

Free The 18!

# THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. VIII—No. 11

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1944

287

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

# GENERAL STRIKE SWEEPS NORTH ITALY

## National Speaking Tour Is Scheduled By CRDC

Secretary to Visit Principal Cities in Three Month Itinerary; CIO Shipbuilders' Union President Protests Imprisonment of 18

As part of its campaign to free the 18 prisoners in the Minneapolis Labor Case, the Civil Rights Defense Committee this week announced its plans for a national speaking tour by its National Secretary, George Novack. His tour, which is scheduled to start on March 16 in Rochester, New York, will extend for three months during which he will address audiences in the principal cities from coast to coast.

In his statement announcing the tour, the CRDC Secretary said: "There is no more vital issue confronting labor and all real defenders of civil liberties in the United States today than the Minneapolis Labor Case.

Through meetings arranged by local CRDC committees during this tour I hope to drive home to trade unionists and progressive forces throughout the country the dangers to the rights of labor and the freedom of the American people involved in the imprisonment of the 18 under the oppressive Smith "Gag" Act. So long as the 18 are behind bars and the Smith Act is in effect, no trade unionist can consider himself secure from prosecution and every American's freedom of expression is in jeopardy."

JOHN GREEN  
President John Green of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO last week added his voice to the growing list of union leaders who have protested against the railroading of the 18 to jail. In his letter to CRDC Secretary George Novack, Green wrote: "I consider it my personal duty as a responsible Union leader and as an American to sharply protest the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the U. S., refusing to consider the appeal. To permit such convictions as these to stand establishes a dangerous precedent, stimulating a disastrous disregard of one of the essential constitutional doctrines safeguarding freedom of speech. . . I strenuously insist that no American should be penalized for his thoughts or beliefs."

(The full text of President Green's letter is published on page 3)

PHILADELPHIA LUNCHEON  
A Trade Union Luncheon to organize local labor support for the campaign to liberate the 18 will be held under the auspices of the Philadelphia CRDC Committee on Tuesday, March 7, 12 noon at the Russian Inn, 1233 Locust Street, Philadelphia. Prominent union leaders as well as representative Negro, church and civil liberties spokesmen are scheduled to speak at this affair. Michael Harris, President of the

(Continued on page 3)

## ARMY USED AGAINST WORKERS IN MUNICIPAL WAGE DISPUTE

By DAN ROBERTS

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Feb. 26—3,500 out of 5,500 civil service employees of the Municipal Water and Power Department, members of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, have just ended a militantly conducted "wage protest." The objective of the "protest" was to remove the threat of a salary cut next June and to win a \$15 a month cost of living salary increase. The protest began Monday, February 14 and lasted 10 days. It was finally broken by Roosevelt, who ordered the army to operate the Department. The workers went back to work with only part of their demands met.

Between 1939 and 1944 the employees of the Department of Water and Power have received only one \$15 general monthly raise in September 1942, and one \$5 raise in January 1944. These raises represent an increase of 13 percent over the 1939 average. Department income. The Department of Water and Power has estimated that the cost of living in the last four and a half years has in-

creased by 26 percent. Actually, according to the AFL-CIO report on the Cost of Living, prices have increased nationally by 43.5 percent since January 1, 1941 (not 1939). But even according to the Board's own ridiculously low estimate the workers are still shy 13 percent.

### ARMY SEIZURE

Furthermore, the Department of Water and Power Commissioners had stipulated that both raises granted since 1939 would be terminated in June 1944. At that time Mayor Bowron wanted to "standardize" all civil service pay—that is, to reduce the salary level of the better paid Water and Power skilled unionized workers to the lower level prevailing among employees of the other departments.

Before the army seizure of the Department which broke the "protest," the employees had won the extension of the existing raises for the duration. The strategy of the "protest"

(Continued on page 4)

### BULLETIN

DETROIT, Mich., Mar. 7—General Motors Sub-Council No. 2 in Detroit area representing more than eighty thousand workers voted tonight with only one dissenting vote in favor of full support to the committee for the promotion of Michigan Commonwealth Federation and called upon the international and all affiliated and local unions to support the movement for the new party.

Upwards of \$200,000,000 of public funds is already earmarked for this huge undertaking, which the N. Y. Times has described as "only a comparatively small item in the ambitious program" of American imperialism to grab up the huge oil resources of the world.

Roosevelt is using the government to safeguard and advance the international interests of the American oil monopolies. He has taken his cue from Churchill who in 1933 had put the British government directly into the oil business, by government purchase of the majority stock holdings of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, thus paving the way for British interests to come out on top of the World War I imperialist scramble for the Middle East oil fields.

### IMPERIALISM

Wall Street naturally seeks to disguise the imperialist character of its aims in the Middle East. But the fact remains that by show of arms and bribery of a handful of ruling sheiks and landowners the Allied imperialists have looted all the oil reserves from the Arabian peoples. As I. F. Stone correctly contends in the Feb. 26 Nation: "To go into a colonial country and buy oil concessions by favors to desert sheiks, to embark on a long-range program for the exploitation of natural resources which belong to another people, is imperialism, however we choose to disguise it."

On top of stealing their rich natural resources of oil, Anglo-American imperialism plans to enslave the colonial peoples of the Middle East as a source of

cheap labor. Thousands of poor peasants are being driven off the land and forced to accept work at a few cents a day with Standard and the other international oil monopolies.

The administration and the big oil companies involved in the Arabian deal have unleashed a tremendous propaganda drive designed to "sell" the American people on the desirability and necessity for the Saudi Arabia project. This takes the form of a "scare campaign" to the effect that America's present oil reserves will soon be depleted, and that America's industrial and military potentials are gravely endangered. Also, the lure is being put forward that this project will bring forward that this project will bring "cheap" oil and gasoline after the war.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE BIG OIL COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE ARABIAN DEAL HAVE UNLEASHED A TERRIBLE PROPAGANDA DRIVE DESIGNED TO "SELL" THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ON THE DESIRABILITY AND NECESSITY FOR THE SAUDI ARABIA PROJECT. THIS TAKES THE FORM OF A "SCARE CAMPAIGN" TO THE EFFECT THAT AMERICA'S PRESENT OIL RESERVES WILL SOON BE DEPLETED, AND THAT AMERICA'S INDUSTRIAL AND MILITARY POTENTIALS ARE GRAVELY ENDANGERED. ALSO, THE LURE IS BEING PUT FORWARD THAT THIS PROJECT WILL BRING FORWARD THAT THIS PROJECT WILL BRING "CHEAP" OIL AND GASOLINE AFTER THE WAR.

