices remain at all-time high levels.

What is being done about this unemployment, whose rapid spread represents a dire warning of the speed with which a depression can strike?

The government does nothing at all; it does not even take care to properly report the full figures. The employers do nothing too; terrified by the prospect of a crash, they are looking around for ways and means of reducing all costs, that is, of reducing the number of their employees. The trade union bureaucrats are hiding their heads in the sand, afraid to "antagonize" the anti-labor Congress by fighting for anything. It is clear that if anything will be done, the militant workers in the unions will have to initiate action themselves.

The problem can and must be approached from many angles. Among the most urgent is the need to raise unemployment insurance allowances. In no state is the allowance adequate; in March the average payment was \$17.72 a week. The workers must begin to fight now for upward revisions in these allowances, with the aim of bringing them up to the level of trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment.

A second demand should be for a shorter work week, without any reduction in weekly pay. The CIO Packinghouse Workers Convention last month pointed the way by calling for a 30 hour week at 40 hours pay.

Nothing illustrates the insanity and anarchy of the capitalist system so well as the incident reported on Page 1 of this issue about the shutdown of an important pipe manufacturing foundry in Newark last week. The country is faced with the worst housing crisis of its entire history, with men able and eager to build houses, with factories equipped to produce housing material, with plenty of raw material to supply the factories. And what happens?

The pipe manufacturing foundry has to close down because the construction business doesn't see enough profits to be coiled in building homes this year. Houses are not built, the housing crisis worsens. And more workers are thrown out of their jobs.

A huge federal housing program is needed to provide millions of low cost homes and employment to the workers who can make and build those homes. The time to start fighting for it is right now. The place to begin discussion of these problems is at your union meeting.

Make It A Crime

Business Week, one of Wall Street's influential mouthpieces, carried a wrathful editorial in the May 31 issue over the recent dumping of 50 tons of surplus potatoes near Foley, Alabama. However, the temperature of Business Week's editors did not rise because kerosene was poured over a mountain of food to render it useless. That's normal under capitalism.

What disturbed these Wall Street propagandists was the wide publicity given the incident in the capitalist press. Especially the vivid picture of the potatoes piled high in an open field by the government.

"On the very days when the picture, thanks to wirephoto, was being featured in picture sections from coast to coast," complained Business Week, "the front pages of the same newspapers were reporting the desperate hunger in Europe and the hurried emergency steps to stave it off. The nations' newspaper readers were thus left with the clear and dramatically underlined impression that, while Europe cries out with hunger, we destroy fine food-stuffs in order to keep up the price. Certainly it would be hard to conjure up a more damning portrayal of hopeless confusion and frustration in our own house."

Such publicity, Business Week mourned, is "doing the communists' work for them" and "with tremendous effectiveness."

This Wall Street magazine does not openly suggest that the capitalist press should have "killed" the damaging picture of capitalism

at work and buried the story. The editors contend only that it should have been "explained" why these potatoes could not be shipped abroad.

They also suggest a program to avoid future unfavorable publicity like this. Their proposal is to stop government support of farm prices because it "encourages excess production of the wrong things." With production curtailed sufficiently then there won't be any surpluses—so dangerous to their profits—to destroy.

We think a different proposal is in order. Deliberate destruction of surplus food supplies, in our opinion, should be made a capital crime. The curtailment of production while people lack basic necessities should likewise be made a criminal offense. To prevent food and other necessities from being produced is just as brutally inhuman in the face of world need as the more sensational destruction of food already produced.

Why Veterans Join

The application blank for membership in the Socialist Workers Party asks among other things why the applicant decided to join. In San Diego the other day a 23 year old veteran of the U. S. Navy, now unemployed, wrote his answer: "Disillusion with the postwar 'new world'; Decision to do something about it."

That 12-word sentence sums up concisely the experience and political conclusion of the entire generation who were railroaded into World War II. They were drafted, most of them against their will, told they were fighting for an "Atlantic Charter" and "Four Freedoms" and thrown onto the battlefields of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The capitalist propagandists let loose tens of thousands of tons of propaganda about the wonderful postwar world that would be theirs come V-E and V-J Days. It would be a world of freedom and of plenty, a decent world, bright with hope, a world worth risking one's life for.

That propaganda turned out to be a lie. Almost two years after V-J Day, a stable peace has not even been achieved. The former Allies are at each other's throats. World War III is clearly in preparation. And it is a war that threatens to annihilate civilization, perhaps all humanity.

There is not even the guarantee of a breathing space as long as the one between the first and second world wars. The invention of atomic weapons has speeded up developments beyond comparison with previous decades.

Moreover the real victor in the war turned out to be Wall Street. America's 60 ruling families reaped profits from the war never before seen in history. The bankers and industrial tycoons seized vast new holdings in distant lands, and at home fell heir to plants constructed by the government at the cost of billions of dollars pumped from the public treasury.

Instead of the extension of democracy abroad, Wall Street is bolstering up rotten dictatorships and moth-eaten monarchies. In America Wall Street has launched a savage anti-labor drive that threatens to wipe out gains secured in generations of struggle. And another depression reminiscent of the Thirties is now on the horizon.

Small wonder the war veterans are filled with "disillusion," and want to "do something about it."

In joining the Socialist Workers Party such veterans show that they have reached the correct conclusion: only by ending capitalism and building a socialist society can enduring peace and unlimited plenty be guaranteed; only the program of the Socialist Workers Party can lead to that kind of post-war world.

"Unanimous" Report

The "Advisory Commission on Universal Training" appointed by Truman December 19 to make "recommendations" on peacetime conscription of American youth submitted its report June 1. The Commission "unanimously" decided in favor of conscripting 18-year olds and turning them over to the brass hats for one year's training (six months "basic" and six months "advanced.")

Readers of The Militant will not be surprised at this "recommendation." In our issue of February 8 we predicted that the report of the Commission "will be nothing but a rubber-stamp approval of Wall Street's plans for converting America into the greatest peacetime military camp in history." It required no crystal ball to make this prediction. Most of the hand-picked members of the Commission were already active champions of peacetime conscription.

Chairman Karl T. Compton, for instance, testified before the House Military Affairs Committee on November 21, 1945, in favor of universal military training. Daniel E. Polling on April 10, 1945, declared his support of this "principle" because of his "faith as a Christian." Charles E. Wilson, president of General Electric, insisted that "the role of Congress is limited to voting the necessary funds." And John Ohly, the Executive Secretary for the Commission, was in charge of all the work, although not an official member. Ohly happens to be Special Assistant to the Secretary of War, who has spear-headed the brass hat campaign for peacetime conscription.

