

THE FIGHTING WORKER

Organ Revolutionary Workers League, U. S.

602

Vol. 12 - No. 10

5 CENTS

August 25, 1947

*Senate Puts On
Circus to Whitewash
"Merchants of Death"*

Now that the "flying discs" have disappeared from the skies other heavenly bodies are beginning to occupy our attention. The Senate War Investigation Committee put on a gala spectacle which is sure to surpass anything Mr. Hughes has ever produced. A veritable three ring circus including verbal duels, Hollywood girls (a la Goldwyn Follies), parties for tired business men resting from their war efforts, etc., was lavishly staged under the auspices of the Senate Committee.

To date there have been many accusations hurled back and forth by Messrs. Hughes, Brewster and Ferguson. All the accusations are not of equal weight and gravity. However, they include among others (1) The contention that Hughes and Kaiser received \$40,000,000 from the government (with the aid of top government officials) for planes which were never delivered. (2) Brewster, who is the Senate mouthpiece for Pan American Airways, is being accused of trying to force Hughes into a merger of the Pan American with the Trans World Airlines — the investigation was to be the price for Hughes' refusal. Along with these matters the love life of Elliot Roosevelt and Mr. Hughes (hostess incident) has been discussed in order to perk up the interest of the jaded Investigation Committee.

The real issues and lessons of the investigation will never be defined by the present investigation. The object of this investigation is to whitewash the fact that the capitalist Congress and the other arms of the Capitalist state (the army and navy) always act as the executive committee of the Capitalist class in war and peace. The capitalist press pretends to be shocked at the fact that members of the cabinet congressional weasels and top military brass hats have to be buttered up with wine, women and song in order to give out with juicy contracts.

But what other use is Congress or government officials to the capitalist if they can't build him arsenals, guns, boats, planes and factories to carry out a struggle for dominion of the markets of the world? And if a few people make an "honest" dollar in steering contracts to the right people in the process of coining money out of blood — well it is just the natural working out of "free enterprise" and the "American way of life."

CROOKS AND PROFITEERS

The close cooperation between the capitalist state and capitalist class has been clearly demonstrated in past history. For example, during the Civil War, J. P. Morgan, the elder, and a fellow buccaneer, bought thousands of defective rifles from an arsenal in New York for \$3.50 and sold them to the Union armies for \$22.00 apiece. The guns were not rifled and had defective firing mechanisms so that the soldier using them had a 50/50 chance of killing himself or his opponent. In fact many soldiers had their thumbs blown off using the defective weapons. When J. P. Morgan was asked what his role was in that business deal he replied: "That is my own private business".

Abe Lincoln's first Secretary of War was Simon Cameron who, when assuming office, promptly proceeded to select as an assistant Tom Scott who happened to be on leave of absence from the Pennsylvania Railroad. In a little while the profits of Cameron's railroad line and the Pennsylvania's doubled. John Tucker, a Pennsylvania railroad president, was made Cameron's chief purchaser of army transports. Tucker proceeded to pocket a great number of extravagant commissions on the purchase. Even the hardened pirate Cornelius Vanderbilt was shocked. When he appeared before a

Labor Party Proves that Labor Parties Don't Serve Labor

Those hardy souls who are looking forward to the building of an American "Labor" Party had better cast their eyes overseas to the fruits of Labor Partyism in Britain.

In the present British crisis the Attlee Labor Party government is pursuing a typical capitalist road. Workers must now make additional sacrifices. They must work longer hours, accept no wage increases, live on reduced rations, permit themselves to be ordered to work elsewhere at the whim of the government or be frozen to their present jobs and suffer all other indignities of an increasingly reactionary capitalist government.

The capitalists, on the other hand, will continue in the present fashion to garner profits. Nothing will be done to disturb the "basic" right of the British employers to exact their pound of flesh. The crisis is to be paid for entirely by the working class. Such, indeed, is the fruit of Labor Partyism. The Attlee government, like the MacDonald Labor Party government before it, proves once again that a Labor Party (so-called) is nothing more than a third capitalist party with a nice-sounding label. It proves once more that no matter what the label any party that aspires to leadership of the capitalist state can only be a party of the capitalists serving the capitalists.

