

Stalin's New Crop Of Scapegoats

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ROOSEVELT REFUSES TO LIST WAR AIMS

Far East Crisis Flares Up Again

Joint Anglo-U.S. Moves Seek To Checkmate Japan; "Bluff" May Be Called Very Soon

By GEORGE STERN

The United States and Great Britain last week launched a maneuver on the grand scale in the Far East with the aim of checkmating in advance any fresh Japanese southward moves.

Amid flood of inspired reports that the Japanese fleet was moving southward toward Singapore and the Indies, the British suddenly announced the arrival at that base of a large, fully-equipped Australian army.

Gen. Marshall, U. S. chief of staff, told a Congressional committee that the army's best and newest fighting planes were being turned over to the navy and moved out over the Pacific to the United States fleet. This information was permitted to "leak" to the newspapers and a day later Roosevelt rebuked the papers for publishing it. The matter was made to look thoroughly serious. And it is serious. Army bombers are flying westward over the ocean from California, taking the route via Hawaii, Midway, and Guam to the scene of probable hostilities. Behind this "bluff" lies the real threat of war.

The Anglo-American moves brought a rash of protestations from Tokyo. Matsuoka, the Japanese foreign minister, deplored the "provocative" movements of planes and men and insisted upon Japan's peaceful intentions. The Japanese press accused the British and the U. S. of trying to encircle the Japanese.

JAPAN'S MOVE NOW

At the same time, however, Japanese forces moved into new bases in Southern Indo-China. The peace conference between Indo-China and Thailand, sponsored by the Japanese, hit a snag which obviously bore a Made-in-Britain label. The Australian forces landed at Singapore were moved up into Malaya to wait for any further Japanese move.

So far that move has not been forthcoming. For the Japanese have been told in the plain language of men, ships, planes, and guns, that further moves southward at this time means war with Britain and the U. S.

The sudden anti-Japanese tru-

Harvester Strikers Are Still Out

6,500 Men Stand Firm On Demands

Haymarket Martyr's Widow, 82, Speaks To Strike Pickets

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Assembled in the biting wind before the gates of the strike-bound International Harvester Company here, CIO members and sympathizers today heard Mrs. Lucy Parsons, 82 year old widow of Albert Parsons, one of the Haymarket martyrs of 1886, urge on the striking workers to a finish fight with the giant International Harvester trust.

Mrs. Parsons reminded the strikers, who have kept the IHC tractor plant shut down tight for three weeks, that her own husband was framed-up and sent to the gallows along with four other working class leaders by interests close to the McCormicks, who still are linked with the International Harvester Company and the McCormick plant here.

The 1886 Haymarket meeting

into whose ranks provocateurs threw a bomb which killed a number of people, and for which Albert Parsons was framed-up and hung, was a peaceable meeting called to find a remedy for the bad working conditions of that day, particularly at the McCormick Reaper Plant. Mrs. Parsons reminded the strikers. The crimes of the McCormicks against the workers have carried on for over 50 years, during which time the McCormick company and the International Harvester interests have never ceased their war on the McCormicks.

If at that time, Japan edges closer toward the jealously guarded wealth of the Indies, it will be time for all bluffs to be called. First American participation in actual hostilities in the present war may take place in the Southern Pacific—and it may take place soon.

PICKETS IN FORCE

Strong picket lines have prevented the plant from operating since the strike started. All gates are covered. Only five maintenance men are permitted to enter the plant, and the superintendent must report once each hour to the pickets.

As a precaution against an attempted back-to-work maneuver of the company, the strikers are now doing six-hour picket shift duty instead of the former three-hour stretch. Directly in front of each plant gate are heated shacks where the pickets can take shelter.

Other union speakers at today's rally described the status of the strike thus far. Clarence Stoecker, president of the striking local, reported on developments in the McCormick plant of the IHC, where the workers have just voted 3,057 to 418 to join the strike.

The union has had to fight a vicious company union set-up in this plant for the past two years. Two weeks ago the NLRB ordered the company to disband this fake outfit.

Stoecker informed the mass meeting that the union has presented the McCormick management with demands for union recognition, elimination of piece work, and a 75 cent hourly minimum wage. He urged all McCormick workers to stand by ready for strike if the company does not accept the union's terms.

Bill Mooney, Packinghouse Workers' Union representative, spoke and told of the negotiations now in progress at the Armour Company. He brought the greetings of the Armour workers and said "your victory will help us."

It may be a beautiful spring in this 1941—but more violets than ever will bloom this year unseen.



Wives of International Harvester Company workers on strike in Chicago are shown unloading a bread truck at the strike kitchen. The walk-out was called by the Farm Equipment Workers Organizing Committee (CIO).

Strike Vote Carries At Bethlehem Steel Plant

Lackawanna Plant Men Vote Six To One For Strike After Over A Thousand Men Are Suspended Or Discharged By Company

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 24.—After 60 hours of secret balloting, the workers of the Bethlehem Steel Company's Lackawanna plant here voted in favor of a strike. Lorne H. Nelles, SWOC-CIO international representative, announced that strike action has been authorized by a vote of 6,411 to 1,001.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 23—13,000 members of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee employed in the huge Lackawanna plant of the Bethlehem Steel Company here are balloting in a strike vote. The voting began last Friday noon.

The decision to take the strike vote came after over 600 workers in the coke-oven and blast furnace departments were given an "indefinite suspension" by the company for participating in recent short work stoppages in an effort to get the company to meet with the workers' committees and negotiate grievances. 400 more men have since been dropped.

On February 9, the workers of the Coke-oven department laid down their tools after the management had refused to meet with their committee and discuss settlement of 122 grievances from this department alone. The committee was told that the company did not intend to change the rules under which it had been operating for over 50 years.

This short stoppage was followed by several others in the course of the next ten days. Other departments began to line up behind the militant coke-oven workers.

SOLIDARITY SHOWN

When workers from the yard department were fooled by the management into entering the coke-oven department under the pretense that they were supposed to do some repair work, and they learned that they were supposed to replace the coke-oven men, these workers, including a large percentage of Negro workers, refused to do any work.

The action of the coke-oven workers forced the management to receive a committee of 32 men on February 13. The conference was held with Chauncey L. Baker, company personnel director. After hearing the list of grievances, including a demand for a 25 cent per pay raise for the coke-oven department, Baker gave the committee a complete turnaround.

When the 150 workers of the coke-oven department started to enter the plant on last Wednesday about 50

percent of them were stopped by company cops before they could get through the plant gates and were handed dismissal notices. Those who managed to enter the plant were given their notices inside, also by company police.

Sub-Regional Director Nathan E. Cowan of the SWOC-CIO took steps to file a protest with the National Labor Relations Board and charged the company with attempting a lock-out.

COMPANY TERROR

But the company made it clear that it would not yield an inch to the union. 150 special police were brought into the plant to augment the large force already there. Chief Roy Gilson of Lackawanna lent the company an additional 100 men from the blast furnace division.

UNION DEMANDS

The union demands a straight 25 cent increase in wages, establishment of seniority rights and no discrimination on job ratings.

This last demand applies particularly on behalf of the many Negro workers employed in the Lackawanna plant. They are given the worst and heaviest jobs and lowest pay.

NEGRO MILITANTS

The Negro workers have joined the union in large numbers and have displayed great militancy. During the stoppages preceding the lock-out, the influence of the Negro workers was felt in the songs sung by the striking workers of the coke-oven department.

The bosses tried to pull a red-herring across the stoppage by yelping that the workers were singing "communist" songs—meaning hymns and Negro spirituals, including "That Old Time Religion," "The Walls of Jericho Fell" and "We Shall Not Be Moved."

