

Workers! This Is Not Our War!
It is a War for Boss Profits!
Join Hands in Independent
Labor Action Against the War!

LABOR ACTION

We Say—
Let the People Vote on War!
Make Congress Pass the
Ludlow War Referendum Bill!

MARCH 31, 1941

ORGAN OF THE WORKERS PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

THREE CENTS

POLICE GOON SQUADS TRY TO BREAK HARVESTER AND BETHLEHEM STRIKES

Resentment Flares at Harvester Provocation

Special to Labor Action

CHICAGO—Will there be another Memorial Day Massacre?

Bitter and determined International Harvester CIO strikers wondered as they watched 700 police thugs provocatively bring in a few hundred scabs and misguided workers parading under the banner of the AFL into the huge plant this Monday and Tuesday in an effort to break the strike.

The stage had been set for a massacre. The AFL herded together a few hundred men to walk through the picket lines.

The lousy Chicago courts granted an injunction to prevent effective picketing. And the murderers of the steel strikers were there, itching to pour lead into the workers again.

Throughout this area resentment flared high in all labor ranks over this open strike-breaking by the courts, the police and the AFL as allies of the McCormick interests who are fattening themselves on war profits.

And the tension is at a breaking point. The CIO workers are not cowed by the forces arrayed against them. They are getting more bitter every minute. Their jobs and their future are at stake.

Taunts and jeers and contempt are their answer to the strike-breaking moves. And the CIO forces in this area are rapidly mobilizing. Contrary to the propaganda spread in the filthy press, this strike is not broken, or over.

It has just begun. Scabs aren't getting stronger. They are becoming as frightened as the yellow rats always are. The parade into the plant under police protection isn't a sign of strength, but of weakness. The big majority of workers are sticking solid with the CIO and getting sore as hell at the strike-breaking moves.

The company has mobilized all the clerical help, the foremen, and some scabs besides some misguided workers to drag into the plant. But the production workers are on the CIO picket line! Thousands of them.

Avoid Trap

Anything can happen. The CIO leaders saw the trap set for Monday morning and didn't fall for it. They and the workers kept cool heads in the face of the worst provocations possible.

Pickets were shoved around. One cop pulled his gun but didn't use it. Other cops carried and swung their clubs nervously. Picket rights were violated. Three strikers were shoved around. But they kept cool heads.

Mayor Ed Kelly, Roosevelt's friend and supporter and defender of the

(Continued on page 4)

Another Promotion For Pendergast?

Special to Labor Action

CHICAGO—"Law and order" is being preserved here by Capt. John C. Pendergast of the police force.

In case you've forgotten, he's the gentleman who directed the police in shooting 40 Little Steel strikers in the back, in murdering 11 of them, and in clubbing hundreds of others. In plain words, he directed the horrible Chicago Memorial Day Massacre of 1937.

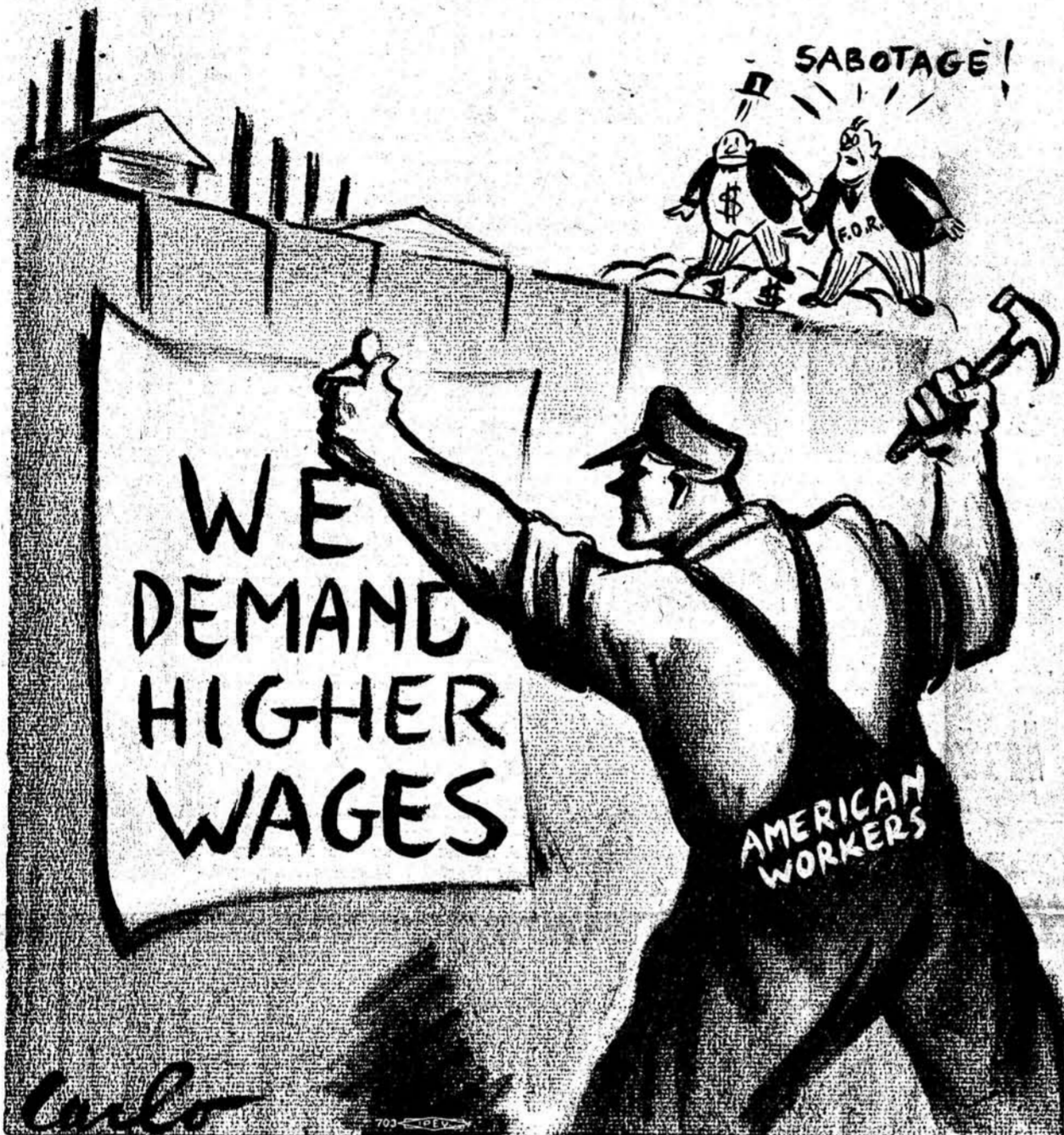
He got a promotion for that dirty job.

And now he has 1,386 police thugs instead of merely 250 which he used in the steel strike.

Is it a wonder that Al Capone doesn't understand Chicago democracy? He used to knock off primarily fellow gangsters. Pendergast murdered innocent workers... and got promoted.

If this keeps up he'll be bidding for J. Edgar Hoover's job soon.

Labor's War Bulletin No. 1



The People Still Say "No!"

of the People Oppose War Entry

By FRED MORRIS

After months of unremitting toil to make the American people war-minded, the boss class can show only overwhelming defeat, as evidenced by the latest Gallup poll figures. These figures show 83 per cent of the people against entry into the war with only 17 per cent so duped that they want to enter the bloody slaughter. The significance of the report is emphasized by a comparison with the results of the June, 1940, poll, taken after the collapse of France, when 19 per cent were in favor of going to war.

Despite the fact that every new turn of the war against England has been utilized by Roosevelt, big business and the jingo press to swing American sentiment more and more to the idea of participation; despite the fact that Administration spokesmen and army officials keep repeating that England is America's bastion, her first line of defense on the Atlantic, the spread of war hysteria has been enormously limited. Refusing to be pushed in, their minds still doubting that this is a war for democracy, the people continually register emphatic "nays" to the warmongers' attempt to send them to mass graves.

Already in the War

Yet they believe that we are already in the war through such measures as the lend-lease bill and acts such as the 50-destroyer deal. In the war which they do not want and into which they ARE being dragged by their "representatives" in the Congress—representatives who for the most part pay, not the slightest attention to the wishes of the people who elected them. As Dr. Gallup states: "There are many people who believe that the United States is already in the war, and others who think the country has chosen a path that will inevitably end in our active participation in the European conflict."

"Despite these points of view, one fact remains—the people of the United States, as of this week, are still overwhelmingly opposed to our entering the war."
"If, for example, the Ludlow

amendment, which would require a vote of the people before entering a foreign war, were now part of the Constitution, the chances are overwhelming that the public would vote against a declaration of war...

With increasing openness, the press is talking now not only of guns, planes and ships. Their columns are mentioning MEN, the very same men who were assured, as were their

(Continued on page 3)

Harvill Strikers Crack Boss Front, Win Smashing Victory

Special to Labor Action

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 24—The Harvill strike ended today with a smashing victory for the workers—a victory accomplished in the face of terrific pressure from the government and the bosses.

According to the contract signed with the union, 350 plant employees, men and women, received pay increases ranging from 5 cents to 20 cents an hour.

Unskilled beginners on the payroll for less than a month and previously getting 50 cents an hour will, under the agreement, get 55 cents an hour.

Unskilled workers on the payroll more than 30 days will get 57½ cents an hour and those with the company more than four months will get 62½ cents an hour.

Die casters previously getting 60 to 65 cents an hour will get 70 cents, those with the company more than six months will get 75 cents, and after a year, 80 cents.

All workers not otherwise mentioned get a blanket increase of 5 cents an hour. All workers with a year's service get a one week paid vacation. Workers are allowed up to five days' pay when off duty because of injuries.

Layoffs, rehiring and promotion are to be made on a seniority basis. Workers on the night shift will get 8 hours' pay for 7½-hours work and those on the midnight to morning shift will get 8 hours' pay for 7 hours' work.

The agreement also provided for grievance machinery and a shop steward system.

This agreement would be a swell one under any circumstances. Under

the present conditions, however, the concessions are terrific. Sidney Hillman referred to Harvill at the "U. S. No. 1 Strike." The OPM and the press, acting accordingly, really put the heat on the strikers, crying loudly about the sabotaging of "national defense," etc. But the men stuck to their guns and made Boss Harvill, who tried to act tough, put his signature to the contract recognizing the union. The men on strike were tougher than Harvill. And that's what brought the victory!