TWO OF A KIND

Attlee and Bevin are, after all, of the same stamp as our American Reuthers and Murrays. Should Reuther and Murray come to power here we can expect exactly what is happening in Britain. The capitalists use Attlee and Bevin, just as they used Churchill, to stamp out working class revolt and to pass the burdens of the crisis onto the backs of the working class.

Britain, we are told, is short of dollars. She needs to export more in order to gain funds to buy fruits, tobacco and machinery from the United States. But there are billions of pounds idle money in Britain. There are thousands of wealthy men and women who are still making large profits. If this is a crisis, why doesn't the "socialist" government expropriate the capitalists, take over the banks, take over the industries WITHOUT ANY PAYMENTS TO THE RICH. This idle money could be used to stamp out the crisis, instead of passing the buck onto the working class.

The Attlee government, however, will only socialize the misery of the working class. The rich will remain . . . rich. They will not suffer at all. The poor, however, will do all the sacrificing.

The British crisis offers quite a problem for Uncle Sam. Britain will now cut out most Hollywood movies; the \$262 million a year tobacco purchases will be drastically curtailed, and other imports cut down accordingly. Britain now is America's best fruit customer. Farmers in Florida, California, Oregon and Washington will face a crisis with the curtailment of this field for

exports. The crisis in the United States will be accelerated by the events in Britain.

THREATENS ALL CAPITALISM

Furthermore the whole fabric of the colonial economy and the European economy is threatened by the closed-in economy now contemplated for England. British quotas on exports are similar to the quotas established by Hitler and Mussolini, prior to World War II. Britain also is cutting quotas on funds that can be taken from the country. This too, is in line with the economics of capitalist decline.

The British measures will be met by stringent measures of other nations that will suffer as a result. Other quotas, tariff restrictions and curtailment of gold shipments will rear their heads in other capitalist nations.

The crisis in Britain is the crisis of capitalism as a whole. In order to meet this crisis Uncle Sam must either pour more billions into the British crucible or prepare for a large world police force to set down revolution as it pops up in the countries that are affected by the economic crisis.

As far as the British workers are concerned the crisis should offer definite proof that Labor Partyism is today their greatest enemy; that they must take to the road of independent political action — demonstrations, political strikes, organization of workers defense squads and workers council government in Britain. A new Marxisan Party to lead the battle against Labor Partyism, as well as Toryism, is the crying need of the British people today.

Down with the Labor Party!

Down with Capitalism!

Expropriate the capitalists now!

For a Workers Council Government in Britain!

Hickman Must Be Freed

James Hickman of Chicago is in jail charged with the murder of David Coleman, landlord of the building at 1733 Washburne Avenue, in which Mr. Hickman, his wife and children formerly lived. On January 16, 1947 a fire swept the attic in which the Hickman family "lived" without gas, lights, water or fire escapes. Four of the children were burned to death. Prior to the fire, David Coleman had threatened to burn the tenants out of the building. Overcome by grief at the loss of his children, and believing David Coleman to be responsible for their deaths, Mr. Hickman shot him on July 16. Coleman died four days later in the hospital.

James Hickman and his family were day laborers living at Tunica, Mississippi. Seeking an opportunity to provide a better home and educational facilities for his family, Mr. Hickman came to Chicago in 1945 and secured a job in the steel mills. In January 1948 he sent

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 4)

No Matter Who Is In Congress- Wall Street Is In the Saddle

On Sunday, July 27, 1947 the 80th Congress recessed. Remember the date well. It marks one of the sharpest attacks on the labor movement made by the cat's paw of the capitalist class—Congress.

Henry Wallace, in summing up the 80th Congress so far, gives the handiwork of that body too much credit. Says Wallace, "When breadlines are formed again over the length and breadth of this nation, we shall remember this Congress as the one which brought America closer to depression and closer to war". It is not Congress, primarily, but the mechanics of Capitalism itself which is responsible.