No less than 13,000 of the 14,000 Lackawanna workers support the union.

Lines Up With British Tories

His Stand Helps Extreme Right Wing in England Against the Widespread Demand For A Concrete Statement of War Aims

President Roosevelt openly aligned himself Tuesday with the most reactionary wing of Britain's war machine, when he brushed aside all discussion of war aims.

What are the worker-soldiers fighting and dying for? What kind of world-order will the victorious Anglo-U.S. war lords establish? What do they propose to do to avert another repetition of world war as the aftermath of their "peace," as happened with the Versailles "peace"? The people cannot be satisfied this time with vague promises of "war to end war," "war for democracy,"—they got all that talk in 1914-18 and won't be put off now with a repetition of these empty formulas. They want to know precisely what the war aims of the "democracies" are.

But Roosevelt refuses to answer. Asked at his Tuesday press conference whether John G. Winant, Ambassador to Great Britain, would take over proposals regarding lasting peace after the war, "Mr. Roosevelt replied that the first thing was to win the war, making clear that peace proposals and an outline of the basis of peace must come after victory."

(New York Times, Feb. 26.)

Home Guards Used For First Time—Against Strikers

Call it the Home Guard or the National Guard, it's still the same old armed force of strike-breakers which the employers and government have always maintained to smash organized labor struggles.

The first reported active use of a Home Guard force occurred on February 24, at Anniston, Alabama, against a strike at the Utica Knitting Company.

AN AFL

picket

line

was

dispersed by Home Guardsmen, ordered out by Governor Frank Dixon, with tear gas bombs.

The Home Guards have been ballyhooed as an armed body of trained civilians intended to aid in the repulsion of "invaders." The first "invaders," of course, turn out to be union pickets.

es of the British Empire—and to the millions of American workers who will shortly be sent into actual warfare.

You want to know why you're fighting and dying? "We'll tell you after the war is over," says Roosevelt.

You want to be sure you're not being used to lay the basis for another Versailles peace? "We'll think about that after the war," says Roosevelt.

What about the freedom of the hundreds upon hundreds of millions of colonial slaves? "That's got nothing to do with the war," say the Tories—and Roosevelt backs them up.

Roosevelt, in other words, is demanding that the American working class and farmers go through this war as unthinking robots, as silent tools of the American and British plutocracy.

Roosevelt's stand on this fundamental question should serve to open the eyes of many who hitherto were inclined to let him have his way. It is clear that he cannot be trusted with the lives of the armed forces of the United States—neither he, nor the Republicans, nor any of the capitalistic and their political agents.

OUR PROGRAM

* That is why our party has put forward from the first a program for putting control of the armed forces of the country into the hands of those who must do the fighting and dying—the workers.

That is why we demand:

Military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions!

The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.

An end to secret diplomacy!

A people's referendum on any and all wars!

WORKERS' FORUM

Write to us—tell us what's going on in your part of the labor movement—what are the workers thinking about?—tell us what the bosses are up to—and the G-men and the local cops and the Stalinists—send us that story the capitalist press didn't print and that story they buried or distorted—our pages are open to you. Letters must carry name and address, but indicate if you do not want your name printed.

First Open Attack On Hillman in A UAW Paper

Editor:

The enclosed article on Hillman is from the Chrysler Local 7 supplement to the UAW Worker. This is very significant, it being the first open criticism written in a UAW paper against Hillman. Also, the censor of this paper is a Hillman man, which means there must be a strong pressure on him for him to allow such an article to go through.

Detroit, Mich.

J. D.

The article on Hillman is titled, "What Role is Hillman Playing?" It says: "Hillman as a Defense Commission member has left a lot to be desired from one described as a labor leader." It reviews his record and concludes: "No worker expects that labor people, when placed in important posts in government, will start giving all the breaks to labor. What labor does not expect is that labor leaders should favor the enemies of labor when given such posts."

Women Should Get Same Wage as Men For the Same Work

Editor:

As a reader of your newspaper, I have generally found that your analysis of the labor situation is cogent. It was, therefore, surprising to find that the article on the Phelps Dodge strike (February 8 issue of THE MILITANT) allowed the union demand for a lower wage rate for women to pass without comment. The implication was that this lower rate for women was to be for work equal to that of the men.

Women workers are going to play an ever increasing role in American industry during the next period. The question of lower wages for equal work, therefore, has become more pertinent than ever. A lower wage scale for any group of workers will tend to lower the standards of the rest of the working class.

The majority of unions have shamefully ignored the issue—a policy which leads to the defeat of their own ends, as lower living standards are accompanied by a decrease in union membership. A

great deal of the so-called class sluggishness on the part of women workers can be attributed to the inertia of the unions.

THE MILITANT, which is putting up an excellent struggle on behalf of the Negroes in the political-economic field, should extend its activities to include all substandard workers. Such a policy would rally many women to the banner of socialism!

Bronx, N. Y.

G.D.

THE MILITANT is, of course, in full agreement with the principle of equal pay for equal work. And it is an important question in many unions. By and large, however, the union involved in the Phelps Dodge strike—the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers (CIO) accepts this principle.

It must be kept in mind, however, that no union, no matter how able and militarily led, can wipe out all reactionary aspects of the situation in a given plant in a single struggle.

Where a situation has existed for years, in which women have received lower wages than men, it may not be possible to wipe out the differential completely in the first strike. This was the first struggle, the very beginning of unionization at the Phelps Dodge plant. The union didn't win all its demands, nevertheless it made considerable headway.—EDITORS.

Friends, Branches
Keep This Date Open

Anti-War Election Rally

Closing the Campaign in the
17th District

Thursday, March 6
8:30 P.M.

TRANSPORT
WORKERS HALL
153 West 64th Street
New York City

North American Aviation Co. Men Vote Six-To-One For Unionism

But AFL Is Close Behind CIO In Vote

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 22—Unionism won the day in the February 20th NLRB election at the important North American Aviation Corp. Inglewood plant. Of the 7652 workers eligible to vote, 2,739 cast their ballots for the CIO, 2,693 for the AFL and only 986 voted for no union.

The election was originally demanded by the CIO. The strong showing of the AFL came as a surprise to the CIO leaders. The failure of the CIO to gain an outright majority means a further run-off election between the CIO and AFL. This election is a vital one, not only because of the size and importance of the North American Company, but because this is the first test of strength between the CIO and AFL in a major Southern California aircraft plant.

The CIO represents the most militant and progressive sector of the workers in the plant. The tremendous pressure of the company to defeat unionism, particularly of the militant industrial type, accounts in part for the failure of the CIO to win a majority.

The company used the "national defense" ballyhoo to the limit in an effort to persuade the workers that unions of their own choosing are "unpatriotic." The workers in aircraft are subjected to this kind of pressure more than in any other industry. And because the workers are young and new to the industry, by and large they are not well prepared to resist this onslaught.

The effort to supply Britain with planes is reflected in terrible speed-up, lengthening hours and heightened tension in all the plants. In the North American plant, as throughout the industry, the workers are confronted with grim warnings on the penalties for sabotage or "interfering with production."

On the eve of the NLRB election, the company distributed printed excerpts from Federal and State anti-sabotage laws to all the workers, together with questionnaires on their draft standing. This was a way of telling the workers that union action and sabotage are synonymous, as well as threatening the workers with the company's power to deny draft deferments.

