

# U. S. ARMS USED IN WAR ON INDONESIANS

## Price Rises Continue As Profits Soar

### Truman's Report Reveals Fear of Worse Inflation

Despite his boasts about "unprecedented prosperity," padded statistics and invocations to "free enterprise," Truman's Midyear Economic report, issued July 21, is laced with a red thread of fear and concern about the future of American capitalism.

The careful reader of his report, especially of the statistical tables, will find proof positive that U. S. economy is far from healthy.

Truman's optimism is chiefly

propped up by his claim that by July 1, 1947, civilian production and services "have surpassed previous high records," achieving a rate of \$225,000,000,000 annually. He claims further that employment has reached 60,000,000, and cheerfully notes that "month by month recession has failed to materialize."

But his figures on production are puffed up by inflation — they do not show the incipient decline in actual output. And his employment figures are belied by the evidences of growing unemployment and what Truman himself refers to as the "soft spots" in industry where lay-offs and shut-downs have been in progress.

Dominant in Truman's picture of the state of the economy is the decisive factor of prices — the recurrent fears expressed throughout the report about further inflation.

(Continued on Page 2)

### Elect Union Men, Says State AFL

SEATTLE, July 17.—The Washington State AFL convention, being held here this week, has gone on record in favor of taking the lead "in organizing and mobilizing the state's labor forces for united and effective political action to elect members of Organized Labor to Congress and to other public offices (both national and state) in 1948."

The resolution was presented by Boxmakers Local 2635, of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union.

## Chicago Tenants Resist Profiteering Landlords

CHICAGO, July 25.—Thousands of tenants are organizing here to resist rent gouging, extortion of "bonuses," evictions and loss of services. Encouraged by the Rent Decontrol Bill, landlords throughout the city are using intimidation and eviction notices to extort rent increases.

Most successful of the tenant organizations is the North Side Tenants League launched last week at a conference where tenants of five large apartment buildings were represented. This organization is spearheaded by the Sterling Apartments Association, which recently won a complete victory against the landlord, Samuel Levine.

He was compelled to refund \$4,450 in retroactive rent for having eliminated services and \$720 obtained in bonus payments. He was also forced to redecorate all the 100 apartments and to restore all eliminated services. This victory inspired tenants throughout the Northside to organize.

The next building organized was the Sherlore Apartments, where five veterans won repayment of \$1,550 bonus they had paid.

The Chicago Area Tenants Union on the West Side won a victory for the 40 tenants in the building at 2639-43 W. Adams Street by forcing

ing the Rent Control Office of the OPA to order a rent reduction of one-third, retroactive to March 1.

In addition to the five buildings already organized, committees are being formed in five other buildings. Ten thousand copies of a leaflet, "Cl. Guard, Tenants!" have been issued informing tenants of their rights and advising them not to pay any 15% increases. In response there came hundreds of telephone calls and visits from tenants in scores of buildings. They asked assistance and applied for membership in the North Side Tenants League.

The League has just issued another leaflet: "Tenants! The Cellings Are Cracking—Keep the Roof over your Heads — Organize!" A mass meeting has been called for July 30, 7:30 p.m., at Claremore House, Clarendon and Sunnyside. The speakers include Misha Rubin, CIO Community Services Committee, Ed Aherns, chairman of the Education Committee of the AFL Chicago Federation of Labor, Attorney Edward Kane and Edith Zaslow.

## All-White Georgia Jury OKs Massacre of Eight Negroes

A Georgia prison-camp warden and seven guards who murdered eight Negro prisoners and wounded five others at the Anguila Stockade two weeks ago, were declared "justified in their action" by an all-white 23-man Glynn County grand jury in Brunswick last week.

Brunswick representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who investigated on the spot shortly after the killings, have revealed evidence that the wholesale slaying with sub-machine gun, shot guns and rifles was a deliberate massacre.

The national office of the NAACP, in its July 19 press release, reports that its Brunswick investigators "had uncovered several details of a rather sensational nature, which varied considerably from reports already published on the nation's latest anti-Negro outrage."

These findings belie the testimony of Warden W. G. Worthing, who fired the first shot, and his guards who fired a blistering fusillade into the huddled and helpless group of 27

prisoners. The jury's presentment whitewashed Worthing by lauding him "for acting in order to maintain order." It accepted his story that the prisoners were shot "while attempting to escape" and also when "one convict ran toward the warden and the guards."

According to the NAACP investigators, "there had been no sit-down strike of prisoners as originally reported. The men had simply refused to go into the rattle-snake infested swamp waters without boots. They demanded a meeting with the warden where they could explain their objections but this demand was refused by armed guards who were in charge of the work gang."

"When the men refused to enter the swamp they were told to sit in the road while one of the guards returned to the camp to report the situation to the warden. Only two guards remained with the men who were perfectly aware of the fact that there were fifteen heavily armed guards back at the camp."

"It was pointed out to the investigators by one of the prisoners, that

## UPWA Parley Renews Stand on Political Action

### Packing Workers Urge Independent Candidates

CHICAGO, July 19.—Three hundred delegates at the National Conference of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers of America, held here this week, reaffirmed the policy of their recent international convention that called for support of "independent candidates to run for all offices" and to "work for the eventual establishment" of a party representing the interests of the working people.

The conference adopted a six-point program to combat the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. It voted to "shun any use" of the NLRB machinery set up under this law and to bar any "no strike" clauses in future contracts.

A militant mood permeated the conference. The delegates expressed their determination to defeat the Republican and Democratic Parties responsible for the infamous Taft-Hartley Act.

Although the statement approved by the conference did not speak explicitly of a third party or a labor party, it was clear from the sentiments expressed by the delegates that they want labor to build a party of its own.

The conference implemented its political action policy by voting to recommend that each UPWA member voluntarily contribute one day's holiday pay, of the eight paid by the companies, to the CIO Political Action Committee. Only 50¢ of this amount is to go to the national organization. The remainder is to be retained in the local treasuries and to be used for the support of independent political candidates.

The conference program called for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and defeat of the congressmen and senators who voted for it; a campaign against high prices; community organization to combat the housing crisis; intensification of the fight against racial discrimination; and independent political action.

The conference statement described the Taft-Hartley Act "as part of the overall program of monopoly to destroy the living standards of the American people and to establish government control by big business."

It linked the skyrocketing prices to this big business program and declared the objective of the Taft-Hartley Act is to silence the labor movement, "the voice that has been raised most consistently and strongly in opposition to the NAM's program."

The statement noted that the meat packers are in the forefront "in the mad rush for profits." The very workers who produce the meat cannot afford to buy it.

Meanwhile, the packing profiteers are attempting to take advantage of the Slave Labor Law by instituting speed-ups, violating long-standing practices of labor procedure, and maintaining a general attitude of arrogance.

### Applying the "Atlantic Charter"



## Western Bloc Squabbles Over Prize Ruhr Area

When the 16 capitalist powers of the Western Bloc adjourned their Paris Conference July 15 they hailed the Marshall Plan with one voice as the only salvation of Europe. For the sake of a common front against the Soviet Union, they appeared to have buried their rivalries.

But as Washington revealed some of the concrete proposals in the Marshall Plan sharp differences broke into the open. A few short days after the Paris Conference ended, Washington, London and Paris were baring their teeth at each other over control of the Ruhr, the industrial heart of Europe.

The cornerstone of the Marshall Plan is the strengthening of German capitalism. But Wall Street is not acting out of charity. Wall Street's aim is to bolster up the cartel system with American capitalism in the back seat of the infamous and German capitalism acting as chauffeur.

The British, however, happen to be in control of the Ruhr, Germany's key coal and steel region. Consequently Wall Street has opened up a barrage against the British, declaring they have "botched

the job" of bringing up production. Wall Street demands that American managers replace the British in the Ruhr.

The British complain that this means the "revival of former enemies and a certain depreciation of wartime friends." However, Wall Street has the British where the financial hair is short. The British are expected to concede, possibly holding out for a face-saving interim arrangement of "dual" control.

The French capitalists are eager to step up German coal production, but solely for the benefit of French capitalism. They insist that German steel mills and handed over to the French steel barons as reparations. The French have visions of taking over Germany's former iron and steel markets.

They argue that permitting the German steel industry to produce will constitute a threat to France's security. The French even went so far as to threaten to blow up the "Cooperation Committee" set up by the Paris Conference. A formal protest was lodged with Washington and French Ambassa-

dor Henri Bonnet told the press: "If France is confronted with decisions it cannot approve, the negotiations in Paris could be greatly endangered."

The State Department conceded for the time being. Although the British had signed an agreement to step up production in the British and American zones, it was quietly pigeon-holed; and Marshall assured Paris no decisions would be announced without "prior consultation" with the French.

As the three Allied powers wrangled over the Ruhr, German industry continued to stagnate. The principal victims of the Allies are the German workers, but all Europe is affected. Only the genuine unification of European economy and the integration of industry on a continental scale can provide a foundation firm enough for recovery from the terrible wounds of the Second World War.

That unification, however, remains as distant as ever. The capitalists are incapable of organizing a United States of Europe. That can be accomplished only by the European workers under the banner of revolutionary socialism.

## GOODRICH STRIKE VOTE BACKS NATIONAL CONTRACT DEMAND

AKRON, O., July 21.—The drive to win a uniform nationwide contract for workers organized under the CIO United Rubber Workers in the plants of the B. F. Goodrich Company shifted into high gear last week when members of

Goodrich Local 5 here voted sixteen to one to support union demands with a strike if necessary. The Akron plant of Goodrich employs over 15,000 production workers.

The grand total of 10,131 votes cast in the all-day election on July 18 clearly indicates that the rubber workers are aroused and alive to the issues confronting the union. Only 620 votes were cast against strike action.

Goodrich executives availed themselves of their newly-gotten "rights of employers," provided for in the Taft-Hartley Act, to propagandize the workers against strike action. Every Goodrich worker received a company letter through the mails two days before the vote, entitled "Why a Strike Vote Now?"

The letter stated "there are no issues" between the company and the union and, "A strike is nothing but a vacation without pay."

This impudent attempt of the Goodrich bosses to interfere in a union election aroused the anger of the workers and contributed much to swelling the "yes" vote to its huge total.

President George R. Boss and members of the Local 5 Publicity Committee toured the factory area in sound trucks to answer the lies in the company letter. They scored Goodrich's refusal to bargain on a corporation-wide basis. They listed the outstanding issues such as a corporation-wide six-hour day, uniform piece-work rates in all regions, severance pay.

"These are the issues! When you say there are no issues, you lie in your false teeth!" This was the music the big shots on Goodrich mahogany row had to take from a union sound truck parked in front of the Goodrich General Office building.

In addition to conducting strike votes in all Goodrich plants organized in the URW-CIO, all Goodrich locals have given the company thirty-day notice to cancel their individual contracts. This action will put the unions in a position to conduct a legal strike by August 15, a week before all the restrictions of the Taft-Hartley Act are effective.

### Washington Concedes Rise of Unemployment

Despite all the ballyhoo about record employment in the U.S. with 60,000,000 employed in June, there is great uneasiness among Washington's economists. According to a recent report from the U.S. Department of Labor, layoffs are on the upswing in manufacturing. In April a "sharp rise" began in the number of workers dropped in radio manufacturing, furniture plants, textile mills and other industries.

President Truman's mid-year report to Congress reveals there has been a weakening of demand for labor especially in textiles, clothing, leather and electrical machinery. The President's Economic Council is nervously "watching soft spots" for any further signs of spreading unemployment.

## Dutch Imperialists Launch Blitzkrieg On Young Republic

By Joseph Hansen

At midnight on Sunday, July 20, Dutch troops with fixed bayonets burst without warning into the Batavia radio station of the Indonesian Republic. They barked orders for everyone to remain

motionless. A Dutch major appeared presently, gun in hand, and ordered the Indonesians taken out at rifle point. While this raid occurred, similar raids were under way throughout the city on the many Indonesian government buildings.

With this midnight blitzkrieg attack in the style perfected by the Nazi and Japanese militarists, the Netherlands imperialist government launched its long-planned war of annihilation on the Republic that dared to challenge the centuries-old rule of the Dutch colonial despots.

Dawn revealed thousands of troops fanning into the countryside from the port cities seized by the Dutch. Almost two years after V-J Day full scale war was raging throughout Java.

The blood soaking the soil of this colonial prize also stained the hands of the Truman Administration. The first military successes of the Dutch Generals were not only the fruit of a sneak attack. They were also the fruit of destructive sweeps on scores of defenseless Indonesian towns and cities by Mustang fighters (P-51s) and Mitchell Bombers (B-26s) which the United States government handed the Dutch imperialists in preparation for this colonial war.

The first amphibious landing

since V-J Day was undertaken by a Dutch division trained at the U.S. Marine Base at Quantico. In steel helmets and American-type camouflage uniforms, they successfully seized a beachhead in Eastern Java after Dutch warships had pounded the shore positions of the ill-armed Indonesian fighters for freedom.

The casualties from rockets, bombs, artillery shells and machine gun slugs made in America could not be compiled by the Indonesian independence forces as they staggered back from the murderous blow of the Dutch imperialists.

The all-out war launched by the Dutch is the climax of two years' calculations. During the war they lost their Far Eastern colonial empire to the Japanese imperialists. By the end of the war, the resistance movement in Java had grown so strong the Indonesians were able to set up a government of their own choice. But the Allied proclaimers of the Atlantic Charter and "Four Freedoms" had no intention of permitting this fabulously wealthy colonial area to slip through their fingers.