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THE ADMINISTRATION AND

# Problems Of Women Workers In War Industry

By Ruth Johnson

Overworked, underpaid, beset by personal problems, the working women of America can heartily agree with Trotsky's words "The decay of capitalism deals its heaviest blows to the woman as a wage-earner and as a housewife."

American women, today, in their efforts to combine long hours of factory work with the upkeep of their homes, are so beset by difficulties, that 80 percent of them are forced, within a few months, to give up their jobs. Returning to their homes, they find the constantly rising cost of living makes it impossible for them to remain housewives even if their husbands are employed, so they return to industry only to repeat the frustrating circle.

Mrs. Warwick B. Hobart, adviser on employment to the office of the Secretary of War, admits that "Far outbalancing all other reasons for women quitting their war jobs is ill health, principally resulting from fatigue." (New York Times, Feb. 23).

## Fatigue

Fatigue comes not only from long, arduous hours in a factory. The fatigue so prevalent amongst women war workers grows out of physical weariness aggravated by undernourishment, home tasks, and constant worry. Surveys show, according to Mrs. Hobart, that 85 percent of the women working in war plants do not eat breakfast. Why? Certainly not because 4,000,000 women war-workers are on a diet! Over three-fifths of the women now engaged in defense work are servicemen's wives,

widows, and women whose husbands' incomes are too meager for the family's support. These women have family obligations. These women simply have no time to eat before going to work. The children must be fed, dressed and sent off to school, or taken to someone's home where they can be cared for during the day. Dishes must be washed, beds made. Every minute is precious, so women eliminate the one thing which affects themselves alone—eating breakfast.

## Hard Labor

Having attended to manifold household duties, the woman worker starts off for her job. It may involve hard physical labor—in the shipyards, for instance. It may be monotonous repetitive work, under the most intensive speed-up systems. Or it may require operating a machine designed for men, so that every motion necessitates greater physical exertion than women have been accustomed to using. She probably stands all day, for even in New York, where state labor laws require that she be provided with a chair, war plants violate this small but important comfort under the guise of "wartime emergency."

After eight, nine or ten hours of work, interrupted by a hurriedly gulped lunch, the woman worker punches the time clock, ready to leave the shop. Her day is over—well, not quite.

There is shopping to be done on the way home, for the whole family must eat. By the time she reaches the stores, scarce commodities have all been sold; she may have to trudge from store to store, in search of

a few potatoes, or plan meals based on substitutes. Then she prepares dinner. After dinner, dishes must be washed, the children sent to bed.

But surely her work is done now! Oh, no; there's the family washing to do, because laundry services have been curtailed, and their cost increased; lunches must be made for the next day; the house must be cleaned. If the woman worker manages to average six hours of sleep a night, she is considered fortunate by her fellow-workers.

## Manifold Duties

These day-to-day tasks by no means complete the list of chores the defense worker must do. There are periodical shopping trips to keep the children clothed; to take them to the dentist; to pay bills. The smallest added duty begins to loom before her, as a woman co-worker told me, "like a mountain I just can't climb." She spoke to me on the day she left the factory.

"Do you know why I'm quitting? Because my husband asked me to mail a lock to him at camp. Isn't that silly? But for three weeks I've been worrying about getting to a hardware store, wrapping the lock, and going to a post office to mail it. I just can't do it. I'd rather go back to slinging hash at \$15 a week, than be haunted by a lock."

It is not the accumulation of tasks, the constant pressure of rigid schedule, not the physical strain of the work, or the undermining of her health by skimpy meals, that proves the breaking point for the average woman, however; by far the most

important factor is the problem of her children's welfare.

According to figures revealed at a hearing before the House Appropriations Committee, "at the present time only 65,772 children are being taken care of in 2,243 child care projects. This does not begin to meet the existing needs, as evidenced by the fact that four out of five women hired today leave their jobs because of home problems." (CIO News, Feb. 28).

Frequently women with small children volunteer for night shift work, intending to care for their children during the day, and take "cat naps" during the afternoon or evening. Impossible though it seems, they hold to their plan with grim determination until the inevitable happens—a complete physical breakdown.

## Juvenile Delinquency

The woman who chooses the day shift faces the need of finding some way to provide for her children's care while she works. Nurseries are few and far apart; seldom do their schedules match the long hours of defense plants. Usually a friend or relative must be asked to help. If children are of school age, they are left to their own devices for several hours each day, a major reason for the wartime leap in juvenile delinquency.

Epidemics of children's diseases strike easily at workers' youngsters who are shuttled from home to home in rush hour crowds on subways and buses, sent to afternoon movies for safety, or just left to roam the streets. When illness strikes, the mother

must stay home; frequently this added nervous strain leads to her own physical collapse.

These are the reasons why women consistently have a higher rate of absenteeism than men, and why so many eventually leave the shops. The government, the employers and the capitalist press have been loudly decrying the loss of production due to women's "irresponsibility." Their solution: Chain the women along with the other workers to their jobs by legislative action!

## Child Care

The few paternalistic concessions made by some war plants are scarcely worth mentioning, except to demonstrate their worthlessness and the hypocrisy of the bosses. Some companies have set up shopping bureaus, which in effect give a single high-priced store a monopoly over the clothing purchases of the women who lack time to go elsewhere. Other plants hire "counselors" who benignly advise women under their jurisdiction. The caliber of their advice is well indicated by the incident in which one such sage told a 70c-an-hour worker to send her mischievous son to a summer camp, explaining, "they only charge \$150 a month, you know!"

The Dec. 27 CIO News suggested a "New Year's Resolution" for all government agencies concerned in recruiting women for war jobs: the launching of a national campaign to help solve the problems confronting women workers. Its author pointed out that money now wasted in training

women who cannot remain in their jobs, would pay for adequate child care facilities, recreational programs for young people, government restaurants where meals could be served at cost, and so forth. In addition, shopping facilities and laundry services could be improved.