Six months ago these advocates of Prussian-like militarism claimed that the proposed training program had nothing to do with militarism. Apparently they decided, as a result of their "study," that the pretense was too flimsy, and so they took the course of brazening it out, now boldly admitting the "training" program is part of a general military plan.

The Commission viewed with "horror" the "staggering" cost of the scheme it proposes but apparently felt no horror whatever over the frightful perspective of the new war into which Wall Street is coolly planning to plunge America.



"They really ought to be glad to get laid off; it gives them a nice long vacation after their hard war work."

Workers' BOOKSHELF

A ROOM ON THE ROUTE

by Godfrey Blunden, J. B. Lipincott Co., 327 pp., 1947, \$3.

In a limited sense, *A Room on the Route* is a political novel—that is, to the extent that the characters created by the author half-pose and discuss many vital questions which affect Russian life. These discussions, however, come to no conclusion, except in the case of the young Communist, Karl. He returns from the battle front where he lost his bearings and became an individual terrorist. He dies in an abortive attempt to carry out his erroneous philosophy.

The "Route" is the auto highway leading from the Kremlin to the suburban homes of the top-flight bureaucrats. The main characters in the book live in an apartment along this highway.

The author takes no responsibility for the opinions expressed by his characters. He titles the divisions of the book by the names of his characters instead of the usual chapter headings. In this manner his characters do all the talking, giving the impression that, as author, he is merely portraying composites of real Russian people he met. The author makes no comments on the questions raised nor does he counter any of the opinions expressed. For example:

A detachment of Germans is sighted coming down a certain road. A group of Russian soldiers—all former political prisoners—are waiting for them, ready to try to delay their forward march. In the interval they discuss freely. Death no longer terrifies them. The Professor speaks: "I will give you a formula for a great State. First you seize power... After that you maintain an efficient and ruthless police system and divide your people into groups, each group having privileges above the other" so that there is always "a group below you which is really starving. No man likes to lose his privileges, however slight they may be. Thus you begin a class system in which privilege is the reward of loyalty."

Nobody counters this definition

of a class, nor does the author make any comment on it.

A young factory director wishes to know why the Russian people "today accept oppression without a dissenting voice among them." Several in the group gave their replies:

"It is man's insatiable appetite for power."

"One man's appetite."

"The only reality is power."

"With power one can make history as he likes."

"Power is crime."

"To avoid the acceptance of power is a crime."

The young director is not satisfied. He presses for clarification.

"There must be a certain moment in the seizing of power when power is not yet in the hands of the power-lusting. No man is driven into power... There is a moment when power is bequeathed to him either by abstention of those with more rightful title or by abnegation... I speak of December 1924 when I was a child."

A worker answers:

"It was a man's vanity which cost us the Revolution. The next-Greatest (obviously Trotsky) felt himself to be so great that he remained aloof, waiting for the people to hand him the Laurel, instead of seizing it, and when the less-Great (Stalin) stole it he was already condemned."

That is how it happened that we have "on the one hand the guilt of vanity, and on the other hand the guilt of theft."

Here too, the author throws no light on the confused discussion. Instead, he lets the reader draw his own conclusions, depending on his knowledge or ignorance of those events and his attitude toward the issues involved in Trotsky's great political fight against Stalin.

Further in the book we get a

discussion between the individual terrorist Karl and Gregor, an old Bolshevik. Gregor argues: "It is not he (Stalin) that is wrong, but Life... It is said that power corrupts. I found that the exercise of power requires corrupt men."

Again the author does not intervene. Nor does he make any of the characters point out that "the exercise of power" can also be wielded for great good, and under favorable economic conditions, even by corrupt men.

It is difficult to say whether these omissions are by design so as to report an "impartial" record, or whether they are due to the author's own ambiguity on some of the fundamental questions touched.

On the other hand, one of the characters in the book gives an excellent, clear exposition of the reasons for the Moscow trials and the forced confessions of the old Bolsheviks. The only other explanation of this phenomenon I read which makes sense, is the one by Leon Trotsky.

As a novel, *A Room on the Route* is a welcome change from the run of the mill boy-meets-girl variety, though it does not disregard the sex-interest angle. At the same time, this book has nothing in common with the pretentious novels that deal with the searchings of soul-sick individuals.

The story centers around a group of people in a room on the "Route." They are depicted as average Russian citizens living from day to day in constant fear of the sinister forces which have caught them in a web of political intrigue. They never know who will be called next by the dreaded secret police—the NKVD or GPU as we know it—not to be heard from again. So they just sit and wait, discussing far into the night with their friendly visitor, the foreign embassy attache, Ferguson, who comes to them secretly.

The book is well written and absorbs the reader's attention from start to finish. It is well worth reading.

—Rose Karsner

Correction

Through a misprint, the full name of the book reviewed in this column last week was not given. It is: *Pattern For World Revolution*, by Ypsilon.

Congressmen At Work

Terminal Leave Pay

During the war, one of the favorite subjects of Wall Street's Congressmen was their love for "our heroes" on the battlefields. They never tired of making the record again and again and again to declare their undying appreciation for the sacrifices made by "our heroes." No accusation drew more indignant protests and denunciations from them than the insinuation that after the war was over and the veterans got back home, perhaps the fire of this love might die down.

Yet that is what happened. Now that the veterans need legislative help, a chill reserve appears to paralyze these once fervid political Romeos.

Take terminal leave pay, for instance. Last year, Representative Dwight L. Rogers of Florida introduced a bill providing for lump-sum cash payment for the terminal leave pay due enlisted men. There was nothing radical about this bill. All it did was to approve payment of money owed the veterans. It was not even novel or unprecedented. Cash payment already prevailed for officers.

In fact this legislation was so obviously called for that it passed the House by a vote of 379 to 0.

Then it came to the Senate. These Wall Street legislators by this time had gone through a cooling-off period. So they slapped on an amendment, provid-



ing bonds to be issued for this pay, but not redeemable for 5 years. These former loud-voiced champions of the veteran specified that "such bonds are to be non-negotiable and shall not be transferable by sale, exchange, assignment, pledge, hypothecation, or otherwise."

So a veteran, unemployed or a victim of hard luck, may find himself with a pocketful of bonds out panhandling for his next meal.