In addition to the company's vicious campaign, the AFL played up to the most reactionary pre-



Part of a CIO rally before the North American Aviation Corporation plant, Inglewood, Cal., prior to the NLRB election. The workers voted 6 to 1 for unionism, but gave the CIO only a plurality, requiring a run-off election against the AFL.

judges of the workers. The AFL ran a mud-slinging, red-baiting campaign against the CIO, drawing their arguments straight from the bosses' arsenal.

The overwhelming vote in favor of unionism is, therefore, a real testimony to the deep-rooted desires of the workers for organization. And the AFL votes represented to a certain extent many who were confused and timid, but who would have supported the CIO if the issues had been made clearer.

CIO'S POOR TACTICS

However, the failure of the CIO to gain an outright majority was due in part to its own organizational methods in this drive. The shock of failing to win an outright majority has spurred the CIO leaders to call special meetings of the membership for the purpose of analyzing the vote and getting "rank and file" criticism.

The CIO leaders counted too much on winning the workers by the publicity the CIO aircraft drive has received from the Vultee and Ryan strikes. They did not carry out an effective organization campaign inside the plant. Above all, the CIO conducted primarily an NLRB vote-getting campaign, instead of doing a steady, substantial union-organizing job.

The NLRB election was viewed as the beginning of the CIO union drive, rather than as one of its culminating points. While the outside campaign of the CIO organizers was good, not enough work was done in the departments to get functioning union organization under way.

It is precisely from those departments where the CIO had functioning department organization, with active job stewards who were handling the day-to-day grievances of the men, that the CIO received an overwhelming vote. But in those departments where organization was lacking, or where there was no effective job steward activity, the workers voted AFL or no union.

A DANGER SIGN

While the AFL offers no program of effective action, and serves to divide the aircraft workers from the rest of the industrial workers organized by the CIO in auto and aircraft, it has succeeded in gaining co-tracts in at least three of the largest

plants in the industry—Boeing, Lockheed and Consolidated.

It is all to the interests of the aircraft workers to be in the industrial unions of the CIO. But outside publicity alone cannot win the North American or other aircraft workers to the CIO.

JOB STEWARDS ARE KEY

Confronting the CIO aircraft leaders is the task of building up effective departmental organization, which can start to fight for the workers on the job. The job stewards and workers must be

taught the advantages of industrial unionism, and of militant and democratic policies, over the conservative, business-agent ridden craft unionism prevailing in the AFL Machinists. In addition, the CIO leaders must not dodge any issue raised, or any criticism, but must answer the rank and file openly on the red-baiting charges of the AFL and must honestly explain, for instance, why they accepted a low minimum wage in the Ryan contract.

OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE

Of extreme importance for the CIO job of winning the run-off election is the drawing up of a program of wage and working condition demands which the CIO can point to as representing the which the CIO will fight for after the election.

This election is no incidental one, which the CIO can afford to muffle. North American is the key to future success in the CIO aircraft drive. A CIO contract with North American is the next big step toward the chief goal, organizing the largest plant in the industry—Douglas, the Ford of the aircraft industry.

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Newark SWP Names Breitman As City Election Candidate

Calls Upon Unions To Run Independent Labor Party Ticket For City Commission

NEWARK, N. J.—Calling for unity of the labor movement to counter the growing unity of the big business forces in the coming city elections, the Newark District Committee of the Socialist Workers Party announced this week the candidacy of George Breitman for City Commission. The elections, to be held May 13, provide for election of a Commission of five, which in turn elects the mayor.

"A Labor Party is needed in this city, and the trade unions must form it quickly," said the statement of the District Committee.

The important factors of big business in this city have already gotten together on a common ticket, which will stress economy at the expense of the social needs of the workers by cutting taxes for the corporations and appropriations for relief, WPA, housing, schools, hospitals, etc.

BOSSSES UNITED

"Byrne, the Hague Democrat, and Clee, the Clean Government Republican minister who almost became Governor by denouncing Hagueism, will jointly head this reactionary ticket, which will represent the Chamber of Commerce, the Newark Citizens' Union, the Broad Street Association, the Fusion group, and the other big business groups.

"Opposition to this ticket cannot come on any progressive basis from the leaders of the present City Hall machine of Mayor Ellenstein and Pearce Franklin, because they themselves don't have any basically different platform, as is shown by the cuts they have made in the past years in relief standards, etc., and because they are so discredited gen-

erally as fake liberals whose chief interest is the patronage of City Hall.

LABOR MUST UNITE

"If Byrne and Clee are to be defeated, it will have to be done by the organized trade union movement. If they are to be defeated decisively, these trade unions must run their own full slate of candidates on a platform that can win the support of the unemployed, the Negro people, and the small homeowners whose homes are being taken from them as the result of the high tax rate."

It was announced that Breitman would run on an eight point platform dealing with formation of a labor party, housing, relief, WPA, a progressive tax platform, Negro rights, municipal ownership of the great Public Service utilities under workers



George Breitman

control, and unionization of Newark's unorganized industries.

George Breitman is well known among Newark's unemployed and Negro groups as a result of the active role he has played in these fields over many years, the numerous pamphlets dealing with workers' problems he has written, and the newspapers, The Hunger Fighter, and Workers' Voice, which he edited.

As a state leader of the Workers' Alliance before the Stalinists ruined that organization, Breitman played a leading role in the Trenton Siege of 1936, when the unemployed took over the State House for nine days. A few months later he was arrested for leading one of the nation's few successful WPA strikes, which completely tied up the projects in Burlington county.

Breitman was instrumental in the formation of a joint AFL-CIO Trade Union Committee on Unemployment which united Newark's trade unions in action on behalf of the unemployed in 1937-38. In his capacity of unemployed grievance chairman, he helped thousands of workers in trade unions get relief from the city administration when they went out on strike, and was leader of successful efforts to get supplementary relief for WPA workers.

He is co-author of a state bill to stop deportations to the South of colored workers who ask for relief. He was the first figure in the labor movement of this state to protest against the expulsion of 15 Negro sailors from the Navy recently, and as state committee member of the Workers' Defense League he played an active part in mobilizing support for the colored potato picker victims of the brutal Cranbury flogging of 1939.

Plans of his campaign committee indicate a full dress, fighting, agitational campaign that will surpass any ever carried on by the Newark organization. Beginning in this issue of The MILITANT, on page 2, is a series of articles on the issues of the Newark elections written by Breitman.

Grace Carlson In Memphis On Her Tour

By GRACE CARLSON
MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb. 22

I suppose that every white radical who visits the South for the first time is shocked and enraged by the open cruelties of the Jim Crow system of the Southern Bourbons. That all the colored citizens of the South are herded into Jim Crow restaurants, street cars, waiting rooms, etc., should call forth apologies from Southern Senators rather than their present frenzied demands—they are louder than all others—for support of a war to save this system of "democracy."

There are encouraging signs of change, however. The CIO has penetrated into the South among the steel and rubber workers, the agricultural and canning workers and others, and has brought Negro and white workers together into a joint struggle for the betterment of their conditions. There is no doubt that this is uphill work. Coupled with the terror against unions, Southern white workers, burdened with the prejudices of generations, do not readily accept a program for joint action with colored workers.

The meeting of white and colored workers held under our party's auspices in Memphis last night was, therefore, all the more encouraging. A courageous Negro woman gave us the use of her home for the meeting. It takes real courage in Memphis to have a meeting of white and colored people in your home. Members of both AFL and CIO unions were there—longshoremen, building laborers, textile workers, steel workers and others.

This audience understood readily that Roosevelt and the Southern Democrats would not solve their problems. The need for a revolutionary program was easily seen by them. I am very hopeful that some Negro working class leaders will emerge from this group.