This shining knight in armor of the bourgeoisie wails to the high heavens that the 80th Congress has been one of retreat. Wallace knows better than that. The 80th Congress, in terms of the domestic and foreign needs of U. S. imperialism has advanced!

It has advanced a program of assault on the labor movement (Taft-Hartley Bill); aided the landlord in lowering his tenant's income; organized a program for bolstering up world Capitalism; prepared the groundwork for encircling the Soviet Union with U. S. and British bases, in preparation for the counter-revolution (which they hope will give U. S. imperialism a breathing spell for the next generation), etc. In terms of the social and economic needs of the working class the work of the 80th Congress was a retreat. But Wallace knows that Congress is merely a windjamming parlor where the stooges of capitalism congregate to put over policies which were determined outside of Congress by the titans of finance and industry.

BOYCOTT ELECTIONS

Wallace is on much firmer ground when he observes the fact that out of a potential electorate of 90 million voters, only 35 million went to the polls last November. The reason is obvious even to Wallace. Says he, "We have not provided the leadership for millions of American families who have resigned themselves to less than an adequate standard of living. They are the millions who have stayed away from the polls. They are the millions who, in doubting the value of a single vote are expressing a disbelief in the value of political democracy."

Wallace is right in being concerned over the lack of interest that 55 million people (most of them are workers) have evinced in the shell game which Capitalism runs for its wage slaves periodically. The logic of politics permits no static conditions to exist. And Wallace knows that those people who are slowly learning the fraud and shallowness of capitalism democracy are potentially fertile ground for developing class and revolutionary consciousness.

In a recent survey (U. S. News of July 26) can be found much of the data which is behind the present skepticism on the part of the working class and middle class. 9.3 million families receive an income under \$1,000 per year (\$20 a week); 12.4 million families receive between \$1,000 and \$1,999; 10.3 million families receive between \$2,000 and \$2,999. 14.2% of the families received incomes ranging from \$4,000 to \$7,500 per year. Since the data for 500,000 families was unavailable we have no figures for those which range all the way from share-croppers who earn incomes of \$200 per year, to the incomes of financiers and industrial magnates who earn \$1 million and more.

LABOR PARTYISM

Wallace, the reformist Stalinists, and the Trotskyists, will work like trojans to play up these facts in order to harness the workers behind a Labor Party line and prevent a more

radical polarization to the left. But to their discomfiture they will see that the needs of U. S. capitalism, which demand huge investments for war preparations, preclude the possibility of any long period of People's Frontism. (Note the events in England, for instance).

Wallace and others are blaming our poverty and other ills on the 80th Congress. That is so much malarky. Congress was reactionary and vicious; but it was merely carrying out the wishes and needs of a bankrupt Capitalism. No matter who was at the saddle the swing to the right would have been inevitable. It must be remembered that Harry Truman's previous record of liberalism didn't stop him from being a strike-breaker in the railroad and coal strikes, nor other of his reactionary actions. The "liberal" Roosevelt also showed his fangs on far too many occasions — strike-breaking, wage freezing, job-freezing, militarism, war, etc. It is not the men in power that count, but the SYSTEM.

Despite Wallace, Capitalism can no more eliminate planlessness than it can eliminate the profit motive, the market, or wage slavery. The trend to the right is part of the decadence of a system that faces deeper depressions and more vicious wars in the near future. Only the organization of a socialist economy for use, rather than profit, can eliminate planlessness. It is not a matter of 80th Congress versus a "liberal" Congress; but a matter of capitalist power versus Soviet power.

Big Landlords Get the Gravy

As was to be expected the new swiss-cheese rent "control" law is being interpreted in such a way that the bigger landlord the more he can swindle from his tenants.

The new law provides that rooming houses are still under control and rents remain the same but that hotels are de-controlled — meaning that the landlord can raise rents as much as he wants. The Federal Housing Administrator is supposed to decide what is a rooming house and what is a hotel.