The spirit during the strike was a model of union solidarity. At the mass meeting Sunday, the men were addressed by representatives from other unions, and the speeches were applauded in proportion to their militancy. Aircraft workers from the neighboring North American, Northrop and Douglas plants were on the picket line. The feeling around here was such as to stiffen the back of every worker with pride and courage in his class.

The women, of whom there are about 75 regular manual workers in the plant, were on the picket line right along with the men. In fact, according to some of the strikers, it was the toughness and spirit of the women that held the strike together.

The victory will be a shot in the arm for the CIO's drive in Douglas. And for other unions too. California labor has once again seen what can be done with militant action, and Harvill is a lesson that has been learned well.

Turn to West Coast Column on page 2 for background story on strike.

Profits Go Up!

	1940	1939	Per Cent Increase
Babcock & Wilcox	\$3,588,199	\$1,168,782	206
Bath Iron Works	2,052,180	660,703	400
Bell Aircraft	284,745	9,203	3000
Bethlehem Steel	49,679,524	24,638,384	97.5
Douglas Aircraft	10,831,971	2,884,197	275
International Harvester	23,161,110	7,952,810	191
Lehigh Coal Co.	1,101,853	18,674	5700
New York Shipbuilding	2,178,748	928,246	135
Vultee Aircraft	374,457	25,488	1370

Mass Picket Lines Are the Answer to Police Violence

AN EDITORIAL

Governor James' uniformed and mounted goon squads rode their horses into the strikers at Bethlehem in an attempt to break the steel workers' strike. Kelly's uniformed sluggers in Chicago beat the strikers back and protected the strikebreakers entering the International Harvester plant.

In both instances the police were used directly as strikebreakers and for no other purpose. Their rôle was to open the plants, to let the scabs in so that production could be resumed.

Both James and Kelly, acting directly in the interest of the bosses, demonstrate once again which side government officials will take whenever the workers are fighting for their rights and a decent standard of living. Furthermore, it makes no difference which capitalist party they are members of. James is a Republican and Kelly is the leader of the Roosevelt "New Deal" forces in Chicago.

Workers Face Armed Boss Attack

Here are workers in a struggle against two of the most powerful corporations in the country. Both of these corporations are immensely wealthy, pay huge salaries and dividends and yet they refuse to consider even small increases in wages to their employees. In the case of Bethlehem, the company has refused even to negotiate with the union. Instead, the company orders the county sheriff, who is under their control, to ask Governor James to send in the state police. Col. Adams, commander of the Pennsylvania State Police, assuming the functions not only of a policeman but also those of the courts and Congress, announced that his sluggers would open the plant regardless of any opposition the strikers would put up. Also that he, Adams, would limit or prevent picketing if necessary. Adams also announced that the "Federal government has asked us to step in and restore order."

The actions and statements of James, Kelly and Adams show clearly what the workers are up against. They are facing an armed attack from the bosses. The owners of Bethlehem and Harvester are hiding behind their stooges: Roosevelt, James and Kelly.

Pickets Must Carry On!

All the pious talk about holding up "defense" is fakery. Bethlehem and Harvester are not working on "defense" orders but war orders and profit orders. They are hungry for bigger dividends this year than last year. These wolves want to fatten their bank accounts. The officers of these companies want bigger salaries and bonuses. They want to get these huge dividends, salaries and bonuses by lowering the wages of the workers and increasing the hours of labor.

The workers are too strong for them without the armed aid of the police. That is why the police are there. The police, just like the bosses, don't give a damn about patriotism. The police do only what the bosses tell them. They don't know anything except how to wield a club and fire a gun. That is all they are expected to know.

The bosses are interested in patriotism only in so far as it pays in hard cash. They wrap themselves in the flag only when their profits are threatened. That is what the Bethlehem and Harvester bosses are doing today.

The workers must carry on just as they are today. They will have to fight and fight hard. Never mind the "arbitrators," the "conciliators" and Roosevelt's latest fancy strikebreaking outfit, the Mediation Board. Never mind any "cooling off" period. It's the bosses that need cooling off! The only place to accomplish this is on the picket line. Mass picket lines all over the country in every war industry, at the gates of every war factory, so large that even the police will fear the working class, are the only answer now to the drive of the bosses.

Bethlehem Strikers Will Not Be Cowed By Violence

Special to Labor Action

BETHLEHEM, Pa.—It can't happen here, the boss press said.

The Little Steel strike defeat finished off the CIO in this industry, the despairing souls cried.

But it did happen. This company-controlled town looks different today. The tyranny of Eugene Grace, president of this steel company, swollen with a billion dollars' worth of war orders and fabulous profits, is being challenged and broken.

For the Bethlehem steel workers have had enough. Their bellies are full of all the abuse and discrimination and low pay and bad conditions that they can take.

So when the company added insult to injury, and got its stooges to try a phony election for the company union, the workers, through the SWOC, acted.

Bethlehem is shut down. Over 5,000 pickets closed it down. The notorious Pennsylvania police are there, veteran strikebreakers of many strikes in coal and steel.

And the company has 200 thugs, bristling in arms, marching around the plant, ostensibly as guards against "saboteurs." And the doge sheriff has his special deputies ready to do their bit for the boss of Bethlehem. Eugene Grace, the man convicted during the first World War of swindling millions of dollars from the government.

But the SWOC has the vast majority of the 21,000 workers backing the picket line. It is the largest of the seven plants of the Bethlehem company.

Even the capitalist press admits that wages are lower at this company—which is making the most profit from war orders in steel—than any other company.

And the workers live in the miserable slum tenements of a company-controlled town. And they haven't forgotten the Little Steel strike defeat.

And the company uses a tricky bonus system of wage payments which only a Philadelphia lawyer can figure out—if he works for the company.

It's just like the situation at Lackawanna where the strike just finished a couple of weeks ago.

Bethlehem workers throughout the country are fed up. The SWOC top leadership has been holding them back. Phillip Murray, head of the SWOC and chairman of the CIO, took things slowly, although he continually blasted the corporation for its refusal to bargain collectively.

Now the showdown is here. The steel workers are ready. They are solid for a real fight against this autocratic corporation which has kicked them around.

The struggle has just begun. The strike threatened to spread immediately to the Johnstown plant employing 15,000 workers, all in the SWOC, where the company is trying to pull the same phony elections.

"What the hell's the war preparation for? We get it in the neck and the boss gets it in the pocket!" This is how one worker has reacted to the SWOC action.

There'll be many more asking the same question.

Another Little Steel strike is in the offing. And this time the ranks are solid and they've learned.

The silver-tongued father in the White House is going to have a harder time today getting away with his "plague on both your houses" bunk.

Because the workers are determined to squeeze some of those fat profits from Grace and company, because they mean to get half-way decent working conditions, because they insist on being recognized as human beings who must be respected and recognized as union men, instead of slaves.

Of Special Interest To Women

By Susan Green

In Britain, girls of 20 and 21 have just been drafted for compulsory labor.

To properly mark the event, the capitalist press featured numerous pictures of British women at work.

Women were shown making army boots, doing carpenters' work, riveting ovens and boilers—and making guns and other armaments. One picture was of two young women lugging tremendous crates that looked as if they would be something even for longshoremen to handle.

The news items described how typists would be taught to use their facile fingers making machine tools—how barmaids, fresh from serving ale and being chucked under the chin, would work on bombs and battlehips.

All these girls will be torn from their homes, their friends, their customary ways of life—to do men's work and thus release men for military service in this war between the international bosses.

Nowhere in the capitalist press is there a peep of protest against women being thus uprooted and compelled to work on jobs beyond the normal strength of most women.

But there was a time when every boss paper in every country of the world, in every language on earth, screamed out its dishonest protest against women doing men's work. That was in the early days of the Russian Revolution—before Stalin and his reactionary gang betrayed the masses.

The young workers' and peasants' government was fighting the capitalist interventionists on all fronts—among them those outstanding "democrats" who are today so loudly defending the self-determination of nations. Every able-bodied man was needed for military service. The Russian women willingly went to work on the railroads, in armament plants and wherever they were needed.

Then the voices of British and American capitalism united with the voice of German capitalism in a choral performance, the theme song of which was: "Bolshevism is destroying womanhood!"

You would think from what the capitalist supporters were saying then that women are sweet, fragile, creatures to be clothed in frills and feathers and protected from the harsher circumstances of existence. But today women are supposed to be as tough as nails and must make every inhuman sacrifice the governments of all the warring countries demand.

The explanation for this contradiction is very simple. When the Russian women were setting an example to the working women of the world on how to vanquish the bosses and put all power into the hands of the working people, the capitalists naturally wanted to wrap women up in bolts of lace—to make them powerless.

Today when the bloody bosses, competing for world domination, are waging this war which is annihilating all civilized life, they just as naturally want women to be regarded as Amazons in overall—capable of doing the dirtiest, heaviest, most harmful work FOR THEIR FILTHY WAR.

Have you noticed how Hollywood stars are shining at Washington social functions. Perhaps you recently saw in the newsreel or in the photogallery section of some paper, pictures of Deanna Durbin dancing with William S. Knudsen at one of the President's birthday parties. She was smiling prettily and he was, very naturally, tremendously pleased with his partner.

For the past several months of frantic preparation for the imperialist war, movie stars have been invited to this and that Washington affair where only the very "best" people were guests. Mrs. Roosevelt has been especially instrumental in bringing together the stars of the political and entertainment worlds.

This hobnobbing of Hollywood and Washington is of particular interest to working women who didn't raise their boys to be soldiers and don't want them to be killed in a bosses' war. It gives a glimpse of how propaganda for war is manufactured.

Movie stars—like most people in America and every other country—may be far from enthusiastic about the country going to war, but—

Wasn't the president scintillating at that delightful dinner! Wasn't the great \$1-a-year Knudsen clever, attentive and flattering! And Hull is quite charming, when you get to know him!

So when these very "best" people say America needs a total war, why it is very easy for the ladies and gentlemen of the screen to oblige their dancing partners with a bit of "patriotic" service. Before they know it, they are part and parcel of the war propaganda machine.

Their particular job is to bamboozle the movie-going public—which is practically everybody.

The suckers who are fascinated by a pretty face are supposed to go right home, get those \$2 put away under the mattress and buy government war stamps because one of the charmers of the screen says so.