## Minimum Program

The mere publication of these suggestions however will not end the problem, nor will it "pressure" the government into action. As evidence, the Feb. 7 issue of the CIO News, two and a half months later, reports that there is a child care crisis; "the Federal Works Agency has no funds for new projects..." The article further points out that even the projects now in operation are in danger of closing for lack of funds.

The unions have the responsibility of taking the lead in aiding women workers, by demanding a continuation and strengthening of protective legislation, to minimize physical causes of fatigue; staggered shopping time, to make continuation of home duties possible; equal pay for equal work, and adequate nurseries, conveniently located in working class neighborhoods, financed by the government, and run under the direction and control of the unions.

This represents a minimum union program today to meet the needs of women workers who comprise a majority of the working force in many industries. Such a program will prove to the women workers, many of whom are new to unionism, that their problems can only be solved through the instrumentality of the labor movement.

## TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

"Labor must have its own political party entirely independent of the bosses and their influence," declares the resolution calling for formation of an independent labor party adopted on Feb. 16 by Lodge No. 99, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, Rochester, N. Y.

Reflecting the New York workers' increasing disgust with present American Labor Party policy, the Rochester railway workers' resolution states that the workers "are becoming more reluctant to participate in election campaigns in support of either old party and have become sick and tired of depending on so-called 'Friends of Labor'."

Citing Roosevelt's wage-freeze policy and "dictatorial decrees" against labor, the resolution charges that "the administration must and does give way to the most reactionary and labor-hating elements in America" and that "it is impossible for labor to have its basic social problems solved by either of the two old parties."

The resolution concludes by proposing the "immediate formation of an independent party of labor, based on the trade unions and cooperating with other groups of labor and working farmers who express a similar desire." It calls on the international leaders of the railway unions to initiate a conference of all union bodies, including the AFL and CIO, "for the purpose of forming a labor party."

New York's American Labor Party showed a tremendous decline in influence in the special election for Congressman from the preponderantly Democratic Twenty-First Congressional District of New York City. It was able to turn out only 3,226 voters to vote under its label for the old wheelhorse Tammanyite Democrat, James H. Torrens. Torrens, running as a Democrat, barely defeated the Republican candidate, in an election which brought out but one-fourth of the customary voters in this working class district.

Not the least discreditable consequence of the ALP leaders' support of Tammany, was the party's great loss of prestige among the Negro workers who form a large part of the population of the district. The Negro workers turned away from the Democrats, because of disgust with Roosevelt's Jim-Crow policies.

As even the N. Y. Times, March 2, admitted: "Representatives of all groups put the treatment of Negro members of the armed services first among the causes for the change in attitude. Resentment has fed, it was said, on segregation of troops, on the refusal of some of the women's auxiliary services to accept Negro recruits, and especially on the civilian attitude near the camps in Southern States where many northern Negroes are quartered. Another cause of dissatisfaction with the Administration, it was agreed, has been the alleged failure of the President's Fair Employment Practices Commission to enforce its injunctions against discrimination. . . . Also

## Murray Sidetracks Fight To Scrap Steel Formula

(Continued from page 1)

involved was said to be a growing rebellion against "second class" citizenship status."

The most important reason for the indifference and apathy of labor in this election, and the consequent loss of ALP influence, is the fact that the workers are sick and tired of going to the polls and voting for some Tammany Hall wheelhorse or Republican crook, under the ALP label, and pretending that this constitutes independent labor politics.

Both the Dubinsky-Social Democratic and the Hillman-Stalinist factions inside the ALP are trying to shove responsibility on the other for the fiasco in the Twenty-First Congressional District elections. Actually, it is their common policy of backing capitalist party candidates which has disgusted the workers, and drives them away from the ALP.

President William Green last week enjoined all AFL affiliated bodies "under no circumstances" to collaborate with Sidney Hillman's CIO Political Action Committee. He made it clear, however, that the AFL leadership continues its "non-partisan" support of capitalist party politics through the traditional "reward your friends and punish your enemies" policy, and does not wish its anti-CIO move to be interpreted as opposition to Roosevelt.

Green's action is a completely reactionary thrust at the idea of labor political unity as well as an expression of his opposition to united action with the CIO on the economic field. As his statement indicates, he has no difference in principle with the political program of the CIO Political Action Committee, which is attempting to pursue the very reactionary course endorsed by Green.

John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, let out last week a red-baiting blast at the "communists" who, he said, dominate the CIO. Lewis added that if he had remained head of the CIO, the "communists" would have been weeded out long before now.

Every unionist knows that it was precisely under the regime of Lewis that the Stalinists began their penetration and gained their strength inside the CIO. Murray is carrying on where his ex-chief left off.

This attack of Lewis has the immediate purpose of discrediting the CIO Political Action Committee. Lewis doesn't attack the CIO Committee because it practices "company unionism" on the political field, but because it is dominated by "communists."

Lewis again serves to remind us that the ordinary pro-capitalist union bureaucrat is incapable of fighting the Stalinists on any progressive basis. Either the bureaucrats collaborate with the Stalinists, as Murray does today, or Lewis did yesterday, or they red-bait and attempt to bureaucratically expel their opponents.

**The Militant**  
now be purchased at  
242 Broadway, San Diego, Cal.

San Francisco's drive for subscriptions continues with good results:

Enclosed find four six-month renewals. These all came from the Mission District (all white) and were the result of visiting 14 people who had gotten trial subs, so we still think our average on renewals is pretty good."

Our agent in Toledo realizes the importance of getting **The Militant** on newsstands and his efforts are bringing results:

"We are working on a book store and our literature is being accepted, but the proprietor wants to wait awhile until the literature becomes better known before he advertises in **The Militant**. He is very much interested in our truth."

literature and is making a special effort of his own to get this going.

"The **Militant** is still accepted at the Toledo Public Library (Main Branch) and is displayed so people can read it. Occasionally I check to see that it is not buried under other papers or stolen. So far it hasn't been missing."

