

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

A year ago, the foremen in the Michigan auto plants set up their organization and made a bid to win union recognition from the companies, to establish collective bargaining procedure and obtain signed contracts.

On March 22, 1943, The Militant wrote: "In the face of rising living costs, foremen's salaries remain far behind. They have to work long hours overtime, often with little or no overtime pay. The job of enforcing the policies of the corporations on the workers is no longer an easy one. The workers, feeling the power of organization, are no longer the weak, unprotected, disunited and servile mass of yesterday."

"Caught between the fires of organized capital and organized labor, the foremen and sub-foremen are quite understandably attracted to the idea of organization and possible alliance with the labor movement. They have seen the unions make forward strides and improve the wages and conditions of their members and they would like to achieve the same results for themselves by organization."

"The shakiness and instability of the capitalist structure, is demonstrated by the fact that such industrial and financial giants as Ford, General Motors, the great coal operators, etc. can no longer hold the loyalty and support by their own authority of the lower ranks of their own managerial personnel. . . ."

SOLID FRONT

Under the leadership of General Motors, the auto barons established a solid front in opposition to any foremen's organizations and temporarily defeated the foremen's attempts to win collective bargaining rights. GM sent a telegram on March 18, 1943 to four administrative departments demanding that the government ban the unionization of foremen.

The government immediately responded. The National Labor Relations Board ruled on May 15, 1943 in its Maryland Drydock decision that foremen did not come under the provisions of the Wagner Act. Temporarily, the foremen were defeated.

Today the foremen are making a new and more powerful bid to organize themselves and to win collective bargaining rights with the corporations. 3,000 foremen are on strike in thirteen Detroit plants. The Packard plants are completely shut down as a result of the strike.

The Foremen's Association of America has already made one crack in the solid employer resistance; the Ford Motor Company signed a one-year contract with the association recognizing it as the sole bargaining agency for Ford foremen, setting up a grievance procedure and guaranteeing seniority rights.

The NLRB has already partially reversed its decision of a year ago and stated that foremen are employees and thus come under the Wagner Act in its sections outlawing discriminations, discharges, etc.

REVERSED STAND

The War Labor Board, which has ordered the striking foremen to return to work "forthwith," has likewise reversed its previous stand and agreed to rule on the disputes, and has obtained promises from the corporations that there would be no discrimination against the strikers.

Despite the action of the Ford

MARITIME A HISTORICAL SKETCH A WORKERS' PROGRAM

By FREDERICK J. LANG

PIONEER PUBLISHERS • NEW YORK

182 Pages — \$1.00



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Second Thousand New 'Militant' Readers Obtained In Campaign

The phenomenal weekly increase in subscriptions continues. The last week has resulted in new record-breaking sales. We thought the peak had been reached last week with a total of 489 subs, but this week the branches sent in 688 subs, an average of 114 a day!

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WEEK

Buffalo continues to hold first place with 260%.

Newark moved from thirteenth place to second on the score-board with 190%.

New York for the third week in succession sent in the greatest number of subs—256.

FROM OUR MAIL BAG

Toledo: "The Toledo Branch last night voted to accept the challenge of Reading. The Reading Branch sounds very cocky but Toledo feels that we can beat Reading and Philadelphia. May the best branch win."

Minneapolis: "The branch voted last night to enter race with West Side Branch (New York Local) and Chicago on subscriptions."

Chicago: "Have accepted challenge of West Side Branch (New York Local) despite slow start. Before end of campaign you will realize that you have been in the fight of your collective lives."

WHEREAS: The UAW-CIO gave a No-Strike Pledge and that pledge was given on three conditions: That Industry would bargain in good faith; that Government would provide machinery for fair and speedy settlement of grievances; that a just balance would be kept between wages and the cost of living, and

WHEREAS: The National Manufacturers' Association has taken advantage of this No-Strike Pledge to take away some of the social gains won after years of struggle and refuses to bargain collectively in good faith, also spending millions of dollars planning to smash our Union, the UAW-CIO, and

WHEREAS: The War Labor Board has consistently refused to modify the "Little Steel Formula" even on the face of concrete evidence that the cost of living has risen from 23 percent to 43 percent thereby forcing the workers to take an indirect wage cut, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED: That Local 7, UAW-CIO petition the International Executive Board to call an immediate conference or convention for the purpose of rescinding the No-Strike Pledge, and also to lay plans to break the "Little Steel Formula."

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The great struggles of the coal miners in 1943 demonstrated that the auto, rubber and other mass production workers organized into industrial unions were the best and most reliable allies of the miners. The four great coal strikes also demonstrated that the miners were weakened by their organizational isolation from the rest of the labor movement.