And the poor mother whose heart is heavy because her son has been drafted into the machinery of war and death is supposed to feel elated about the whole thing when a handsome screen hero makes a super-colossal appeal to mothers to be "patriotic."

Clever propaganda on the part of the warmakers! But—
ARE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN GOING TO BE SO DUMB AS TO FALL FOR IT!

Shachtman Meeting In Syracuse . . .

Subject: "HITLERISM MUST BE SMASHED—A PROGRAM ON HOW TO DO IT"

Time: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 8 P.M.

Place: COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE, 514 HARRISON ST.

FROM OUR WEST COAST CORRESPONDENT

Calif. Labor Takes to the Picket Line

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 23—Labor action reminiscent of the early days of the CIO is being seen here in California, where workers are refusing to let war profit-swollen bosses hide behind the smokescreen of "national defense" and are demanding the right to a decent living wage.

Best example of this is in the week-old strike at the Harvill Aircraft Dismantling Corp., where the workers have resisted combined onslaughts from the company, the press, the government and the police.

Every filthy tactic has already been tried, every phony demagogic appeal has been made, every dirty trick in the book has been pulled. But the CIO Association of Diecasters is apparently taking "nothing from nobody." The strike was called to raise minimum wages from 50 to 75 cents an hour and to secure vacations and holidays with pay, seniority and grievance rights. On these issues it will be settled.

The men at Harvill hit the bricks ten days ago when Henry L. Harvill, company owner, made wage proposals of his own and refused to consider the counter-proposals of the CIO union, which was designated as bargaining agent for the plant in a Labor Board election held two months ago.

Harvill, a self-styled rugged individualist of the old school and a dictatorial tyrant if there ever was one, ran immediately to the courts for injunctions. The legal wizards and stooges provided the necessary papers and Harvill came back with every expectation of reopening his plant. He then discovered what a strike means. The boys on the picket line had ideas different from his.

On successive days, Harvill tried a red squad, which attempted to crash through the picket line; a newspaper attack, which bewailed the losses to war production (of the imperialist warmongers and the war profiteers); a red scare, mud-slinging attack, which fell flat on its face; a personal emissary from Wall Street's Stogee No. 1—Sidney Hillman; and an assortment of equally despicable and less effective tricks.

Never once did he try to give the union a fair hearing. A labor-hater from away back, Harvill has contemptuously refused even to meet with the negotiating committee of the union. A sample of his flimsy excuses was the plea that he couldn't get into his own plant to get vital material necessary for negotiations. The union offered to let Harvill and five assistants into the plant and Harvill immediately found another excuse.

The only reason for the delay thus far has been Harvill's bitter personal attitude toward the union

and its members. To understand what sort of man he is it is only necessary to look back into some of the orders he issued at his own plant. Harvill told his employees, months ago, that he doesn't like his men "fraternizing" with one another. He forbade workers who live close together from coming to work in the same car. He probably could give a few pointers to a certain Adolph Hitler!

But the Harvill workers are equally tough. In fact, 17 men and women who were discharged from the plant for union activities have filed a half million dollar damage suit against the diecast dictator. A court hearing on Harvill's injunction is scheduled for next Wednesday morning.

GENERAL MOTORS STRIKE SPREADS

Up in Oakland, the General Motors strike spread to another of the company's plants as auto workers showed that they refused to be plowed under in the company's drive for still more profits.

Not content with the fat government orders being handed out every day, General Motors executives ordered a speed-up in the various departments. On March 10 a welder was laid off for not speeding up his work the required 10 per cent. The next morning 26 men in his department protested to the foreman. They found themselves following their fellow welder. In protest against the lockout, 1,000 men struck the Fisher Body plant.

Determined to break the strike one way or another, General Motors yesterday ordered the use of body parts from the struck plant, even though the UAW-CIO warned against this policy. Thereupon 400 workers in the General Motors truck plant, where the parts were to be used, went out on strike.

The company has tried flag-waving and "defense" scares, but this has only put them in a more ridiculous position because the union knows that the plant hasn't made any trucks for the U. S. Army.

KING DOUGLAS CRACKS THE WHIP

When the CIO won a Labor Board revote at North American Aircraft last week, this was accepted as the go-ahead signal to organize the big coast plants—Douglas and Consolidated. A single incident which occurred this week shows the magnitude of the battle ahead.

The CIO aircraft local at the huge Douglas plant has been maintaining an office across the street from the company. Douglas workers were

signing cards, especially since the string of CIO victories at Vultee, Ryan and North American.

A few days ago, the landlord of the building housing the CIO told the union to evacuate its office by April 1. An offer of more money or six months' rent in advance wouldn't change the owner's mind. He got his orders directly from Donald Douglas and he had to carry them out.

Some smart apologist for capitalism will have to do a lot of talking before he can prove from this example how worker and boss are equals and can compete with each other on equal basis. King Douglas cracks the whip, the landlord jumps and the union has got to move.

There is, however, another side to this fight and that side has yet to be heard from. The workers at Douglas haven't had their say. And we suspect Douglas' action was motivated by a fear that will prove to have been well founded when the CIO organizes the 20,000 workers in his plant.

TIDAL WAVE OF ANTI-LABOR LEGISLATION

The California Legislature is having another field day with civil liberties and the rights of labor. A tidal wave of vicious legislation has flooded out of the committee rooms and it bids fair to engulf every organization in the state, down to and including the high school baseball club on the corner sandlot.

Every sort of organized group comes within the broad scope of the sweeping categories. Under one of the bills, trade unions will have to furnish membership files, names and addresses, from which a master state blacklist of all trade unionists will be made. Other weasel-worded clauses would make strikes, pickets and boycotts illegal, too.

Today California's Stalinists find themselves in a very uncomfortable position with regard to these laws. Virtually all of them were drawn up and championed by the very people the Communist Party supported in the elections of 1938. But that was before the Stalin-Hitler pact, when the California Stalinists were literally drunk with the rewards of patriotic patronage. Now supporting the other side of the war, they find their fellow travelers—who are still patriots—aiming these new laws at them!

Unfortunately for the labor movement and the genuine anti-war elements, their suffering will go beyond "changing their line." The Stalinists meanwhile content themselves with opposing everyone they previously supported, awaiting the next adventurist turn of the Kremlin.

THE WAR BOOM IN NEW ENGLAND: PART I

The Bosses Dig Into the War Gravy

Early last fall newspaper items such as the following were beginning to appear in newspapers of the cities throughout New England: "Continued upward trends in defense and non-defense orders show that 80 employees have been added to the payrolls of 106 manufacturing concerns during the past month. These figures are in line with the steady gains which have been occurring for months" and "Hourly wages of industrial workers are now three times higher than when World War I broke out; average hours of work are 2/3 as great, therefore the weekly earnings of the workers are twice as much as in 1914."

At the same time the Chambers of Commerce, the governors and the mayors of the cities were getting themselves together in various committees to see to it that New England got "its share" of the government orders being placed in the war industries. These men were sharpening their claws and preparing to get their companies in "on the killing."

In New England the bosses' association is known as the Associated Industries, and each state has such an organization. It is the old Metal Trades Association, reorganized, streamlined and brought up to date. Its personnel is composed of leaders in the Chambers of Commerce, local party bosses, newspaper editors and owners and big business men. These men are known to the workers. When a worker reads in the paper that the mayor of his city is asking Washington to give "his" city a share of the

government contracts with the plea that the city "always has and always will be noted for its outstanding and friendly relations between management and labor," he knows that the mayor is part owner in a steel company which has steadily refused to recognize a union.

The cities and states in New England have banded themselves together to compete with the rest of the country for "their share." Telegrams such as the following are sent to Washington: "Massachusetts is better equipped economically to serve all but the heavy defense industries than any other section of the country," says the Governor of Massachusetts. He goes on to explain that if the government does not use those plants which are already equipped, but builds new plants in parts of the country where there is not enough skilled labor, this will lead to "dislocations" after the present "emergency" is over and the country will fall into chaos. In short, New England is making its bid for a part of the war boom gravy.

It is true that New England is well equipped for manufacturing and has a concentration of skilled workers. War or no war, emergency or no emergency, government war orders or no, there are things to be made in New England and workers in need of these things; there are plants equipped to produce; and there are workers standing in line waiting for jobs—workers in thin coats, worn shoes, with rents unpaid and families uncared for. And this is true today, was true yesterday and will be tomorrow unless some changes are made.

New England makes shoes, machine tools, textile—woolens and worsteds, cotton—wire, stamped metal, cotton, leather. Most of these are not primarily war industries. But most of them, are basic to life and therefore vital in conducting the war. The tooling industry, which is of prime importance in the making of airplane motors, is of primary importance in New England, especially in Massachusetts. Connecticut has airplane factories, lots of steel, wire and stampings, which means torpedoes. Massachusetts has stampings, wire, arms and ammunition, as well as shoe, textile and leather factories. Maine and New Hampshire have shoe and textile plants; Rhode Island has textiles primarily.

A statement in the Directory of New England Manufacturers, published by the Massachusetts Associated Industries, says that New England has the highest concentration of skilled labor in the country. But in a typical Massachusetts city 400 out of 500-odd industries employ less than 25 workers each and several hundred employ less than ten each. What these things mean for the worker in terms of higher wages, better living conditions and security in the face of the war and the ultimate "dislocations" following the war is something which every one of us needs to examine. This we will do in articles following this one.

Flivver King Belongs on The Junk Pile

DETROIT—Tension is rising in the Ford plants to a boiling point despite government efforts to calm things down by giving a few gentle cuffs to Henry Ford's wrists.

Henry Ford has been "ordered" to appear before a National Labor Relations Board hearing. That's supposed to be a victory.

It is, but not the way the newspapers say. The pressure of the Ford workers, the crisis at the plant, caused the government to try to shift this resentment into safe channels. See, Ford has to testify.

But every worker knows what he's going to say. And more important, they know what he and Harry Bennett have been doing—trying to bust the union drive among the workers.

Everyone in America has seen the fake claims Ford has put out in newspaper advertisements costing hundreds of thousands of dollars. This money properly belongs to the workers.

Ford is going to use the NLRB hearing to spread the same false statements and claims.

Ford is using all this to stall for time. To try to confuse the issues, to buy out "public opinion." His costly ads have bought most newspapers not already on his side.