The Allied Command in Washington sent British armed forces into Indonesia and the first bloody fighting broke out as this Allied army, equipped and supplied by the United States, pounded the port cities. The first stage of the fighting ended

(Continued on Page 3)

### Socialist Workers Party Protests Use of U. S. Planes, Guns, in Indonesia

NEW YORK, July 25.—James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, today sent the following telegram to President Truman:

"According to official Dutch Army communiques as reported on July 22 from Batavia, Java, by the Associated Press, American munitions and planes—P-51 Mustangs and Mitchell reconnaissance planes as well as other fighter and bomber types—together with other U.S. military equipment are being employed to shoot down the Indonesian people who are fighting for their independence."

"All this materiel was originally supplied to the Dutch government in the name of defending democracy against fascism. The Socialist Workers Party vigorously protests the use of this same materiel and equipment for the purposes of colonial enslavement."

"We request that you, Mr. President, publicly demand of the Dutch authorities that they cease and desist from diverting American munitions, guns and planes to such evil ends against the Indonesian Republic; and further that you demand the immediate return of all this 'lend-lease' materiel."

## Housing, Evictions Crisis Intensifies

Since the real estate lobby pushed through the Rent Decontrol Act the housing shortage has become worse and evictions are booming, according to a survey of 20 major cities made by the National Health Institute in Washington and reported by the United Press on July 21.

In 14 of these cities, the survey showed, there was an outright shortage of 477,233 dwellings, not including tens of thousands of families now living in hovels, makeshift homes and reconverted Army barracks.

So far this year, according to the survey, housing construction is far below prewar figures. It is sufficient to satisfy only 15% of the shortage.

The situation is particularly acute, the National Health Institute points out, in relation to the growing national birth rate. This is now 9.5% higher than in 1939.

During the first half of this year, 362,800 permanent housing units were completed, slightly less than the rate of construction in 1938 when the population was much smaller and no housing crisis existed.

Simultaneous with the worsening housing shortage, the UP reports, "the nationwide survey showed that evictions were running into the thousands, and that the number appeared on the increase. Authorities in many cities said they saw no relief for years to come. One said 'no chance of relief until the next depression.'"

Here are examples of the housing and eviction situation in major cities:

New York City: 13.9% rise in birth-rate; 58,320 dwelling units built in 1939; built this year so far, 4,880; dwellings shortage, 150,000. "Evictions over the 500 mark and increasing."

Detroit: 11.9% rise in birth-rate; 1929 construction, 12,149; construction today, 5,110; shortage, 20,000; evictions, 2,000.

Cleveland: birth-rate up "almost 17 percent"; 1929 home construction, 27,187; this year so far, 1,341; shortage, 10,000. "Evictions over 300."

Chicago: 4% rise in birth-rate; 1929 construction, 18,837; this year so far, 2,436. Shortage, 100,000. "No relief seen for five years."

In his latest economic report, Truman admits that the housing construction program is "encouraging difficulty" and that "which new housing construction from those who need it most."

If the tens of billions of dollars Truman demands for his military budget and for his war-mongering Truman Doctrine were used to build low-rent government-financed housing, the housing shortage could be readily solved for "those who need it most."

See "Who is Right About the Housing Shortage" on Page 1.



# The Elemental Urge To Socialism

By J. R. Johnson

It is impossible to overestimate the importance all the great Marxists have given to the instinctive, elemental drive of the workers to revolution, to reconstruct the existing society. The Transitional Program, one of the great documents of the Marxist tradition, gives us a sharp example of it.

Trotsky is writing of the proletariat on a world scale in 1938. He says that for years the workers have been taking the road to the revolution, but every time they begin, their treacherous leaders push them back and maintain them under the domination of capital. He then takes three examples: the workers of Spain where the great revolution of 1931-1938 was still raging; the workers of France who had staged the stormy stay-in strikes of 1936, and the workers of the United States. The exact wording is as follows:

"The unprecedented wave of sit-down strikes and the amazingly rapid growth of industrial unionism in the United States (the CIO) is the most indisputable expression of the instinctive strivings of the American workers to raise themselves to the level of the tasks imposed upon them by history. But here, too, the leading political organizations, including the newly-created CIO, do everything possible to keep in check and paralyze the revolutionary pressure of the masses."

Here it is again. "The instinctive striving" not merely to form a union, not merely to do what Roosevelt had legally given them permission to do in the NRA. No. They were trying to raise themselves to the level of the tasks imposed upon them by history. They were showing a "revolutionary pressure." And these striking phrases occur not in an article but in a programmatic document written by Trotsky who tolerated no looseness of expression and least of all in a program.

The basis of the thought is the firm, bold, conscious expression by Marxism of the unconscious instinct to put an end to the exploitation and degradation of capitalist production itself. Many who took active part in the formation of the CIO in those tumultuous days of 1936 affirm that in the formation of the UAW, for instance, the struggle for wages played the smallest role. The men were determined to put an end to the remorseless speed-up, to gain some control over the way in which they worked, to have an organization of their own to resist the tremendous organization of the capitalist production machine.

The battle for union recognition therefore became more than a battle for the right to collective bargaining. It was for recognition of the right of the workers to protect and express themselves as a social force against capitalism. And to use Trotsky's phrases in another place, "the rapidity and the power" of "the explosion" which was the CIO, testified to the accumulated resentments, hatreds, and need for doing something else beside working for profits, which smoldered in the American proletariat before 1936.

The creative force of this deep-going insurmountable urge to tear themselves from the bloody capitalist chaos is now receiving ample confirmation in a significant place—the nervous anxiety of American capitalism over the great series of strikes. Over and over again we meet the flat pronouncement: "It is not mere wages." And often enough "Wages is the least part of their discontent." On another occasion I shall give more detailed information of the vast amount of material issued by the capitalist class, all saying unmistakably that, behind the very real struggle over wages and prices lies a vast surging desire among the workers to change the very conditions of their existence.

Perhaps the most remarkable is an article that appeared in *Colliers* of Jan. 18, 1947 by Peter F. Drucker, that devoted servant of capital. Probing into the unrest he came to the following conclusion. The old days when the struggle for the CIO was a sacred cause are gone. The formative days of the CIO gave a great deal more to the worker than promises of equal bargaining power, job security and higher wages. "They gave him a cause, a community, a sphere of action. The worker who was just a cog in a machine became a citizen with a voice, a chance to be heard, and a chance for rapid promotion to respected offices."

This petty-bourgeois intellectual cannot see everything. But he has seen much. But what he is seeing is only the expression of that tremendous urge to reconstruct society which permeates the great masses of the American workers. It is suppressed and corrupted and betrayed by, above all, the labor leadership. But those who, armed with Marxism, penetrate into the workers' milieu, are constantly amazed, overwhelmed and inspired by the clear indications of the mighty, socialistic instincts which simmer just below the surface of American capitalism today.

Scientific socialism is the conscious expression of the unconscious historical process; namely, the instinctive and elemental drive of the proletariat to reconstruct society on communist beginnings. These organic tendencies in the psychology of workers spring to life with utmost rapidity today in the epoch of crises and wars.  
—Leon Trotsky, 1940

## Strikebreaking Attempt Fails



Attempts by the Remington-Rand Co. to revive the infamous strikebreaking trick used in 1936 proved a dud at Ilion, N.Y., when 2,000 pickets of the CIO United Electrical Radio & Machine Workers turned away a company-sponsored "back-to-work movement."

## Union Leaders Now Sing the Blues About Some Old "Friends of Labor"

Now is the concert season for the He-Done-Us-Wrong Choral Club.

For the unenlightened reader, we hasten to explain that the He-Done-Us-Wrong Choral Club is composed of union leaders who sing the blues this year about capitalist politicians they serenaded so passionately last year.

If you're a union leader who told the workers in November, 1946, to vote for this or that "friend of labor" on Republican or Democratic tickets and you are now forced to sing "he done us wrong"—you pass every qualification for charter membership in the "He-Done-Us-Wrong" Choral Club.

Some of the club's leading members have been concertizing in the past few weeks.

AFL President William Green and AFL Secretary George Meany gave quite a rendition last week.

Green and Meany, at union conventions in New York State, hit High C when they sang, "he done us wrong" in connection with Senator Irving Ives, the Republican whom AFL leaders backed last November as a "friend of labor."

MOANED LOW

Green warbled keen "disappointment" in Ives who helped put over the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. He moaned low that "many in labor voted for him because they thought he was a progressive."

Meany gave out with a sad number about how Ives had AFL support because of his "experience in the field of labor relations." But, alas, Ives used this "experience" to help grease through the Taft-Hartley Act.

Green and Meany now want Ives to be voted out. They didn't name a successor, but it is understood to be another "friend of labor" from the Wall Street political camp.

Across the continent, in California, C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, publicly struck from the "friends of labor" list the man the Federation had supported for reelection last year—Governor Earl Warren.

Now the California AFL leaders are moaning. "He done us wrong," since he signed California's major anti-labor bill, barring so-called "jurisdictional" strikes.

NOT "IMPARTIAL"

"As a result of Governor Warren's signing this bill," Haggerty wrote, "labor can no longer consider his judgment impartial, as he always wanted us to believe and for which we gave him support."

How a Republican machine-man, the darling of the California industrialists and shipping interests, could ever have been considered impartial in the first place, Haggerty does not say.

Suffice to state, that not even the most politically blind can claim that today. Hence, the refrain, "Warren is not impartial. He done us wrong."

One of the strangest developments of the past week, however, was the initiation of a rival organization to the He-Done-Us-Wrong Choral Club. This is the He's - Not - Such - A - Bad - Egg - After - All Club. Its chief sponsor is A. F. Whitney, President of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

A year ago, when Truman broke the railroad strike and called for a bill to draft strikers into the Army, Whitney publicly threatened to raise a \$2,500,000 union fund to defeat Truman in November, 1948.

On July 20, Whitney discovered that Truman isn't such a bad egg after all and that his last-minute and fruitless veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill "vindicated him in the eyes of labor." Truman, according to Whitney, is "more acceptable" than any Republican. Some people prefer hanging to drowning.

All we need now is a song from the CIO leaders on the candidates they supported last November who have since "done us wrong." That's part of the record they appear shy about disclosing.

Yes, the air is full of political blues-singing. These moaners seem to be working overtime. We suggest they might be able to sing more cheerful tunes if they stopped plugging for candidates of the Big Business parties and called for real independent labor political action by building a labor party and running labor candidates.

## Warning to All Labor--Tobin Is on the Loose

Every time the bosses strike a heavy blow at labor, you will find craven union bureaucrats blaming it on the workers themselves.

God forbid that any blame should attach to the union leaders whose cowardly policies led to defeat! No—it's all the fault of the workers.

The labor fakery — or "labor statesmen" as they love to call themselves — have one particular alibi to cover their own misleadership and treachery. They accuse the workers of having been "too militant." The workers "antagonized" their enemies and "invited" reprisals.

There has been a chorus of such accusations since enactment of the Taft-Hartley Slave Labor Law. And it's not surprising that the choirmaster himself is Daniel J. Tobin, Czar-President of the AFL Teamsters.

Where other union bureaucrats dare to slander the workers only by hint and indirection, the arrogant Tobin, sitting on his \$14,000,000 union treasury and surrounded by his hired "gangsters" bluntly and crudely slurs militant labor, and specifically his own union members.

In his personal organ, *The International Teamster* for July, Tobin proclaims in headlines: "Unions Invited Taft-Hartley Bill—Epidemic of Strikes Played into Hands of Enemies."

Tobin's main r-e-f is against the truckdrivers themselves, who have been rocking Tobin's throne no little. He complains that "we (the Teamsters) had more strikes and requests for strike endorsements than in the 12 months preceding" the period of Congressional discussion of the Taft-Hartley Act.

"We appealed to our people to hold off and not to antagonize the labor situation by strikes and shutdowns until this legislation was decided," Tobin confesses.

He hurls unrestrained slander at the recent strikes of seamen and longshoremen and the streetcar men in St. Louis and Oakland. "They could do no more to injure the cause of labor if they were down there working with Taft and Hartley."

He adds: "Surely they could have held off 30 or 60 days." According to Tobin, if the workers had just bowed their necks completely for "30 or 60 days," then the Taft-Hartley Act wouldn't have passed.

But what Tobin really means, and what his whole record proves, is that he is always against labor militancy and strikes.

He has an unbroken record of fighting the militants in his own union with club and gun and hired gangsters. He has used the \$14,000,000 in his international treasury not only to line his own pockets — which goes without saying — but to finance savage warfare against any opposition group inside the Teamsters that has dared to fight for its rights either against the bosses or Tobin's totalitarian rule.

Today, Tobin's union is honeycombed with revolt. That is the real inspiration for his slanderous charge that the Teamsters' militants "played into the hands" of the Taft-Hartley gang.

The extent of that revolt is shown by the fact that forty per cent of the IBT locals are ruled by dictator-receivers appointed by Tobin after he ruthlessly expelled the local officers elected by the members.

These expulsions have followed a series of so-called "wild-cat" strikes throughout the country. The IBT has had more strikes than any other union in the past year. Virtually all of them were opposed by Tobin.