In St. Louis on Feb. 19, there was a good working class audience at the open meeting. Twenty-four people attended, many of them UAW militants. Other charges against Local 5 are:

That publicly resulting from political and other activities of Local 5 has resulted in loss of membership throughout the AFT and tends to bring the AFT into disrepute. This charge is not at all a real criticism of the policies of Local 5, but an expression of the fear of conservatives against any militant action which might smear their respectability. It is at best a how to the prejudices of the most backward teachers and, as such, reactionary.

That political and other activities of Local 5 and factions thereof caused an investigation by a committee of the AFL in 1935-6 which resulted in recommendation for revocation of the charter of Local 5. This charge proves the weakness of the Executive Council's case. When Linville and Lefkowitz felt themselves losing control and set up a dual organization known as the Teachers Guild. All these old discredited charges are now dug up again and used as reasons for lifting the charter in 1941!

This review of the charges makes clear the fact that they were drawn up after the decision to expel was already reached, and are being used as a blind to cover the real reason—obedience to the order of William Green to kick out all "communists" or suspected communists from the AFT. And the expulsion of the three locals will not end the drive. Should a new local be set up, the members of the Local 5 opposition will find that the same spirit of intolerance and conservatism will be directed at them. The net result of the expulsion drive will be to strengthen the hands of the enemies of teachers unionism and educational advancement.

The duty of progressive teachers is clear. Local 5 must be defended against the undemocratic attacks within the Federation as well as against the anti-union attacks of the Rapp-Coudert investigation and the inevitable witch-hunting in the schools.

SWP Is Campaigning For Connolly, ALP Candidate

Asks United Labor Support For Congressional Candidate In 17th New York District; Criticises His Pacifist Program

After an intensive campaign of gathering signatures to place Arthur Burch on the ballot as the Trotskyist anti-war candidate in the 17th Congressional district election, Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party decided last Saturday to withdraw Burch when Eugene P. Connolly was announced as the candidate of the New York County (left wing) American Labor Party. Up until the announcement of Connolly's candidacy, the SWP was the only working class party in the district campaigning for a place on the ballot.

The decision to withdraw was taken in order to unite the workers in the district behind in opposition to the war-mongering Democratic and Republican candidates.

Two conferences have been held between representatives of the SWP and Eugene Connolly and Sam Blinken of the ALP, over ways and means to help the American Labor Party in the campaign.

While supporting the candidacy of Connolly, the SWP criticizes the purely pacifist and utopian character of the ALP anti-war program.

ALP PACIFIST PROGRAM

In his statements to the press Eugene Connolly has declared himself opposed to the lease-lease bill as an "anti-war candidate."

So far, so good. But there is not a single word by Connolly or any of his associates proposing an alternative to the war plans of the Sixty Families. Not a single word!

How should the workers meet the arguments of the Sixty Families that armed forces must be trained to defend the country? The ALP has nothing to say.

How can the workers end the crises and wars of capitalism for ever? The ALP has nothing to say.

The left wing leaders of the ALP confine themselves simply to shouting against the entry of the United States into the war, an entry which all class-conscious workers can see is inevitable.

The ALP in brief offers the workers nothing except pacifist phrases.

The Socialist Workers Party, on the other hand, offers a real program, a real alternative to the war plans of the Sixty Families. This is our military program, which advocates trade union control of military training and the establishment of officers' training camps for workers.

The Sixty Families say that it

tions and congratulating the SWP on its program for ending capitalist war. The following letter is typical:

"I am pleased to know that your group has decided to contest politically the bourgeois party hacks of the 17th Congressional district. I work in your Congressional district and was elated to have been approached by a canvasser for signatures. Unfortunately I cannot cast my vote for your candidate—I live outside the district—but at least I can contribute something material to your, I may say our, struggle against a mutually repressive social system. I offer my sincerest wishes for success in your venture." This letter, enclosing a contribution, was signed R. M.

The following letter was signed by L. B.:

"Enclosed please find two hard-earned and sorely-needed dollars which it nevertheless gives me the greatest pleasure to contribute specifically to the Burch campaign fund. The decision of the SWP to enter a candidate in the 17th district Congressional election is the greatest step and extremely timely. Now with the imminent passage of the Roosevelt war and dictatorship bill and the simultaneous disappearance of all significant difference between the outspoken war-mongers and the phoney 'isolationists,' it is particularly urgent to awaken the working people and arouse them to the real alternative against the 'national defense unity' of the war-making class—in fact the only alternative—the program of militant, revolutionary socialist anti-war action."

Only the workers themselves can make sure through their own control that the armed forces are not utilized by Wall Street for imperialist war to seize markets and colonies and increase the profits of the Sixty Families.

In the two conferences with Eugene Connolly and Sam Blinken, the representatives of the SWP presented the above position and announced that, together with our support of Connolly as the only labor candidate opposed to the boss candidates, we intended to criticize his pacifist platform.

RALLY ON MARCH 6

Plans have now been completed by the SWP for a mass anti-war rally in support of Eugene Connolly at the Transport Hall on Thursday evening, March 6.

Tens of thousands of leaflets are being distributed in the 17th Congressional district announcing the rally where the Trotskyists will explain why they support the candidate of the ALP.

WORKERS' LETTERS

Repercussions of the SWP campaign were manifested in a number of letters enclosing contribu-

tionary material.

(See editorial, page 6.)

Move To Lift New York Teachers Union Charter Comes From Green

By CARA SUTTON

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers on February 17, voted 15 to 1 to recommend the revocation of the charters of the New York Teachers Union, Local 5, the New York College Teachers Union, Local 537, and the Philadelphia Teachers Union, Local 192 on the ground that their existence is "detrimental to the development of democracy in education." This recommendation is to be submitted to a vote of the members of the American Federation of Teachers in a referendum within the next two weeks.

As a preliminary to this action, the council adopted a report which is to be promulgated as the official stand of the federation on education, democracy and defense, and which, says

office all the representatives of the New York-Philadelphia faction. As a matter of fact the lifting of the New York and Philadelphia charters was, for all intents and purposes, decided at the convention last August.

The latest action of the teachers' Executive Council clears the way for the anti-union Rapp-Coudert Committee, investigating "subversive" activities among teachers in New York, to continue its wrecking of teachers unionism and lowering of educational standards with the full blessings of the AFT.

However, the only healthy solution to this difference within the local is the eventual ousting of this leadership by the members themselves through the democratic processes of the local itself. The dictatorial expulsion by the Executive Council is the opposite effect of strengthening the influence of the Local 5 leaders upon their followers, while at the same time dealing unionism itself a deadly blow.

THE FATAL ERROR OF THE OPPOSITION

The opposition groups within the union have made the fatal mistake of allying themselves in this present crisis with the Executive Council in its drive to re-elect Local 5 rather than expend the necessary effort to win the membership away from its present leadership. This is the result of the dominating influence in the opposition groups of the liberal liberals, impatient of the de-

mands as a charge against Local 5.

That the internal affairs of Local 5 have been so conducted as to bring disharmony and factionalism and to result in loss of membership, and make it unlikely that said local can effect a satisfactory organization of the teachers of New York. This charge refers to the long struggle within the local between an opposition and the leadership which slavishly follows Stalinist policies.

democratic processes which are slow, succumbing to the bureaucratic shorts-cuts of expulsions. Needless to add, these tired liberals are now supporters of "war for democracy."

Other charges against Local 5 are:

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However, this dissident group did not question the right of Local 5's several thousand members to have a union of their own choosing and shaped according to their own policies. The group did not propose that the charter of Local 5 be lifted. Instead, faced with

this particular situation, the group called upon the executive council to charter a second local in New York which would be able to organize the teachers repelled by Stalinism."