Rogers announced he would introduce a bill in the 80th Congress to make the bonds payable or redeemable in cash. This bill was the third one, H.R. 3, entered in the present Congress. It was sent to the Armed Services Committee and has been there ever since, gathering dust in a pigeon-hole.

If a committee does not report out a bill for consideration within 30 days, the introducer of the bill can file a petition to dis-

charge the committee from further consideration of the measure. But the catch is, 218 names are required on the petition. "This petition, which is known as petition No. 1," reported Rogers on May 27, "has been on the Clerk's desk since March 4, 1947, and it appears that the petition is getting nowhere fast."

Rogers therefore resorted to another maneuver. On May 19, he introduced a bill, H.R. 3521, to make these bonds negotiable. "Let us hope," said Rogers, "that the members of this Congress will give their cooperation in the passage of this measure." A vain hope. It too is getting nowhere fast. The ex-lovers of the GIs aren't even willing to let the veterans sell their own bonds in case of necessity.

But then why should they? The Democrats and Republicans, busy putting a sharp edge on the guillotine for labor, can't be bothered about tossing a sop to the veterans. Besides, what do these Wall Street machine politicians have to worry about? Do the veterans have a Labor Party that can oust them from office?

READ

Fourth International

Stalin's Fake Concession On Russian Death Penalty

By Alan Kohlman

On May 26 the Stalinist regime announced the abolition of the death penalty in peacetime and the substitution of 25 years imprisonment in "corrective labor camps" for all crimes previously carrying the death sentence. In recent years the death penalty has been invoked almost exclusively against political opponents of the Stalinist regime. In this manner perished the entire generation of Old Bolsheviks, the general staff of Lenin's party, in the infamous Moscow frame-ups. Likewise, thousands upon thousands of lesser known oppositionists were mowed down in the greatest blood purges in history.

The Kremlin has offered two reasons for this action. The decree of the Supreme Soviet declares "that the cause of peace can be considered as secured for a long time." In the face of the ever-mounting military, economic, political and diplomatic preparations of American imperialism for war against the Soviet Union, this is a bare-faced lie, designed to lull the war-weary and poverty-stricken Soviet masses into a false sense of security.

The decree also speaks about the "exceptional devotion of the entire population... toward the Soviet Government" which makes this step possible. This too is a lie—an obscene lie. The Stalin regime mortally hates and fears the masses whom it has expropriated politically long ago. The decree, far from testifying to the "devotion" of the Soviet workers to the mass murderers in the Kremlin, is in reality a concession to mass pressure for the restoration of workers' democracy which the Stalinist regime destroyed. The decree is obliquely compelled to recognize this mounting mass pressure when it speaks of "meeting the wishes of the trade unions of workers and employees and other authoritative organizations expressing the opinion of the broad masses of the people."

The masses had expected great changes after the victory over Hitler. The Soviet press even went so far as to hint at one time about the possible institution of habeas corpus. This half-promise to relax even slightly the terroristic reign of the secret police was of course not kept. Instead of genuine concessions came this piece of Stalinist mockery.

A third reason for the abolition of the death penalty is blatantly advanced by Joseph Starobin in the *Daily Worker*. It is "a sign of the stability of Soviet society... the Soviet state is dramatically asserting its unity... the Soviet society is calm, cool and collected."

Again, nothing could be farther from the truth. The Soviet Union is now in the throes of an economic crisis. As a result of wartime destruction, of bureaucratic mismanagement, looting and waste, production remains way below 1940 levels. The Fourth Five Year Plan is sagging because of disproportions and unfulfilled quotas. Widespread and mounting famine engulfs the countryside, dealing deadly blows to the masses. Economic productivity is declining. A huge labor shortage prevails. Collectivized economy is being pierced and dented by increasing concessions to capitalist elements.

All these factors point to increasing instability, growing discontent, feverish and potentially explosive cross-currents in Soviet society and an ever-mounting crisis of Stalin's regime.

The abolition of the death penalty under such circumstances cannot possibly fool the Soviet workers. They know only too well that the monstrous conditions of forced labor for workers imprisoned for 25 years means an early death under the bestial treatment of the GPU. This has already been demonstrated by the fate of millions of Soviet workers as well as German and other prisoners of war who have gone to their graves in the forced labor battalions.

The abolition of the death penalty will not placate the ever-rising discontent of the masses, who seek a return to genuine workers' democracy. Not only the abolition of the death penalty but the revolutionary abolition of the Stalinist gravediggers of Soviet society is what the masses want and need to save the degenerated workers state and turn its direction back toward a Socialist goal.

45 State Legislatures Legalize Price Gouging

By George Lavan

Big Business has been quietly passing state laws to keep prices high. This is not only to gouge the workers but a preparation for the unfolding depression.

In Missouri the House has just passed a high price-fixing bill and sent it to the Senate. If the bill is passed, Missouri will become the 46th state to enact such legislation.

This legislation allows manufacturers to fix the minimum retail prices of their products. For a retailer to sell at less is a violation of the law.

For example it is now illegal in Colorado to sell cigarettes at less than a 2% markup wholesale and 6% retail.

These high-price laws are aimed directly at the worker's pay check and have already played their part in making his dollar shrink in purchasing power. Big Business has succeeded in getting 45 states to assist it in gouging the wage-earner. It also shows that the capitalists intend to continue the price gouge and make it permanent.

This is the answer of Big Business to Truman's plea to cut prices. It is also an excellent commentary on the cries of Big Business against "government interference" with "free enterprise." It shows that business prefers legally upheld high prices to the blessings of "free competition."

The Truman administration claims to be alarmed by this price-fixing development since it endangers the President's "campaign" for price reductions. Three federal agencies are now "studying" the situation to determine if these laws are keeping the cost of living too high. There is no indication how long these "studies" will take or that, if ever finished, remedial action will be taken.

As soon as the federal investigation was announced, Big Business declared it would tolerate no meddling with its new state laws. In New York a spokesman for the drug industry threatened a march on Washington.

Big Business is losing no time preparing for the unfolding depression. The silent campaign of slipping price-fixing legislation through the legislatures of 46 states without the public hearing about it is only one step in its preparation. The workers can learn something from this preparation by the capitalists. Labor too should start making its preparations for the days of mass unemployment and depression ahead.

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.

Wants More Articles

On Basic Questions

Editor: Some time ago you published a series of educational articles on basic Marxian economics which were a success.

I request that a similar series of basic educational articles on the class struggle and the state be written. Every time the state intervenes in the every day struggles of the workers, special attention should be paid to its role. This will help the workers to learn to understand how the government affects their interests.