Tobin's claim that the Taft-Hartley Act was "invited" by an "epidemic" of strikes is an attempt to justify his wholesale strikebreaking, gangster terrorism and brutal expulsions.

But it is more than that. It is an attempt to ingratiate himself with the employers by hiding the fact that their greed and viciousness, their mortal enmity to organized labor dictated the Taft-Hartley Act. And it is an attempt to whitewash the role of union leaders like himself who have given aid and comfort to the employers and thus emboldened them in the anti-labor drive.

Tobin's is the counsel of submission and slavery. If the slave doesn't revolt, the master won't lash him. If the slave submits willingly to the slave-owner's dictates, then he won't be thrown into irons. He'll also remain a slave.

It was because the corporations and the Republican - Democratic agents of Wall Street could count on the Tobins in the labor movement to sabotage any effective, militant resistance to anti-labor laws, that Congress dared to push through the Taft-Hartley Act.

While Tobin berates the workers for "inviting" the Taft-Hartley Act by defending themselves against the employers, he is silent about a major phase of his own activity in this past period.

He says nothing about his notorious racketeering, his \$30,000 salary plus "expenses," his bleeding of heavy dues and fees from the membership, his gangster violence against them, his bloody jurisdictional raids against other unions.

Tobin called on the bosses to fire workers trying to get a nickel more in pay, but he didn't mind "antagonizing the labor situation" by sending his armed thugs into a score of cities to try and coerce CIO brewery drivers and warehousemen into paying dues to Tobin.

These were the activities of Tobin that gave the bosses the pretexts for some of the most vicious Taft-Hartley Act restrictions against the unions. And it is no accident that the only section of this Act that Tobin saw fit to attack directly was the section barring so-called "jurisdictional" strikes.

In his "Notebook of an Agitator" column (*The Militant*, May 17), J. P. C. wrote that Tobin had outstripped all other labor bureaucrats in earning the title of "The Mad Dog of the Labor Movement." His latest attack on militant labor shows Tobin didn't earn the title by default; he's ready and able to defend it against all claimants and contenders.

## Prices and Profits Continue to Climb

(Continued from Page 1)

The reiterated pleas to the hard-bitten capitalists to please curb their appetites just a little and "refrain" from pushing prices up higher and higher.

But even in his warnings about the dangers of further inflation, Truman is cautious and indirect, speaking of "recent developments which revive some fears of another upswing of inflation."

That "upswing" is already in full swing and none of Truman's pleas to the better nature of the capitalists will avert it by an iota.

"Soaring grain prices build a new boost for tomorrow's grocery bill," proclaims the July 22 *Wall Street Journal*.

"Steaks, chops, butter, milk, poultry — they are all 'manufactured' from grain. Wheat-product bran, a prime feed for chickens and dairy cattle, has jumped \$20 a ton, or about 35%, in three weeks. Corn is at a new peak above \$2.20 a bushel; it sold as low as 40 cents a bushel in 1939. Long Island's big duck farms, growing millions of birds for U. S. dinner tables, now pay \$100 a ton for feed which cost only \$75 a bare two months ago. Dairymen say the price of milk will have to be boosted. . . ."

HIKES ON EVERYTHING

Legislation which the sugar trust hopes to push through Congress soon, estimates the *Wall Street Journal*, "could cost consumers \$150 million on baked goods alone," by boosting sugar prices three cents a pound.

"New shoes will likely carry higher price tags in the months ahead," with prices of hides for shoes jumping 25% since June 1, and going up daily.

Basic steel prices — which are reflected in every other field of production — hit an "all-time high" this week, *Iron Age* reported on July 23. In the past two months—that is, before the coal wage settlement — scrap iron and steel prices rose \$10.50 a ton above the previous high of last March. Additional iron and steel price boosts are in the offing.

Manufacturers of clothing, furniture, and all types of household necessities bluntly announce their prices are going to continue to march steeply upward — and none of Truman's flabby appeals for "voluntary cooperation" and "personal restraint" will deflect them from their profits-grabbing course.

Even Truman cannot find too much consolation in his highly-tinted picture of \$225 billion of production to offset the bleak vista of this inflation and its effects on the economy.

He warns that the present "prosperity" rests on what he calls "temporary props" — reconversion investments of businessmen, a huge increase in credit buying and spending out of declining savings, a vast excess of exports over imports, based largely on government loans to foreign countries.

But what is the real production picture, what is the real extent of profiteering and what can the masses really buy with their incomes?

PROFITS GO UP

According to an analysis being readied by the Department of Commerce, reports the July 20 *N. Y. Times*, when price factors are taken into account, production, national income, everything except PROFITS, have registered a sharp decline since the 1944 peak.

Based on the 1935-39 values, the boasted 1946 national income of \$178,200,000,000 was actually only \$115,000,000,000. "Gross national product" — figured in terms of goods and not inflated dollars — registered instead of a rise, a sharp decline from 1944 to 1946.

The charts buried in Truman's own report show that the monthly output index that stood at 239 in 1943, fell to 159 in May, 1946, rose to 190 last March, and dropped by June to 183. In the durable goods industry — the key to U. S. economic stability — output fell from 360 in 1943 to 220 last month.

Profits — and here is the foundation of the soaring price structure — are reaching toward the stratosphere. Auto profits, at their wartime peak in 1945, were \$243 million. For the first half of 1947, they ran at an annual rate of \$396 million. The food, beverage and tobacco industries rose from \$148 million in 1940, to \$356 million in 1946, to an annual rate of \$412 million this year. Iron and steel raked in a juicy \$283 million last year; this year, the rate is \$496 million.

The corporations have advanced their record wartime profits after taxes of \$10 billion in 1943, to the peacetime total of \$12 billion in 1946 and an estimated \$17 billion this year.

SLURRED OVER

These facts about profits Truman slurred over in his report, as he concealed all the basic factors for the raging inflation that is sweeping like a conflagration through the American capitalist system.

That conflagration is being fed with the gasoline of Truman's basic program of titanic federal expenditures for war preparation. It is fanned by the gargantuan war debt of \$260 billion.

For every dollar the people spend, 50 cents of it is going to government — federal, state and local — through direct and hidden taxes. And the load becomes heavier as inflation "eats" away the declining incomes of the low-wage earners.

What Truman warns against as merely the symptoms of a mild case of measles, are in reality the signs of an all-pervading malignant cancer in the capitalist economy.

## TRADE UNION NOTES

By Art Preis

The Taft-Hartley Act has struck an immediate blow at unionization of foremen. Following passage of the Act, Ford Motor Company foremen were forced to call off their seven-week strike without gaining recognition. Company promises to rehired all strikers "without discrimination" were violated last week, when 32 foremen were fired for alleged "violence and terrorism" during the strike. The United Mine Workers has discontinued efforts to get recognition for its AFL United Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Employees Union, affiliated with its District 50. The UCTSE will be liquidated July 31. A new independent union will be formed.

At the recent CIO American Newspaper Guild convention, the Stalinist delegates failed to oppose a resolution which said "we resent and reject the efforts of the Communist and other political parties" to interfere in ANG affairs. The red-baiting resolution passed unanimously.

A motion to erase the 70-year age limit for president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Firemen and Enginemen was defeated at the BRF & E Convention last week. A motion affirming the age limit was made from the floor and passed. The hand-picked constitution committee had tried to get the constitution amended to leave out the age limit, since David E. Robertson, who has ruled the union for 25 years, is now 71 years old. Robertson's lieutenants threatened to seek again later in the convention to erase the age limit. We have nothing against Robertson being dropped for senility; but we'd sure like to see him kicked out for ordering his members to work during the national railroad strike last year.

The American Union of Telephone Workers has announced that its 23,000 members, mainly long lines operators, have voted five to three, in a referendum, to affiliate with the CIO Telephone Workers Organizing Committee.

Among those conspicuously missing from the newly re-organized National Board of the Communist Party is Louis Weinstein, according to the list published in last Sunday's *Worker*. CP newspaper, Weinstein was dropped from the Stalinist National Board within two weeks of his defeat for re-election for secretary-treasurer of New York District 9, AFL Painters Union. Weinstein's successful opponent, Martin Rarback, was also elected last week as fifth vice-president of the New York State AFL.

## Our Program:

1. Defend labor's standard of living!  
A sliding scale of wages — an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!  
Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!  
Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers control!
2. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!  
For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!  
Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!  
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!
3. Against all anti-labor laws and government strike-breaking!  
No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!  
No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!
4. Build an independent labor party!
5. Tax the rich, not the poor!  
Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!  
No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!
6. An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!
7. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!  
End Jim Crow! End anti-Semitism!
8. For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!
9. A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.  
Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!  
Against capitalist conscription!  
Abolish the officer caste system!  
Full democratic rights in the armed forces!  
Trade Union wages for the armed forces!  
Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!
10. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!  
For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!  
Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!
11. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!

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Germany 1947

# IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU TOO

By Ernest Germain

We have tried in the preceding articles to give a faithful picture of what is going on in Germany today. We have described the situation, and also pointed out the potentialities in it. The reader may have been affected at times by the atmosphere of an inferno lying heavy upon this picture. Now we want to speak to the reader's reason, to his imagination, in order to make him understand what this picture involves for himself.

The terrible catastrophe, which has hurled the most advanced country of Europe decades back, which has driven its industrial production below that of Belgium and its average level of consumption below that of India — this catastrophe — struck the country which most resembles yours, American worker. The men and women who are living today in this horrible misery are men and women like you, accustomed to a standard of living like yours.

The immense natural resources of the land, the high cultural level of the people, the technical and organizational skills of the workers — all these remain intact. These people are technicians; engineers, highly skilled workers — and for two years they have been trying in vain to clean up the rubble in their cities with only shovel and pick! These people who see their children dying and can't do anything about it were yesterday producing the most complex medicines in the world — and are capable of doing it again tomorrow.

## NOT SOMETHING SPECIAL

The cataclysm that has struck these men and women is not due to something special in their nature, something national or racial or "criminal," something different from that of other peoples.

These German people have conducted scores and hundreds of strikes against their capitalist masters just like the strikes you have launched during the past year against the rapacious American trusts. They and their fathers and their grandfathers have carried on a greater struggle for socialism and the fraternity of all, than the people of any other country.

Every family has a son or nephew who went through Hitler's concentration camps for his anti-fascist activity, or who, during and after the first war, was in prison or a "penal regiment" for his anti-war activity.

These men and women are simply men and women of the people, with the same qualities and the same faults of the workers and their wives in the United States, and with the same determined will to work for a better life and society than we now have.

The ruins that cover their land, the hunger that strikes at their children, the degradation that casts them into the abyss — these are the result of the prolongation of the capitalist regime beyond its legitimate historical limits. Germany today is a symbol of the barbarism to which capitalism will reduce every country — unless the proletariat succeeds in destroying capitalism first. Your country, too, American workers!

Do you think this could never happen in America? Imagine New York or San Francisco after an

## The Last In A Series Of Articles

aom bombing. Imagine the gas and electricity cut off for three months, food and goods all gone up in flames, water infested with deadly bacteria dropped from stratospheric planes, epidemics breaking out. . . .

### PICTURE OF NEXT WAR

This isn't a vision of the apocalypse. It is a very mild picture of what the next war will be like. It is a picture of only a small fraction of the disasters your own capitalists will bring upon you if you don't wrest the power from them.

Look around you, observe, reflect. Do you remember how the capitalists burned millions of tons of food after 1929, while millions of unemployed and their families went hungry? Don't you think these hyenas are capable of starving your own children tomorrow just as ruthlessly as the sharks of the German black market are starving the German children today?

Remember the photographs and the stories of the lynchings. Don't you think the men who use these barbaric methods against the Negroes could use them tomorrow against you — as they are being used today against the German workers?

Look at the street cars and buses and trains in the South of your country. Aren't there special sections set apart for the Negroes, like the special sections for the Jews under Hitler, and like the special sections for the Germans under the military dictatorship of the Allies today?

The ones who are responsible for the famine and the oppression of Germany are your own generals and your own capitalist politicians, who tomorrow will unhesitatingly use the same methods against you in order to prolong the rule of their class.

### MUST LIVE BY DESTRUCTION

Having become a constant obstacle to progress, the capitalists can no longer maintain themselves in power except by steadily destroying all that human civilization has won in the past decades. This will happen in your country, just as in Germany, if you don't sweep capitalism out of the way.

When you have understood that this can happen in America as well, you will understand better than before what your duty is toward the German workers and their poor exhausted wives and their children with rickets. You will understand that to defend your German brothers today is to defend yourself.

WHEN YOU FIGHT AGAINST THE CONTINUING MISERY AND OPPRESSION IN GERMANY, YOU ARE FIGHTING TO PREVENT THE SAME MISERY AND THE SAME OPPRESSION STRIKING DOWN THE AMERICAN WORKERS ON THE MORROW.

That is why you must tirelessly tell the truth of what is happening in Germany, to everyone around

you — in your factory, in your trade union, in your neighborhood, in your house, in your family, among your friends.

You must demand that they join with you in the fight to have your American boys recalled from Germany and to prevent them from becoming expert hangmen's assistants.

You must warn your comrades, all the American workers and their wives, that to tolerate the crimes your masters are committing in Germany today is to expose all of you, collectively, to the same danger tomorrow.

When you eat your breakfast which is still ample despite the high prices, think of the German workers who go down into the mines after "breakfasting" on a few carrots.