Shachtman didn't know the gun was loaded. "All" he wanted

was a dual local set up in the same jurisdiction as Local 5.

What effect would that have on the Rapp-Coudert Committee?

Shachtman doesn't say. What effect could that have on the prestige of Local 5 in representing its 6,000 members in collective bargaining with the city? Shachtman doesn't say. He doesn't dare say, it's so clear what the answer is.

"All" he wanted was to have the pro-war Executive Council of the American Federation of Teachers brand Local 5 and its 6,000 members as a quarantined reservation limited to Stalinists, while all other teachers should belong to another local.

That to leave Local 5 meant

to desert the bona-fide union of the teachers; that to leave Local 5 meant to desert in the face of the class enemy (the Rapp-Coudert Committee, the city administration, etc.); that to leave Local 5 meant a prior agreement with the war-mongers of the Executive Council which could only mean a blow to unionism; all this was plain to the naked eye—but not to Shachtman's.

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Stalin's New List Of Scapegoats

Heads Roll For His Bankruptcy

List Of Purged Is, In Reality, A List Of Industries Which Are In Dire Crisis

By JOHN G. WRIGHT

Maxim Litvinov has been expelled from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Public notice has been served on Premier and Commissar of Foreign Affairs Molotov (by the purge of his wife) and to Commissar of Railways and former brother-in-law of Stalin, L. Kaganovich (by the censure of his brother, former Defense Industries Commissar M. Kaganovich), that the ashcan is ready for them. Six out of 72 members of the Central Committee and 15 out of 68 alternates have been purged, and nine members expelled from the Central Auditing Commission. On this the 18th Party Conference has, of course, set its "unanimous" seal of approval.

In Stalin's system, all failures are "accounted" for by scapegoats. Each of those purged or censured symbolizes a major catastrophe of the Kremlin regime.

With the sole exception of Litvinov, the various dignitaries involved in the purge held high posts not only in the party but in the key Peoples' Commissariats. The crisis convulsing the economy controlled by these Commissariats is indicated by the purge of these scapegoats.

COMPARE STALIN'S BOASTS WITH THOSE PURGED!

All the Stalinist boasts of successes in agriculture, for example, are exposed as lies by the single fact that I. A. Benedictov, the Peoples' Commissar of Agriculture, was one of those expelled from the Central Committee. Was that expulsion Benedictov's reward for the bumper crop allegedly harvested in 1940?

I. A. Likhachov, another disposed member of the Central Committee, was the Peoples' Commissar of Medium Machine Building. He was removed from the Commissariat last October, which testifies eloquently to the catastrophic conditions in this important branch of industry.

N. M. Antslovich, another expelled C. C. member, was at the same time removed from his post as Peoples' Commissar of Timber Industry. He is Stalin's scapegoat for "shortcomings" in this particular field.

E. A. Schadenko, who was "demoted" to the position of alternate, was Vice-Commissar of Defense. This speaks volumes about the collapse of the defense industry, which was militarized last December. If we refrain from listing the others it is only in order to avoid repetition.

The *Daily Worker* itself published the news that, in addition to the expulsions, seven Peoples' Commissars were warned to "improve" the functioning of their Commissariats, namely:

1) The Peoples' Commissariat of Aircraft.
2) The Peoples' Commissariat of Munitions.
3) The Peoples' Commissariat of Electrical Industry.
4) The Peoples' Commissariat of Chemical Industry.
5) The Peoples' Commissariat of Marine Transport.
6) The Peoples' Commissariat of River Transport.
7) The Peoples' Commissariat of Fishing Industry.

To this list must be added the following partial table of those Commissariats which were purged last October and November, i.e., four months prior to the Conference:

The Peoples' Commissariat of Ferrous Metallurgy.

PURGED



WARNED



PURGED



sky, "between the increase in labor productivity and the average wage is the source of the lowering cost of production." (*Daily Worker*, February '23).

The parasites in the Kremlin know of no other way to lower the costs of production than to drive ever lower the living standards of the masses. On the other hand, the administrators, engineers and foremen will receive special bonuses, rewards, etc., as an incentive to speed up the workers and child laborers.

THE MASSES WILL NOT ENDURE IT

Stalin and his flunkies welcome such a perspective—for 15 more years—but they are obviously reckoning without the Soviet masses. Stalin's bid for an additional decade and a half will meet the same fate at the hands of the Soviet workers as will Hitler's plan to establish Fascist rule for one thousand years in Germany at the hands of the German workers.

As if to further underscore their contempt for the American workers, Browder-Minor and Co. editorially advertised Voznessensky's report as a "Special Treat" for the readers of the *Daily Worker*. (Feb. 22).

Stalin undoubtedly has other "special treats" to dish up during the sessions of the Supreme Council of the USSR.

Why not? Were Duranty's dis-

together shut—a plenary session of the "reorganized" Central Committee was held. To cover up the bankruptcy involuntarily revealed at the five-day Conference, the plenum hastened to "project a 15 Year Plan."

If the Third Five Year Plan has collapsed, then the thing to do is to cover up the debacle with a Fifteen Year Plan!

"Speaking of sensational news," shrieked the *Daily Worker* "word shrieked the *Daily Worker* "word has just arrived that the Soviet

Union is now embarking on a FIFTEEN YEAR PLAN. What capitalist statesman," continued this brazen mouthpiece of Stalin, "can even look that far ahead—no less plan for it?" (February 23, emphasis in the original).

Stalin is once again applying Hitler's motto: The more monstrous the lie, the more readily will people believe it.

Here is the plan Stalin projects for the Soviet workers for the current year. "The 1941 plan,"

declared Voznessensky, one of those who took the floor at the Conference, "provides for an increase in labor productivity by 12 per cent with the average wage increase per worker of 6.5 percent." This means that for every "12 per cent" of his 1941 output, every worker receives not 12 per cent in terms of his 1940 wages but 5.5 percent less.

In other words, still another wage cut for the Soviet workers! "This relation," continued Voznessensky, "is either suppressing the news or willfully distorting the news."

patches perhaps suppressed? If so, by whom?

Only Duranty's real paymasters, the G.P.U., could answer the question for obviously Duranty's boosters, Minor-Browder and Co., are not in a position to explain anything.

From January 29 until February 25 not a word by Duranty appeared. Only on Tuesday—i.e., after that embarrassing 18th Party Conference was over—did Duranty again send a dispatch to the *New York Times* and the North American Newspaper Alliance.

Boy Flogger Good Enough for Army He's Colonel Now

Colonel Raymond W. Combs was dismissed as superintendent of the Colorado Industrial School last week by the State Civil Service Commission. Combs had ordered several boys between 11 and 15 years old chained together, flogged, and held in solitary confinement.

Colonel Combs will now resume active duty with the army.

According to the *Daily Worker* all the news carried by the big metropolitan dailies in relation to the Conference was sadly inadequate. Although all the dispatches were as usual rigidly censored by Moscow, "the capitalist press," insisted the *Daily Worker*, (Feb. 22) "is either suppressing the news or willfully distorting the news."

Would not a Duranty have remedied such a sad state of affairs? Yet there was no Duranty.

Why not? Were Duranty's dis-

The Negro And The U. S. Army

Negroes Were Discriminated Against In Draft Of 1917; Then Jim Crowed In Army

By EUGENE VARLIN

The Negroes were barred almost entirely from any part in the administration of the conscription laws. The Draft Boards were made up almost exclusively of upper-class whites. The Negroes were assigned a special corner on the draft registration card. This facilitated the practice of discrimination against them.