Ford has been convicted so often before the NLRB and the courts, his record is so lousy in Detroit and other cities where he owns plants, that the main job isn't to expose him any more.

The main job of the CIO auto-workers is to give him a sound drubbing. To make him sign a good union contract, which should include, besides higher wages, better working conditions, etc., the dissolution of Bennett's Gestapo, the Ford "service men."

It's time for the CIO steamroller to get into action. And smash the flivver king. He belongs on the junk heap.

Schedule of Shachtman National Tour

In the last issue we inadvertently omitted Buffalo from the schedule of the national speaking tour organized by the Workers Party for Max Shachtman, National Secretary of the Party. With representatives from most Party sections present at the full session of the National Committee, held last weekend, plans were laid for making this tour, the third national tour in the last year, the most successful of them all. We will report additional details on the tour in the next issue of LABOR ACTION along with a full report of the sessions of the National Committee.

Syracuse	Wednesday, April 9
Rochester	Thursday, April 10
Buffalo	Friday, April 11
Akron	Saturday, April 12
Cleveland	Sunday, April 13
Akron	Monday, April 14
Detroit	Tuesday, April 15
Ann Arbor	Wednesday, April 16
Chicago	Thursday to Tuesday, April 17-22
Madison	Wednesday, April 23
Minneapolis	Thursday-Friday, April 24-25
Butte	Tuesday, April 29
Seattle	Friday, May 2
Portland	Saturday, May 3
San Francisco	Tuesday-Wednesday, May 6-7
Oakland	Thursday-Friday, May 8-9
Los Angeles	Sunday to Saturday, May 11-17
Houston	Friday, May 23
Kansas City	Tuesday, May 27
St. Louis	Thursday to Sunday, May 29 to June 1
Streator	Monday, June 2
Chicago	Tuesday-Wednesday, June 3-4
Louisville	Friday, June 6
Cincinnati	Saturday, June 7
Columbus	Sunday, June 8
Akron	Monday, June 9
Youngstown	Tuesday, June 10
Pittsburgh	Wednesday-Thursday, June 11-12
Washington	Friday, June 13
Baltimore	Saturday, June 14
Philadelphia	Sunday, June 15
Reading	Monday, June 16
Mt. Carmel	Tuesday, June 17
Newark	Wednesday, June 18
Massachusetts (Boston, Lynn, Worcester, Fitchburg)	Friday to Monday, June 20-23

A Preview of War For Our Youth

Washington, D. C., Mar. 20 (AP)—Reporting a "definite upturn" in the Army's air accident rate as a result of the rapid Air Corps expansion, the War Department estimated today possibly 200 fliers would meet death in the 12 months ending June 30. There were only 88 fatalities in the year immediately preceding this period.—Daily News, March 21

Fact and Myth In Fabulous Hollywood

By NORM

HOLLYWOOD—Ask the average man in the average town beyond the county limits what he thinks Hollywood is like and he will picture for you a place that combines the best elements of the palaces of Louis XIV, the Fair exhibits of the World of Tomorrow and the biblical Garden of Eden. It is the kind of place where everyone has a girl friend who looks like Hedy Lamarr, nobody's weekly paycheck is written in less than four figures and there is a sinful abundance of lavish homes, palatial yachts, flashy new cars and other such worldly pleasures.

For a very fortunate, very few people in Hollywood this is literally true. But for some 30,000 others, the moving picture business is the place where they work, try to make a living and, by and large, eke out the same kind of existence their fellow workers derive in other industries in other cities.

Carpenters, painters, electricians, construction workers, "prop" men, clerks, accountants, secretaries, bit part actors—laborers, skilled and unskilled—depend on the film factories for their weekly wages and are subject to hardship and exploitation not too different from that of workers in other industries. And their employers, like all employers, use any and every trick to make sure these wages are as low as they can keep them.

For example, ever since the war broke out, Hollywood producers have been singing a song of misery, the refrain of which has been something like this:

"We're losing our foreign markets, our profits are going down, we've got to cut wages and wages standards; because—we're losing our foreign markets and our profits are going down."

THE FRUITS OF INVESTIGATION

To prove they weren't singing just for the fun of it, widespread slashes were effected right after the outbreak of the war. Where union contracts kept the pay rate stabilized, department heads were ordered to cut the crews. Less people, under a speed-up system, were doing all the work. Where union contracts came up for renewal, producers used the same hollow excuse to avoid raising wages in the face of rising living costs.

In no case, however, was there a noticeable change in the fantastic salaries of the chosen few. The big money boys still managed to squeeze out a meager two, three and even five thousand dollars a week.

This didn't seem to make very good sense to some people, so a few of them did a little investigating on their own. Digging into the financial records published by Moody and by Poor, and examining the published reports made to the Securities and Exchange Commission and other such agencies, a better picture of the Hollywood financial situation was gotten. To see how these poor picture companies have had to struggle is enough to bring tears even to the eyes of the unsympathetic.

Take Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as an example. It is one of the biggest studios and has most to fear bankruptcy from its shrinking markets and profits.

Every year, so far, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer has managed to dig up enough money to pay dividends on its stock issues. For the last three years, it has paid extra dividends! MGM's profits, after deducting corporation and surplus profits, have looked like this for the last eight years:

1933 (bad year)	\$4,000,000
1934	7,400,000
1935	7,500,000
1936	11,000,000
1937	14,000,000
1938	9,900,000
1939	9,800,000
1940	8,908,470

Five thousand dollars a week salaries, "outrageous taxes" and loss of the foreign market haven't exactly left MGM holding on the ropes. Notice that last figure. It is made to look like the studio made about a million less in profits in 1940. This is a fraud—achieved by the simple device of setting aside \$2,000,000 in a fund for "contingencies." So actually, 1940 profits were a cool million better than those of the year before and the highest since the boom year of 1937!

As for the myth about foreign investments which cannot be recovered, MGM has disproved that too. From August 31, 1940, to January 2, 1941, MGM recovered \$1,278,983 of \$4,446,849 invested abroad. Over one-fourth of its "lost money" was found in four months!

A similar situation obtains at practically every other studio in Hollywood. Twentieth Century-Fox reported a million dollar deficit for the first three quarters of 1940, but didn't mention setting aside \$2,200,000 for "contingencies." And if this seems a modest return for 1940, prospects for this year are that much better. Fox having a working capital of more than 26 millions, a reserve topping 15 millions and some eight million dollars cash on hand.

The same kind of breakdowns could be made for Paramount, Columbia, RKO, Warner Brothers and Universal. Like their fellow industrialists with big investments in Europe, the movie producers have temporarily lost their continental market during the war, only to gain the rest of the world market, from which their warring rivals have been driven.

But they are adding insult to injury when they throw the whole weight of their propaganda powers on the side of the imperialist war, in which the very workers they have exploited and double-crossed will be giving their lives so that their employers can assure themselves the greatest possible market from which to add to their already swollen profits.

Out This Week--

32 Page New International

AMONG THE CONTENTS:

LABOR FACES THE WAR, by Max Shachtman.

THE ANTI-WAR STALINISTS, an Analysis of the C.P. Position.

ELITE ARMY AND REVOLUTION, by C. D. E.

FASCISM AS A NEW SOCIAL ORDER, by Albert Gates, an answer to the article by Dwight Macdonald in the last issue.

THE SOVIET UNION—A FASCIST STATE, by J. R. Johnson, a discussion article.

THE AMERICAN WAR ECONOMY, by Dwight Macdonald.

BOOK REVIEWS of "Out of the Night," Nehru's Autobiography, Edmund Wilson's "To the Finland Station."

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A POLITICAL PRIMER

Here's What One Worker Thinks of This System:

By STANLEY DZIENGLIEWSKI
(Unemployed Pennsylvania Coal Miner)

- Q. What is Americanism?**
A. To different people it means different things; to Congressman Dies, bankers, manufacturers, land-owners, merchants, all sorts of exploiters, lawyers, politicians and firm-flam artists it means prosperity, life of pleasure and high culture; to the laborer it means bleeding, sweating, and being killed on the job and always in need of the essentials of life at home, and when out of a job it means going hungry, naked, with no roof over his head and rotting alive without medical assistance.
- Q. What is Democracy?**
A. Democracy means: "Everybody for himself, and let the devil take the hindmost." To those at the head of the parade, on top of the social pyramid, it means freedom to exploit and rob as they please; while to those behind, at the bottom of this social set-up, it means to be the victim of this freedom, to starve, to bleed, to rot individually and unknown.
- Q. Can there ever be true Democracy?**
A. Yes. But not before we'll have established economic equality.
- Q. What is economic equality?**
A. Economic equality is a social system in which all members of society have equal opportunity to obtain education, to practice their chosen vocation, to receive full value of their service, or full product of their labor. Such a system is termed Socialism.
- Q. What is liberty?**
A. Liberty in a money-democracy is a liberty for the rich to rob the poor in a legally established manner. The poor has no liberty to commit suicide, even, only in secret. The poor has a liberty to starve quietly and peacefully.
- Q. What are the inalienable rights?**
A. Inalienable rights are supposed to be: "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." The phrase is but empty words in our money-democracy. For Life depends on food, shelter, clothes, to say the least; Liberty—how much liberty has one who does not own enough to lay his head, or to be buried standing-up when dead? And for Happiness one needs: Life, Liberty, Equality of opportunity to choose his vocation, education, avocation, a mate, a home and environment. We know who enjoys these inalienable rights today.
- Q. Why do the majority tolerate these conditions?**
A. They tolerate them because they were trained to fear. Because the ruling class had devised a very ingenious system of poisoning the healthy instincts of the majority of the people. From the cradle to the grave we are being trained to fear. To fear God, parents, teachers, the boogey-man, policemen, a firing squad, or gas chamber and electric chair. Fear rules this world. We are afraid to die, therefore we cannot live.
- Q. What one obstacle is the greatest on the road to social progress?**
A. Ignorance of the oppressed is the greatest.
- Q. Is there hope for sensible, orderly society in our time?**
A. Definitely yes. Neither war, nor tyranny or dictatorship can stop the coming revolution. The best proof is that a common laborer like the author of this questionnaire reasons thus; therefore, the class consciousness must be pretty widely spread among the intelligent workers.
- Q. What one factor is of greatest importance in order to effect the social revolution?**
A. The greatest of all factors is a revolutionary leadership capable of organizing a proletarian revolutionary party, which in revolutionary struggle will lead the proletariat to its ultimate victory over the capitalist class and to establishment of socialism.