Bronx: "Please send me another copy of the February 5 issue of **The Militant**. Congratulations on the good job you are doing."

The following letter reached us from one of our readers in England:

"I eagerly buy **The Militant** whenever I can get a copy. I look forward to the International Notes and **The Negro Struggle** column. The latter helps a great deal in explaining to workers what racial discrimination means and leads to. Am sorry Albert Parker has been called up."

"We get reports of what is happening in the U. S. A. from the press, but I always wait until I get **The Militant** to obtain the truth."

five million workers.

The miners' fight made clear to the whole labor movement that organized labor has the power to smash the Little Steel formula. The members of the WLB admit that they do not have the authority to do so. What then can be the purpose of burying the case in the WLB which can only delay the inevitable showdown with the administration?

The miners' struggle further demonstrated that it is not the Davises or the Vinsons, but Roosevelt himself who is responsible for the infamous wage-freeze and who is its chief instigator. The miners' strikes proved conclusively that a successful fight for wages can only be waged in direct opposition and struggle against Roosevelt and all his bureaus and boards. They further demonstrated that such a fight can be won.

But Murray and Co. are not interested in struggle. They are engaged in a deliberate conspiracy to shield Roosevelt from the wrath of the working man. They are more interested in preventing any "embarrassment" to him than in fighting for the unpostponable demands of the rank and file.

The National Convention of the United Steel Workers is scheduled to meet in Cleveland on May 9. The rank and file must raise the demand that the CIO representatives immediately break with the discredited, company-dominated War Labor Board. Murray must now be forced to call a national conference of all unions to map out a course of independent and united labor action

for the miners.

WALL STREET AGENTS

Some people, complains **The Worker**, have even been so small as to "find fault" with "the people who were picked" to administer the Baruch plan machinery. What if Roosevelt has appointed the world's biggest cotton merchant, a notorious anti-labor plutocrat, to have full authority under the Baruch plan to "dispose" of the government "surpluses" to the monopolies?

What if Roosevelt has designated a reactionary Harding "Ohio Gang" hold-over, an outspoken opponent of work relief, a corporation executive and candidate for the New York Stock Exchange presidency, to direct the Baruch plan's "employment" program?

But, lest anyone gets the suspicion that the Stalinists favor "withholding criticism" of the report where due, **The Worker** finally uncovers one "weakness."

Labor, it complains, should be granted some "say-so" about the future operations of the Baruch plan through a "joint labor-management-government set-up."

The Stalinists feel the need for a bit of "labor" camouflage to conceal the machinations of the corporation agents in administering the Baruch plan. A few labor bureaucrats as window-dressing might help the administration and Big Business to fool the workers.

But, no matter. The Stalinists are no hair-splitters. They are ready to vote for the Baruch plan, with or without "labor" window dressing. They are brazenly trumpeting the message abroad that Browder was not fooling when he announced that the Stalinists have become the most slavish adherents of American Capitalism. If Wall Street now intends, by means of the Baruch plan, to steal billions of dollars worth of war plants and equipment, paid for by the people, to further tighten its monopoly stranglehold and pave the way for mass unemployment, the Stalinist finks stand ready to help sell this program to the American people.

## Stalinists Acclaim Wall Street's Plan As Labor Program

(Continued from page 1)

bought and paid for by the American people.

**The Worker** is disturbed by the "great amount of space that press accounts" have given to these two "details." The emphasis on these items in the capitalist press, complains **The Worker**, has "encouraged" the workers to look on the whole plan with a jaundiced eye. It's all right for the capitalists to rob the country blind—but they shouldn't talk about it!

As for "slight" omissions in the plan about which **The Worker** sees no reason to make a fuss, the principal oversight is a "mere" lack of any concrete program for preventing unemployment, other than the establishment of a "Work Director." His only specific directive is to establish "one place" in each community where ex-service men can "learn their rights." How they are to find jobs, the Baruch plan does not indicate.

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## NOW OFF THE PRESS SOCIALISM ON TRIAL —2nd Edition—

## The Negro Struggle

By Charles Jackson

### The Only Way Out

We have reviewed in the two previous issues the oppressed condition of the Negro today in the Army and Navy that is the result of the policy of segregation as practiced in this "democracy." The question now in the Negro's mind and on his tongue is: what is the way out of this dilemma?

Let us inspect the types of political strategy that are being set forth by our leaders. The Democratic politicians ask us to support their party because Roosevelt is a "humanitarian" and a "friend of the common man" at heart. Further, Mrs. Roosevelt must be a Negrophile because she has her picture taken with Negro children, Negro soldiers and Mrs. Bethune—as if to prove that these creatures won't bite. But before the eyes of the Negro worker today is the plain as day fact that discrimination and segregation are getting steadily worse under the Roosevelt policy of talk pretty and do nothing. What can we expect from that party of the reactionary South which is really run by the Rankins, Bilbos, Connallys and Smiths?

### OTHER PARTIES

The Stalinists are becoming more discredited as a result of such ridiculous proposals that "the Negro should postpone his militant fight for equality for unity in the war effort"—just as if we didn't have sense enough to know that the proper time to fight for your rights is when your opponent is occupied in an outside brawl.

All signs indicate that the Republican party is gaining great Negro support as a result of the mass resentment against the Roosevelt administration and its treatment of the Negro soldier. In fact this may be a significant factor in the national elections. Of course support of the Republicans will accomplish nothing and conditions will worsen regardless of which capitalist party wins the election. It is only because of a lack of correct political education that Negroes can continue to be fooled into shifting back and forth between two parties that represent the same ruling class interests. This farce, the "two-party system," resembles nothing so much as the aimless two-step of a blind man.

### WE MUST FIGHT

Advocates, like A. Philip Randolph, of the "Negro non-partisan political bloc," while admitting that both major parties are alike, contradict themselves by advising us to "throw our support" to such individual candidates as they Democrat or Republican who will "do something" for the Negro. But an individual, even if he "means well," once in office is subject to the pressure of his party organization rather than to the desires of a 10% minority. A Negro political bloc, therefore that supports any representative of the capitalist "way of life" will not attain its end because the capitalist agent is always at the mercy of the interests of the

### PIONEER PARAGRAPHS

## INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

Q: (By Mr. Goldman): What is the position taken by the party on the question of Internationalism?