St. Paul: "At last we've made a beginning in the campaign. These fifteen subs are the result of 1½ hours' door-to-door work of three comrades. We covered three blocks on one side of the street."

Philadelphia: "I sent a sympathizer two sub cards to sell. He sold them and wants fifteen more. . . . We have set ourselves a goal of 100 subs for the drive."

San Francisco: "The twenty-one trial subs were obtained by three couples in about 1½ hours' time. This finishes our coverage of the housing project (predominantly Negro) I mentioned in my last letter. We are next going to try another project in another part of the city."

Detroit: "Two of the comrades are competing with each other in getting subs. One has 77; the other 59. They are both on the same team. Tonight at our meeting the team challenged the entire branch in the 300 quota. Everybody sure is plugging and we hope to get triple our quota. Of course, that is a bit optimistic but the way things are going, I believe we can do it."

**

The optimistic returns of this week can only spur the branches to increased efforts, which will assure the completion of our quota for 3,000 new readers far ahead of schedule.



Even though the branches have been concentrating upon getting subscriptions to The Militant in our campaign for 3,000 new readers by June 30, they have not overlooked the importance of getting renewal subscriptions and carrying out regular distributions. We quote from some of the letters:

San Francisco: "Two of us went out on renewals Sunday and the results were most heartening. The main difficulty is finding the people at home. Of the eight homes visited, two renewed, four were not in, one had moved (we have the new address now and will follow up), and only one was not interested in renewing. And, while in the process of getting renewals, we also managed to secure one new 6-month sub from a visitor in one of the homes. In both cases, the people were eager to renew their subscriptions, said they had been expecting us to call and needed no 'sales talk' from us. It seems as though after getting the paper for six months or more, they've got the habit!"

Boston: "We are checking up on the old sub expirations. We have obtained two renewals in this period and expect to get some more if we can find the people in."

Chicago: "We are distributing The Militant to auto plants in this area each week. Sometime during June, after the workers have become well acquainted with the paper, we are going to attach a leaflet with a sub blank on the

bottom to each copy (which they can clip off and send in) telling them why they should subscribe."

Los Angeles: "Distribution of The Militant has now reached the point where we are able to feel that something is happening, and more and more people are being drawn into the work. . . . There are three more newsstands now which carry the paper and 'Socialism on Trial'; we will also place the F. I. O. on these newsstands."

The latest report from our Milwaukee agent ends with these sincere words of praise: "Buckets to The Militant! The May Day issue was even better than the normally fine paper."

Natalia Trotsky in a recent letter expressed the reaction of all our readers upon hearing of the six-page Militant:

"I was very happy to learn that the paper is going into six pages. That is a very hopeful and inspiring sign. It shows that our forces, deprived of some of our friends, want to and are able to work still harder, doubling and tripling their activities in order to carry on the common tasks. This fact must give courage also to those who are in prison. . . . And another good piece of news was that of the publications which are under way. In this joyful period of the world, that makes up for much of the pain."

SCOREBOARD

	Quota	Subs	Percent
Buffalo	50	133	260
Newark	80	152	190
Reading	30	46	153
New York	500	698	140
Philadelphia	30	36	120
Toledo	30	32	106
Detroit	300	311	104
Boston	100	90	90
Seattle	150	135	90
Allentown	15	12	80
San Francisco	150	97	65
Milwaukee	15	8	53
St. Paul	50	22	44
New Haven	25	10	40
Youngstown	50	19	38
Cleveland	50	18	36
Los Angeles	400	140	35
Minneapolis	200	69	34
Bayonne	50	10	20
Chicago	200	34	17
Members-at-Large, Friends	355	56	16
Flint	15	2	13
Akron	40	5	13
San Diego	50	4	8
Pittsburgh	10	0	0
Quakertown	10	0	0
Rochester	15	0	0
St. Louis	20	0	0
Texas	10	0	0
TOTALS	3,000	2,139	71

Brewster CIO Union Leaders Join CRDC

(Continued from page 1)

shall constitute a criminal offense."

CONTRIBUTORS

Among the recent contributors to the CRDC are: UAW-CIO Ford Local 50, Ypsilanti, Mich., United Furniture Workers, CIO, Local 262, San Francisco, Cal., United Rubber Workers, CIO, Local 5, Akron, O., United Hospital and University Workers, Chicago, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America-AFL, Locals 442 and 261, N. Y., United Construction Workers Local 1244, Portland, Ore., Rochester Railroad Council, Rochester, N. Y., White Goods Workers Local 76, ILGWU-AFL, Chicago, Ill., Textile Workers Union of America, CIO, Irvington, N. J., United Transport Service Employees, CIO, Local 706, Boston, Mass., Railroad Workers Joint Action Committee, Oakland, Cal., Workmen's Benefit Fund, 102, San Francisco, Cal.