M. S.
Los Angeles

Wants Material

On Socialist Party

Editor: I am collecting materials for a history of the Socialist Party and would welcome any aid that your readers might give me. I am especially interested in files of inner party bulletins, factional documents, minutes, correspondence and any relevant material on the Socialist Party. These materials would be returned in good condition and the writer would pay all express and insurance charges on them. If any readers have any material they would care to loan me, they can write to the address listed below.

David Bell
Faculty Exchange
University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois

Stalinists "Aid" Victim

Of Police Brutality

Editor: Members of the San Diego Committee Against Police Brutality held a meeting at the Logan Heights Elementary School May 20 to discuss the case of Raymond Brasher who was shot by a cop last March.

Besides being a victim of police brutality, Brasher faces a frame-up charge of "felonious assault." The Committee seeks dismissal of this charge.

Most touching incident at the meeting was the appeal of the defendant's mother Margaret Brasher, for aid. She told how her son was shot "by a plain-clothes policeman without provocation."

Everyone here is commenting favorably on the "Notebook of an Agitator" series.

Milt Genecin
Akron, Ohio

A Worker's Answer

To Depression

The following is part of a conversation which I had with a worker in my plant. He is a good union man, but believes women should be kept from working in factories because they deprive men of work. However, his other ideas are really illuminating.

He remarked that all Communists should be kept from holding union offices. "After all this is America. That stuff is all right for Russia, but look at their standard of living. No sir, I'll shout Americanism from the roof-tops to everyone can hear it. They did all right throwing the Czars out of Russia."

I asked him what he thought should be done about the present anti-labor drive which is seeking to destroy the unions by labelling them communistic.

"We can fight it through oth-

er means than Communism," he said.

Finally my last question was what the American worker should do when the depression comes and ten to thirty million workers are laid off.

This was his reply: "We'll just have to have a revolution."

L. M. E.
Buffalo, New York

Takes Lambasting

But Renews Sub

Editor: I am enclosing \$1 to renew my subscription. I'd dearly like to send *The Militant* to my friends but cannot afford to do so.

I am one of those terrible landlords who put \$400 on an old house before rent control was mentioned; and could not raise the rent. I've been lambasted from heels to head in your paper.

This house was not a gift, it was by denying ourselves the very necessities of life that we took it with the hope it would care for us in our old age. My husband is 69 and has been an invalid for the past three years. I am 64 years old—not young.

Sometimes when I read your paper I think it is printed only for the ne'er-do-well drinkers and fun-lovers, but not for thrifty savers.

Mrs. Clarence Laws
Austin, Minn.

Editorial Note: Like other small business men, the landlord who has little capital faces great difficulties. He is squeezed by high taxes and by the ruthless competition of the billion-dollar corporations. In addition, poor people who have to pay high rent are not inclined to sympathize with any landlord—big or little.

In the first stages of socialism, the small businessman would find the great burdens now weighing him down, greatly lightened. A Workers' and Farmers' Government would end taxes for the low income brackets and furnish cheap credit for those desiring it. The great leap in mass purchasing power would help the small businessman.

As socialism proves its advantages, small businessmen will be inclined to give up their small holdings in return for a place in the united planned economy of socialism.

The *Militant* centers its fire on the big landlords, the giant insurance trusts, the enormously wealthy real estate interests on Wall Street, and the banks. Moreover, since the gigantic housing needs of the workers and other poor people cannot possibly be met by depending on private capital, we advocate a government housing program that would take the billions of dollars now ear-marked for the war machine and build homes needed by the people.

ACEWR Begins Cabling Relief Packages To Hunger Stricken Workers In Germany

NEW YORK, June 2—The American Committee for European Workers Relief announced last week that it had started cabling relief packages to hunger-stricken Germany. Since it is now apparent that the food crisis in Germany will last for many months it is making a special appeal for contributions so that it may increase the volume of parcel-post packages it has been sending.

Excerpts from letters received recently from the hunger zones of Germany are as follows: From Hamburg, a worker writes that the packages he received "prove that in spite of 12 years of Nazi terror the feeling of international solidarity is alive and we German workers are not alone in our struggle for the final establishment of peace in the world. We will never slacken in this struggle."

Another letter from Hamburg states, "The package is doubly useful to me because of my 72 year old mother. After two severe operations in November and February she has contracted hunger edema due to the lack of food. You can imagine how happy we were under these circumstances to receive your package. It means for my mother that her life was saved."

"From the industrial Ruhr: 'I wish to inform you that I have received your fine package. It arrived in good condition. You have no idea what a great help such good packages are for us in these times which are steadily worsening. Many thanks to you and to all those who contributed to this. I spent nine years, beginning in 1935, as a political prisoner in jail and concentration camps (Esterwege, Sachsenhausen and Oranienburg). I simply add this for your information.'

A woman in the Ruhr writes, "Only today am I able to thank you for your wonderful package. I received it in the beginning of February but was confined to my bed by illness and I was not able to write. Now the good contents of the package are helping me to improve my health fast. It is a great joy to know that there are friends abroad who help us in our misery in Germany."

The New York chapter of the

ACEWR announces that the profit from the Cafe Internationale held May 17 is already slightly over \$400, with some money yet to come in. Successful benefit showings of movies were held by the Newark and Los Angeles chapters of the ACEWR. The final tally on these affairs has not yet been received.

The food crisis in Europe will continue throughout the summer. German workers whose wages do not allow them to buy foodstuffs on the black market will find it impossible to feed their families on the official ration. Former concentration camp prisoners whose health has been destroyed by as many as ten years of imprisonment and torture will speedily succumb to tuberculosis and other diseases.

This will happen unless you act to prevent it. Make a donation today no matter how small. All money orders and checks should be sent to American Committee for European Workers Relief, 130 West 23rd Street, New York 11, N. Y. Please note the change of address and help the starving workers of Europe today.

Chicago Groups Join Fight Against Job Discrimination

By Robert L. Birchman

CHICAGO, May 30—Representatives of over twenty labor, civil liberties and civic organizations launched a united campaign to end the discriminatory policies in the hiring of sales clerks that prevail in the department

stores in the Loop. The conference Monday night organized a United Committee on the State Street Stores and elected a Steering Committee to direct the campaign and mobilize labor and community support to end discrimination in the hiring policies of the department stores.

The first step in the campaign will be negotiations with the management of the department stores in an effort to persuade them to end their discriminatory policies in the hiring of sales clerks. If the stores do not agree to hire Negroes and other racial minorities as sales clerks, a campaign of mass action will be organized to secure their compliance with fair employment practices.