A: (By Mr. Cannon): The party is Internationalist to the very core.

Q: And what do you mean by that?

A: We believe that the modern world is an economic unit. No country is self-sufficient. It is impossible to solve the accumulated problems of the present day, except on a world scale; no nation is self-sufficient, and no nation can stand alone.

The economy of the world now is all tied together in one unit, and because we think that the solution of the problem of the day — the establishment of socialism — is a world problem, we believe that the advanced workers in every country must collaborate in working toward that goal. We have, from the very beginning of our movement, collaborated with like-minded people in all other countries in trying to promote the Socialist movement on a world scale. We have advocated the International organization of the workers, and their cooperation in all respects, and mutual assistance in all respects possible.

(From "Socialism On Trial," by James P. Cannon, pages 40-41; 10c; Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.)

Q: Does the party have any attitude on the question of racial or national differences?

A: Yes, the party is opposed

(Continued from page 1)

Law violators caught during this period were to be shot. Public utilities in the northern cities have suspended operations.

Finally there are several groups of idealistic dreamers who think equality can be attained by "people of good will" sitting down to talk it over and finally convincing everybody to be nice to everyone else. These moralists advise "non-violent" action and other pacifist methods. If these people would pull their ostrich heads up out of the sand long enough to see the economic side of the struggle they would realize that we, like every other oppressed group, must fight for what we get.

**ALL THE WAY**

The facts lead us to this decision. Negroes cannot win equality by limiting their political strategy within the confines of the oppressive capitalist system. It is like trying to fly a kite in a prison cell. Before the kite gets off the ground we run into a wall. Turning back the other way we meet another barrier. What is worse, in the case of capitalism today in its death agony, is the fact that these walls are gradually moving closer together upon us.

Our endurance is almost gone and an acute attack of claustrophobia is about to set in.

That is why the only way out for the Negro is—all the way out. All the way out from within the confining walls of this pre-judge fostering, segregating and discriminating, exploiting and oppressing capitalist system. All the way out into the economically free air of socialism here and throughout the world where the profit motive and its greedy manifestations are eradicated forever; where there will be no more promoting race hatred through control of every educational device as well as through the civil courts, the army and the navy.

A Workers and Farmers government would grant the Negro economic, political and social equality immediately. It would do so, as a matter of fact, out of necessity as well as conviction. Because they would realize that the capitalists' only hope of regaining their power would be by splitting the numerically superior working class along racial and other lines. A Workers and Farmers Government would combat all race prejudices by education as well as by law as was done in the USSR between 1917 and 1923. Under such government and only under such government would white and Negro workers be taught to unite for mutual protection and advancement.

Who can successfully lead this fight? The working class of all races and all nationalities. We will be resisted, however, tooth and nail by the exploiters and we must be prepared to defend ourselves in our struggle for vindication. We, as Negro workers, being socially as well as economically oppressed, belong in the ranks of this army, double strength.

**DANGEROUS PRECEDENT**

The political demonstration had originally been called in protest against the Badoglio regime of the Italian masses stands in sharp contrast to the cravenness and the treachery of Stalinist, Socialist and Action Party leaders, who in Southern Allied-occupied Italy have called off upon the insistence of Allied authorities the ten-minute general strike set for 11 o'clock, Saturday, March 4.

### ALLIED POLICY

In defiance of the manifest desire of the entire Italian people to throw the hated monarch and his marshal into the junkpile alongside Mussolini and his other capitalist ruling-class accomplices, the Allied authorities have used their military force to reinstate these criminals in power and to suppress every opposition to them.

The determination of the Italian workers to get rid of Badoglio and the King has been intensified by the recent act of the Allies in turning over all authority in Southern Italy to their shadow government and by Churchill's declaration in his latest speech to the House of Commons endorsing the King and his Marshal as the only legitimate power in Italy.

Prodiced by the indignant masses, the Stalinist, Socialist and Action Parties, which are united with three other organizations in a so-called "Committee of National Liberation," were forced to call a ten-minute protest strike against these outrageous violations of the will of the Italian people. The red-hot temper of the masses in Southern Italy can be accurately gauged by the fact that even these treacherous parties were forced to authorize protest actions.

These parties have consistently sold out the revolutionary struggle of the Italian workers for emancipation ever since Mussolini was overthrown. Last summer they called upon the Italian workers to support Badoglio in order to get peace. After Badoglio switched to the Allied side and

dragged the Italian people back into the bloody mess, the leaders of these parties then told the workers to look upon the Allies as liberators and restorers of democracy to Italy. Today, they are again trying to enlist the Italian masses behind the imperialist slaughter, this time on the Allied side.

### RESTRAIN WORKERS

During daylight, columns of workers rounded up in house-to-house searches were marched under guard to "recruiting" officers in Milan where their names are inscribed on lists of "volunteer" laborers going to the Reich. After signing, the men are kept inside barbed wire entanglements until they are taken for transportation to the nearest railroad.

### MASSES RESIST

Thousands of workers, it is reported, have fled to join partisan groups that are inflicting heavy damage on German transport.

### POLL-TAXER SMITH AND ITALY

**POLL-TAX** Representative Howard W. Smith, father of the Smith "Gag" Act and co-sponsor of the Smith-Connally anti-strike law, is extending the sphere of his anti-labor operations to other countries. On March 3 this Democratic Party leader demanded that Roosevelt's administration promptly move to suppress the threatened strike of the Italian workers against Badoglio's regime.

"What the administration can do is step on it," howled Smith. "It's got absolute control over them. They don't have to wait for Congress to act in this case." (N. Y. World-Telegram, March 3.)

Roosevelt's Italian agents didn't need any prompting from Smith. They put both military boots down upon the necks of the Italian workers.

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### DANGEROUS PRECEDENT

This same correspondent gives the Control Commission's own reasons for opposing the strike, which expose the Allies' real attitude toward democracy in Italy. "The Control Commission holds that a strike even of only 10 minutes is an intolerable threat to security only 60 miles from the front, that if a dangerous precedent is set the next one may be more serious, and that it is a form of blackmail while the Allied governments still are considering the question of a future Italian government."