The obvious fair thing would have been to state that all permanent residents were still under control and that their rents could only be raised voluntarily if they were offered an 18 month lease — just as in the case of those living in residential buildings. The Housing Administrator however, is under the thumb of the real estate lobbyists.

His interpretation of what constitutes a hotel covers practically anything but the smallest rooming houses. The establishment must merely supply linens and a few other negligible services to be considered a hotel.

Under this ruling millions of people throughout the country are put at the mercy of the landlord.

ORGANIZE GROUP

In Chicago at one of the larger rooming houses the tenants got together and set up a Tenants Council to refuse to pay a 15% rent boost. They sent a delegation to the OPA to try to get the government to make a ruling on whether their homes were de-controlled. OPA merely put forth the old song and dance — file a petition and we'll investigate in a month or two.

In the meantime the landlord uses every technicality under the sun to terrorize his tenants. If a tenant was drunk three months before, the landlord threatens him with eviction for "immorality".

(Continued on Page 4)

HICKMAN MUST BE FREED

(Continued from Page 1)

for his family and they lived doubled up with a married daughter. After months of looking for a place to live, Mr. Hickman, in August, contacted David Coleman, who promised him a four room flat on the second floor at 1733 Washburne Ave. The flat was not vacant at the time. Mr. Hickman paid \$100.00 for two months rent in advance and was promised two rooms until the flat was available. Instead, he and his wife, and 7 of his children were forced to live in the attic room 14' by 14', with no water, gas or lights and only one small window. The landlord promised to provide an oil stove for cooking and to furnish lights. He did not do so. Mr. Hickman had to buy his own stove and to use kerosene lamps for lights. Mr. Hickman was promised his money back at any time he asked for it if the second floor flat was not available by September 18th. Mr. Hickman paid \$6.00 a week for the attic cubby hole.

On the night of January 16, fire swept through the attic cubby hole at 1733 Washburne and the four youngest Hickman children were burned to death. They were Leslie, 14; Elvene, 9; Sylvester, 7; and Velvena, 3. The mother, Anna, 40 and two other sons, Willis, 20 and Charles, 19, escaped.

DELIBERATE FIRE

Testimony presented at the coroner's inquest into the death of the children and at hearings before the city's fire attorney indicated that the fire may have been deliberately set in order to increase the owner's revenue. Tenants of the building stated that an unidentified man was in the building the night of the fire and warned some of the tenants to leave because the building was on fire. A kerosene can of a type not used in the building was found by the attic doorway after the fire. Witnesses testified that Coleman had on numerous occasions stated that he wanted to evict the tenants so that he could convert the flats into kitchenettes, thus considerably increasing his income. They testified that Coleman stated that he would do anything to get the tenants out "even if it takes a fire to do it."

Coleman, the landlord, repeatedly tried to force the tenants to vacate. He served eviction notices on them in April to force them out so that he could cut up the building into kitchenette apartments. When the case came to court in May, it was dismissed by Judge Hermes in Renters Court.

Grief stricken over the death of his four children and the injuries that his son and wife still suffer from, Mr. Hickman on July 16th shot Coleman in the justifiable belief that he was responsible for the death of his children.

Hickman claims that Coleman confessed to him that he had set fire to the building at 1733 Washburne. Coleman died four days later in the Michael Reese Hospital.

The coroner's jury at the inquest into the death of Coleman termed the shooting as "murder" and ordered Hickman held to the Grand Jury on that charge.

As we go to press a defense committee is being set up for Hickman. This worker is NOT guilty of any crime! He should be defended as a victim of capitalist greed. Hickman should not be defended as "temporarily insane" or anything else. He is NOT GUILTY on class grounds. The capitalist society is guilty.

HOW YOU DOIN'?

How are you making out financially, fellow worker? The capitalist class is doing fine. The Department of Commerce estimated that for the first six months profits were up \$8 BILLION from last year and \$4.5 BILLION above 1943's previous all-time high. The railroad companies, the meat packers, steel, and the oil companies all report record profits.