The campaign will include an educational program to inform the department store workers and the public of the issues and of the disadvantage of discrimination for them. The conference decided that all leaflets and publicity distributed would be undertaken in consultation and cooperation with the unions representing the department store workers.

MANY ORGANIZATIONS

Among the organizations represented at the conference were AFL Retail Clerks Joint Council; Local 242 Marshall Field Employees Union; Local 291, Department Store Employees and Local 329—all affiliated with the AFL Building Service Employees International Union.

Also the Joint Council of the CIO Retail, Wholesale and Department Employees, CIO; Anti-Discrimination Committee, Chicago CIO Industrial Union Council; International Ladies Garments Workers Union; CIO Textile Workers; NAACP; Urban League; CORE (Committee of Racial Equality); Socialist Workers Party; American Civil Liberties Union; Workers Party; Chicago Area Tenants Union; Council Against Religious and Racial Discrimination; Labor Views; Anti-Defamation League;

Many vacationers return each year because in addition to all the other enjoyable features of the camp, there is the school. Classes are voluntary, but few want to miss this unique opportunity to study Marxism and the problems of the labor movement under competent instructors.

One enthusiastic visitor to the camp last year wrote this letter of appreciation to *The Militant*. He said: "I had a grand week at the Mid-West Camp. I arrived a complete stranger... Yet all the members of the staff welcomed me most cordially and accepted me with no apparent reservations. When I left, I distinctly felt I had made many new friends, sincere, warm people. Believe me it was a wonderful feeling."

Readers of *The Militant* are urged to send their reservations in early, thus assuring themselves of accommodations. Write the coupon on this page, or clip to Oscar Coover, Camp Manager, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

NEWARK
June Carnival
Sat., June 21, 9 p.m.
Dancing, Entertainment
423 Springfield Ave.

SAN FRANCISCO
"Esquire Cabaret Night"
Floor Show—Refreshments
Sat., June 14, 8:30 p.m.
305 Grant Ave.

CHICAGO
Lecture on
The Labor and Nationalist
Movement in Africa
Speaker
ROBERT L. BIRCHMAN
Tues., June 17, 8 p.m.
DUSABLE HISTORY CLUB
Hall Branch Library
4801 Michigan Ave.

Attention! NEW YORK Readers!
Annual June Ball
Dance Music by:
Bob Wilbur and His Wildcats
(Praised by the New Yorker and other discriminating critics)
Guest Artists
Mama Price will sing the Blues.
Refreshments Fun Admission: \$1:20
Saturday, June 7, 9 P. M.
IRVING PLAZA
15th Street and Irving Place
Aspirants: New York Local of the
Socialist Workers Party.

THE MILITANT ARMY

Week At Camp Is Akron Award For Most Subs



The winner in Akron's 6-week campaign to get subscriptions to *The Militant* will be awarded "a week's vacation in Mid-West Vacation Camp," according to a letter from Milton Genecin, organizer for that branch. This information accompanied 6 subs, "three of which came in before our campaign started."

Boston wound up its campaign with a total of 112 new subs to *The Militant*. Rena Breshi, campaign manager, writes: "Much to my surprise, after figuring the score, I came out on top with 16½ subs. Comrade Henry Dennis came in second with 13 subs and Comrade Gert Worth came in third with 12½ subs."

Subscriptions are pouring in from Chicago. This report from Miriam Roberts came with 49 subs received during the week: "Everyone here is sure enthusiastic about the campaign. The race is becoming a close one since a lot of us are catching up with some of the others who have high scores. We don't wait for Sunday to roll around before we go out for subs. Sunday, however, is the big day when we all go out, and after we return to the headquarters, there is the excited comparing of notes which we always enjoy. We'll have more subs for you..."

Good results were obtained by the comrades in the Twin Cities branches. The St. Paul branch sent in 7 subs, several of them from railroad workers. The Minneapolis comrades sent in 12 subs to *The Militant*, most of them being "the result of Sunday's mobilization."

The Lynn comrades are making sure that the readers in their area continue to get *The Militant* regularly by getting renewals of expired subs. Six renewals, four new subs, resulted from this week's work.

Buffalo is as regular as clockwork in mailing its weekly batch of subs to *The Militant*. This week it is 11 subs "sold in the various shops where the comrades work." Keep up the good work, comrades. Your consistent subscription work is adding scores of new readers to *The Militant*.

The comrades in Pittsburgh have ordered two complete files of all issues of *The Militant* containing the series of articles by James P. Cannon on American Stalinism and Anti-Stalinism. They have found the material in these articles of great help in their work.

According to a report from Al Lynn, Los Angeles Local, "our San Pedro comrades have been selling an average of 40 *Militants* at the bi-weekly longshore meetings. They are also going to begin selling pamphlets again—in the past they have sold hundreds."

Last Saturday evening, the Bedford-Stuyvesant branch of

URGENTLY NEEDED
The following back issues of 'New International' are needed for binding:
1934—January, March, May
1938—January, February, March, November
1939—January, June, October, November
1940—February

If you have one or more copies of any issue listed above, will you please send them to:
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL
116 University Pl.,
New York 3, N. Y.

PHILADELPHIA
A Series of Six Lectures
Why A Minority Problem
Exists in U. S.
The Means For Elimination
of Racial Antagonisms
Beginning:
Monday, June 23
8 to 10 p.m.
Max Goldman
Discussion Leader
MILITANT LABOR FORUM
1303 W. Girard Ave.

Pass This Copy
Of The Militant
To Your Neighbor

Mail This Blank For Your Reservation At
Mid-West Vacation Camp And School

Season June 29 to Sept. 2 Adults \$25 week, Children \$15
OSCAR COOVER, Manager
116 University Place
Reserve accommodations for below from.....to.....
Family ☐ Couple ☐ Single ☐

List all who will attend:
Name.....(Mr., Mrs., Miss)

List of Children and Age.....

Name of Applicant.....(Please sign)

Address.....

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

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

AKRON—2nd floor, 8 S. Howard St. Open Mon. through Friday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Saturdays 2 to 4 p.m.

BOSTON—30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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

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

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

DETROIT—6108 Linwood Ave., phone TY. 7-6267. Open Monday through Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m. Current events forum and open house, Saturday from 8 p.m.

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

LOS ANGELES—Militant Publishing Assn., 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.