When you try on your new outfit, think of the German workers who go around wrapped in a blanket for want of an overcoat.

When with fond pride you watch your children playing, singing, reading, think of the millions of little martyrs living in cellars or in rotting wooden shelters — and never forget:

It depends on you to see that this never happens in America!

(This series was translated from the French by Duncan Ferguson.)

# U.S. Arms Used in War On Indonesian Republic

(Continued from Page 1) with the British entrenched in key places.

The British then withdrew as the Dutch capitalists organized an expeditionary force of some 120,000 troops equipped from the arsenals of America.

## STRATEGIC AIM

The strategic aim of Dutch imperialism was to smash the Indonesian Republic and re-establish the despotic rule that enabled them to keep the Indonesian people bled white generation after generation. In carrying out this aim the Dutch followed the traditional tactics of imperialist rulers. They promised anything to gain time while they consolidated their armed forces in preparation for the bloody showdown.

They even went so far as to recognize the Indonesian Republic, to agree to its freedom by January 1, 1949, and to arbitrate disputes on which agreement could not be reached.

Finally, when they thought their armies were sufficiently strong, the Dutch began serving a series of ultimatums on the Indonesian Republic. Every demand was aimed at undermining the Indonesian government and depriving it of sovereignty. If the Indonesians conceded, it meant a big gain for the Dutch. If the Indonesians refused, the Dutch construed the refusal as a pretext for launching war.

The Indonesian officials made concession after concession. But as soon as agreement had been reached, the Dutch made fresh ultimatums. The final ones were as follows:

## FINAL ULTIMATUMS

(1) The Indonesian Government must cease all propaganda unfavorable to the Dutch. This was a demand to relinquish freedom of speech. The Dutch, naturally, said nothing about stopping their lying propaganda against the Indonesians.

(2) The Indonesian Government must order its armed forces to withdraw six miles from present positions. This was a demand to give up without fighting while the invader moved forward.

(3) The Indonesian Government must order its armed forces to cease firing. The Dutch, meanwhile, would continue firing on the poorly-armed Indonesian people who were trying to defend their homes.

The Indonesian Government found itself unable to comply with these three demands. And when the deadline passed, the Dutch imperialists struck.

Their plan now, apparently, is to slice up Indonesia into at least three segments, and then move in and digest these segments at their leisure.

## NOTE OF "REGRET"

The Truman Administration reacted to the outbreak of this major war by a note of "regret" to the Netherlands Government. There is no doubt that Wall Street would prefer to avoid the unfavorable publicity falling on it for its share in the bloody attempt to suppress the Indonesian Republic. Wall Street no doubt finds the great risks involved distasteful; for a successful struggle by the Indonesians can set the entire colonial world on flame and give a mighty impetus to the struggle of the working class for socialism.

But the record shows that the Truman Administration has consistently backed the Dutch capitalists. The arms the Dutch are using are Lend-Lease. Under Lend-Lease provisions the Truman Administration can "recapture" these

## Wall Street's Helping Hand



arms any time it wishes. By refusing to demand the return of these arms, Truman thereby underwrites the Dutch war of conquest.

When the Indonesian Republic appealed for help to Washington in an earlier stage of the struggle, Truman remained silent. Then he slapped the Indonesians in the face by granting a huge loan to the Dutch imperialists.

Throughout the prolonged negotiations staged by the Dutch in their attempt to gain time, the Truman Administration consistently took the side of the invaders. As recently as a month ago when the Dutch announced their readiness to attack

the State Department called on the Indonesians to agree to the Dutch terms for an interim government.

Wall Street has a big stake in Indonesia. The Indonesians in striving for independence took control of Dutch holdings—the plantations, oil wells, sugar fields, rubber-producing areas, and so on. The legal title to these holdings before the war were mainly in the hands of Dutch cartels, but these cartels are bound body and soul to Wall Street.

## BIG FINANCIAL INTERESTS

American companies with heavy interests in Indonesia include General Motors, the Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Standard Oil of New Jersey, Shell Oil, British-American Tobacco, Colgate-Palmolive-Peet, National Carbon, and International General Electric.

The day before the Dutch launched all-out war, the financial section of the N. Y. Times featured a publicity release of Anton A. van Sandik, manager of the Netherlands Trading Society. He held out the hope of seizing the sugar crop grown in the past two years by the Indonesians, and added: "If peace and security is restored, Indonesia provides a good risk for the United States—better perhaps than Europe."

The Dutch have clamped down tight censorship on all dispatches passing through their hands. They are jamming the radio station at Jogjakarta, the Republican capital, to prevent the Indonesians from revealing what is happening.

## Labor Must Aid Freedom Fighters!

How successful the Dutch will be in their attempt to smash the Republic remains to be seen. The concessions given the Dutch despots by officials of the Indonesian Republic enabled the invaders to become strongly entrenched. Each concession, however, aroused great indignation among the Indonesian people. Recently Premier Sjahrir was forced out of office because of popular wrath over his kowtowing to the Dutch imperialists. The Sjahrir group, representing the feeble Indonesian capitalist class, has followed the line of shouting, "Peace, Peace," when there was no peace, and the Dutch were obviously inching forward for the fatal thrust.

Now the fate of the Republic is at stake and even these nationalists who would have preferred a compromise deal at the expense of the people are now forced to fight or submit. The final word will be said neither by the Dutch armies nor by the Indonesian capitalists but by the teeming masses of Indonesia who have already heroically demonstrated their will to achieve freedom from the imperialist yoke.

The American workers too should do everything in their power to demonstrate their solidarity with the struggle of the Indonesian people for their freedom.

A July 22 dispatch from Holland reported that the Waterfront and Transport Workers Union in Amsterdam will boycott all war traffic to Indonesia.

The American workers too should do everything in their power to demonstrate their solidarity with the struggle of the Indonesian people for their freedom.

LEUNE, Germany — When he attempted to address a plant meeting in this one-industry city, Acting Premier Siewert, leader of the SED (Stalinist "Socialist Unity Party") was howled down by thousands of workers in the audience and had to leave without finishing his speech.

Siewert had come in order to urge greater production efforts. A shout from the floor "we are hungry and you have come through the winter round-bellied and healthy," unleashed tumultuous applause.

Siewert accused the interrupters of being Nazis. He was met with cat-calls which did not cease until he left the hall. He told two reporters that he had run up against similar scenes in Bielefeld and at the Buna Works, and that "measures would be taken."

The Dutch Trotskyists, organized in the Revolutionary Communist Party, Dutch section of the Fourth International, call for the solidarity

of the workers in Holland with the Indonesian masses.

"Halt all cargoes for Indonesia!" demands *De Tribune*. "Wives and mothers! Prevent your husbands and sons from being forced to help in the murder of their class brothers. Down with colonial warfare! Withdraw all troops from Indonesia! Complete freedom and self-determination for Indonesia!"

For five years the Dutch Trotskyists fought in the underground against the Nazi occupying forces in Holland. They therefore know how people feel seeking to throw off a foreign yoke, declares *De Tribune*. They declare their sympathy with the Indonesians who after hundreds of years of the most brutal slavery and exploitation are now slaughtered like beasts because they dare to try to live like free human beings.

The guilt for this colonial orgy rests first of all on the coupon clippers of the Netherlands, says *De Tribune* — the oil, rubber, tin, sugar and merchant tycoons who live off the sweat of 70,000,000 people in Indonesia.

But the "socialists" of Holland are guilty too, for they sold out to the colonial bandits and took posts in the government.

The Stalinists too are guilty. *De Tribune* scores the latest attempt of the Stalinists to avoid taking a clear stand against the Dutch imperialists.

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## THE MILITANT

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"Today it is no longer a question, as was the case in the nineteenth century, of simply assuring a more rapid and more healthy development of economic life; today it is a question of saving mankind from suicide."

Leon Trotsky

### "There Is No Peace!"

The second anniversary of V-J Day is barely a month away, yet the world is still torn by war.

The Dutch imperialists have launched an all-out attack on the Republic of Indonesia. The dispatches telling about the thrusts of the Dutch army read like the early dispatches of the Nazis, except for the use of American arms.

But the attack on Indonesia is only the latest spectacular outbreak. Indo-China still writhes under the hobnails of the French imperialists who launched a war of annihilation on the Viet Nam Republic.

And in China civil war rages as the hated regime of dictator Chiang Kai-shek, bolstered by American dollars and American arms, seeks to maintain itself by butchering the masses.

India smolders while the British, in agreement with the native capitalists, attempt to carve up that sub-continent into a welter of weak rival states.

In Palestine, British armed forces maintain concentration camps where Hitler's former victims are held under the Union Jack and the imperialist oppressor cold-bloodedly continues the traditional policy of ruling by dividing, trying to set Jews against Arabs and Arabs against Jews.

In Greece, ex-bandits in charge of royalist armies, generously supplied with arms and dollars from America, hunt down political opponents in a nationwide witch-hunt; and recklessly toss the blazing torch of war in the Balkans.

Throughout the rest of Europe an uneasy truce holds. How long it will last no one knows. Allied troops still occupy the strategic areas of the continent. Under the war-mongering Truman Doctrine, Wall Street is lining up the capitalists of western Europe in a reactionary bloc in preparation for World War III.

Far from achieving peace, the Allied powers have brought only conflict and bloodshed. Two years after the second imperialist war to "end wars," the world still shakes to the tread of marching boots.

What happened to the Atlantic Charter? What happened to the Four Freedoms? Of what purpose is the United Nations? Where is the shining post-war world the capitalists promised if only victory was won?

When the war with Japan came to a close, *The Militant* declared, "There is no peace!" There can be no enduring peace, we said, until the workers and farmers put their own government in power and set out on the road to world socialism. The crackle of machine guns and the explosion of bombs half way round the earth today give terrible confirmation to that warning.

### A Law Against Thinking

On July 15 the House of Representatives considered a bill hearing the attractive title "Loyalty" Act. Some Congressmen, however, objected to its passage. Sabath of Illinois called it "the most drastic and far-reaching bill affecting the rights of Federal employees ever to reach the floor in my 41 years of service."

This stalwart of the Democratic Party went even further in his denunciation of the measure: "In the palmiest days of the Czar of Russia or in the heyday of Hitler there were no worse restrictions on the right of Government employees to express their thoughts—aye, to think."

Nevertheless, Democrats and Republicans joined to pass this police-state measure by a resounding majority of 319 to 61.

The purpose of the bill, according to its backers, is to weed out "disloyal" persons among the 2,000,000 people on the Federal payroll. What it actually does is tear up that part of the Constitution guaranteeing the basic civil rights won in the American Revolution.

It empowers the Attorney General to designate any organization or group of people he chooses as "totalitarian, Fascist, Communist, or subversive."

Then any Federal employee having so much as "sympathetic association" with a group on the proscribed list can be summarily dismissed as "disloyal." A person attending certain public meetings, reading certain books or publications, or expressing views opposed by the Committee on Un-American Activities could be described as having "sympathetic association."

The victim is presumed guilty—it is up to him to try to prove his innocence to the board that in-

vestigates, tries, convicts and hears his appeal from its decisions, if he cares to appeal.

The board does not disclose its evidence. It does not reveal the identity of witnesses who may have testified against the victim. Thus a victim of the witch-hunt cannot even cross-examine his unknown accusers. He may be condemned on hearsay, rumors, or a frame-up. He has no redress in any court.

Furthermore, according to an analysis prepared by the National Lawyers' Guild, "the employees of any large industry in the United States which under one or another of the powers of the Government could come under Government control or operation, would come within the provisions of this bill."

Why did the House pass such a fascist-like law? The reason is not difficult to find. The current red-baiting drive is part of Wall Street's assault on the labor movement and its preparations for World War III.

In behalf of the Democratic Party, Truman took the lead in this red-baiting drive with his March 21 Executive Order for a purge of "disloyal" government workers.

That left the Republicans behind in the red-baiting competition. The House "Loyalty" Act is designed to close the gap. It's their way of showing Wall Street they're just as good as the Democrats any day of the week when it comes to a witch-hunt.

### Lots of Talk-But No Action

It is to the credit of the CIO United Automobile Workers that it has been the union to call most consistently for the convening of a National United Labor Conference to combat the Taft-Hartley Act.

The proposal for such a conference was first raised in the UAW during the General Motors strike. The latest issue of the *United Automobile Worker* again puts it forward, in a statement signed by UAW, President Walter Reuther. (See Page 1)

Unfortunately, Reuther is more adept in giving verbal endorsement to progressive proposals than he is in pushing them forward into realization. He has picked up not a few good ideas which he has used as propaganda and to make a name for himself, but on which he took no real action.

The proposal for the National United Labor Conference is a case in point. Reuther talks about it occasionally, and writes a statement on it in the UAW paper, but that's as far as he goes.

If Reuther meant business he could do a great deal toward bringing a united labor conference about. He is the head of the largest and most dynamic union in the country. He can swing a lot of weight in the CIO and can gain the ears of millions of workers in the AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods.

He could get the ball rolling—if he wanted to. He could take the initiative, through the UAW, in calling such a conference or pressuring the CIO into calling it. He could set the UAW locals into motion throughout the country to call joint action conferences on a local scale as a build-up for a national conference.

But Reuther, despite his pretensions as a progressive labor leader, does not dare to make a move on anything without the nod from CIO President Philip Murray. Murray's good-will seems more important to Reuther, the opportunist union politician, than the crying needs of the workers.