WHAT ABOUT RUSSIA

If you ask the average man on the street whether he will support the United States in a new war he will give you a very emphatic "NO". Yet imperceptibly, without him knowing it, the average American worker is being sold on a new bloodbath.

No capitalist nation ever admits until the last moment that it is planning war. Roosevelt denied in 1940 that he planned war, and yet it was proven some time later that he had already committed himself in a meeting with Churchill to enter into the carnage. What the capitalists usually do is to psychologize the masses for war, to build them up to accept the line of reasoning for war.

Today that is being done by a holy press crusade against Russia. In the Soviet Union, we are told, there are millions of slave laborers; the standard of living is low; freedom of press and speech is prohibited; the soviet masses are virtual slaves. Furthermore "totalitarian" Russia is trying to enslave the world. She is trying to break up the U. N. She vetoes everything that comes up. She is planning to take over Greece, Turkey, China and other nations. "Russia must be stopped!"

Acceptance of this argument is acceptance of America's projected war against the Soviet Union and against oppressed workers and peasants everywhere. Those people who today are joining the State Department in attacking the Soviet Union and "Communism" are doing Wall Street's work of psychologizing the masses for acceptance of new bloodbaths.

Marxists do not deny that Stalin and his bureaucracy have made a shambles of the achievements of the October Revolution. But refusal to support Stalin does not mean support of red-baiting and anti-Soviet crusades by Wall Street. We must place the problem right side up.

DEMOCRACY IN 1917

When the Bolsheviks, under Lenin, seized power in 1917 they created the greatest workers democracy in all history. Workers who previously had little or no rights, now gained free rent, free noon meals, free transportation, relatively better ration cards than anyone else, and complete freedom of speech. Lenin decreed that no individual in Russia should earn more than 8 times as much as the lowest paid worker — and Lenin himself rigidly adhered to this rule, even refusing a better grade of food when he was ill. Within the Bolshevik Party democracy was at its height. At one time or another 10 or 15 factions existed in opposition to the leadership. Each had full rights to express itself.

Lenin's democracy was based on a Marxian political foundation. His policy called for extending the world revolution and for steadily raising the living standards of the masses.

RISE OF STALINISM

With the defeat of the revolution in Germany and elsewhere the Stalin petty-bourgeois clique came into power. It completely reversed Lenin's policy. It denied the possibility of revolution elsewhere and proclaimed the policy of "socialism in one country" (socialism in NO countries, actually). It imposed greater and greater measures of dictatorship, and liquidated one gain of the Revolution after another. Because of threatening war clouds Stalinism rushed to build up heavy industry. Since it had no faith in Revolution abroad it could only depend on a military machine and on cheap manouvers of power politics with one capitalist group against another.

But the too rapid building of heavy industry forced Stalinism to impose great sacrifices on the masses. Consumer industries were wholly neglected. It lowered the standards of living

and starved millions and arrested millions more who rebelled. The bureaucratized state in Russia is a direct result of the ruinous policy of "socialism in one country"; of failing to depend on the masses abroad as the main defense of the Soviet Union. As the masses learned to hate Stalinism more and more the dictatorship had to extend itself and fan out. Stalinism had to make concession to reactionary sections of the population. It permitted prostitute journalists and writers gigantic royalties. It gave large bonuses and large wages to engineers, Stakhanovists and innumerable other police and political lackeys. It destroyed Lenin's principles entirely. And within the Party itself it liquidated every vestige of democracy.

1st AND 2nd WARS

During the 2nd War the Stalinist forces were able to come out victorious despite themselves. Millions undoubtedly lost their lives because of the bureaucratic stupidity of the regime and the hate of millions who were oppressed by Stalinism. The record of the Soviet Union, twenty-seven years after the Revolution, with the third greatest industrial plant in the world, is far inferior to the military record established by the Red Armies in 1918-21. The early Red Army, with no plant equipment and no background in organization, was able to stymie the attack on 21 fronts by 17 imperialist powers simply because Lenin and Trotsky appealed to the WORLD WORKING CLASS over the heads of their capitalist masters. Regiment after regiment of the various capitalist armies refused to fight their Russian brothers. The world revolution propaganda of Lenin had its effect. The war was won with much less losses than incurred by Stalinism in this war.