The proportion of Negroes inducted into the military service of the United States was far greater than the proportion of Negroes in the population as a whole. The Negro race formed 10.7 percent of the total population of the country; they provided 13.08 percent of the enlisted forces.

Crowder, the Provost Marshal General, reported that of 9,562,515 whites registered, 1,916,750 or 20.04% were selected for full military services; of 1,078,331 colored registrants, 342,247 or 31.74% were selected. 32.53% of the whites who registered were placed in Class A, as compared with 51.65% of the Negroes.

The South, especially, thus discriminated against Negroes. L. T. Long's findings on the Negroes of Athens and Clarke County, Georgia, are a typical instance of the general rule. From June, 1917 through September, 1918, 2,465 Clarke County whites had registered as against 2,012 Negroes. Less Negroes than whites registered; nevertheless, 360 blacks or over 17% were conscripted as against only 262 whites or about 10.5%.

Scott, Negro Assistant to the War Department, received a great number of complaints against the operation of the draft, mainly from the South. Physically unfit Negroes had been railroaded into military service where able whites had been exempted. Where single whites escaped scot-free, Negroes had been "conscripted into service . . . without considering their family relations or obligations." The Provost Marshal said conscription had been determined fairly. O. H. Williams, who had been in close contact with the Negro soldiers dur-

ing the war, disputed this. Negro farm-owners, he said, had been sent to camp when there were livestock and growing crops to tend to. A father of five children, of whom the oldest was seven, had been arbitrarily transferred from Class 4 to Class 1-A. "All told," Williams concluded, ". . . many Negroes who had sufficient claims for exemption were drafted and sent away to camp."

Mrs. A. W. Hunton and Miss K. M. Johnson, sent by the Y.M.C.A. to do work among the colored soldiers in France, told a story that reveals this situation better than any statistics. "One man from Texas," they reported, "upon delivering a company of men to a lieutenant whom he thought to be white, remarked that he had brought him a good bunch of Negroes, and had plenty more down there if he wanted them. At first, he said, they took all the men who had just purchased little farms, so that the property would soon return to the original owners, and then they just went through the country and gathered them up everywhere, so that they could get their full quota without sending their white boys. Of course, he said, the Negroes didn't know any better and thought they just had to come."

In only three cases did the Secretary of War remove unfair Boards from office. The Fulton County, Georgia, Board, for example, was dismissed for "unwarranted exemptions and discharges." Of 815 white men, the Board had exempted 526 (62%) on grounds of physical disability. The same board exempted only six of the 202 Negroes called.

White Officers Over Black Troops

It was the policy of the Wilson government to subordinate the Negro troops to white officers. The very Official Order that created the 92nd Division, comprising the majority of the Negro combat troops, established the color line in the officers' staff—with the white officers on top.

Adjutant-General McCain instructed the division's commanding general: "Following officers of Division will be white: All officers of general and field rank, such medical officers and veterinarians as the Surgeon-General may designate, all officers attached to Division Headquarters except the Lieutenants of the Headquarters troops . . ."

These white officers were not chosen because of their technical ability but because they came from the white ruling class. They were to dominate in the army just as they dominated in civil society. Very often the white officers showed themselves to be ignorant of the art of war, inferior to the Negroes as soldiers, cowardly in battle. "The 92nd Division particularly," reports the noted scholar W. E. B. Du Bois, "was made a dumping ground for poor and inexperienced officers seeking promotion." Mason and Furr, two Negro officers, pointed out in their book on the Negro combat troops, that the Colonel of the 372nd National Guard unit had selected for his field officers mostly white lawyers "disqualified by the (National Guard) units they were formerly with." "A very singular situation was created," remark Mason and Furr, "when it was found that the colonel was also in the same category."

Dr. Du Bois spoke to Negro troops on the field of battle and was able to acquaint himself with the real character of these white officers. Here are two of the cases which he reports:

The 368th Regiment went into battle on the Argonne on September 24th, 1918. Major Elser, a white, got jittery on the 26th. He withdrew part of his troops without informing the rest, leaving them to face the music alone as best they

The MARXIST SCHOOL

SPRING TERM 1941

Classes Begin
Monday, March 24

Irving Plaza
Irving Place & 15 St., N. Y. C.

I. Permanent Revolution in American History—By William F. Warde.

A study of the development of American history in the light of the Marxist theory of permanent revolution; sketching the main causes and characteristics; consequences of revolutionary movements; their internal inter-connections, international roots and meaning; their rise and fall.

1. American and World History.
2. The Colonial Revolt and the Constitution.
3. The Degeneration of the First American Revolution. The Autocracy of the Slave Power; the New Revolutionary Forces.
4. The Second American Revolution: The Role of the Industrial Workers during the Civil War.
5. The Democratic Dictatorship of the Bourgeoisie.
6. The Coming American Revolution.
Mondays—7:10 to 8:40 P.M.—6 Sessions \$1.00

II. American Labor Movements—By Lydia Beidel.

A study of the principles, composition, function, and history of the various labor organizations.

1. Early Stages of Trade Unionism in the U.S.
2. Knights of Labor and the Molly Maguires.
3. Western Federation of Miners and the I.W.W.
4. The American Federation of Labor.
5. The A.F.L.—C.I.O. Split and the C.I.O.
6. General Trade Union Principles.
Mondays—8:50 to 10:20 P.M.—6 Sessions \$1.00

Each session will be followed by a question and discussion period where the students may contribute and raise problems in which they are especially interested.

REGISTRATION

Registration may be made at the school office, 116 University Place, every day (except Sunday) between 12 noon and 7 P.M., or by mail.

ATTENDANCE

Those who do not wish to register for a full course may attend single lectures. The charge for single lectures will be twenty-five cents.

Litvinov's Fate: Molotov's Future

Stalin prepared for the shift from the policy of "People's Front" and alliances with "democracies" to an alliance with Hitler by purging Litvinov's wife long before he deposed Litvinov himself as Foreign Commissar in 1939.

The question arises: Is Stalin preparing the ground for possible future shifts in foreign policy by the demonstrative purge of the wife of Premier and Commissar of Foreign Affairs V. M. Molotov?

Furthermore, what is the significance of the total elimination of Litvinov himself? Such moves are not undertaken casually or accidentally by the Kremlin. Litvinov was purged for failure "to fulfill his obligations." What "obligations"? Litvinov has held no public office since 1939. If he was nevertheless dragged from obscur-

ity into the limelight to be purged, it was not with an eye to domestic consumption alone.

In addition, the present ambassador to Hitler, one V. G. Dekanozov, has taken Litvinov's place on the Central Committee. At the same time, Maisky, the Ambassador to England, was rather conspicuously elevated to the position of alternate. A "pledge" to Hitler is thus supplemented by a gesture toward the "democracies."

Stalin is thus preparing for the future in his customary hand-to-mouth, temporizing and evasive manner. In the event that Hitler suffers a major reverse in the Blitz against Britain, Stalin has everything prepared for a shift in alignment with London and Washington. If not, then Molotov will keep his job (and head) a while longer.

Duranty Silent Since Jan. 29

On January 24, the *Daily Worker* publicly certified Walter Duranty as one of those rare correspondents "interested in news and not fabrications."

Browder-Minor and Co. loudly invited their readers to keep both eyes peeled for Duranty's dispatches. The editor was entitled "There's News in the USSR for Those Who Want It." In short, even if the *Daily Worker* itself carried no news about the Soviet Union at the time, there was at least Duranty to point to with pride.