"National Defense" Used to Break ALCOA Strike

EXCLUSIVE

LABOR ACTION Reporter Finds That It Took All Kinds of Pressure to Make the Men Go Back To Work Without Gaining Their Demands Because They Were Willing to Stick It Through

By SUSAN GREEN

"National defense" is being used as a weapon to cripple the striking might of the workers and keep them from getting higher wages to meet the rising cost of living.

The most glaring recent illustration of this is the strike at the Edgewater, N. J., plant of the Aluminum Company of America. Because of pressure from CIO leaders, upon whom pressure has been put at Washington by Sidney Hillman—placed on the OPM (war board) just for that purpose—the workers returned to work on Monday, March 24, without gaining a blessed thing.

About 3,000 men were on strike since March 12. The plant was at a complete standstill. The workers' original demands—promptly refused by the company—were very reasonable. They then offered to compromise and accept much less than they first asked for. But the ALCOA would not give an inch. They were then hit on the head with the hammer of "national defense" and bludgeoned back to work.

The profits of the aluminum monopoly, which is owned principally by the Mellons, one of the sixty gilded families who own all America, were not so much as denied. These profits have been so astronomical that ALCOA did not dare publish them for 1940. Even greater profits are in the offing, as is evidenced by plant expansion now under way. At Edgewater, N. J., while the struck plant was as silent as a

tomb, construction was proceeding on a new plant now nearing completion.

The ALCOA manufactures aluminum sheets, aluminum rivets, pins and screws, and other materials for air and sea craft. It has already received, and is in line for getting more, tremendous orders from the government.

It took the speeches of six officials of the CIO, with which Local 16, Aluminum Workers of America, is affiliated, to get the strikers to abandon their excellent strike. When on March 12 the local voted to strike, it was in spite of the opposition of Nicholas Zonarich, international president of the union. No wonder it took so much talking to get the men back to work.

The Bergen Evening Record, Hackensack, N. J., editorializing on the strike, truly stated: "The strike was called against the advice of Local 16's own international president, so the motive must have been deep and compelling."

This same opinion was belligerently expressed to this reporter by a boy of ten whose father was on strike. He was putting on his skates at the curb near the struck plant and I went over to talk to him. When asked why the men went out, the boy looked as if I had asked him why people have to eat. "They weren't getting enough money!" he snapped, and continued fastening his skates.

Specifically, the men demanded that the company live up to the agreement which called for the payment of time and a half for all overtime. The company paid time and a half for work on Sunday, but for all other time over 40 hours, it refused to pay time and a half. The men wanted the time and a half called for by the contract, and in addition they asked for 10 cents an hour increase in wages.

When the management of the Edgewater plant refused to consider the strikers' demands, representatives of the men went to the Pittsburgh office of the ALCOA. There they also met with a flat refusal.

At this point William F. Cann was assigned to the case by the Department of Labor. Leo Krietzki was put on the case by Hillman. These "unbiased" conciliators began to conciliate by asking the strikers to compromise—of course, in the interest of "national defense" (that's what they call the war program). The strikers complied.

Victor Fulgo, chairman of the union's publicity committee, told me they cut their demand for 10 cents an hour increase down to 2½ cents. He also explained that the overtime the men were asking for was equivalent to 2½ cents additional an hour, so that they were willing to settle for 5 cents an hour increase instead of the total of 12½ their original demands amounted to.

A striker who drove me in his jalopy from the Edgewater plant to the union headquarters at Cliffside said: "It isn't as if the company was not making plenty of money. Nobody knows just how much they are making—except them that get it. So why shouldn't we get something to meet the higher cost of living? My wife spends more for food, clothing and things for the house. It's a losing proposition for us men."

But the plant management has an entirely different point of view. It doesn't worry how the workers will meet the rising cost of living. Again it refused to consider even this compromise demand of the workers, which obviously was a very substantial compromise.

Thereupon Vincent McKenna, president of the local, and George Binsted, secretary, flew to Pittsburgh to take the compromise demands up with the main office of ALCOA. Cann of the Department of Labor and Krietzki of Hillman's office sat in on the conference. It lasted over five hours. The company refused to come to terms. The next thing the strikers' committee and the mediators were called to Washington by Hillman.

Back at the Edgewater plant the "national defense" pressure was becoming too great for the strikers to resist. On March 19, as a result, the union allowed eleven of its members

to walk through the picket line to load 76 tons of finished products. The six trucks on which the stuff was loaded were labeled: "This material is property of U. S. Government." It was destined for naval construction.

Another factor that handicapped the strikers was the silence of their negotiating committee. While McKenna and Binsted were in Washington, they were not in communication with the local and did not send information on the developments. The men had only confusing rumors to go by. Some were to the effect that the government was going to take over the plant. Others that Hillman was insisting on breaking the strike. Finally word came from McKenna to call a meeting of the strikers for Sunday, March 23, at which a report would be given. It was at this meeting that the screws were applied and the men were forced to abandon their strike.

Irving Abramson, president of the New Jersey State CIO, who was one of the speakers at the meeting, stated to reporters:

"The return of the workers is made and the settlement of the strike will be made with the hope and understanding that the management will assume as much of the responsibility as labor is doing under the national defense program."

Abramson apparently forgot that the management did not assume any "responsibility" while the workers had the plant tied up. Why should management be different now when the workers have resumed work, and profit-making goes blissfully on!

Abramson also said that the union had decided to change its tactics and continue negotiations on a national scale. An increase will now be negotiated for the Edgewater plant as well as for 21 other plants of ALCOA which were not affected by the strike.

A young striker who spoke to me had a much better plan from the point of view of the workers. This worker has less love for ALCOA than the average worker at the Edgewater plant has. He had been hurt at work, wound up with a her-

nia, and had trouble getting any compensation from the company. So he doesn't like ALCOA.

His idea was to extend the strike to all the ALCOA plants. He said that while the Edgewater plant was closed down, the speed-up was used in the other plants to make up for the loss of work in the struck plant. He said this naturally weakened the strikers' fight.

Meanwhile the government continues to give juicy orders to ALCOA. The newspapers announced another such order on March 21.

In the interest of "national defense"—which is another way of saying imperialist war—the workers have to "negotiate" their modest demands to meet the rising cost of living. The negotiations will very likely take weeks, if not months. Under the circumstances of an abandoned strike, it is likely that they will get next to nothing. But the fat profits of the company will keep on moving upwards.

Gallup Poll--

(Continued from page 1)

mothers and wives, during the election campaign that "American blood would not stain foreign soil." A New York Times correspondent writing from London points out that ships alone are not enough; it takes time to train a sailor, particularly one for naval vessels, and the only possible source for such trained men right now is the United States.

Another report states that most big shots in the government in Washington face the prospect of sending men to fight abroad "with equanimity." And why not?—it will not be they who go abroad to kill and be killed. The generally authoritative Washington correspondent of the same paper, Arthur Kroek, writes that there is a "general expectation" that the U. S. Navy will be assigned to convoy goods destined for Britain, bombers being used to survey the sea and report the whereabouts of "enemy vessels" to the ships "and occasionally trying a shot themselves if the target is promising." (My emphasis—F.M.)

This, of course, is the real reason for Roosevelt's opposition to amendments seeking to prohibit convoys, even though his yes-men say that such amendments would weaken their attempt to "bluff" the Axis.

Kroek continues: "No intention to convoy the supply ships is admitted by the authorities in Washington... Nevertheless, officials admit privately that convoying will be done if necessary to deliver in Great Britain the products of the 'arsenal of democracy.' A rare, perhaps a non-existent, policy-making officer of the Administration is he who takes the other view." And it should be noted that these same policy-makers believe that the Axis means what it says when it warns that it will sink ships carrying supplies to England.

While this march to war goes on against the will and against the interests of the people, we must never forget what was stated by a capitalist congressman, Representative Reed of New York, who based himself upon information received from a British official. This official told him that the war was planned by the industrialists of England, France and Germany and, said Reed, "Our State Department knows this is the gospel truth, but they are not going to say so for the same reasons that a lot of things were not disclosed until after the last war that made people sit up and take notice."

We do not want to have to sit up and take notice after the blood of untold millions has flown freely. We want to stop the war before it starts. We, all of us, the American people who register themselves 83 per cent against the war, must make this opposition widely known, so widely known that even those flagrant warmongers in Congress will have to sit up and take notice. No bill becomes a law just because it has been enacted into law. For the repeal of the conscription bill and the lease-lend law! Against all the anti-civil liberties bills! For civil liberties and workers' rights and social equality of white and black!

644, yet is trying to hide behind the phony "community survey of wages" by which it pretends to judge whether or not it is paying enough in each of its plants. To add insult to injury, after refusing the wage raise, the company representatives said that the community survey "must be a good thing for the company if the union wants to eliminate it."

One small example will show how unfair the "survey" is and why it is such a "good thing for the company." The company arbitrarily sets the limits of the survey so that the scab wages paid by some cheap boss can be taken as a standard.

G. E. wage rates have gone up less than a cent an hour since last October, while the 1940 net profits for the bosses are 36.5 per cent over those of 1939.

Out of every dollar taken in for sales in 1940, the bosses paid the workers three cents LESS than the year before!

The Readers of Labor Action Take the Floor

WAGES ARE ONE THING, PROFITS ARE ANOTHER

Dear Editor:

In spite of the many speeches made about patriotism and the need for sacrifice, strikes in factories working on war orders are still taking place. Now we hear of proposals to draft labor. Washington spokesmen charge that thousands of work hours are lost, and that the war program is being held up.

Here is something that these stooges of big business are keeping strangely quiet on, though. In a report issued March 15, the Temporary National Economic Committee at Washington charged industry with holding up the armaments program for several months while it haggled for profits. It's okay for big business to haggle for profits, but when men who create this profit by their work ask for a wage increase they get jumped on by all of these Charlie McCarthys of big business. To quote from this report: "Speaking bluntly, the government and the public are 'over a barrel' when it comes to dealing with business in time of war or other crises. Business refuses to work except on terms which it dictates. It controls the natural resources, the liquid assets, the strategic position in the country's economic structure, and its technical equipment and knowledge of processes."