How a ten-minute strike which was to result in five minutes more work, if plans went as scheduled, was "an intolerable threat to military security," the authorities don't — and can't — satisfactorily explain. The real explanation is that the strike is an intolerable threat to the

Allied governments still are considering the question of a future Italian government."

After a day of conferences, the Socialist and Stalinist leaders knuckled under to the pressure exerted by the Allied authorities and called off the strike. Fearful of the reaction of the masses, they announced that a mass meeting would be held in a public square in Naples on Sunday, March 5th, in place of the general strike. At

participation by the U. S. in post-war naval police duty in that part of the world."

This inevitable military cost becomes particularly clear against the background of four decades of bloody imperialist oil rivalry in the Middle East. In World War I, hundreds of thousands of the flower of British and German youth were slaughtered on the altar of oil imperialism in rival attempts to conquer the Middle East.

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### ROCKEFELLER INVASION

The American oil monopolies, particularly the Rockefeller Standard Oil interests, began a grand scale invasion of the Middle East immediately after the last war. Their war with the British interests has been bitter, not stopping short of murder of the agents of the contending companies. After 25 years of the dirtiest international intrigue and maneuvering, the American corporations have managed to sink their teeth into about 40 per cent of the Middle East oil reserves.

To protect the American monopoly interests and enable them to derive monumental profits by exploiting the resources and labor of the Arabian peoples, the imperialists finally gained the influence over most of the vital oil

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The Arabian oil deal exposes the true character of the war aims of Anglo-American imperialism. Roosevelt and Churchill are bringing the backward colonial peoples not the "four freedoms," but robbery of their natural wealth and slavery. Before the Wall Street imperialists lies the goal of world economic domination. That road is smeared with oil.

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## THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

VOL. VIII—No. 11 Saturday, March 11, 1944

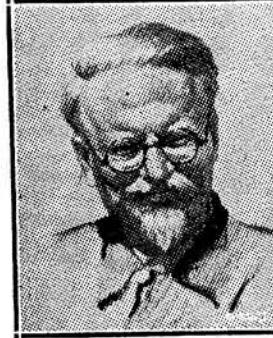
Published Weekly by

THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N  
at 116 University Place, New York 8, N. Y.  
Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8547  
FARRELL DOBBS, Editor

**THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials.**

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months. Foreign: \$3.00 per year, \$1.50 for 6 months. Bunde orders: 3 cents per copy in the United States; 4 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 5 cents.

Application for entry as second-class matter is pending.



To defend the USSR as the main fortress of the world proletariat, against all assaults of world imperialism and of internal counter-revolution, is the most important duty of every class-conscious worker.

— LEON TROTSKY

## JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

1. Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions. Special officers' training camps, financed by the government but controlled by the trade unions, to train workers to become officers.
2. Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army.
3. Full equality for Negroes in the armed forces and the war industries—Down with Jim Crowism everywhere.
4. Confiscation of all war profits. Expropriation of all war industries and their operation under workers' control.
5. A rising scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living.
6. Workers Defense Guards against vigilante and fascist attacks.
7. An Independent Labor Party based on the Trade Unions.
8. A Workers' and Farmers' Government.
9. The defense of the Soviet Union against imperialist attack.

## Soldier Vote Fraud

A storm of reaction is sweeping through the halls of Congress. The timeservers and lackeys of the American plutocracy, grown arrogant and self-confident thanks to the impotence of the labor opposition are drunk with power. They have thrown all caution to the winds. Their campaign of undisguised labor-baiting and unabashed reaction is hitting on all cylinders.

Right in the midst of the war, on the eve of an invasion which promises to pale into insignificance every previous bloodbath in human history, these Congressional jackals have the temerity to dislodge 10 million men of the Army, Navy and Merchant Marine. That is exactly what the latest "compromise" soldiers' vote measure, agreed to by the Conference Committees of the House and Senate, means in essence.

A century ago, the doctrine of State's Rights was the formula under which the Southern slaveholders fought to preserve chattel slavery. Today, the alliance of northern monopolists and southern Bourbons resurrect this doctrine to disfranchise 10 million American citizens. As far as they are concerned, it is all right for American boys to die on the battlefield in accordance with "federal regulations," but they cannot vote, except on the strict basis of "states' rights."

Some political observers have explained the unprecedented action of Congress by pointing to the Gallup Poll findings which indicate that the strength of the two major parties is so evenly divided that the soldiers' vote may determine the outcome of the elections in favor of Roosevelt. Such a consideration, of course, may have influenced a number of the anti-Roosevelt congressmen.

Far more fundamental to the whole issue, however, is the determination of the plutocracy to preserve and perpetuate the poll-tax system of the south; to keep in power the small clique of southern Bourbons, who subjugate and enslave the people of the south, black and white, and who are able with impunity to spearhead every national campaign of reaction.

The danger of the poll-tax system with its consequent disfranchisement of the mass of southern people, is now plain for all to see. The poll-tax system has already spawned a bill which proposes the disfranchisement of an additional ten million American citizens.

Labor must make use of this issue to fight for an alliance with the workers in uniform, to smash the attempted disfranchisement of the military

forces and the poll-tax system which is responsible for it. Labor now has the definite opportunity of hurling back the reactionary offensive of Roosevelt and Big Business with its attempt to turn the soldier mass against the labor movement.

## UAW Resolution

To those who fostered the illusion that Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" were more than demagogic promises, the real plans of the administration as revealed in the Baruch report must come as a shock. Roosevelt lost no time in setting up the machinery to administer the plan. The administrators of course are prominent Wall Street bankers and financiers, representative of monopoly capitalism who, in the name of "free enterprise," have been granted the freedom to plunder the wealth of the people embodied in government owned plant and equipment. The only one of the "four freedoms" now left to the people is the "Freedom of Religion." They are still free to pray that the rapacious appetites of the oppressors will leave them few crumbs to keep body and soul alive.