Today, after the war, the Soviet Union is still no safer from attack than prior to the war. Today it is the United States leading a worldwide capitalist coalition that is preparing to attack the Soviet Union. The treacherous policy of Stalinism has gained nothing. Capitalism still rules the world over; and the masses in Russia itself are more bitterly policed than ever before.

POLITICAL REVOLUTION

We, of the Revolutionary Workers League, have a simple policy relative to the Soviet Union. We proclaim openly that if the United States attacks Russia we shall refuse to support "our country" in the war. We shall energetically call on the workers to continue the class struggle up to and including the struggle for power.

Relative to the workers of Russia we advise our class brothers that they can not defend the original gains of 1917 except by a vigorous policy to destroy Stalinism today. The policy of "socialism in one country" has already cost millions of lives and has set humanity back scores of years. It must be destroyed!

A political revolution against Stalinism is absolutely essential if the Soviet Union is to be saved and if the working class elsewhere is to establish Workers Republics in other parts of the world.

Political Revolution against Stalinism involves strikes, demonstrations, arrests of Stalinists and other acts to smash the bureaucracy, as well as the rebuilding of Soviet workers militia, democracy in the Unions and Workers Control of Production. Should war break out the workers of Russia will have to continue the policy of SIMULTANEOUSLY FIGHTING WORLD CAPITALISM ON THE OUTSIDE AND STALINISM AT HOME.

Thirty years after the Russian Revolution we are still for the defense of the Soviet Union. We defend it because it has destroyed the capital-

ist class and because it has introduced a higher mode of production. But our defense today is vastly different than it was in Lenin's time. Then we defended the social order AND the regime. Today we are for defending the social order, but SIMULTANEOUSLY DESTROYING THE PRESENT STALINIST REGIME.

TWO KINDS OF DEFENSE

It is just as in a bureaucratic union, we propose to fight the boss and the labor faker at the same time; so in Russia we must fight world capitalism and Stalinism at the same time. In the Union we want the Union to win and the labor faker to be thrown out (because his policy can not end in victory); so in the Soviet Union we want Stalinism overthrown, but in such a way that it does not help the world capitalists. We want both beaten simultaneously. We are for the defense of the Soviet Union, but for the defeat of the Stalinist regime.

As Marxists we must be realistic about the first Workers Republic. We admit the terrible outrages of Stalinism and we condemn them. But we do not go to the opposite extreme of defending capitalism because Stalinism is so bad.

We shall have more to say on this subject in future issues of the FIGHTING WORKER.

The FIGHTING WORKER

Central Organ of the
REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS LEAGUE
(Affiliated to the Provisional
INTERNATIONAL CONTACT
COMMISSION

For a New Communist 4th International
Subscription \$1.00 per Year

Published by
D E M O S P R E S S
Office: 700 N. State Street
Chicago, Ill.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

1. Capitalism can not be reformed. The profit system can only bring more misery, war and depression.
2. We are therefore opposed to all reformist parties, including the Labor Party, which strive merely to patch up the present capitalist system.
3. We are for independent working class action on all fronts, starting from strike action at the point of production and leading up to the revolutionary destruction of capitalism.
4. We are for full equality for all oppressed minorities, for the right of self-determination for all colonies.
5. Defend the Soviet Union. Reestablish a Marxian Party, Soviets, Trade Unions and Armed Workers Militias to accomplish the Political Revolution against the Stalinist bureaucracy. Extend the October Revolution throughout the world.
6. For a Revolutionary Marxian Party in the United States and a New Fourth Communist International on a world scale.
7. For the establishment of workers control of production for use under a workers council government.