The UAW can do a mighty job in achieving a National United Labor Conference if the UAW leaders would transform their words into action. Let them launch a big campaign on the issue in the labor movement. Let them send resolutions on it to every other union. Let them organize joint conferences wherever immediately possible on a local and regional scale. Certainly it can be done in Michigan, the auto center.

An ounce of action is worth tons of talk!

### Wall St's Aid To Greece

The Greek monarchy is today adding the bloodiest chapter to the annals of its dictatorial misrule of that unfortunate land. It is clear that the Athens regime enjoys even less popular support than in the days of the notorious Metaxas dictatorship before the war.

Mass resistance to this hated regime is growing. Partisan activity far from being suppressed is spreading. This is proved by the government's recently publicized project to greatly increase the size of its armed forces. This is proved by the unbridled reign of terror it has unleashed throughout the country and by the flood of lies now emanating from Athens.

There is no other way for this completely discredited and arch-reactionary regime to maintain itself. But all its bestial repressions would avail nothing if the support on which it really rests was removed.

This support comes from abroad. It used to be supplied by the British imperialists. It is now supplied by none other than Washington.

The \$300,000,000 loan, the U. S. military mission, the U. S. "advisory" commissions, the promise of more millions and more munitions—this is what maintains the Greek despots.

American dollars pay for the upkeep of Athenian jails, concentration camps and exile islands in the Aegean Sea, now crammed with thousands of victims. Each new lie broadcast from Athens is sped on its way with American dollars. And so is each bullet fired by the Athenian execution squads.

This suits perfectly the plan of American capitalists. By bolstering reaction abroad they pave the way for extending the sway of reaction at home.

The American workers, too, have a great stake in what is happening in Greece. They must demand the withdrawal of all "aid" from the Athenian butchers and jailers.



"It's such a problem to find something to invest all my tax refunds in!"

### Congressmen At Work

## The Specter Haunting Congress

Few have less confidence in the future of the capitalist system than some of Wall Street's outstanding political representatives. They feel themselves tossed in a wild sea of troubles. This was brought out with crystal clarity in the Senate on July 12.

Joseph C. Mahoney (D., Wyo.) took the floor that day to oppose the tax-reduction bill. Since he enjoys considerable authority in the Senate as an economist, an unusual number of Senators came in from the cloak rooms and committee buildings to hear what he had to say. "I think we are dealing with a fundamental question of the preservation of the system of private property," said the Senator, "and that many persons in Congress, and many persons throughout the country, in editorial sanctuaries, and even in bank offices have failed to understand how grave the danger is that confronts us."

O'Mahoney underlined the necessity of seeing the danger to capitalism clearly because "There is no duty before the Congress of the United States greater than the duty of preserving this system."

"Outside this continent," said O'Mahoney, "the whole world has been devastated by the most terrible war in all history. We know . . . that the productive capacity of most of the people of the world has been destroyed."

But "people cannot live without production." In face of capitalist destruction, people will turn to communism. In fact communism can "sweep over Europe and over the world . . ."

The United States is the only great bulwark of the capitalist system now left in the world. If capitalism is overturned in the United States then it is finished throughout the globe. "This is the issue, Mr. President. It is not whether there shall be a Republican elected in 1948 to the Presidency of the United States. Oh, Mr. President, that is pettiness. That is the language of the lilliputian who does not under-



stand that the world has gone through the greatest trial in history."

Unfortunately for Wall Street, the American bulwark of world capitalism is itself far from healthy. "I have here what I call the 'fever chart' of the capitalist system," This chart the Senator explained, contains three lines.

One line shows Federal receipts year by year since 1910. They never reached \$50,000,000,000.

The second line shows the national income for the same period. It dropped as low as \$38,000,000,000 in 1932.

The third line shows the national debt—a debt that has "reached a pinnacle that is beyond the imagination of man to describe, a national debt which could easily have the effect of being a time bomb under the capitalist system. This national debt, greater than anyone in the United States ever dreamed possible 5 years ago, can easily destroy the whole system of private property."

The interest alone on the debt, said O'Mahoney, in 1947 was \$4,500,000,000. But in 1939 "the total receipts of the Government of the United States from income and profit taxes . . . were \$2,188,757,289. In other words, the interest upon the national debt last year was almost twice as much as the total receipts of the Federal Government from income and excess-profits taxes in 1939."

Now suppose a depression occurs

and national income takes a precipitous decline. Federal receipts will likewise decline. "The red line showing the national debt proves to everyone who has eyes to see that if we permit a crash now, the only result will be the repudiation of the debt. If the bonds which have been issued to the banks, the insurance companies and the people of the United States are repudiated, if they cannot be paid, that will put an end to the system of private property. There is the story. We cannot endure another crash."

Senator Claude Pepper (D., Fla.) then took the floor to describe the danger of another depression. "As has been so well said by the Senator from Wyoming, the private-enterprise system in the world trembles today upon the very kind of destruction and collapse. The truth is that we do not yet know whether we are going to save the private-enterprise in the world or not."

In Pepper's opinion "the condition of the world is getting worse instead of better. Today it is worse than it was at the end of the war. There are more people hungry today than there were when the war ended. There are fewer dollars in the world with which to buy American goods. There is a greater tendency to economic and political collapse."

Only the other day, said Pepper, a group of Senators from the citrus-growing states conferred with Assistant Secretary of War Petersen. "We were trying to find a market for our surplus processed citrus fruits and foodstuffs . . . that are already hanging as a great threat upon the new harvests which are not far away."

"The Senators from California," continued Pepper, "could tell Senators what they told us in that meeting, that millions of boxes of California oranges were allowed to rot and ruin, because there was not a market for the juice or for the product, and they did not want to put any more money into the crop, because there was no hope of being able to find a satisfactory market for its disposal."

Likewise with wheat. If the purchasing power abroad for American wheat declines "the price of wheat would drop the day after it occurred to a dangerous low which would bankrupt many of the wheat-growing farmers of America . . ."

The same for manufacturing. Business men "have a bitter shock" in store if they think present production can keep up indefinitely. "This prosperity that we now have hangs by a very slender thread . . . it can be lost almost overnight."

On top of this, passage of the Taft-Hartley Law has aroused the working class. "Indications have come to me from all over the country of how the working people feel. I have never seen the working people, organized and unorganized, as deeply stirred as they are today in indignation against this legislation."

Pepper did not describe how this indignation too menaces the capitalist system. But it is plain that if a Labor Party is organized then Wall Street's monopoly of government is threatened.

Pepper eloquently described what appeared to be the prevailing mood of Wall Street's Congressmen: "Many of our people . . . still hope somehow that all this nightmarish picture that is presented to us from abroad may pass away like a bad dream in the night, that there will be a new quiet dawn, and we will not be troubled by the fears and by the horrible shapes and forms that reach out toward us. We cannot depend on that. We know that is a foolish hope and not a fact."

## Who is Right About The Housing Shortage?

"The best news for veterans and home seekers in several years," according to the National Association of Home Builders, was Frank R. Creedon's announcement July 19 that housing construction has "vaulted" to a new 20-year-high. Creedon is the Federal Housing Administrator, so he ought to know.

Crowing over this announcement, a vice-president of the National Association of Home Builders said: "Those who are crying disaster and claiming we are not building—who claim the government must take over—simply don't know what they are talking about."

Before we stop crying disaster and toss the towel in to this spokesman of the real estate interests, let's check the facts.

According to Creedon, 362,800 dwelling units were completed in the first six months of 1947, making the largest number since the middle 1920's. "In addition," 358,000 new units were started in the same period, another record-breaker.

If the 362,800 completed units were begun last year; and only 358,000 were begun this year, then we would have to conclude that the rate of construction is dropping. That's what the figures in the publicity release of the real estate interests obviously add up to.

### UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION

But let's probe further. According to Dr. Isadore Lubin, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, in 1939—8 years ago—at least 4,000,000 occupied houses in America were unfit for human habitation and should be demolished in the interest of health and decency. The 1940 census listed about 7,000,000 houses in the USA in need of major repairs. A dwelling in need of "major" repairs is a building that can collapse at any time.

The National Housing Agency recently estimated that the number of houses unfit for human habitation had risen during the war to 8,000,000 while another 4,600,000 could be made habitable only if they received major repairs. By 1955, says this same agency, a total of 16,000,000 units must be built.

These figures are staggering enough, but we are still far from an adequate picture of the housing shortage that has led to the widespread demand for an adequate government housing program. At the end of the war, according to the May 17 Nation, "18,000,000 people were living doubled up."

How far will the 358,000 new units started by private industry this year go to relieve the pressure on the bulging houses, tenements, trailers, shacks, tents, garages and chicken coops stretching from coast to coast?

Not very far, especially if you stop to think that since 1940, statistics show more than 1,500,000 new families adding themselves each year to the population. At the small-like rate private industry is building, only half the number of homes are going up each year required for the new families constantly forming. So about 750,000 new families a year are forced to squeeze into the already sardine-packed homes of America.

In brief, far from showing that the construction undertaken by the real estate monopoly is alleviating the housing shortage, Creedon's figures show that the housing crisis is growing disastrously worse.

Who said that the people suffering from lack of homes don't know what they're talking about?

## The Sugar Trust Dips Into Your Sugar Bowl

A housewife in the United States may think that she has little in common with an ill-paid, Spanish-speaking worker swinging a machete in the cane fields of the Caribbean or the distant Philippines. But if she is planning on using any sugar for cooking, baking, jelly-making, fruit-canning or on the table, she has a whole lot in common with that worker. Here's the reason: The sugar trust is afraid sugar prices will sag when the shortage is over. If all the sugar-producing areas grew all they could, such limitless amounts of the key sweet would pour out of the refineries that sugar bowls could be kept filled for an unbelievably low price.

Consequently the profit-gouging sugar trust has decided that if prices are to be kept up, then production of sugar must be kept down. Their political representatives have lined up Congress to OK legislation that will dam up the sugar-producing areas, cutting down the stream of sugar to a trickle.

This law will not only slash the quotas of places outside the United States like Cuba and the Philippines, but it will reduce the production of areas inside the USA like Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

In its provisions the proposed law follows the New Deal legislation that plowed under crops and slaughtered excess pigs and cattle. It will allow acreages and pay benefits to growers who do not exceed their assigned quotas.

### CLEAR IN THE CASE OF CUBA

How the law will affect the workers in the sugar-growing areas is especially clear in the case of Cuba, one of the world's main sugar-producing areas. In 1947, Cuba exported to the United States 5,700,000 tons. Under the new provisions Cuba will be limited to 3,200,000 tons.

That's quite a cut; but it's not all. When the Philippines have recovered from the war's devastation, sufficiently to fill a limited quota of 900,000 tons, Cuba's quota will be slashed to 2,300,000 tons, about 40% of what it shipped to the United States during the war.

A representative of the Cuban Sugar Workers' Federation, Jesus Menendez, told the press July 17 that "it takes very little imagination to figure the rest. More than 60% of Cuba's working population is engaged in the production of sugar. If this production is reduced to fit the specifications of the bill passed by your House of Representatives Friday, Cuba faces unemployment and deterioration of living standards. This will create an explosive situation similar to that which brought about the downfall of the Machado government."

The legislation will have similar consequences, of course, in the other sugar-producing areas. The increased price American workers will have to pay for sugar hits their class brothers in the cane fields in the form of mass unemployment.

### SUGAR BARONS ENTHUSIASTIC

As in previous legislation, the new law is designed to prevent the manufacture of sugar for "direct consumption" in Cuba, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Philippines. The total quota of refined sugar for all these areas amounts to only 586,000 tons. The balance of the quotas must be made up in raw sugar to be processed in mainland refineries.

This provision in the "industry-drafted law," according to the July 18 Wall Street Journal, "enlisted the enthusiastic support of the refining industry." Following the ruthless tradition of imperialism, the sugar barons want the backward areas preserved as sources of raw materials at the expense of their industrial development, for the effect of such a measure is to prevent lands like Puerto Rico from building plants that could compete with those on the mainland.

Thus the proposed law means high profits for the sugar trust; mass unemployment for workers in the sugar fields; and a heavy drain on the budget of the American housewife.

## The Rich Grow Richer As The Poor Buy Less

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer, while the gap between them keeps widening. A study made early this year by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan reveals that buying power is concentrated in the hands of a small number of people.

Only 10% of U.S. families get almost one-third of all personal income and own almost 40% of all personal savings or liquid assets. These high-income families, with \$5,000 or more a year, command the bulk of all buying power.

In contrast, low-income families, those with less than \$2,000 a year, amounting to 40% of all families, get only 15% of all income and hold only a tiny fraction of all personal savings.

Between these two groups are the middle families. Those in the upper-middle grouping, with incomes from \$3,000 to \$5,000 also have more than a proportionate share of the buying power. These comprise 20% of all families and get 27% of all personal income, and own 24% of all savings. The lower-

middle families, 30% of all families, get 25% of all income and hold about 20% of all savings.

Total families in the U.S. represent 46,000,000 spending units. The survey shows that despite income changes from 1945 to 1946, the percentage share remained the same. The top 4,600,000 families still got more income among them than the lowest 27,600,000. But these income shifts placed a 50% bigger gap between the average income of business and professional men as compared with labor. This big gap was duplicated in savings.