SAN PEDRO, Militant Publishing Assn.,—1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

LYNN, Mass., 44 Central Square,

Room 11. Discussion every Tuesday 7:30 p.m.; open Saturdays 1-5 p.m.

MILWAUKEE—Militant Bookshop, 608 S. 5 St., open 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS—10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily except Sunday. Tel. Main 7781. Library, bookstore.

NEW HAVEN—Labor School, 855 Grand Ave., 3rd floor. Open 1st and 3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sunday forums, 2nd and 4th of month, 8:30 p.m.

NEWARK—423 Springfield Ave. Phone Bigelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p.m.

NEW YORK—CITY HQ., 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St. Rm. 23. MO. 2-1866.

Every Thursday Open Discussion, 8 p.m.

BROOKLYN: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101. Mondays 8 p.m., Round Table Discussion on "The Coming American Revolution;" Fridays 8 p.m. Branch meetings.

OAKLAND, Cal.—Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351.

PHILADELPHIA—1303-05 W.

Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily, Friday forum, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

PITTSBURGH—1418 Fifth Ave., 2nd floor.

Open Forum 2nd and 4th Mondays 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Marxist Study Class every Thursday 7-9 p.m. 1418 Fifth Ave.

SAN DIEGO—Headquarters 623 Sixth Ave., open 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SAN FRANCISCO—School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., cor. of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor open from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1926.

SEATTLE—1919½ Second Ave. Open 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mon. through Fri., 12 to 5 p.m. Sat.

Tel. SE-0453 Library, bookstore. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Basic Training Class.

ST. LOUIS—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312. 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 Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

TOLEDO—108 Summit St., Toledo 4, O. Open daily, Phone Main 8919.

YOUNGSTOWN—35½ South Ave., Youngstown 3, O. Open 12-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1355.

The Truth Will Out

By Theodore Kovalesky

"Truth will out," they say. And they say, "You can't keep a good man down." It sounds good, doesn't it, the idea that "good" must triumph over "evil"? It sounds good, and, believe it or not, it is good. We kind of get the idea that just the opposite is true as we go along seeing all sorts of crooks in politics and in the union movement getting life's gravy while the worker gets the dirty end of the stick. We get the idea that "evil" must win out over "good," and that that is the way of the world.

But look at the case of Rocky Bellotti. He's only one man, and only a few hundred, maybe a thousand, other people in the world have ever heard of him. But he's an example and worth talking about.

Rocky works in a small steel fabrication plant. He's a union man; he's been a union man ever since the USA-CIO was born. He was a strong union man in the days when it was dangerous to be one, and he's a strong union man today.

But the trouble with Rocky was that he was too honest, too courageous, and too blunt. He didn't know how to make deals. He couldn't lie or keep his mouth shut when he figured it was time to sound off about what he deeply felt was good or bad for the union. He couldn't be scared off, and he couldn't be bought off with what is known in the rarified atmosphere of Washington or Tammany Hall as a "political plum."

So Rocky didn't get along any too well in the union movement locally. Of course he was on the organizing committee from the beginning, where he did a wonderful job; and of course he's been a steward for years (and the boys in his department swear by him). But that was about as far, it seemed, as Rocky would ever get. He

wasn't tactful enough, conciliatory enough. He lacked the qualities of a "labor statesman." "Why," people said, some people, that is, "that guy don't recognize the company's rights. You gotta fight for the workers, but you gotta remember the company's got rights too, and you can't call the boss a liar or things like that when you go in on a grievance. You got to take it easy." Rocky never took it easy.

As far as I'm concerned, there is a little to what they say about Rocky... just a little. He could be a little more careful. Instead of jumping up on the union floor and launching an all-out fight on the spur of the moment whenever anything comes up that he disagrees with, he could hesitate a little and organize the fight so he'd get more support. He could win more, and take a few less beatings. But Rocky's a man who can and does learn, and he'll learn that too.

But what I wanted to say was this: You can't keep a good man down, and the truth will get out sooner or later. And some proof for that is that Rocky has just been elected financial secretary of his local.

There was a man named Green, who beat Rocky in the last election for that post, just as a lot of other men had been nosing him out pretty consistently in previous elections. Green was his opposite. He could get along with people, and he could make deals and keep quiet about a lot of things in the union. But the boys found out about one of his deals that "earned" him \$300 out of the union treasury... and Green was tossed out of office. And Rocky won the post.

But the reason he won is that the truth finally got out. It took time, but his union brothers finally recognized him as a good man, one they wanted as a leader.

This isn't much of a story, but remember it. There's a lesson in it.

The Negro Struggle

Anger Is Not Enough

By William E. Bohannon

Mr. Truman and Mr. Marshall are mad. They claim that the Russians have made a coup in Hungary, that their action isn't democratic, and they aim to do something about it. I'm angry too. I don't hold any brief for the bureaucratic policies of the Stalinists in Hungary or anywhere else, but I'm angry about something else. I'm angry about things that are happening right here in the USA. Lynch mobs running wild again. Lily white juries turning self-confessed lynchers scot-free. Shotgun blasts, sadistic knifing and hanging of innocent young Negroes make a mockery out of democracy for 14 million American Negroes. And they make a hypocrite out of Truman or anybody else who yaps about democracy in Europe and doesn't lift a finger to halt lynch murder in the USA.

Those 28 men on trial in Greenville, South Carolina confessed that they took Willie Earle out of jail and into the woods, cut slices of his flesh away with knives, smashed in his head with blow after blow from gun butts. When they had finally vented their sadistic fury, they shot him three times and left his mutilated body lying as a bloody warning to all other Negroes.

When these murdering swine were placed on trial and their confessions made public, a lot of "liberal" editors and professional spouters of "democracy" (Truman-style) began to sound off about the "progress" in the fight against lynching. The South was learning its lesson, you see. The trial was going to stop lynching. But a lily-white jury turned these self-confessed

murderers free to strike again. And a few days later, obviously as a direct result of the South Carolina verdict, another mob tried to lynch Godwin Bush in North Carolina.

What did all the professional "democracy-lovers" have to say about the acquittal of the Earle lynch mob and the new outbreak of lynching? Where is their much-touted "progress"? Their great liberal expectations are bankrupted by events, their present shameful silence is pierced only by the sinister laugh of old Judge Lynch.

The more I read about that trial, the angrier I get. Listen to one of the defense attorneys: "Willie Earle is dead and I wish more like him were dead. If a mad dog were loose in my community, I would shoot the dog, and let them prosecute me... Not a soul in South Carolina would criticize you if you turn these boys loose." That's plain talk. Plain lynch talk. "Shoot the mad dogs." That is the real voice of the Southern ruling class. And none of the "friends of democracy" and believers in "progress" can or will find an effective answer to these lynch incitements.