Rail Wages Lag Behind Industry As 21 Crafts Remain Divided

The first convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen in six years witnessed a desperate effort by David Robertson, 71 year old President of the Brotherhood, to maintain his machine in power. The convention was held in San Francisco.

Robertson's first move was to unseat members of the Consolidation Committee. These members had already been arbitrarily removed as officers of their local lodges by Robertson, without trial. Now he rammed through a motion refusing to seat them at the convention. The Consolidation Committee is a group fighting for the unity of the BLF&E and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE).

The Presidents of both these organizations do not want consolidation. One of the main reasons for this is that there can not be TWO presidents of a merged organization. One or the other would have to give up his pie card — and Robertson's wage has just been raised from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per year.

To try to keep his job at this convention Robertson had to push through a motion modifying the age-limit rule set by previous conventions. The constitution provided that no one over 70 years of age could become an officer either in the grand lodge or in a local lodge. After being beaten twice on this point Robertson was able to secure a majority giving each convention the right to set aside this rule if it saw fit.

COMMITTEES TO MEET

The pressure for consolidation is so great in both organizations that committees have been appointed to meet on the matter. In the BLE the rank and file was able to set up a committee without any grand lodge officials. But Robertson was more successful in his organization. The twenty man committee in the BLF&E is composed of Robertson's buddies and big shots. It will undoubtedly fight any real merger.

The convention took a large step forward when it passed a resolution that puts the strength of the Brotherhood behind any member who refuses to cross picket line or perform services at strike-bound properties. Scabbing by one craft against another is so widespread among the railroad workers that it is a major cause for the fact that the relative wage standing of their crafts has steadily deteriorated. Wages in railroad are much lower than those paid in general industry for similar work.

But the convention put through quite a few illusory and silly resolutions, along with this progressive one. A proposal was referred to committee asking the Interstate Commerce Commission to rule that all men and officers of Railroad Companies be required to pass examinations before qualifying to operate locomotives.

It was pointed out that often inexperienced men manned engines during strikes, endangering the lives of other rail workers and the public. Licenses, however, won't stop scabbing. Old timers had a solution for this problem of scabbing — and it has proven to be 100% effective, without the help of the I. C. C.

The convention also had under consideration a resolution on political action to rid labor of its foes in 1948, by the election of a more "progressive Congress" and more "liberal state legislatures". This is the usual baloney of labor fakers who refuse to sanction action at the point of production.

EQUALIZE WAGES

The workers have no choice in elections; they can choose one scoundrel or another. No matter who is elected he will fight labor. Labor must

put up an independent fight in the factories, mines, railroads and other point of production. Who goes to Congress is decidedly secondary.

The railroad brotherhoods have moved backwards considerably in recent years. The railway labor act, the 48 hour week, the limitations of the right to strike, have caused the railroad workers to fall from the 3rd or 4th highest paid workers to about the 25th.

The weakness of the railroad workers is due to two factors — division into 21 dis-united crafts, and class collaboration leadership.

What is needed today is extension of the Consolidation Committee to speed up consolidation efforts and to prepare for strike action to equalize railroad wages and hours with that of the rest of industry.

JOHN DEWEY

"A MARXIAN CRITIQUE"

By SID OKUN 10c

BIG LANDLORD GETS THE GRAVY

(Continued from Page 2)

ity'. Every single technical abridgement of the rules of the house is being used as a whip to extort a rent boost. Momentarily the tenants are still sticking together and are still offering only their previous rentals. How long this situation can prevail in the face of the terror is hard to determine.

The government shows more and more each day that it is not concerned with the problems of tenants. New housing is bogged down. Rents are permitted to rise in tens of thousands of cases. As soon as rents go up high enough people will double up in their present apartments and then the housing shortage will be over. That is the way capitalism solves its crisis!

Tenants can not depend on the protection of CPA or the courts. These legal instruments of the landlords will always find legal formulas to impose higher rents. The struggle must be waged by mass refusals to pay rents and mass organization to prevent evictions.