Total savings held by the top 4,600,000 families are larger than the total savings held by 32,200,000 families at the lower end of the scale.

What the economists are worried about is the fate of the savings held by the low-income groups. The 23,000,000 families with incomes under \$2,000 hold less than a fourth of all personal savings. Current income is already insufficient to buy the bare necessities of life. The mounting cost of living is compelling them to dip heavily into these savings for ordinary living expenses. They cannot possibly buy the automobiles, household appliances, and other manufactured products, that today are keeping the factories running.



# 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.

## Predicts Re-Grouping Of Auto Union Ranks

**Editor:**  
Only chains and more chains are being forged for labor. On every front an attack has been launched: on a national scale — the Taft-Hartley Law; on a state scale — the Callahan Law. And in the shops — drives to speed up production and undermine the unions.  
The top leadership of the UAW-CIO, like the heads of the rest of the unions, have been pussy-footing. In spite of militant rumblings among the ranks, they have failed to take concrete action, have sabotaged breaking clean with both Big Business political parties.  
This leadership should take heed. In their failure to unite labor's forces for independent political action, in their failure to launch a Labor Party, they will find themselves opposed by the ranks. Militant workers will regroup their forces. A new caucus will arise in the auto union — a third group, a left-wing group. Through unorganized now, it is in process of crystallization.

Auto Worker,  
Detroit, Mich.

## Words of Douglass Still Hold True

**Editor:**  
While sitting listening to the false radio programs on this date, July 4, I recalled some of Frederick Douglass' writings. He wrote in the days of slavery; but let's see what he had to say and how much of it holds true today:  
"Fellow citizens; pardon me, allow me to ask you, I am called upon to speak here today, the Fourth of July. What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence? Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us? And am I, therefore, called upon to bring our humble offering to the national altar, and to confess the benefits and express devout gratitude for the blessings resulting from your independence to us?"  
"What, to the American slave, is your Fourth of July? I answer: a day that reveals to him more than all other days in the year the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciations of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious pride and solemnity, are to him mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety and hypocrisy — a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour."  
"Go where you may, search where you will, roam through all the monarchies and despotisms of the old world, travel through South America, search out every abuse, and when you have found the last, lay your facts by the side of the everyday practice of this nation, and you will say with me, that, for

revolting barbarity and shameless hypocrisy, America reigns without a rival."

Those are the words of Frederick Douglass in his day. To me it doesn't seem as if much change had occurred.

J. A. B.,  
New York

## Trotskyist in Germany Reports on Conditions

**Editor:**  
The end of the war and the military defeat of fascism have enabled us to take up the struggle for the revival of the labor movement. In 1945 all the conditions for such a course were at hand and the masses were ready to march in this direction; but today we witness the spread of great discouragement because the existing political parties, in the first instance, the working class parties, refuse to carry out their historic mission.

Unless we succeed in providing the masses with the economic foundation, that is, economic security, their desperation will make them prey again of a new nationalist philosophy.

The recent Berlin elections for delegates to the Free German Union demonstrate that the great mass of the trade union members did not participate and stayed away; so that in effect the proposed candidates voted for themselves.

At some of the meetings less than 2% participated in the elections. The working masses feel that their interests are not being furthered by the unions and that they have nothing to say about their fate, especially in the East (the Kremlin-occupied zone).

But we are no longer as isolated as before; friends have grouped themselves around us and the problems are being discussed in intense gatherings.

A Trotskyist,  
Germany.

## What a Mother Finds In "The Militant"

**Editor:**  
I am the mother of a seven year old boy and I am an avid reader of *The Militant* because it speaks for a better world for my child. I don't want his life crippled with the restrictions of the present society. He is healthy and intelligent and I want him to stay that way.  
The schools and other adult leaders will teach him many ways of dividing the world . . . into Christians and Jews and Muslims and Hindus and Buddhists and Christian Scientists. Or Germans and Italians and Greeks and Russians and Frenchmen.

I want him to know that we are all just men and women. We could be citizens of the world. No barriers, no boundaries, no prejudices, no alliances, no secret treaties. Someday, when the men and women of the world realize that there are only two divisions of the present system: Capital and Labor — bourgeois and proletarians — they will know that this is the only barrier to break down.

It is so simple; it is so powerful a truth; and it is so well hidden.

L. B.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

## "Moralist" Eastman And Lenin's Testament

**Editor:**  
I read in an article by Max Eastman that when he revealed the existence of Lenin's Testament for the first time in the United States, Trotsky disavowed both the article and the existence of Lenin's Testament. Is this true?

Eastman is, I understand, a moralist and I would be of the opinion that Trotsky was lacking in elementary political honesty were I to believe that he did this.

Alexander Szostak,  
New York

**Editorial Note:** Shortly before his death, Lenin wrote a letter which among other things "warned the Communist Party to beware of Stalin." This letter came to be known as "Lenin's Testament."

Eastman published this Testament without permission of the Left Opposition. The timing injured the struggle against the Stalin faction. Trotsky signed a document forced upon him by the majority of the Political Bureau, which while saying nothing about a letter did deny an "official" Testament existed.

Trotsky's final words on this question were written in 1940 when it was raised once more by a new crop of moralists:

"The new moralists quote, I heard, my terrible crime concerning Eastman and Lenin's Testament. What despicable hypocrisy!"

Eastman publicized the document on his own initiative in a moment when our faction decided to interrupt all public activity in order to avoid a premature split. Don't forget it was before the famous Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee and before the Chinese Revolution, even before the appearance of the Zinoviev opposition. We were obliged to maneuver in order to win time.

"On the contrary, the Troika (Zinoviev-Kamenev-Stalin) wished to utilize Eastman's publication in order to provoke a kind of opposition abortion. They presented an ultimatum: Either I must sign the declaration written by the Troika in my name or they will immediately open the fight on the matter."

"The Opposition center decided unanimously that this issue at this moment is absolutely unfavorable, that I must accept the ultimatum and sign my name under a declaration written by the Politburo."  
"The transforming of this political necessity into an abstract moral question is only possible for petty-bourgeois fakers who are ready to proclaim: Persecute, persecute, long live justice! but who have a far more indulgent bookkeeping for their own daily procedures. And these people imagine that they are revolutionaries! Our old Mensheviks were real heroes in comparison with them." (In Defense of Marxism, pp. 159-160.)

The "moralist" Eastman, as is well known, turned renegade to socialism and during the Second World War ended up in the camp of Wall Street.

Pass This Copy  
OF THE MILITANT  
TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

# Wall Street Dons Rosy Spectacles; Economic Outlook Remains Grim

By John G. Wright

The business world has suddenly recovered its optimism. After jittery months, Wall Street has staged an eight week rally that sent stocks zooming back to this year's highs, with the speculators obviously hoping to reach last year's record levels.

Truman's economic advisors, who have thus far been distinctly pessimistic, are reported to have revised their estimates of a 1947 "recession," seeing now rose petals where yesterday they were able to discern only sharpest thorns.

At all events, the stress from the official agencies in the last period has been almost exclusively on the brightest colors in the economic picture. Where before they sought to minimize the depth of an unavoidable economic "readjustment," the trend today is to deny that any such developments are in prospect.

The newspapers and business periodicals have by and large followed suit, playing up heavily all "record" statistics — record employment, record dollar volume of retail sales, "revival" of the slumping textile industry, and so on.

More and more capitalist experts are confidently predicting that instead of a previously encouraged "readjustment," this country's economy will keep merrily rolling along at current levels.

Individual branches of industry, they concede, may slump, but this will take place without seriously affecting the over-all situation. It is as if these gentlemen were determined to prove that they are organically incapable of understanding the operations of their own system. They have learned nothing; they have forgotten nothing.

**PREVIOUS MISCONCEPTIONS**  
For the most part the current optimism arises from the previous misconceptions of the capitalists and their forecasters as to what is actually happening. Capable of thinking only in mechanical terms, they expected a repetition of previous post-war developments. In 1920-21 the bottom fell out of the economy in the space of a few months. May 1920 marked the breaking point.

May 1947 has come and gone, and although a definite decline in production had set in by April, no



immediate disaster followed. Since their worst expectations had not been fulfilled, they then proceeded to jump to the other extreme. June and July have witnessed an upswing in the stock-market, and optimism now appears to be as unbridled as was yesterday's pessimism.

Analyzing the situation in June 1947 Fourth International we pointed out that there were no grounds whatever to expect a simple repetition of the 1920-21 experience. Furthermore, we pointed out that it was impossible to determine in advance "the exact rate of (the economy's) decline in the immediate period ahead."

In this connection, the subjective factors are decisive, and in particular the policy followed by the capitalist class who while powerless to halt or reverse the basic economic processes are nevertheless in a position, by manipulating all the governmental and economic levers which they control, to either retard or accelerate the decline.

On the surface it appears as if the capitalists and their government in Washington have very wisely done everything in their power to check the downward cycle, whose opening phases became apparent in April. But this is not at all the case.

The downward cycle of economic

life has been neither reversed nor halted. Production today is from six to eight points below the levels of the first quarter. The sagging soft-goods sector, especially textiles and shoes, far from recovering former levels is, at this stage, headed for further declines. The durable goods sector is tending to "soften" more and more.

The "record" employment figures for May and June have been arrived at by arbitrarily adding all most three million persons to seasonal jobs in agriculture, summer resort trade and other non-productive fields. In reality, factory employment has continued to drop in many industries. By autumn it will be impossible to cover up this hidden unemployment by means of such statistics.

### MAIN OUTLETS

The main avenue of outlets for industrial surpluses has been inventory accumulation. The retailers have drastically cut down their buying. Meanwhile the wholesalers have actually reduced their inventories. The reduction is slight, but it is nonetheless significant. Manufacturers' inventories continue to go on, but at greatly reduced rates. Inventory accumulation has been proceeding over-all at a rate of a billion a month; a suspension or retardation of this process in the months ahead must cause a further sag in production.

The next most important outlet for industry has been foreign trade. Here the capitalists are obviously prepared to "prime the pump" in the shape of credits to Europe under the Marshall Plan. This will undoubtedly serve to cushion the decline. But neither the scope nor the nature of these credits are clear as yet. Decision has been postponed at least until fall. Meanwhile foreign trade is beginning to taper off, while the condition of capitalist Europe, especially England, France and Italy, continues to grow more and more critical. It is by no means excluded that Wall Street's "aid" in this field may come far too little and far too late.

### DOMESTIC MARKET SAGS

The conditions are most adverse in the main outlet of U. S. industry — the internal market. Here it is necessary to create new purchasing power in order to absorb the colossal output of industry. The main channel for this new purchasing power under capitalism is the construction industry which remains deep in the doldrums.

Concurrently, the high prices instead of leveling off have tended to continue sharply upwards. On top of this, the removal of rent ceilings has still further slashed into the already low purchasing mass power.

With the new moods of optimism among the profiteers every pretext is again being utilized to hike prices. And as, appears certain, the higher fuel prices (coal and oil) are accompanied by boosts in steel, another general upward price spurge must ensue.

For this new and necessarily short-lived spurt in the speculative boom, the direct consequences will follow for the masses. As for the economy as a whole, the higher the price spiral goes, the harder will be the inescapable fall.

Far from brightening, the economic picture remains as grim as in April.

## LOS ANGELES Series of Lectures

Fridays, 8 p. m.  
August 1 —  
"TAFT-HARTLEY BILL AND WHAT IT MEANS TO THE WORKERS"  
by Steve Roberts

August 8 —  
"HAS THE DEPRESSION ALREADY BEGUN?"  
by Myra Tanner Weiss

August 15 —  
"THE AMERICAN WORKER, A SURVEY OF THE WORKING-CLASS PARTIES IN THE U. S."  
by Murry Weiss

1653 Longwood Ave.  
(Near Venice Blvd., 2 blocks east of LaBrea)

## THE MILITANT ARMY

### Branches Report Plans On Annual Celebration

Advance reports show that plans are under way in many branches for the Annual Militant Anniversary Celebration. This nation-wide celebration to be held by all Socialist Workers Party branches during November is to raise funds for *The Militant*.

**Milwaukee Branch** is planning a dance with entertainment, possibly a buffet lunch, maybe a raffle. The comrades suggest that "perhaps the best Militant salesgirl of the year could be Queen of the Militant Ball."

The Twin Cities aren't able to make definite plans, but if Minneapolis and St. Paul have a joint affair, the tentative plan is a dinner or banquet followed by a movie and social evening.

**Boston** is planning an "Annual Militant Benefit Affair" in the headquarters.

**San Diego's Annual Militant Celebration** will be "probably a dance." The specific plans will be discussed at the next branch executive committee meeting.

**San Francisco** will hold a cabaret-style social at its headquarters. Barbara Jay explains: "We are planning a very good affair and I hope the rest of the branches are following up the same way."

The Los Angeles Local campaign brought in 39 new subscriptions to *The Militant* this week. Westside Branch, San Pedro, and Los Angeles proper account for ten subs each. Pauline Lodge of Westside Branch tells us that one of their best sub-getters "is an Indian com-

rade who gets most of the subs from his friends." Unit A of Southside Branch sent in nine of the total subs.

"Am enclosing 8 subs," writes Justine Lang, Literature Agent for Pittsburgh. "This represents the beginning of our drive for 50 new and renewal subs within four to six weeks. We're working it on a competitive basis and offering a prize to the comrade who brings in the most subs. In the lead so far is Mildred Ford with 6 subs. Mill never misses an opportunity to sell subs to her friends and neighbors. She even sold one to her employer."