Until Roosevelt, with his Baruch plan, put an end to the business, the game of post-war planning had been indulged in by liberals, labor bureaucrats and such vestigial remains of the "New Deal" as Wallace who mouths promises about a bottle of milk for every baby in the world. An outstanding "labor planner" was Walter Reuther of the UAW whose elaborate post-war plans were codified by the executive board of the union and broadcast far and wide. Even the fossilized AFL executive committee took a hand in the game and planned a "brave new world" that would be ushered in after the war.

The real plan of the real rulers of this country; a plan to divide the loot, a plan to establish millions of American people in renovated Hoovervilles, a plan of opulent wealth for the few and crushing poverty for the many, looks far different than the plans of these dabbler, windbags, hypocrites and demagogues.

A plan for the future, which in essence is a political program, is not worth the paper it is written on unless an instrument is provided to carry the plan into action. Such an instrument can only be an independent political party of labor. The Baruch plan devised by the agents of Wall Street has been embraced by BOTH the Democratic and Republican parties. Political support to Roosevelt can only mean support for the Baruch plan. Labor cannot avoid the conclusion that this plan will inevitably lead to depression, unemployment and hunger. To avoid such a descent into the abyss, labor must break decisively with the political parties and politicians supporting the Baruch plan and organize its political party to carry on a serious struggle for labor's own solution to its problems.

## Baruch Plan

The international executive board of the United Automobile Workers, CIO, recently adopted a resolution made public by the union's president, R. J. Thomas, which warned that: "An increasing number of corporations have taken advantage of the patriotic resolve of our members and have deliberately pursued a course intended to deny them their rights under their contracts and to provoke them into engaging in work stoppages."

To what sad state of affairs has the Thomas-Reuther-Addes-Frankenstein leadership led the proud and militant UAW when they can openly whine about the corporations denying with impunity the rights of the membership under their contracts? The end result of the no-strike policy of the leadership is an open confession of bankruptcy. Do they now propose in their resolution to abandon the policy of cringing toadism and propose to adopt a policy of militant independent action in defense of the union? Not at all! The resolution threatens drastic penalties for those who "resort to work stoppages in response to the provocative acts of management," including the withholding of "any intervention in their behalf in the event of disciplinary actions against them by management." This resolution can only serve to embolden the union hating corporation executives. The corporations now have the green light to go ahead and declare open season on all the shop stewards and committeemen who try to make them live up to their contracts. They have the "unconditional surrender" resolution of the UAW executive board to support their provocations. The resolution lays the basis for a united front between the union bureaucrats and the corporations for a purge of the militants in the UAW.

"Purge those who resist provocation!" That is the formula under which Dalrymple, head of the United Rubber Workers bureaucratically expelled 72 members of the union. The rubber corporation "cooperated" with Dalrymple by firing these workers off the job. The UAW resolution serves as a warning notice on the auto workers that their executive board is preparing to follow in the footsteps of Dalrymple. Every militant worker, every progressive local in the UAW faced with this threat must demand that the executive board withdraw its provocative resolution.

The chicken-hearted bureaucrats who haven't the guts to lead a fight and compel the profit-bloated corporations to live up to their contracts, now propose to purge those militants who do have the courage to fight for the rights of the union membership. The UAW was not built by, and cannot be maintained under, the doctrine of non-resistance to the bosses' union-busting offensive. The militants who built the union in struggle are now faced with the task of organizing a determined resistance to maintain their democratic rights.

## Roosevelt Uses Army In Municipal Wage Dispute

(Continued from page 1)

was not to achieve a complete power shortage, but to keep open power service to war plants and hospitals. The union sought to achieve a total walkout and then to reassign to the power stations emergency crews of workers. The "protest" committee itself took over responsibility for maintaining repair service and kept a number of repair trucks at "protest" headquarters for trouble shooting. After a few days of the "protest" the Water and Power Department officials were forced to admit that service was maintained only on sufferance of the "protest" committee.

## STANDING JOKE

The standing joke of the workers during the walkout was to pray for rain. Committed to a main strategy of partial service, the "protest" received practically no support from union officials in this area. Other AFL

the movement counted on a good storm to interfere with the rest of the service. On February 20 their prayers were answered. Los Angeles suffered its worst storm in years. The rain, hail and flood down lines all over the city. 85,000 homes were without electricity and a number of factories including one important aircraft plant were shut down. It was at this point that the Mayor and the commissioners were forced to negotiate, which they had steadfastly refused to do up to then, and to extend already granted raises through the duration. But it was also at this point that the Army intervened to prevent the power workers from gaining further concessions. The workers were thus forced to return to work at the same rate of pay.

The "protest" received practically no support from union officials in this area. Other AFL

unions and the CIO State, County and Municipal Workers of America used the shabby excuse that the movement had been styled a "wage protest" instead of a strike to crash the picket lines that were maintained before the plants and the offices of the Department. The local top officials of longshoremen publicly denounced the strike, William Green intervened at Mayor Bowron's request with an angry telegram reviving the workers of the no-strike pledge.

## WORKERS BACK STRIKE

In spite of the fink activity of the top officialdom of the labor movement, the "wage protest" undoubtedly had the backing of Los Angeles' working class population. This is the third time within a period of eight months that public utility workers have downed tools for higher pay.

## Workers' BOOKSHELF

SHARK'S FINS AND MILLET  
by Ilona Ralf Sues. Little, Brown and Co., Boston. 1944.  
331 pp. \$3.50.

The Chinese people are conducting a progressive war for national independence against the Japanese imperialists. But their struggle is hampered, undermined and betrayed by the reactionary and repressive policies of the rotten Chiang-Kai-shek dictatorship which seized power after crushing the revolution of the Chinese workers and peasants in 1926-27.

The author of this book on China is a typical left liberal. Her book however, provides valuable and interesting reading, because of the description of the real state of affairs in China even though she offers only puerile and valueless solutions to the problems she describes.

The author cites many examples of the rampant corruption of Chiang's government taken from her personal experience in China. Chiang's hypocrisy and corruption are revealed in his handling of the opium traffic, the white imperialist's "gift" to the Orient. Six months after his declaration of the "Opium Suppression Plan," Chiang instituted a "revenue-yielding" monopoly of opium production as a result of pressure from the opium dealers. Widely-heralded "opium burnings" were held in which garbage, bamboo and everything but opium were burned.