Today most people may be willing to pay higher rents in order to avoid difficulties. But as unemployment grows the question of higher rents will be a nucleus for more vigorous struggles in those days of the future when tenants will be in more dire need.

SENATE PUTS ON CIRCUS ACT

(Continued from Page 1)

House Investigating Committee he was angry because "these thieves" government officials had demanded money before they would let the Commodore overcharge the government for his ships.

Finally, when a purchasing agent under Secretary of War Cameron purchased 19,880 pairs of linen pantaloons and 1,670 dozen straw hats for the Union army, "Honest" Abe Lincoln appointed Mr. Cameron as Minister to Russia. When Cameron was informed that soldiers didn't wear linen pantaloons and straw hats he seemed to be genuinely pained. Numerous more examples could be cited to show the brazen and corrupt manner in which the capitalist state administered the affairs of the ruling class in even a relatively progressive stage of its development, but these few examples furnish us proof that the Camerons, Morgans, Lincolns, Brewsters, Hughes and Roosevelts are brothers under the skin.

SAME OLD STORY

Now let us pass over half a century to the post World War I period. Representative William J. Graham of Illinois was chairman of an investigating committee which compiled twenty-one massive volumes of evidence which showed unparalleled graft corruption, extortion, knavery and incompetence. The Graham committee found that two weeks before Woodrow Wilson delivered his war message to Congress on April 2, 1917, Bernard Baruch (Wilson's brain trust) and John D. Ryan (president Anaconda Copper Mining Co.) organized a combination to sell the government 45,000,000 pounds of copper at 16 2/3c a pound. Morgan and Guggenheim were also in on this deal. All in all the government purchased 592,258,674 pounds of copper from those disinterested patriots.

The plane makers of imperialist War I and II seem to have varying records. (All records are not available for public inspection). Hughes was paid \$40,000,000 for which he delivered no planes. Compare that to the \$1,000,000,000 which was spent in World War I for combat planes which were never delivered (House Report No. 637, 66th Congress, 2nd Session).

Not to be outdone by the plane pirates, the nitrate moguls also came along for the ride on the gravy train. The sum of \$116,194,974.37

was spent for nitrates which were never produced. This money was to have been spent for building nitrate plants even though they were unnecessary because of the abundant supply of Chilean nitrates. Since the construction of nitrate plants meant profits for steel, lumber, copper, cement, dynamos, etc., their construction was ordered. The DuPonts were given \$90,000,000 to build a nitrate plant (in Old Hickory, Tenn.) on a cost plus basis. After the war the plant was sold for \$3,500,000 to the Nashville Industrial Corporation. The "merchants of death" netted \$1,306,778,559 for assorted shells, howitzers, gun carriages, anti-aircraft mount trucks, lumbars, and recuperators "which never reached the firing line." Although these supplies were paid for in advance, they were never delivered. (House Report No. 1400, 66th Congress, 3rd Session).

WORKERS JUSTICE

Large coke plants built for oil and chemical purposes cost the War Department \$28,641,923.18. The War Department never received one red cent's worth of oil or chemical products for this money. The following pillars of society figured in on that swindle: Laughlin family, Morgan, Mellon, Frick, Rockefeller and McCormick.

While these patriots were reaping a harvest of billions the working class was shedding its blood on distant battle fronts for the munificent wage of \$90 per month.

As in the first world war the claims and counter claims of government and capitalists will be settled amicably. Despite the volumes of evidence piled up no important prosecutions will be made of the big robber barons of the counting house (banks) or industries. The only bar of justice which is capable of objectively examining the case against the capitalist profiteers who grow fat on death and destruction is that which will be established by the revolutionary proletariat—the dictatorship of the proletariat. Only a revolutionary government of the working class will throw open the capitalist private records for examination by the working class. Till then all investigations carried on by capitalist investigation committees will only function as lightning rods to divert the anger of the workers from the ruling class to its miserable stooges, the Mays, Brewsters, Fergusons and Roosevelts.