Akron's subscription campaign is picking up speed. Patrick O'Gonnor sent this note with four subs: "The contest is getting hotter. Comrade Andrews is being pressed but still retains the lead."

Fred Martin, Milwaukee's Militant Manager, sent this brief comment about a new sub: "This subscriber was a delegate to the American Veterans Committee convention where we sold him a sub. He is connected with a radical campus tabloid published in Kansas. We sold 35 copies of *The Militant* at the AVC convention and could have sold many more — if we'd had them."

J. G. W., a devoted Militant booster in Kewanee, Ill., sent in two more subs for friends.

T. C. of New York City sent a contribution to *The Militant* Fund. We know this is a big sacrifice because this friend has just gone back to work after being on the picket line for months.

# Record Attendance At Mid-West Camp

LITTLE PLEASANT LAKE, MICH., July 12 — Tonight the campers will mark the close of the second week of Mid-West Camp and School with another edition of the "Mid-West Follies." In this impromptu amateur entertainment the various cities vie with each other in presenting the best skit, song or dance. The biggest hit of last week's show was the parody of "Old MacDonald Had A Farm" rendered by the barber-shop quartette from Reading, Pa.

This parody, entitled "Old MacDonald Had A Plant, CI, CIO," tells what happened to this boss's sweatshop regime when a couple of energetic militants set to work there. This song which has been added to the camp repertoire proved, to be one of the most popular at the songfest held last evening.

### HUGE CAMPFIRE

About 9:30 p. m., the flames of a huge campfire began to flare up and cast its glare upon the waters of the lakeside. Soon all the campers were congregated in a half-circle around the burning logs and even the most bashful joining in the chorus that caught up the strains of one song after another. This memorable songfest continued for over three hours until after midnight when hoarseness and sleepiness forced it to disperse.

## MINNEAPOLIS

Hear  
Vincent R Dunne  
SWP National Labor Secretary  
"LABOR'S FIGHT AGAINST THE TAFT-HARTLEY BILL"  
Friday, Aug. 1, 8 p. m.  
10 South 4th St.

## NEW YORK PICNIC

Sunday, July 27, all day  
Tibbetts Brook Park  
Food, Sports, Swimming  
(IRT—241st White Plains Train to 238th St. Bus to Park)  
Aspic: New York Local of SWP

## CHICAGO

"Militant" Picnic  
Softball - Dancing  
Games - Refreshments  
RYAN WOODS  
Sunday, August 3, 11 a. m.  
87th & Western

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

Season June 29 to Sept. 2. Adults \$25 week, Children \$12  
OSCAR COOVER, Manager  
Grass Lake, Mich.

Reserve accommodations for below from . . . to . . .  
Family ☐ Couple ☐ Single ☐  
(check one)  
List all who will attend:  
Name . . . . . (Mr., Mrs., Miss)  
List of Children and Age . . . . .  
Name of Applicant . . . . . (Please sign)  
Address . . . . . State . . . . .  
City & Zone . . . . .

## 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**—300 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 3990. Open every afternoon except Sunday.

**CHICAGO**—777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a. m. to 5 p. m., daily, except Sunday. Phone 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., 316 1/2 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. 5th, open 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.

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

**SUNDAY FORUMS**, 3:30 p. m.

**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.

**Friday night forum**, 8:30.

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

**HARLEM**: 103 W. 110 St. Room 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.

**CHELSEA**: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

**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 432 F St., R. 213; 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**—1919 1/2 Second Ave. Open 10:30 a. m. to 2:30 p. m. Mon. through Fri., 12 to 5 p. m. Sat.

Phone SE 0453 Library, bookstore.

Wednesdays, 8 p. m. Basic Training Class.

**ST. LOUIS**—1023 N. Grand Blvd., Room 312. Forums Thursdays, 8:30 p. m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

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

**TACOMA, Wash.**—Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p. m., at Odd Fellows 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**—351 South Ave., Youngstown 3. O. Open 12-5 p. m. Monday through Saturday. Phone 3-1395.

## AFL Union Urges Labor Candidate For U. S. President

By O. George

ST. PAUL, Minn., July 21—A resolution urging William Green and the AFL Council to launch a campaign to run a candidate for president in 1948, was presented to a recent meeting in Minneapolis of the Sheet Metal Workers International Executive Board, AFL, by local union 209 of St. Paul. John L. Lewis was suggested as the 1948 presidential candidate.

Urging an independent labor campaign in order to defeat the reactionaries in Congress by collaboration with the rest of the labor movement, the resolution read in part: "The Republicans and Democrats have seen fit to band together against all working people in an attempt to smash their organization. This is part of Wall Street's plans for a 'Third World War' so that America's 60 families will control the world and exploit the toilers of all lands. The Taft-Hartley bill is only the beginning of their colossal plan, which, if carried to its conclusion, would bring a fascist form of rule in the U. S. A."

Local union members attending the meeting greeted the resolution with approval, some saying, "There's the answer!" But although the purpose of the meeting was to plan a fight against the Taft-Hartley bill, the international officers ignored the resolution presented and offered no concrete plan of action against the new anti-labor law.



# An Accordion and Life in General

By Theodore Kovalesky

There are a million irritating or painful things about being poor. Some are tragic, like not being able to give your kids the right kind of food or the kind of education that you'd like them to have; or like waiting and waiting until the last moment before calling a doctor.

But most things about our lives aren't tragic; our lives rise to a climax of tragedy only at intervals, and the time between them is a long gray plain of monotony and irritation, a long succession of little things that annoy and bother and worry.

It's no tragedy not to own an automobile. It could be one if you had to make an emergency run to the hospital, but in general it's just an annoyance. It means you can't save money by shopping at places where the prices are cheaper. It means that you can't escape the sultry Sunday afternoon heat of the steel town and ride out into the country.

An ice box doesn't bring tragedy to your house. It means that you can't store your food very long, that you can't keep it as cold as you could in a refrigerator, that you have to keep emptying the pan of water beneath it so it won't get all over the kitchen floor. But that's certainly no tragedy.

It would be nice to wear good clothing, to be dressed like the pictures in the magazines. We're not. We don't look anything like them; but we get along all right with our ready-made suits that we keep year after year until it's impossible to wear them on the streets any longer.

In times like these we don't go hungry. Day after day in the plant we eat sandwiches. We get sick of them; sometimes in the hot weather we throw them out or take them back home again untouched, but in general we eat them. There's no tragedy there.

But here's the thing that made me think of all this: It's a little thing, something that doesn't really matter at all. I knew a man who went into a pawn shop one day about fifteen years ago and picked up an accordion for a few bucks. He was a friend of mine, and sometimes at his house I used to take the accordion and squeeze a couple of songs out of it. It wasn't hard to pick out a melody.

Now, all my life, for some reason or other, I've wanted to own an accordion. It's fun to sit down and play some instrument when you've got a few minutes to spare. I like to think of Joe Hill sitting outside a bunkhouse playing an accordion while the workers sang "Pie in the Sky" or "Casey Jones, the Union Scab" or some of his other rebel songs. I don't know if Joe Hill ever had an accordion, but I like the picture.

Only, I'll never have an accordion. If there are a few dollars that don't have to go to the grocer or the butcher (both of them in the same chain store nowadays) or the landlord, then they have to be set aside, because the landlord or the store or the doctor or someone else will be wanting them some time in the near future. And I don't NEED an accordion the way I need a house or a meal or a suit. So I won't get the damn thing, although I guess I'll always have a yen for one.

And isn't it the same with you? Isn't there something you've always had a desire for, that you know you'll never have?

That's one of the irritations of being poor, and it's an irritation that's always with you, like a nail in your shoe that digs in every step you take. I never heard of anybody dying from a nail in his shoe, but I never heard of anybody who liked it. And I won't die if I don't get an accordion, and you won't die if you don't get whatever it is that you feel that way about... but damn it, it does make you sore, doesn't it!

## The Negro Struggle

### Jim Crow and "Melodrama"

By Albert Parker

A great many professional and amateur book reviewers jumped on Sinclair Lewis with both feet for his latest book, *Kingsblood Royal*. For the most part these people did not like this book because it spoke some plain truths about race prejudice and Jim Crow. For them such truths were "melodrama" and "sensationalism."

They particularly disliked the end of the book where the hero, after discovering he had a remote Negro ancestor, is forced to defend his home, gun in hand, against a white supremacist mob trying to drive him from a "white neighborhood." "The end of the story is straight melodrama," said one reviewer. And another, an ecclesiastical scoundrel who is now whooping it up for peacetime conscription, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, condemned the book as "a threat to good race relationships in America" because: "A man is not justified in stirring up our most evil social passions, unless he has a better conclusion than the mob violence in his last chapter."

One of the truths Lewis has stated in this book is that the "Negro question" is filled with dynamite, with violence. Is that "melodramatic" or is it true? Every Negro in the country knows it is true. Where they cannot keep the Negro down by their laws and "enforcements," the white supremacists never hesitate to use force. Just two weeks ago *The Militant* printed a dispatch from Chicago telling how white mobs were attacking and stoning the homes of two Negro families because they dared to move into a "white neighborhood." Was that a case of melodrama too? Lewis not only shows that there is violence di-

rected against the Negro people; he also shows his hero fighting back against it. By implication, therefore, Lewis approves of the Negro's resistance to violence. That is what people like Poling don't like; that is what they call "stirring up our most evil social passions." If they had written the book, they would have ended it with some pap about the brotherhood of God as the answer to "good race relationships."

In this dispute between the Poling viewpoint and the Lewis viewpoint, the great majority of militant Negroes, we are sure, will be found on Lewis' side. It is a fact that the fight against Jim Crow and lynch terror is truly loaded with violence, and you cannot change facts by agreeing to ignore them or not to speak of them. It is a fact, no matter who likes it or is responsible for it, and the only way to deal with facts is to recognize them.

It goes without saying that Negroes aren't responsible for it any more than they were for the violence of the Civil War, and that they would prefer to conduct the fight against Jim Crow on the most peaceable and non-violent basis. But the white supremacists won't let them do that. And every Negro with a spark of self-respect knows that it's either fight or submit — either resist the blows of Jim Crow or give up all hope of ever winning equal rights.

For saying this we will probably be accused of "advocating" violence. That won't worry us too much. We, who are trying to get rid of the capitalist system, are the real opponents of the Jim Crow violence which it spawns. The real responsibility for continued violence rests on the Polings who are trying to preserve this barbaric system.

## Aspirin Won't Cure "Bean Headache"

By Joseph Hansen

An acute affliction has hit Johnson County, Tennessee: "bean headache" — a disease no amount of aspirin will cure.

Publicized as the leading bean area in the United States, Johnson County had a crop of snap beans this year estimated a few short weeks ago at \$1,500,000. The market opened at \$3 a bushel. With field hands getting only \$15 a week and the total cost of production at \$135 a bushel the lush green fields looked like pure folding money to the growers.

It was when the growers began converting the crop into the kind of green you can add to a bank account that they were suddenly afflicted with "bean headache." Within a few devastating days the price slumped from \$3 a bushel to 60¢ a bushel.

You might suppose this drop in prices would benefit consumers who have been paying about 12½¢ and up a pound for snap beans at the corner grocery. Isn't that what the capitalists have been contending — remove price controls, step up production, and consumers will benefit by prices coming down?

But it didn't work out that way. With the cost of production at \$135 a bushel it doesn't pay growers to harvest beans that bring only 60¢. It's more profitable to plow them under and try to get in a different crop by fall. And so in Johnson County today you can see one of those dramatic scenes characteristic of the capitalist system — farmers out in the broiling sun frantically plowing under a crop at the exact time it is ready to be harvested.

Meanwhile, 2,500 laborers are idle. Some of them were imported from Georgia, Florida and as far away as the Bahamas to harvest the beans. These workers, guaranteed \$15 a week by the Government until September 1, are reported to be turning the stoppage into a needed holiday. But for 1,500 local pickers, the sudden unemployment is nothing less than disastrous.

"It seems funny," said one grower, "the first of the week we couldn't get sufficient help, now there is plenty."

To some of the growers, the crash in prices is a complete mystery. Others think that high prices induced farmers in other areas to expand production of snap beans, thus glutting the market.

The Johnson County growers are not taking the catastrophe lying down. They burned the wires to their political representative in Congress, Dayton E. Phillips. And he immediately hit the floor, demanding Government action.

The Commodity Credit Corporation, he said, has \$500,000,000 at its disposal out of which it can make up the growers' financial losses. Also in Agricultural Fund No. 32 "there is sufficient authority to help the bean growers." Besides this, the Emergency Appropriation Act of 1948 makes it possible for the government "to purchase the beans for the world market."

As for the consumers who will continue to pay highway robber prices for beans, and the workers thrown out of jobs, Phillips had nothing to say.

After all, if they want relief from high prices and unemployment let them put their own political representatives in Congress. The bean growers and Phillips have a different headache to take care of.

## Notes from the News

**RICH GET RICHER**—A recent Washington survey reports that billion dollar corporations now number 45, two more than a year ago and nearly double the number in 1929. Topping the list are banks and insurance companies, with 8-billion-dollar Metropolitan Life leading the pack.

**HOW LONG TO LIVE?**—Albert Einstein and other Atomic scientists expect an atomic war within eight years at the outside.