When the author asked a Chinese official why opium wasn't burned, she was told that it was "too expensive!" A few wretched opium addicts were shot in the streets while the big opium dealers continued their activity undisturbed. No wonder! To the post of "Director of Opium Suppression" Chiang appointed Tu Yuen-sen, the biggest opium smuggler in China!

Tu Yuen-sen is more than an opium smuggler—he is China's

most powerful capitalist and, as Sues reveals, one of Chiang's principal financial backers. Here is exposed part of the ties that bind Chiang's dictatorship to the reactionary big bourgeoisie.

Sues heaps example upon example of the Chinese bureaucrats and profiteers wallowing in luxury while the masses starve on a diet of millet. This is the meaning of the very title of the book. Shark's fins are an expensive delicacy, which is eaten only by the very wealthy Chinese. Millet is a coarse grain cereal eaten by the masses.

At the time of the evacuation of Hankow, when medical equipment was most urgently needed for wounded soldiers, rich Chinese families were using Red Cross ambulances to transport their vases, tapestries and rugs out of the city! When the small amount of cargo space on the few planes from Hong Kong could have been used to bring sorely-needed medical supplies, one Chinese banker's wife, typical of her class, ordered a planeful of fruit.

The character of the Chiang regime is illuminated by the protestation of one Chinese intellectual who was asked to take over a government post: "I am an honest man, I can't be an official."

Under Chiang's regime the Chinese workers and peasants are brutally mistreated whether they remain in the factories and fields or are conscripted into the army. The author tells of the intolerable working conditions in the Chinese factories and shows how the militarists "recruit" soldiers for the army. "Peasants and workers were taken by force, regardless of age or family, roped together by their wrists, and led to the barracks in long Indian file." Needless to say, no "decent people" were conscripted.

An interesting part of the book is devoted to Sues's visit with the Stalinist-controlled Eighth Route Army, where she interviewed the

leading Stalinist officials. At this period the Stalinists were just coming into the full flower of their "Popular Front" and her interviews with the Stalinist leaders reveal the horrible degeneration of the Stalinist movement.

Chou En-lai, Political Director of the Communist Party, stated that: "Education, not revolution, would emancipate the nation."

After some fifty years of "democracy," the Chinese people could "determine freely and knowingly" whether they wanted "the democratic form of government" or "some other form — socialism, fascism, or communism."

The author is bewildered by the incredulous baseness of the Stalinists before Chiang Kai-shek.

They "refrained from criticizing the government" in any way, and on one occasion, she reports, Chu Teh gave a talk on the development of the Red Army without so much as mentioning the civil war that raged between it and the Kuomintang for seven years!

This policy of political capitulation to the Kuomintang progressively weakened the position of the former Red Armies. Chiang struck a severe blow at them in 1941 when he descended upon the New Fourth Army in Anhwei province and routed it from its positions after a fierce battle.

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## "Even-Handed Justice" Under Capitalist Rule

A federal charge of "sabotage," involving a possible prison sentence of 30 years, has been brought against a young welder at the New York Navy Yard because he allegedly "made a defective weld" while working on a battleship. The faulty weld had been almost immediately discovered, and the FBI admits it was due to "carelessness" and not "anti-American activities."

The real purpose for putting the heat on this worker, as revealed by Assistant United States Attorney Albert V. De Meo, is to use him as an "object lesson." "If this indictment is sustained," De Meo stated, "it will serve as a model for prosecuting any person who in the future is deemed guilty of willfully careless work on war equipment."

While pressing a "sabotage" charge against this worker, the FBI has been singularly indifferent to the profit-seeking practices of the shipbuilding corporations, which have been responsible for the cracking up of scores of Liberty Ships and the loss of many lives.

As an example, according to the testimony of a Maritime Commission inspector before the Truman Senate Committee, the Kaiser shipyard officials refused to follow the welding procedure specified in the blueprints of the Gibbs and Cox Co., design agents for the Maritime Commission on the Liberty Ships. Cracks in the various structural components of the ships were reported to the company, which "made no move to correct the causes of these failures, but . . . delivered the ships with dangerous residual stresses in them unrelieved." Huge weights, as much as 100 tons, were used to force plates into position when they did not fit.

Workers who make mistakes because of speedup and fatigue are threatened with savage prison sentences.

But corporations are permitted to get away with deliberate practices that amount to "murder for profit," and which actually constitute sabotage on a wholesale scale.

## Wall Street Prepares For War Against Labor Unions

Under the heading of "industrial munitions," the War Production Board is allocating steel and other materials to produce "shells, machine guns, gas bombs, black-jacks, hand-cuffs and ankle chains" for use in the United States and "in India," according to charges made last week by CIO President Philip Murray. "Industrial munitions" is the term designating arms produced for corporations and local governments to be used in the suppression of strikes and "civil disorders."

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## OPA Director Admits Huge Growth of Black Market

"One out of every three stores" in the country is violating OPA price ceilings and "housewives today are paying \$1,200,000,000 as tribute to the black market in food alone," admitted OPA Administrator Chester Bowles in radio address on Feb. 29.

Black markets, he declared, are "extensive . . . in some fields dangerously extensive. It has been estimated that between 3 and 4 percent of the average cost of all food is due to black market operations. . . In addition there are millions of dollars in overcharges on the sale of clothing, tires, gasoline, furniture, second-hand refrigerators, and other home equipment."

Although attempting to give a generally optimistic picture of the price gouging situation, Bowles was compelled to admit some of the real facts about price rises which the Bureau of Labor Statistics has recently attempted to conceal with phoney statistics claiming a cost-of-living rise of only 23.5 per cent since Jan. 1, 1941.

Contrary to the BLS claims — put forward as a basis for denying wage increases beyond the Little Steel formula — Bowles confessed that many vital factors are not included in the BLS figures, including the effect of the black markets and price violations.

For instance, these figures do not measure "the extent to which clothing quality has deteriorated in the last two years," he stated. "Shoddy merchandise is passed off at a price for which you would normally expect to get the finest quality." The term, black market, he admitted "also applies to chiseling on rents in the 350 defense rental areas throughout the country."