"The experience of the World War, now apparently being repeated, indicates that business will use this control only if it is 'paid properly.' In effect, this is blackmail, not too fully disguised . . ."

Right now negotiations on reclassifications between Brewster Aircraft and the UAW are taking place. The union had intended to ask for a 5-cent hourly general increase, in view of the rising cost of living. Last week some men were laid off. The amending department men are working on a 4-day week. Now we hear rumors flying thick and fast that 2,000 men are due to be laid off within two weeks. The layoffs serve two purposes: 1. They put a scare into the men so that they will forget about asking for a general increase. (The union leaders have fallen for this trick and are not going through with the 5-cent general increase demand.) 2. These men who are laid off will be laid off during the reclassification period and thus will not be in line for reclassification. It looks as though the layoffs at this time are more than just a coincidence.

Yessir, Brewster is ready to "sacrifice" for the "defense" program. Sure, they'll sacrifice the wages of their employees any time. The fact that the armaments program will be held up by this layoff is overlooked by everybody, including the big business representatives in Washington.

I know this talk of "defense" is making bigger profits than ever before—a cover-up for those who are fore. I just wanted to bring to the attention of your readers the difference in the way the government treats business and labor.

Fraternally,
B.

DISAGREES WITH OUR ARTICLES ON RUSSIA

To LABOR ACTION:

Your letter of March 14 to hand. In reply would like to take half of your paper; the half on war and the CIO. You abuse Russia, vilify her in every way you can in your press. Try to see what she has done for the past 25 years to form a working man's government. Don't say I don't know. I have a son over there. He went there in 1921, has vacationed there several times. Also Upton Sinclair's son and daughter, and they always went back to Russia saying we have no security here in USA.

All the newspapers say that Stalin has murdered by the thousands those who disagreed with him. Get your book of facts and you will find there were 57 and they needed it.

The only reason the U. S. government abuses Russia is they don't want a bank here like they have in

Dear Mary:

Sis sends her regards and says to tell you that she is becoming an expert on cooking pork chops and hamburg! Ted is back at work and they are going to settle the wage question this week. On the third day of their demonstration—it wasn't a strike you remember, since they went out two hours early each day—a federal conciliator came in and they have been having conferences all week. They finally came to an agreement—the committee and the company—for raises for each department and an hourly raise of 5½ cents on the minimum. It was a compromise, but a decided gain for the union. They have a union meeting tomorrow to vote on the settlement. The settlement also includes added seniority rights for night workers and two or three other minor gains which are a help. Ted is not too enthusiastic about the proposals, but feels that it is a definite gain and they can go on from there later.

The Senate is still arguing over the Lease-Lend Bill. I was interested in watching the arguments on the Ellender amendment. It said, if you remember, that no soldiers were to be sent to European soil. The pro-Administration senators fought that amendment tooth and nail and finally persuaded Ellender to withdraw it. It proves that they know that the Lease-Lend Bill means that it won't belong before the soldiers will be going to fight, since they couldn't afford to allow the amendment to pass. It seems funny to me that so many people who are against sending soldiers to fight, are in favor of the Lease-Lend Bill. To me it seems very clear that the passage of the bill is one step further into war. And the handling of this amendment again proves it.

There is already talk in the papers about extending the time for the training of the National Guard from one year to two. It wouldn't surprise me to see a bill passed to that effect very shortly. The seriousness with which the families of the men in the National Guard took their leaving shows that they at least feel that it was for the "duration."

I suppose you worry a bit about Joe's going. To have struggled along through the depression years with young children, then finally to get a job that pays fairly well, only to have the fear of being drafted at \$21 a month is no fun.

He Spoke The Truth

A California news report says that James B. McNamara, before his death in San Quentin prison last week, made this statement to a local attorney:

"My friend, I won't get out of here—until a people's army marches through these gates and gets me out!"

Russia. If we had the money fund they would not be able to get our hard earned money out of the treasury and loan it back to us at 3 per cent.

This war is to establish the Bank of England and make a tremendous loan to the only people on earth that can pay the interest, "the Great American Sap."

Yours for the CIO,
H. F. H.

California.

(We do not abuse Russia. We present the facts so that the working class of the whole world can know how Stalin is systematically destroying what remains of the greatest event in all history: the magnificent revolution of 1917. That revolution, for the first time in history, gave power to the working class to rule in its own interests. Since Lenin's death, Stalin has steadily taken that power from the working class until now it rests entirely in the hands of the bureaucracy in whose interests he rules. Yes, in 1921 any worker, like your son, could look upon Russia as a land of proletarian liberation. That was before Stalin imposed his tyranny on the Russian masses. This is the year 1941, not the year 1921.

The Russian proletariat is persecuted, denied freedom, forced to bend to the will of Stalin's bureaucracy. Only a few weeks ago we published an account of the latest peonage laws

decreed by Stalin. The workers' standard of living has fallen to the point where it is lower than it was under the hated rule of the czar! Every revolutionist who dared hold to his convictions, or was suspected of holding to these convictions, has either been murdered or sentenced to a living death in one of Stalin's dungeons. In a land of proletarian rule, dear friend, revolutionists are not murdered. And the number murdered has been in the tens of thousands! Even the official figures of those sentenced in the three great murder trials is several times 57. Those who met their death "unofficially" and through local courts are countless.

You say you agree with us on the war. But our position on the war includes a condemnation of Russia's role in this war. Russia has joined with one imperialist ally to fight another set of imperialist allies. We are against this war on all sides, because it is an imperialist war on all sides! Stalin's lackeys in this country oppose American intervention in the war on the side of Britain today. But if tomorrow Russia should quit her present ally, Hitler, and acquire a new ally—Churchill-Roosevelt, they would be the loudest to shout for the war—just as they did a few years back.

The interests of the working class and of socialism do not motivate the policy of the counter-revolutionist in the Kremlin. This policy, we repeat—inside and outside Russia—is motivated exclusively by the interests of the Kremlin tyrant.

We want security for the workers here AND in Russia. They have it in neither place. Yours for the CIO and FOR SOCIALISM.—Ed.)

PHILLY RETIRES FASCIST TEACHER—WITH PENSION

Dear Friend:

The Philadelphia Board of Education has stopped long enough with their current "witch-hunt" for Red teachers and Red pupils to oust No. 1 fascist of Philadelphia, Bessie R. Burdett, alias "Two-Gun Bessie." "Two-Gun Bessie" is an ardent admirer of the ways of Hitler and Coughlin, having linked herself with the German-American Bund and the Coughlin group—alias the "Committee for Defense of Constitutional Rights." Besides participation in these groups, she has organized the "Mothers of Pennsylvania" group, the "Anti-Communist Society" and the "American Independence Society." All these organizations at first centered their main attacks on the Communists, but later became out-and-out anti-Semitic organizations. "Two-Gun Bessie" has invited young people's church groups to come to her farm "to learn how to shoot Communists and Jews."

This is the teacher the Board of

Education permitted to remain to teach her pupils the ways of Democracy. This is the teacher who the Board of Education claimed they "didn't want to make a martyr of." But while the board was timid about dismissing her, "Two-Gun Bessie" went right ahead with persecution of her pupils if they did not equal up to her "Aryan" standards—in other words—if they were Jews, Catholics or Negroes. As she stated, "Catholics, Jews and Negroes are so inferior in every way that it is impossible to teach them. Catholics, Negroes and Jews should be driven into the sea. They should have a high wall built around them so that

General Electric Workers Demand Boost in Pay of 10¢ an Hour

By BILL HALE

LYNN, Mass.—Tens of thousands of General Electric workers throughout the country are moving into action to secure a blanket increase of 10 cents per hour. The G. E. locals of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO, have been pressing that demand since last October. The bosses have responded only with stalls, evasions and finally an outright refusal, and again ask for more time. The union has set a final conference with the company for April 7.

In the meantime protest meetings are being held by all the G. E. locals, warning the company that the workers will not take "no" for an answer. At the two mass meetings called for workers on the different shifts by Local 201 in Lynn, thousands of workers voiced their determination to secure decent wages without having to work ten, twelve and sometimes even longer hours a day. The union members turned out in such great numbers that every foot of space in the hall was filled and hundreds stood on the stairways and crowded the streets around the hall.

Speaker after speaker was loudly applauded for urging a strong stand. The company, attempting to punish the workers for demanding a raise, has asked that the union contract be amended to permit a speed-up system to work by allowing "time-study" tests at any time and by any measurements that the company desired. The membership roared down the proposal with a unanimous "no."

The local union's executive board proposed that a letter be sent to the company warning it that a refusal to grant the increase at the April 7 meeting will bring immediate protest action. Such action, Business Agent Alfred Coulthard told the members, may include work stoppages and protest meetings right on the job and halting of overtime and Saturday work.

the rest of us will not have to associate with them. Reds should be forcibly liquidated and youth groups should be formed to be instructed in shooting for the purpose of physically destroying the Jews." She has advocated the dismissal of "non-Aryan" teachers.

And now "Two-Gun-Bessie" is out, but the Board of Education, still fearing to make her a martyr, has handsomely given her a teacher's pension of \$1,600 a year, which they will not do for the teachers they dismiss as "Reds."

Yours,
Pearl P.
March 12, 1941.

The membership unanimously adopted the report, including the decision to hold another meeting immediately following the conference to decide on the specific actions to be taken, in case the company refuses to grant the increase.

Chief Issues

The chief issues that are bringing the demand for a blanket 10 cent raise to a head are the overtime question and the rising cost of living. With the rush of war orders came the twelve-hour shifts. Everyone knows how much a working man is weakened by a twelve-hour grind, and with only 18 minutes of "rest" for lunch! In England, as here, the long, steady grind caused a rising number of accidents on the job, constant colds and sickness of all kinds.

Having gotten as much out of the workers as possible and having trained new men, the bosses announce that they plan to cut overtime to the bone, thus taking a big slice out of the men's pay envelopes, right when prices are going up the fastest.

And of course there's a good financial reason for it, too. It's much more profitable to pay three men for 120 hours (40 hours each), than two men at 60 hours each. The two men working 60 hours each must get time and a half for the 20 hours overtime that each works. That means 10 hours pay gained by the company on each man, or 20 hours pay gained out of the total of 140, a net gain of over 14 per cent for the bosses. That gain alone could easily cover the 10 cent raise demanded by the workers.