On January 29, Duranty told the world that the Eighteenth Party Conference would "rank in importance with any such previous meeting." And as we recall, Duranty never before failed to report on Stalin's Conferences-Purges-Famine Trials. Yet, mysteriously enough, after leading up to this all-important Conference, Duranty suddenly stopped writing.

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March 3, 1879."FIGHT WITH THE
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

ON THE WAR FRONT:

For:

1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions.
2. The establishment of special officers' training camps, financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
3. Confiscation of all war profits—all company books to be open for trade union inspection.
4. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
5. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
6. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces—Down with Jim Crowism.
7. An end to secret diplomacy.
8. A peoples' referendum on any and all wars.

AT HOME:

For:

1. A job and decent living for every worker.
2. Thirty-thirty—\$30 weekly minimum wage—30 hour weekly maximum for all workers on all jobs.
3. \$30 weekly old age and disability pension.
4. Full social, political and economic equality for the Negro people.
5. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
6. A twenty-billion dollar Federal public works and housing program to provide jobs for the unemployed.
7. Expropriate the Sixty Families.
8. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
9. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.

We're In The War...

"We're in the war. At least we're nearly in the war; we're preparing for it..."

Thus spoke Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce and one of the most powerful figures in the inner councils of the Roosevelt administration, last week before the House Banking and Currency Committee.

The committee members passed over his words in deliberate silence. No committee member, Republican or Democratic, referred to the statement or questioned Jones on its meaning. Nor did the press make much of it.

Jones, after the remark, ordered his words struck out of the official records of the committee. Roosevelt, in turn, brushed the incident aside in a brief press comment, saying only the minimum required for the record. Just a lot of words which didn't mean anything, he assured blandly.

Jones' admission is merely an affirmation of what every succeeding action of the government has made plain. The United States government has already entered the war.

Who can honestly deny the truth of Jones' words? The whole productive force of this greatest industrial nation on earth is being directed toward one end: pouring into the British and American war machines. The Navy is patrolling the seas of the western Atlantic, informing the British of German ship movements, and working in complete coordination with the British blockade. American destroyers—"mysterious" ships of "unknown" nationality—have halted Nazi boats and forced them back into Mexican harbors. American troops are already in active service on belligerent foreign territory: U. S. military forces are now occupying bases in British possessions.

The latest evidence of the fact that this country is already in a state of war is that Army and Navy planes of the latest type have been dispatched to the Far East—most of the Navy is already there—to the aid of the British in Singapore and Hong-Kong.

Yet Jesse Jones' blunt words are the rare exception. The general rule of government is denial of the extent of our participation in the war.

There is a likelihood that there will be no formal declaration of war until after this nation's Army and Navy have gone into full-fledged battle—if then. Everything is being done so that no too boldly-labelled move will shock the masses from their passivity.

We do not deny that such passivity exists. As yet, there is no organized force in this country suf-

ficient to halt the war, or even give Roosevelt pause in his war drive.

Why, then, if the anti-war opposition is so weak, does the ruling class deem it necessary to move in such a fog of secrecy, to hide the very fact of war from the people?

The reason is that the bourgeoisie understand the masses far more than do those cynical "socialists" who deny the masses any ability to smash the war system. The ruling class sees the workers not merely as they are at this moment, but in all their potentialities of organized revolutionary might.

That is why Roosevelt moves with caution and subterfuge. That is why he tries to keep from the people every actuality which might jolt and awaken them. In this very policy, Roosevelt and the bourgeoisie confirm the tremendous revolutionary potentialities of the American working masses, and acknowledge the existence of that power which will destroy the war system forever. That is why Jesse Jones' words were treated by the government, the Congressmen, the press, as an unimportant slip of the tongue.

Support The A. L. P.

The support by the Trotskyists of the candidate of the American Labor Party in the 17th Congressional district in New York has two aspects.

On one hand, it assures one independent labor candidate as opposed to the two war-mongering boss candidates. Labor's uniting at the polls as a single bloc in favor of Eugene Connolly will constitute a blow against the war plans of the Sixty Families and a step forward in the task of building a nation-wide independent labor party.

Separate and apart from the specific program which Connolly stands upon, the fact that he has been presented by the American Labor Party as an anti-war candidate makes it possible for the worker-voters who oppose the imperialist war to register that opposition by voting for him at the polls. Every vote for Connolly will be weighed by the capitalist class as a labor vote against Roosevelt's war plans.

On the other hand, the sharpest criticism must be made of the pacifist character of the ALP program. It does not breathe a word of *militant struggle* against the war plans of the administration. It does not make the slightest attempt to present a real alternative to these war plans of the bosses.

As the real alternative to the war plans of the bosses the SWP proposes our military program: military training of workers, financed by the government, under control of the trade unions; the establishment of special officers' training camps financed by the government and controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.

In giving their support to Connolly in the 17th district, the workers must not forget for one moment that Connolly's platform is completely inadequate and that our military program must replace the present pacifist program of the American Labor Party.

How To Get War Orders:
Become Gov't 'Advisor'

A Stench Is Rising Over Washington, As The Fat Cats Fight Around the Gravy Bowl; Those Frozen Out Spill The Story

By DON DORE

The scramble for juicy war contracts has resulted in such openly thievish practices that Congressional and administrative leaders are making strenuous efforts to head off a major scandal.

A number of the lesser "dollar-a-year-men" are being put under wraps and quietly hustled out of Washington before a blow-up takes place which might expose not merely the "small fry" but representatives of the major corporations and the real big-shots in the government's contracting agencies.

Sufficient facts have already come to light to indicate that the corrupt practices of the "dollar-a-year-men" in collaboration with officials of the federal contract letting bodies, are considerably more widespread than the administration dares admit.

Among the chief practices of the corporation "dollar-a-year-men" have been to use their positions on government advisory agencies for steering contracts to firms with which they are connected; passing on to their friends confidential advance information; and securing preferential treatment for contractors in return for a "consideration."

THOSE FROZEN OUT REVEAL THE FACTS

The first facts of the situation were brought to light as a result of activities of Congressmen eager to secure contracts for firms in which they are interested, or to obtain contracts for their constituents and new plants in their districts.

Some Congressmen began raising questions before the House Military Affairs Committee hearings as to why their friends were being left out in the cold on the profitable war pickings. They began complaining about this and that contract which their friends should have received, but didn't. And, as Frank Ryhlick, *New York Post* Washington correspondent, put it on February 21, "Almost in spite of themselves, the members have turned up a few revealing facts."

For instance, costs on the huge cantonment construction projects are turning out to be 50 per cent higher than originally estimated. Roosevelt has already requested an additional \$338,000,000 appropriation to complete the work started. Although the administration has attempted up to now to pin the responsibility for this huge cost increase on union labor, it

is a well established fact that labor costs represent only approximately 20 percent of the total costs of construction. Even if present wages were doubled, this could not account for more than a 20 percent increase in total construction costs, which have soared 50 percent.

HOW TO GET BIG CONTRACTS

Two outstanding cases have already been revealed which indicate where the real grab is being made. Two members on the three-man civilian advisory board to the Quartermasters Corps, which has charge of cantonment construction contract letting, have been exposed as having connections with firms which "incidentally" secured substantial contracts.

The job of the advisory board is to give the Quartermasters Corps three names of contracting firms "qualified" to fulfill a construction award. Francis Blossom, senior partner in the New York engineering firm of Sanderson and Porter is serving on this board. Shortly after Blossom took up his board duties at \$6500 a year, his firm received an \$11,000,000 contract, including a guaranteed profit of \$1,118,000.