**FRIENDS OF POLL TAXERS**—Democratic Congressmen voted 98 to 73 against an anti-poll tax bill which Republicans pushed through the House July 21 merely to embarrass the Democrats. The Republicans know the bill will never go any farther.

**The weekly basic wage of 20,000 New York City employees is less than \$25.**

**HOUSES CRACK UP**—While new housing falls behind political promises, several New York tenements have collapsed in recent months. The first

batch fell after an uptown explosion. A couple weeks ago a mid-town building crashed into a heap a few moments after all occupants had been removed. Last week a four-story tenement on West 11th St. began to crack up and was evacuated and roped off.

**EDUCATION IN DEMOCRACY**—James T. Farrell's *Studs Lonigan*, one of the few books which American prisoners in Germany were not allowed to read because it was so anti-Nazi, has now been barred by the U. S. Army from publication in Germany, Communist Drew Pearson reported July 19.

One out of every seven U.S. workers is employed in automotive or related industries, says the Automobile Manufacturers Association. The total of 8,200,000 includes 4,750,000 truck drivers and 800,000 on production and parts.

**GREASING THE SKIDS**—With consumer credit already at an all-time high of more than \$10,000,000,000, and in the face of President Truman's warnings that credit is dangerously high, and of the Federal Reserve Board's plea to retain present credit restrictions, the House voted July 22 to terminate federal control of consumer credit.

# THE MILITANT

## ROBERT WILLIAMS SCORES O'DWYER'S STRIKE BREAKING

### CIO Bank Clerks On Picket Line Battle Police



Striking members of the CIO United Office & Professional Workers outside the Brooklyn Trust Company defend themselves against the police who tried to break up a mass picket line. At right is Harvey Frankel, injured Union man.

NEW YORK, July 24—"Every trade unionist in the city will cheer the determined stand of the Queens bus drivers who defied Mayor O'Dwyer and William Green and forced the resignation of Judge Wasservogel, the anti-union arbitrator, Robert Williams, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Senate declared in a statement today.

"At the same time," Williams continued, "this situation must impress for all time in the mind of every worker the strike-breaking role of O'Dwyer. His present concession to the bus drivers was forced out of him by the strike and must not be permitted to obscure the mayor's strike-breaking.

"All the facts in the case prove this point. When the drivers struck to force Wasservogel out, O'Dwyer pulled every dirty trick in the book to break the strike and force them back on the job. He denounced the strike in a series of lying and frenzied statements. At the time he heaped bouquets of praise on Wasservogel, who had become the main obstacle to the wage increase the drivers were demanding.

"O'Dwyer wired Bill Green and Spradling, international president of the union, demanding they break the strike.

Then he stood hand in glove with the bus companies while they moved against the strikers, threatened to fire the drivers if they did not return at once, and attempted to run the buses with scabs. O'Dwyer's cops on foot, on motorcycle and in patrol cars gave the scab buses protection.

"Let every trade unionist ask himself: If, as O'Dwyer alleged, it was such a crime for the bus drivers to walk out on a foul ball arbitrator, why does the Mayor keep his mouth shut when the arbitrator resigns to permit a settlement of the issues that caused the strike?

"O'Dwyer failed in his strike-breaking move not for lack of desire. He cracked up on the stubborn resistance of the drivers, on the failure to drum up a sufficient number of scabs and on the sympathy of the majority of the working class public who refused to ride with the scabs.



ROBERT WILLIAMS

"Once again we get the true measure of O'Dwyer's so-called pro-labor attitude. His actions in the Queens bus strike, like his actions in the bank strike in Brooklyn where his cops continue to club the strikers speak a thousand times louder than his cheap declarations against the Taft-Hartley law. Responsibility for O'Dwyer's strike-breaking rests heavily on the leaders of the CIO and AFL, on the Social Democrats and the Stalinists who supported O'Dwyer for office and have remained his chief propagandists ever since.

"Our party has warned in the past that the workers of New York will expose themselves to the gravest dangers until they break clean with Tammany Hall and the Republican Party and take steps to put a Labor mayor and a Labor Council in office in New York, and do the same in the State Capitol."

## Plague of Rats Menaces Families Phila. Slums

By Max Goldman

PHILA., Pa., July 18—A modern version of the rat plague in Hamelin town in Robert Browning's famous tale has struck Philadelphia. From residents all over the city complaints about disease-bearing rats are pouring into the Division of Housing and Sanitation.

Newspapers report huge damage to food and property. Scores of children have been bitten. A two-month old girl, daughter of a gunner's mate stationed at Philadelphia Naval Base, had her arm gnawed from hand to the shoulder.

A three year old girl on S. 4th St. had her left cheek bitten through. A five year old boy on N. Howard St. was twice bitten. A two-year old boy on N. 11th St. had his face and right arm chewed up.

A few months ago, an infant child on 9th St. was mangled so savagely that she died.

Philadelphia hospitals have many other cases. The local press has carried heart-rending accounts of families conducting lone and hopeless battles against rats that swarm into their homes.

### CROCODILE TEARS

These tragedies that have befallen so many workers' families have thus far elicited little more than crocodile tears from the city authorities. The Republican dominated city machine from Mayor Bernard Samuel to the City Council have confined themselves to allocating \$75,000 to exterminate the rats and to holding a meeting of the Council of Social Agencies.

It is openly admitted by city authorities that the funds allocated and forces mobilized are entirely inadequate to cope with the rat menace.

Killing off a few thousand rodents can give only temporary relief at best. It is necessary to strike at their breeding places — the city dumps, the over-crowded slums with their garbage littered streets.

It is common knowledge that Philadelphia has some of the worst slum areas in the country. Its garbage disposal system has been a scandal for decades.

The worst slum districts are those where Philadelphia's huge Negro population of 290,000 lives.

The Philadelphia edition of the *Pittsburgh Courier* has been exposing the inhuman conditions to which the Negroes have been subjected, living, as the Courier reporter says, in slums "where homes collapse because of rot, where babies die in fire-traps, where rats, roaches and bedbugs swarm, where people live without bathtubs or adequate toilet facilities."

### SLUM CLEARANCE NEEDED

The real solution is a slum clearance program that would wipe out the infested areas where rats breed, menacing not only the workers but the entire city.

Philadelphia lags behind other major cities which are all in crying need of housing. The Committee on Social Education and Action of the Presbytery of Philadelphia estimated in a recent survey that the city needs immediately 40,000 new dwelling units. More than one-fifth of Negro-occupied dwellings require major repairs; more than one-third lack private baths.

The Survey points out an "almost complete lack of parks and playgrounds" in the most congested areas, "frequent violations" of sanitary regulations and the prevalence of "vacant lots with rubbish and debris."

This decay and neglect of hous-

ing has caused the rat hordes to prosper and to menace the health and lives of workers and their families. The landlords continue to reap a golden harvest and are right now jacking up rentals. The Republican city administration has refused to pass a municipal rent-control ordinance, thus giving the

## IN MEMORIAM Homer Lewis 1910-1947

Comrade Homer Lewis of the Chicago Local died here suddenly on July 17.

In the death of Comrade Lewis the Socialist Workers Party and the working class have lost a loyal comrade, a true friend, and a tireless fighter for truth and justice.

Homer Lewis devoted his entire life to one purpose — to serve the interests of the oppressed and downtrodden.

Born in Kings Ferry, Fla., in 1910, Homer came to Chicago in 1920. He reached adulthood at the time when the 1929 crisis of American capitalism was condemning millions to unemployment, hunger and homelessness.

Comrade Lewis plunged into the organization of the unemployed. He joined the Workers Alliance and became Grievance Chairman of his local.

Later, during the war boom, he went to work in the shipyards. Here he again threw himself into the workers' struggles and became a Steward and Local Grievance Committee Chairman of the CIO Shipbuilders Union.

All his life Homer Lewis sought to understand the source of the social injustice he saw around him. He came to understand that these evils could never be abolished until the capitalist system had been abolished by the oppressed of all races. Acting on this inescapable conclusion, Homer Lewis joined the Socialist Workers Party in 1946.

In his party he distinguished himself, as in everything, by loyalty and devotion. He quickly won the respect, confidence and friendship of his comrades, and was chosen to carry the banner of the party in the first election campaign ever conducted by the Socialist Workers Party in the state of Illinois. He was the party's candidate for alderman from the Third Ward. He thus added an important chapter to the history of the party, and thereby also of the working class and Negro people of Chicago.

In the South Side of Chicago Lewis was recognized as one of the best fighters against discrimination and the terrible living conditions imposed upon the Negro people. As treasurer of the Committee of Racial Equality and one of its oldest members, he was active in many struggles against Jim Crow. He was one of the leaders in the battle against discrimination at the White City Roller Skating Rink and in the Conference to Combat Terrorism Against Minorities, organized to



HOMER LEWIS

defend the home of Mrs. Grace Hardy, when it was bombed by vigilante terrorists. He was active in the campaign to secure jobs for Negroes as driver salesmen on the Wonder Bread trucks. He was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

He was a keen student of the history of the struggles of the Negro people for freedom and equality. He was an active member and treasurer of the DuSable History Club.

Lewis' many friends in the cooperative movement will remember him for his services as a member of the Executive Committee of the Peoples Consumers Cooperative. Just Sunday before his death, with great effort he attended the meeting of the Executive Board.

Homer Lewis carried on the struggle and was active in all these organizations despite severe and chronic illness that forced an amputation of his right arm last year. Despite this, he was always so cheerful and uncomplaining that a few comrades realize how serious was his illness.

The last year of his life, the year of his worst illness and operation, was the year of Comrade Lewis' richest contribution to the workers' struggle.

Your comrades and fellow-workers will never forget you, Comrade Homer. We will all carry on the battle for a socialist world that will end Jim Crow and all exploitation and injustice. We will be inspired by your courage and devotion. While we mourn your passing, we pledge ourselves to continue to organize and fight for the ideas for which you fought.

We dip the stainless banner of the Socialist Workers Party over the fresh grave of our fallen comrade.

## FLAYS JIM CROW AT ROCKAWAY BEACH

NEW YORK, July 24 — "I

heartily endorse the actions planned to wipe out discrimination in Rockaway Beach bathhouses and urge every Negro and white worker in the city to give it full support," Robert Williams, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Senate declared in a statement today.

"This action," Williams continued, "began with a test case in which the management of the Park Inn bathhouse admitted white persons seeking entry, but refused admissions to Negroes in the same group. The manager gave the phony excuse that the Negroes were refused because they were not 'members' although the white persons in the group also lacked membership cards.

"It is a source of encouragement that the NAACP has thrown its full support behind the action. It has endorsed the picket line to be held at the bathhouses Saturday and Sunday, July 26-27 and will prosecute the case in the courts if necessary.

## CIO Railroad Union Wins PRR Election

An event of major significance for American railroad labor is the recent collective bargaining election victory of the CIO United Railroad Workers of America on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The URRWA-CIO defeated the PRR's company union in six of the eight crafts of the Maintenance of Equipment Department, to gain bargaining rights for 37,372 workers employed by one of the two largest railway systems in the country.

Results of a run-off election, reported in the *Railroad Labor Edition* of the July 7 CIO News, show the URRWA-CIO the winner in a contest for the Sheet Metal Workers, Electrical Workers and Carmen. The company union won the machinists by a narrow margin of 5,365 to 5,162. The carmen are the largest single craft, numbering 18,979.

In the first election on May 1, the CIO union won a majority among the Boilermakers, Moulders and Powerhouse Employees and the Rail Shop Laborers. The company union maintained its control over the Blacksmiths, numbering 1,296. The AFL ran third in all eight crafts.

However, those who voted for the AFL in the original election cast their ballots for the CIO on the run-offs to ensure the victory of genuine unionism against company unionism.

## 3,200 Signatures For R. Williams Top Legal Quota

NEW YORK, July 19 — The

campaign to place Robert Williams, Socialist Workers Party candidate for State Senate, on the ballot went over the top today. Petition, comittees canvassing the area brought in 1,450 signatures, making a total of 3,200 signatures. The election law requires 3,000 signatures for an independent candidate to qualify for State Senate. The campaign committee for Robert Williams is shooting for a quota of 4,500 signatures in order to be on the safe side. By the time this article appears it is confidently expected that another rally will see the quota filled.

Petition collectors reported a warm reception among workers in the Harlem area, who expressed interest and sometimes enthusiasm in the campaign for Robert Williams. Comrade Williams is the only Negro candidate in the area who will stand on a platform of real working class struggle and a genuine fight against discrimination.

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The URRWA-CIO announced it is making a drive to organize all other non-operating departments of the PRR, including storehouse handlers, clerks, freight handlers, baggage handlers and station employees. It also reports that the ball is rolling among the PRR's Maintenance of Way and Miscellaneous Employees Department, including track workers, water treating plant operators, ice plant employees, timber treating plant operators, bridge and building gangs, steel bridge gangs, etc.

This is the biggest gain for industrial unionism on the railroads in modern railroad labor history. It gives the CIO a substantial base in the industry. It undermines company unionism in its major stronghold, the PRR, which has defied organization by the 21 separate railway unions that have dominated the field up to now.

The CIO's victory on the PRR system will attract the attention of railroad workers all over the country. Undoubtedly, this will give an impetus to the growing revolt among the members of the AFL railway craft unions and the five brotherhoods of operating employees.