Profits Justify Demand

But, as the speakers at the Lynn mass meeting pointed out, everyone knows that company profits justify the raise. Last year the company made \$56,241,000 and in 1939 \$41,235-

Editorials

OUR PROGRAM AGAINST THE WAR

1. Not a man, not a cent for Wall Street's war. All war funds to the unemployed.
2. For a rising scale of wages to meet increasing cost of living. Thirty-Thirty—\$30 weekly minimum wage—30-hour weekly maximum for all workers.
3. Expropriate the Sixty Families. For Government ownership and workers control of all war industries—aviation, steel, chemicals, railroads, public utilities, etc.
4. Against both imperialist war camps. For the Third Camp of World Labor and the Colonial Peoples.
5. Let the people vote on war. For the right of youth to vote at the age of 18.
6. Abolish secret diplomacy. Open the files of the State Department.
7. Withdraw all armed forces from territory outside the United States. Free the colonies. Hands off Latin America.
8. Against compulsory military training and conscription.
9. For the defense of civil liberties and workers' rights. Stop the persecution of aliens. Against the M-Day Plans and war-time dictatorship.
10. For full social, economic and political equality for Negroes. End discrimination against Negroes in industry and trade unions.
11. For an independent Labor Party.
12. For Workers' Defense Guards against Fascist and vigilante attacks.
13. No confidence in the Roosevelt government. For a workers' government and a people's army.
14. For Peace through Socialism. For the Socialist United States of the Americas, for the Socialist United States of Europe, and for the World Socialist Federation.

Sgt. Jim-Crow Gets His Wings

The papers report that the government has decided to admit Negroes to the air corps. They are to be trained and permitted to do their bit against Hitler.

We are certainly not surprised at this. We said some months back that Negroes would be taken into the air corps and every other branch of the military service, sooner or later. We said that Negroes would be admitted either as a sop in order to keep them quiet, or whenever the ruling class decided that it was necessary in order to help them fight their imperialist war against German imperialism. The ruling class is not going to keep Negroes from helping protect its profits or its hide. All workers will look alike to them when their profits or their safety are threatened.

Of course Negroes will be jim-crowed in the air service as elsewhere. Thus, even for those who accept the war, the fight against jim-crow remains. The Negroes who are satisfied that they should fight for American imperialism, for aiding Britain keep the Africans in slavery, for the perpetuation of lynching in the U. S., should at least demand that they not be jim-crowed in the Army and Navy.

But all other Negroes—those who go into the Army because they are being forced to against their will—must be prepared to join with all class conscious workers who are against jim-crow and imperialist war.

Strike or Starve

The bosses are wailing today about the "man-days" of work that have been lost since January 1 on what they call "defense orders." The War Department says that one million "man-days" have been lost this year on army contracts alone.

This talk about "man-days" only conceals what the bosses are really interested in: PROFITS. All their tears about how much the workers are losing in wages and how their families will suffer is just so much hypocrisy and hooey. Of course workers will lose a few dollars in wages. That is the price that we must pay for tolerating a vicious system of exploitation and oppression. The workers are forced to strike. That is the only method we have to bring the bosses to their senses, to their knees and make them give us just a part of the wealth we create.

Do the fools in Congress or anyone else think that the workers go on strike just to have a holiday without pay? Of course we don't. The workers strike because the bosses force them to. All the strikes all over the United States today are for workers' rights: for higher wages, shorter hours, union recognition. The bosses know this and no worker should allow himself to be fooled by any of the tripe he reads in the capitalist press. The workers must strike or they will starve.

Miners' Demands

The miners haven't settled their differences with the coal operators yet. The miners have demanded a flat increase of \$1.00 a day. The operators reply that this would add a half million dollars a day to the cost of production. They say the union's demands are "burdensome" and "formidable."

Lewis says that the figures of the operators are incorrect; that the increase would really mean only an increase of \$212,000 daily. Whether or not this is correct is not basically important.

Suppose the increase does cost the coal mine owners a half million more. So what? The coal corporations can reduce their dividend payments and the big salaries paid to officials. The big stockholders who draw the dividends don't dig any coal or work in the company offices. Why should they be paid anything? They are lucky that the miners are asking only \$1.00 a day increase in wages.

Harvill Victory

The strike at the Harvill Aircraft Die Casting Corporation in Los Angeles has ended with a victory for the union and the strikers. The strikers stood up against the combined pressure of a tough company president and Hillman and the whole Office of Production Management.

On page 1 of this issue, the gains won by the strikers are listed. But the most important part of the victory was won when the strikers forced the company president to meet with them after he had defied the OPM, Labor Board and the union for a week.

Thus again the workers demonstrate their strength. Once again they win a victory in the only place that workers' victories can be won: on the picket line. The strikers stuck together, they fought Harvill to the finish and they won out.

The Harvill victory is a springboard for jumping into Douglas Aircraft. This is a tough nut also. But the workers at Harvill have demonstrated how to do it: sign up the workers at Douglas, organize the union, present the demands: union recognition, higher wages and shorter hours. If this is not granted—then strike and hold on until the company comes to terms.

Draft Selection

While the ordinary worker is shipped off to the training camps, many having numbers as low or lower remain at home and continue to earn their civilian wages (salaries). Many upstanding pay-triots, executives and manufacturers, are said to have won deferments because they, you see, are "Necessary."

For example, Garson Kanin, big-shot movie director, has secured deferment so that he can complete a new motion picture—essential to "defense," naturally. And an even better example of what is "necessary" is presented by the deferment of Sidney J. Searles, a young lawyer. Sidney is part of the staff of Al Smith Jr.'s witch-hunting committee investigating the New York City Civil Service Commission. So, although he is unmarried and has no dependents, both Smith Jr. and his counsel interceded with the draft board and secured Searles' deferment, no doubt because they were able to show that witch-hunting is a vital part of war preparation.

When Paul Kern, president of the city civil service, attacked this deferment (for his own political purposes), Colonel Arthur McDermott, draft director in the city, said that Kern was "directly subversive of selective service regulations" and was following the "party line."

The occasional case of a Rockefeller to enlist to forestall public opinion, is touted through countless pages of newspaper copy. In the papers are more or less silent about those scions of Big Business who are less in the limelight. We have no way of knowing how many such cases have gone unreported. There have doubtless been many of them.

The poor sucker who has no job, or who got one after long unemployment, or who happened to have had one, well, that's different. He isn't necessary. He isn't a boss, nor an executive, nor the favorite of some big politician; nope, he isn't even a movie director, so off he goes to the training camps which will make a man of him. After all, he is only a worker, or a petty shopkeeper, or perhaps even a hopeful young lawyer or doctor whose practice is being smashed up, with little hope of re-establishing it.

THE "AMERICAN PEOPLE'S MEETING"

Stalinists Stage Old Show Under New Name, Slogan

By SHERMAN STANLEY

On April 5 and 6 there will be held in New York City a "People's Meeting," arranged for and convened by the American Peace Mobilization (APM). According to Miss Marian Briggs, national administrative secretary of the APM, this nationwide meeting in New York heralds the rapid growth of a people's "anti-war, peace movement in the United States." "The cry for peace," says Miss Briggs, "is rising from every state in the country and the promise of delegations from the farthest parts of the U. S. makes it apparent that the April 5-6 demonstration will be the biggest, most important action yet taken by the American people." (Daily Worker, March 13.) The APM has sent out 400,000 calls to various organizations.

WHAT IS THE APM?

On the day the Hitler-Stalin pact was signed in the year 1939 an organization known as The American League for Peace and Democracy, formerly the American League Against War and Fascism, was declared dead by its leader, Dr. Harry Ward. The American Peace Mobilization is the modern-day successor to the old American League. Why was it necessary to bury the old organization and re-create a new one? The answer is simple. Because the political line and policy of the American Communist Party, which had dominated and controlled the old outfit, had done a flip-flop overnight. From being the ally—or rather, desiring to be the ally—of the British and French "democracies," Joseph Stalin had become the outright aide and ally of Hitler and imperialist Germany.

It was necessary to kill off the American League, which for years and years had advocated the People's Front policy of collective security and war action by the "democracies" against Hitler. In the minds of those people who "knew the League, it stood for "all-out" aid to any democratic capitalist country. This would not do, and so it was killed.

The old dies, but the new must be born. And thus there came into existence the American Peace Mobilization with the exact opposite program of the old organization, but with the same people—the American Stalinists—in firm control from top to bottom.

THE MORE IT CHANGES, THE MORE IT'S THE SAME!

But as the old French proverb reminds us, "appearances are often deceiving." Is it true that the APM and its People's Meeting really represent an anti-war movement? If not, what does it really aim at?

We are not objecting to the APM merely because it is a Stalinist-controlled organization. That's enough to make us suspicious, and to examine it closely. We say it is a FAKE, not a genuine anti-war movement, because its policy is set by Stalinists in conjunction with the war interests of the Hitler-Stalin imperialist alliance. As a partner in this active alliance, Stalin tries to help Hitler by embarrassing and annoying his enemies in the democratic imperialist countries. Hitler, above all, is interested in keeping Roosevelt and American imperialism out of the war as long as possible. The Stalinists, as allies of Hitler, try with might and main to aid this effort. So, while one hears of no Stalinist anti-war activity in Germany or those countries dominated by the Axis, one hears of it in the Allied countries.

The Communist Party, taking advantage of the genuine hatred of the American workers for imperialist war, has created an organization like the APM for the deliberate purpose of demagogically utilizing these anti-

Harvester--

(Continued from page 1)

Memorial Day Massacre, once again was in Miami, sunning himself on the taxpayers' money while his cops did the dirty work.

The McCormick interests, hot for the blood of the strikers, refused to listen to any compromise proposals from David Roadley, federal conciliator, at the last minute. They insisted on bringing in the misguided workers and scabs.

The CIO strikers are going through a bitter experience. They see how the whole government is being used against them. And they remember the Little Steel strike massacre too. The fundamental right to strike and picket is the crucial issue of the day. Before the CIO can get anything for the workers this right must be defended.

The McCormick interests aren't going to negotiate for any just demands until the CIO shows its real might and power.

Roosevelt's baloney about preserving the rights of labor is being exposed before the entire labor movement by the Harvester situation.

There ain't no such thing as democracy in this city today. The cops' clubs emphasize that. And the workers won't forget.

war sentiments in the interests of the Stalin-Hitler alliance.

WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

Proof of this is simple and easy to obtain. The APM is not—as is the case with the Workers Party—against this war because it is an imperialist war on both sides. It is only against ONE side, because the Soviet Union happens to be on the other side!

But suppose that Stalin jumps to the other side? (And Roosevelt is trying hard enough to convince him that he should do this.) Then the APM would likewise die overnight, and probably the old American League would be "re-born" in its place—shouting for "collective security," "democracy" and all the current slogans of the American warmongers. The Stalinists must have a "popular," non-party organization for presentation to the skeptical

American public and working class no matter what their program is. Today it is the APM and its People's Meeting—tomorrow it will be something else. But it is always the same—a fake organization having as its objective the aiding of Stalin's foreign policy.

In our next issue we shall describe the meeting itself. For the past month the Daily Worker has been singing the praises of the APM and boasting of its growing strength. Undoubtedly many delegates will attend its meetings—many representing only themselves, many from middle class organizations and some from Stalinist-controlled unions and locals of the CIO. But we have little confidence in its ability to advance the genuine cause of anti-war action. It lacks the elementary basis for such a thing—namely, complete freedom from the poisonous taint of both warring camps in the present World War.

THE WORLD AT WAR

On the Meaning of Russia's Neutrality Pledge to Turkey

By MAX STERLING

No sooner did the much postponed train arrive in Vienna with the Yugoslavian Premier and Foreign Minister, who then signed on the dotted line of Axis adherence, when the following Soviet-Turkish declaration was made public:

"If Turkey be attacked and be obliged to enter the war for the purposes of defending her territory, she can rely upon the complete neutrality and understanding of the Soviet Union, based on the existing treaty of friendship between the two countries."

Coming right after the Yugoslavian capitulation, the above statement reveals the terrible fear felt in Moscow over the series of diplomatic victories by the Axis in the Balkans. The Kremlin's statement is calculated to make certain that Turkey will not follow the road of Yugoslavia.

It should be recalled that the treaty which made Turkey an ally of Britain contained in it the important condition that the treaty would not be operative in case Turkey would be required to do anything that might involve her in a war with Soviet Russia. Thus the Soviet-Turkish statement has cemented still more the Anglo-Turkish bloc in the Balkans. As a result Turkey refers to Greece as "our friendly, allied nation" which can rely on Turkish solidarity.

The Russian stand on Turkey represents the first serious attempt by the Kremlin to forestall German expansion since the signing of the Stalin-Hitler pact in August, 1939. It reveals the deep distrust that the partners have for each other. It is significant that Moscow limits its support to Turkey to a benevolent neutrality in case of attack by the Nazis. The Russians have no intention of fighting the Nazis for the Dardanelles so long as Germany remains the upper hand in the war.

Russia's weakness and fear of Hitler could not better be expressed than by the limits she imposes upon herself in the defense of her interests. The grip with which Hitler holds Stalin was shown by the latter's silence in the face of the Nazi occupation of Rumania and the Black

Sea ports. The Kremlin's declaration to Bulgaria after her occupation was no more than an impotent protest. The Yugoslavian adherence to the Axis brought forth demonstrations of protest from the Serbians and the Stalinist university students, but from the Kremlin there was again silence.

It is therefore clear that Russia's position under the Russo-German pact remains substantially the same as before. The Soviet-Turkish statement is Stalin's greatest show of "independence" so far. The relationship between Moscow and Berlin could best be demonstrated if one could imagine Russia threatening some vital interest of Germany! The Nazis would hardly limit their reaction to one of benevolent neutrality. The present Soviet statement is a confession and a hope. It confesses that so long as the Nazis are not materially weakened, the Hitler-Stalin pact will remain in force short of a Nazi attack upon Russia itself. It hopes to stiffen the opposition to the Nazis to the point of open conflict. In this conflict nothing could please the Kremlin more than a severe German setback. Moscow's affirmation of neutrality toward Turkey may indeed lead to Turkish resistance against an attack by Germany. However, even this is not certain. That depends on how successful the Nazis will be against the Greeks and their British allies. A quick defeat of the latter would confront Turkey with a new situation which may very well oblige her to reconsider her course.

It is possible also that Turkey will be drawn into the war as an ally of both Britain and Greece. Here too Russia's benevolent neutrality toward her may change in accordance with the fortunes of war. It is necessary to remember that prior to Hitler's invasion of Poland, Russia had a non-aggression pact with her. This did not prevent Stalin from invading Poland also as soon as it became clear that the Nazis had broken her resistance. The same thing may happen with respect to Turkey. That is why Stalin's neutrality must be interpreted as a tactical move whose immediate objective from the Kremlin point of view is to pull Russian chestnuts out of the Nazi fire.

Labor's World

The American Committee for the Fourth International, formed some time ago for the purpose of reorganizing the movement for the Fourth International, has issued the following press release on events in the world labor movement. The committee informs us that it will issue such material regularly from now on.

BRITAIN: The Transport Workers Union has issued a sharp protest about the homeless, declaring that "there is no reasonable provision for a great number of people who are at present housed in public halls without proper heating." The union demands re-housing and replacement of personal losses due to bombings.

BOMBAY, INDIA: In December, 1940, the two national Trade Union organizations of India (Trade Union Congress and National Trade Union Federation) which had split 11 years ago, re-united. A year ago a working arrangement between the two groups had been made, with the understanding that a unity conference would be held in a year.

At the unity conference a resolution opposing participation in the war was carried overwhelmingly. It was moved by V. V. Gari, a leader among Indian railwaymen. The reso-

lution, declaring India has no sympathy with either Nazism or imperialism, declared, "Participation in a war which will not result in the establishment of freedom and democracy in India will not benefit India; much less the working class of India."

FRENCH SYRIA: Brought on by serious restrictions in the supply of bread and increased food prices, a series of riots and strikes have swept over the Vichy colonies of Syria and Lebanon. In Damascus alone 15 have been killed by French colonial police. Soup kitchens in Beirut, Aleppo, Damascus and other towns have been closed and rationing is more rigid. In February and March students held large demonstrations demanding independence for Syria. A state of siege has been declared by the imperialist authorities. De Gaulle elements and British propagandists are attempting to turn the strike movement into pro-British channels.

COLOMBO, CEYLON: N. M. Perera, leader of the Ceylon Socialist Party, who had been arrested by the British authorities for opposition to the war, was released from jail late in September. However, upon resuming his activities for the independence of Ceylon, he was promptly re-arrested by the authorities.

THE NEGRO'S FIGHT

Negro Committee Asks Jobs for 100 Bus Drivers

By J. R. JOHNSON

Harlem has opened a drive to picket the bus companies until "one day a black boy is going to roll a bus up Seventh Avenue." Coming at this time, now that the bus strike is over and won, the move is one which focuses attention on what is another crying scandal in Roosevelt's "democracy."

Hundreds of thousands of Negroes live in Harlem and all over the city. All over the country white persons entrust themselves and their families to Negro chauffeurs. Negroes occupy responsible positions on many subways and Negro cops direct traffic. Yet there is not one Negro driver on the buses that run through Harlem every day. Negro workers are deprived of jobs and a slur is cast on the Negro people as a whole.

Now it is easy to point out that Negroes are discriminated against everywhere, by private employers and by the government. But one cannot fight everywhere at the same time, and this offers a splendid opportunity for all the Negroes, the white workers and the public in general to rally to the cause.

It is difficult to get the general public concerned about the fact that Negroes use telephones, but the Telephone Company does not employ them in any responsible position; that Negroes use electricity, but the utility companies are as viciously jim-crow as they can possibly be.

But the case of the buses is simple. First, it concerns workers, and the large majority of the Negroes are workers. One hundred Negroes, members of the bus union, are of infinitely more importance for the Harlem people and the workers' struggle in general than the same number of white collar jobs—useful and necessary though these are. Secondly, owing to the recent bus strike and the fact that everyone is conscious of the situation in transport, the fact that everybody who travels in a bus is brought immediately up against the pickets and forced to do something, or at least think about the question—all this makes this particular question, at this time, something that should concentrate effort and attention.

ERRED DURING BUS STRIKE

One point, however, must be made. During the recent bus strike, Negroes chose that moment to raise their demands for the employment of Negro bus drivers. At that time, the demands, if raised at all, should have been in active solidarity with the strikers against the company. For the company is responsible for the fact that Negroes are not employed. However, the leaflet issued by the Negro committee did not make that clear. It complained against discrimination in general and did not at all make clear whom it was attacking. It did not make clear that it was 100 per cent with the strikers.

Now, quite often we find unions which oppose Negro members and thereby exclude them from employment. That, however, is a matter between worker and worker. There must be no pussy-footing in the struggle of the Negro workers and progressive white workers against reactionary union rules. But in this case there was no attempt to establish the fact that the union was responsible for the non-employment of Negroes. And even if this were so, the struggle against reactionary union discrimination must stop at once if the union gets into a conflict with the boss.

Negro workers can win nothing by joining the boss against the white workers, or by hampering the white workers in their fight against the boss. The boss loves that. How he loves it! He keeps race prejudice going in American society as a whole. He uses the white workers against the black; then when he is in trouble with the white workers he tries to use the black workers against them; then casts aside the black worker, and so on and so forth.

The thing to do is to make a concentrated effort to win the union's assistance in getting Negro bus drivers jobs and in admitting them to union membership. The press states that the Harlem Committee has invited the cooperation of the Transport Workers Union, and the union has pledged its aid. Good! But there are going to be scores and scores of cases in which unions will try to exclude Negroes. They must be put on the spot, but by the workers, before the working class and by pressure brought to bear on them from different sections of the working class.

The Lackawanna Negro strikers were a model in this respect. They suffered from the discrimination inside the steel plants. Yet they were in the forefront of the recent battles, at the same time raising their demand in the union that the union take steps to stop discrimination by the bosses. That is the way, and the only way!

It is stated far and near that big battles are ahead in the transport services. The workers everywhere and the public are interested, for it touches them in both a personal and social way. Therefore a big blow can be struck by the Harlem Committee, determinedly pursuing its task, by seeking and showing solidarity with the union against the bosses, by getting the transport union itself to take up the demands of the Harlem people. It will not only be valuable in itself but will be a dramatic illustration of labor solidarity which will give a good example to the whole country.

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