The chairman of this same board is Major Forrest S. Harvey, "formerly" connected with the firm of Leed, Hill, Barnard and Jewett of Los Angeles. Harvey participated in recommending three firms for the large San Luis Obispo, Cal., project. The contract was awarded to—Leed, Hill, Barnard and Jewett.

As soon as these first facts became public, the House Committee on Military Affairs adjourned into secret session and emerged with a statement that it was making plans for an investigation into the whole business of contract letting. Shortly after, on February

21, the Senate Military Affairs Committee approved a resolution for an investigation of "discriminatory" practices.

INVESTIGATION SEEKS NOT TOO SERIOUS

It seems apparent, however, that these investigations are intended as a face-saving measure for the administration and to prevent the scandals from getting out of hand. The whole business will be shunted into the hands of a committee until the situation cools down. This will also permit the administration to shut off criticism by showing it is "doing something" about the war contracts corruption. At most, there will be a few scapegoats.

The Senate Military Affairs Committee has shown how far it intends to press its investigation, by requesting the paltry fund of \$25,000 for this purpose. This sum could scarcely keep the committee even in stationery and supplies.

So many fat cats are trying to crowd around the gravy bowl in Washington that the resultant squabbling for advantageous position is kicking up a public row. The biggest cats, the huge monopoly corporations which have the real "in" with the administration, are anxious to have the weaker cats pushed out of the way because their shoving and howling is creating too much attention.

The New York Post of February 21 confirms this fact as well as the fact that the administration does not intend to halt the war profiteering, when it states:

"The steps now contemplated do not mean there will be any fundamental change in general policies. Contracts undoubtedly will continue to be generous and contractors will go on making large profits via fees, escalator clauses and legal loopholes with embarrassing consequences."

In effect, the administration intends not the elimination of war profiteering, but the cruder forms of penny-ante thievery which might lead to exposure of the entire war profits racket.

Negro Press Comment
On British Failure
To State War Aims

The silence of the British government on its war aims is simply—and correctly—explained by the Pittsburgh *Courier*, Negro weekly, in the following editorial in its February 22nd issue:

The British Government has been asked time and again, both by His Majesty's Opposition and by realistic Americans to define its war aims.

Neither Prime Minister Winston Churchill nor any member of the British Cabinet has yet defined those war aims, and yet this is a matter of prime importance to the vast majority of the white and colored people who make up the Empire.

The reason for the silence of Messrs. Churchill, Eden, et al, is obvious.

The war aims of the British Empire are the war aims of the wealthy minority which owns the Empire and controls Parliament: that is to say, the perpetuation of the *status quo* which has enabled them to siphon the wealth of distant lands into the Bank of England.

The Axis threatens this position of wealth, power and prestige, so the aim of the British ruling class is to destroy the Axis and so maintain the *status quo*.

To the 350,000,000 poverty-stricken, half-starved residents of India, Britain's war aims are the continuation of the system which has impoverished them.

To the 50,000,000 poverty-stricken and malnourished residents of British Africa and the West Indies, Britain's war aim is similar.

It would be too shocking to brutally reveal this war aim, so the browns, blacks and yellows are told that the struggle is one for democracy. It's as simple as that.

* * *

The February issue of the *Crisis*, monthly magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has some revealing sidelights on British democracy. Its editorial tells this story: "Persistently has Great Britain refrained from stating officially her war aims. She has preferred to say simply that she is fighting to rid the world of Hitlerism. This is not enough. British officialdom knows it is not enough, but they do not intend to say more."

"The important question in the minds of millions of British subjects, white and colored, within and without the British Isles is: are we fighting for a continuation of the *status quo*, or are we to set up, in truth, a new and better world? Millions of people in America who are being whipped into a frenzy to support Britain have the same question in their mind."

"A revealing sidelight on this momentous question was reported in January from London. A member of parliament made several recommendations for improvement in air raid shelters and observed that he thought 'separate shelters for white and colored' would be beneficial."

"If this is all Britain is fighting for: the *status quo*, a world in which poor men will still be poor and rich men rich, a world in which color will determine status, then to ask American Negroes to fight and die for Britain will seem like asking them to fight and die for Mississippi."

And from a recent editorial in the Pittsburgh *Courier* come this significant story: "King George's loyal black subjects in Jamaica are getting a new taste of democracy. Governor A. F. Richards who is virtual dictator, has had his stooge legislature (controlled by his appointees) pass new regulations 'for defense' which come close to wiping out what little democracy is left in the island."

"Any assemblage for whatever purpose can be dispersed by the police."

"Any person who fails to move on when told or incites others to reassemble can be arrested without warrant."

"All persons are forbidden to fly any banner, flag or emblem except that of the British plutocracy, or to have in their possession any firearms, knife, cutlass, stick, club, bludgeon, iron bar, stone or weapon or missile of any description."

"An assembly consists of three or more persons, moving or stationary."

"A public place is defined as any highway, street, public park or garden, sea beach, alley, passage or open space, whether or not the people have rented the space."

"The new statutes are designed, of course, to halt the development of a labor movement and to keep down protest against the sorry economic and political conditions under which the people labor."

"Ironically enough," concludes the *Courier*, "the British government says it is fighting for democracy! . . ."

Eleanor Roosevelt Gets Us Ready To Sacrifice

Eleanor Roosevelt, in a press interview on February 17, joined in the growing clamor of the bosses and government to get the workers to accept "sacrifices" of essential consumer goods in order to permit the war machine to get a greater share of production.

Among other things which Mrs. Roosevelt declared the American people should learn to do without are automobiles—and aluminum.

The stress on aluminum ware, such as kitchen utensils, is due to the fact that the government is discovering a shortage of aluminum and magnesium, an aluminum substitute, for plane production. This shortage is due to the fact that the Mellon's Aluminum Company of America has a complete monopoly on both products, has not permitted any other company to enter the field, and has arbitrarily limited production and production facilities.

As for Mrs. Roosevelt's advise to prepare to sacrifice on food.

Representatives of the Department of Agriculture announced on February 22 that meat prices have risen 35 to 50 per cent over a year ago, and warned that pork, beef and lamb will take a larger share of the family food budget this year.

Spokesmen for the meat trust have said that this rise is due to scarcity due to heavy army buying. The War Department recently issued a statement denying that the army was buying so much meat as to cause any appreciable shortage or price rise.

The *New York Times*, February 23, reports that the 501 leading industrial corporations which have thus far reported their profits for 1940 show an average increase in profits of 25.4 per cent over their huge 1939 "earnings." The total profits of the reporting corporations are \$1,203,354,199 for 1940, an increase of \$243,685,519 over 1939.

While the average industrialist was getting this 25.4 per cent raise out of the war boom, what was the average worker getting?

Average hourly earnings for workers in manufacturing indus-

tries rose to 68.3 cents in December, 1940, an increase of about 2 cents an hour, or 3.9 per cent since December, 1939, according to a report issued February 22 by Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor.

The same report shows that average weekly earnings of wage workers in industry were \$27.89 in December, 1940, against \$26.26 in December, 1939. This constitutes only a 6.1 per cent average increase in weekly wages. And meat prices alone have soared 35 to 50 per cent!

But this is not the whole picture. In order to get that \$1.63 more a week, over sixty per cent of the workers in industry had to put in average overtime of 9.1 hours per week, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report of February 18.

The increase of 3.9 per cent in average hourly wages was arrived at by including the wages paid at time-and-a-half for overtime. The volume of overtime work has increased tremendously in the last year.

Let Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt read these figures off before any union meeting, and then let her have the nerve to tell the workers to prepare for "sacrifices." They'd make it clear to her where she might better spill this line of palaver—among the big bankers and industrialists of her husband in Washington.

Special for this Month Only