What do the 14 million Negroes think—what does any decent white worker think—when they hear these Southern mobsters say "Shoot the mad dogs"? They get just as angry as I am.

But anger is not enough. We've got to fight for a real anti-lynch law with the death penalty for lynchers. And more than that we've got to forge a fighting alliance with the labor movement, and learn how to defend ourselves from these lynchers, how to deal back blow for blow, and how to put an end to lynching by ending the profit system that incites and breeds it.

The Not-So-Happy Barefoot Boy

By Grace Carlson

This is the season of the year when newspaper editors, at a loss for material to fill the editorial columns, knock off a piece about the Happy Barefoot Boy. A few lines from Whittier's poem are quoted to prove that the "blessings" which fall on "the barefoot boy" fill him with "outward sunshine and inward joy."

But the barefoot boys and girls of the Southern states do not fit this picture, because in that area, thousands of barefoot children and their parents are victims of hookworm disease. In North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee and Kentucky, the lack of an adequate sewage disposal system means that the soil is infested with the hookworm parasite.

Under the favorable conditions provided by the mild climate and moist sandy soil of these Southern states, the hookworm parasites thrive, and infest not only the soil, but those who walk barefoot across the soil. In the highly authoritative textbook, *Preventive Medicine and Hygiene*, Dr. Milton Rosenau writes:

"The prevention of hookworm disease is based on three principles: (1) sanitation, i.e. the prevention of soil pollution; (2) treatment of cases so as to diminish the amount of infestation; (3) mechanical protection, as the wearing of shoes. Sanitation is fundamental and enduring, but slow; treatment is quick, but temporary; shoes are effective, but not always economically practicable."

Why the provision of shoes for all of the citizens of these poverty-stricken areas could eliminate the menace of hookworm disease is easily understood from the mode of the transmission of the disease. The hookworm parasite is about half an inch long in its adult stage. From the soil, where they have been deposited in human waste, these parasites enter the body through the skin of the foot. After passing through the blood stream, the lungs and the stomach, the worms finally reach the small intestines of the victim. There they attach themselves by means of hooks to the lining of the intestine and suck the blood. If hundreds of worms are present, the amount of blood lost will be considerable and a severe anemia will develop.

A vivid characterization of the havoc wrought in the South by hookworm disease has been given by Dr. Victor Heiser, a former member of the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission, which made an intensive study of the problem. In *An American Doctor's Odyssey*, Dr. Heiser says: "Any people who have to feed a collection of intestinal worms as well as themselves are bound to lose the race against those not so handicapped. By dwarfing their bodies, inhibiting the development of their minds and rendering them more susceptible to other diseases, the hookworm has caused incalculable damage. It has slaughtered members of the human family by the thousands and rendered them ill by the millions."

And it wouldn't have to be that way at all if there weren't so many poverty-stricken Barefoot Boys in the South!

Notes From The News

CIO Tobacco Workers Union Local 22, on strike against the makers of Camel Cigarettes in North Carolina, has demanded state action to prevent the use of school children as scabs. Union officials charged that Reynolds Tobacco officials are appealing to high school principals for children to work in the struck plants.

Federal Judge Clark upheld a lower court in ordering four Negro families to vacate homes they had bought in Washington, D. C. because the neighborhood was lily-white by virtue of a real estate owners' covenant.

The National Maritime Union is protesting a

bill that would drive many foreign born seamen from American ships. Maritime workers who were torpedoed while sailing the ships during the war are in danger of losing their jobs because they have been unable to obtain citizenship papers.

Drunken members of the Michigan State Senate threw that body into an uproar at an evening session last week. Senators staggered around the chamber, waving their hats and shouting for adjournment. After three attempts to start the session, Lieutenant-Governor Keys gave up. It was understood the Senators were pie-eyed from drinking too many cocktails provided by professional lobbyists.

THE MILITANT

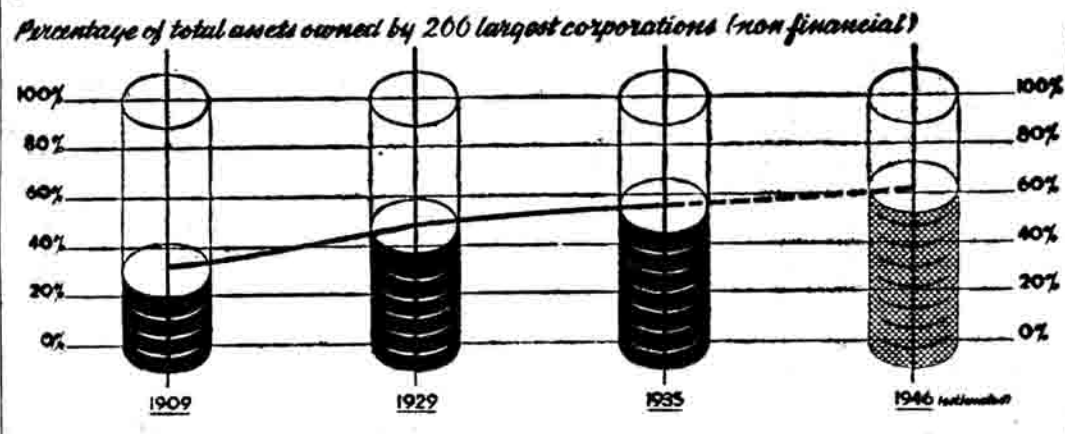
NEW YORK, N. Y.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1947

PAGE SIX

Seven Out On Bail After Lynch Attempt In N. C.

Capitalist Monopoly Grows Bigger



This chart from Consumers Reports, May 1947, shows the growing trend toward monopolistic control of American industry by Big Business. As this monopoly stranglehold grows, the workers and their families face the danger of higher prices—and restricted production to keep them high.

Federated Pictures

Secretary Of War Reveals Real Aim Of UMT Program

By Joseph Hansen

What is the real purpose of the "Universal Military Training" program advocated by the Truman Administration? An official answer has been given by Robert P. Patterson, Secretary of War (Congressional Record, May 26).

Patterson's statement is a reply to Hanson W. Baldwin, military writer for the N. Y. Times, who sounded off against universal military training on May 4. Baldwin held that in the coming "push-button" war, UMT is of "doubtful military worth." After war starts, he maintained, needed forces can be trained in accordance with the demands of the technology then developed. Meanwhile "in this atomic age, the military emphasis—if there is to be any degree of security—must be on regular forces, highly trained, instantly ready; not on some mass army that may be ready many months after M-day."

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. (R., Mass.) sent Baldwin's article to Patterson, "requesting him to comment in detail..." It is the detailed "comment" which exposes the real purpose of the proposed training program. "Universal military training," flatly states the opening sentence, "is a military program. Its primary purpose is to build up a reservoir of trained manpower for a military emergency."

To answer Baldwin's disparagement of the role of UMT in this "emergency," the document analyzes "the American strategy of war for an atomic age."

ment."

The UMT program is designed to give this manpower "the benefit of basic military training."

In addition "UMT will allow decisive offensive to be assumed much earlier" than would otherwise be possible. "... The whole philosophy of UMT is to speed up the time it takes to shift to the aggressive decisive counter-attack."

Now comes a most sinister point in the War Department document: "Mr. Baldwin's fourth proposition is that UMT does not point to civil defense, now becoming extremely vital in case of war. This is exactly contrary to the fundamental basis of the whole UMT plan as envisaged by the War Department."

These carefully couched words hint at the role of UMT in putting down any widespread resistance in America to another war. "True, UMT itself creates no organization for civil defense, but it is an essential first step, for it provides a trained nucleus of able-bodied men in every community." Apparently UMT would try to indoctrinate these men to form the core of shock forces for use against labor.

The War Department insists on the urgency of UMT, pointing to the possibility of war "now." "It is the means of providing trained manpower to make the Navy and Air Force as well as the ground Army and the civil defense structure quickly effective in the event of war. It is essential to a quick build-up of all those forces."

The War Department considers UMT as an adjunct of the regular armed forces, now the largest in peace-time history. Without UMT, "A much larger Army will be required..."

This revealing document shows how correct The Militant was in warning about the sinister purpose of the military training program. It is part and parcel of Wall Street's preparations for an attack on the Soviet Union. The document adds new weight to our proposal that the trade union movement answer Wall Street's demand to give the youth military training with a declaration of no confidence in the brass hat scheme and a demand that military training be placed under the strict supervision and control of the trade unions.

Mass Meeting In L.A. Protests Freeing Of 28 Lynch Murderers

LOS ANGELES, May 28 — The Socialist Workers Party today gave support to the mass meeting to protest the acquittal of 28 confessed lynchers and to demand immediate federal anti-lynch legislation which has been called by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for next Sunday.

Urging all labor, minority and anti-fascist organizations in Los Angeles to support this meeting, Myra Tanner Weiss, organizer of the Los Angeles Local of the Socialist Workers Party, stated: "A court decision of this kind is an open invitation to all the Klan, vigilante and other fascist elements in the country to terrorize at will the workers and racial and religious minorities in America. Within three days

The lynch spirit rules Rich Square, N. C. The men who kidnapped Godwin Bush, 24-year old Negro, from the local jail and tried to lynch him, are walking the streets free. They are confident that like the Greenville, S. C. lynchers they will never be punished.

Bush, whose courage and agility saved him from the mob, is in prison. Moreover, there is a strong danger that he will spend most of his life in prison on completely phony charges.

Seven white men have been charged with the lynch attempt on Bush. More arrests are possible since it is well known that more participated in the lynch mob. All seven were arrested with great reluctance on the part of local police authorities and were immediately freed on \$2,500 bail apiece.

As in the Greenville case, the identities of the men were established by the confession of one member of the mob. The FBI participated in the questioning that led to the confession but it is now out of the case.

Washington announced that the FBI investigation had revealed no violations of federal law. Left in the hands of the local authorities, there is no doubt that the would-be lynchers will go free.

Local officials tried hard not to reveal the names of the seven arrested men to the press. Finally the names were made public, but a campaign of threats against reporters has hindered full coverage of the story. One official advised reporters to leave town because he was afraid of them "might get killed." When a British reporter went to the town of Rich Square to cover the story for a London paper, he was told by officials to "get out of town before dark." He quoted the chief of police describing the seven arrested men as follows: "Why, they're from our highest type of family."

A local committee supporting the seven accused is headed by Charles E. Myers, Mayor of Rich Square. The Director of the State Bureau of Investigation, a little FBI, indicated that the lynch mobsters might not even be brought to trial. He said that getting indictments from the grand jury "isn't going to be easy."

Governor Cherry has stated that he will not appoint a special

Buffalo SWP Steps Up Drive Against Pending Sales Tax

By Libby Jones

BUFFALO, May 28—With mounting enthusiasm and energy the Socialist Workers Party branch here is bringing to a climax its county-wide campaign against the impending 1% sales tax—which will be foisted on the working people of Erie County on July 1 unless an aroused labor movement will stop it.

Last Saturday evening Sam Ballan, chairman of the SWP Buffalo Branch, gave "Labor's Case Against the Sales Tax" at a round-table discussion over Station WBEN, the largest radio station in the city. Despite the attempts of County Attorney Lehr, instigator of the sales tax, to sidetrack the discussion to the issue of practicality in collecting the tax, Ballan demanded the matter be brought to a referendum of the voters of Erie County.

"This infamous tax falls most heavily on the shoulders of those least able to bear it," he said. "It will amount to at least \$30 a year for the average workman's family, and will wipe out a large part of the raises recently gained by the CIO unions in this area. Are you afraid to let the working people who put you in office voice their opinion in a referendum?"

Ballan pointed to the 7,000 signatures demanding referendum on a petition circulated by the SWP in the last month. The day before the broadcast, Ballan appeared as a representative of the Party at a public hearing of the Board of Supervisors, and demanded a 90 day postponement of the enactment of the tax law in order to hold a referendum. This hearing was called for the purpose of allowing certain industries in Erie County to claim exemption from the sales tax.

The Board of Supervisors lost no time in heeding the voice of Big Business, and at the next session immediately passed a law exempting production materials from the sales tax.

Previously the SWP had supplied anti-sales tax resolutions and leaflets to every AFL and CIO local union in the Buffalo area.

The people of Buffalo showed the greatest interest in our petition campaign, when party members and sympathizers carrying banners bearing the slogan "Get Rid of the Sales Tax," appeared in the shopping districts with leaflets and petitions. Many Buffalo workers were eager to sign the petitions, and commended the Party for initiating the campaign against the sales tax.

All these public activities finally compelled Station WBEN to grant the SWP free time to present its position over the air.