Workmen's Circle Branches which have sent recent contributions are: No. 186, N. Y., No. 182, Bronx, N. Y., No. 322, Brooklyn, N. Y., No. 87, Brooklyn, N. Y., No. 166, Milwaukee, Wisc., No. 117, Schenectady, N. Y., No. 209, Philadelphia, Pa., No. 655, Los Angeles, Calif., No. 281, Woodridge, N. J., No. 33, Bronx, N. Y., No. 335 E. Newark, N. J., No. 207-B, Atlanta, Ga., No. 987, Chicago, Ill., No. 945, Detroit, Mich., No. 156, Detroit, Mich.

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Senators Wage Sham Battle Over Anti-Poll Tax Bill

(Continued from page 1)

filibuster against an anti-lynching bill for 6 days several years ago, and who boasted that he was prepared to speak for 100 hours in an effort to kill the present poll tax bill, did raise the question of Roosevelt's attitude. Mr. Ellender said he did not believe that President Roosevelt, although voicing opposition to poll taxes, favored the pending bill. Lacking any evidence to the contrary, it is only reasonable to assume that Ellender is correct in his assumption.

All of the poll-tax Senators who have ganged together to kill the measure are Democrats. As a unit they are the most powerful group in the Democratic party. Like Dewey, Roosevelt finds it politically expedient to limit his opposition to the payment of poll taxes to vague and meaningless generalities. The supporters of the administration, who rant at Dewey and keep quiet about Roosevelt, are nothing but shabby political heelers trying to cloak "their" candidate's responsibility for the perpetuation of the poll tax system.

BULWARK OF REACTION
The poll tax system is a bulwark of reaction and an integral part of Wall Street's domination over the economic and political life of the nation. By dismaying the overwhelming majority of Negro and White workers, the poll tax system serves to remove all restraint from the political caste which functions as the open and direct agent of Big Business. When the Democratic party is in power, the poll taxers, by virtue of the seniority acquired by being returned to Congress year after year because the mass of people in the "Solid South" are deprived of a vote, are placed at the head of the most powerful Congressional committees. These committees dominate the Congress. Much of the anti-labor legislation originating in Congress is initiated by the poll taxers who function as the spearhead of reaction. The real rulers of this country, the sixty families who have concentrated the wealth of the nation in their hands and thereby control both major parties, find the poll tax system a useful medium of prolonging their political control. It is from these rulers that both the Republicans and Democrats take their orders.

AGAINST CLOUTURE

The formula used by a number of the politicians who pretend to favor the anti-poll tax bill is that while they support the bill they are opposed to cloture. Cloture, you see, is "undemocratic" while the poll tax which deprives approximately 10,000,000 citizens of the right to vote is of the essence of capitalist democracy!

The liberals and Stalinists have directed their main fire at Dewey and demanded that he commit himself in favor of cloture and use his influence to swing Republican support behind the cloture resolution.

"I was very happy to learn that the paper is going into six pages. That is a very hopeful and inspiring sign. It shows that our forces, deprived of some of our friends, want to and are able to work still harder, doubling and tripling their activities in order to carry on the common tasks. This fact must give courage also to those who are in prison. . . . And another good piece of news was that of the publications which are under way. In this joyful period of the world, that makes up for much of the pain."

ABOLISH POLL TAX
No political party or politician that serves the interests of Big Business can conduct an effective struggle against the poll tax. It is only those who suffer under this system, the workers both black and white, in alliance with all the victims of capitalist reaction, who can demolish the vicious poll tax system. By its very nature a political struggle, the fight against the poll tax will really begin when labor organizes its own political party and places in its program the demand: abolish the poll tax system!

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The Illustrated 32-Page Pamphlet

Four British Trotskyists Arrested On Frameup Charges As Churchill Intensifies Drive To Crush Labor Uprising

(Continued from page 1)

and stifle the Trotskyist movement.

Arrest of the four British Trotskyists leaders was preceded and accompanied by a rabid press campaign in which the Trotskyists were depicted as sinister, underground plotters, engaged in fomenting strikes in key industries in order to hamper Britain's war effort.

FRAMEUP CAMPAIGN

In concocting this campaign, the capitalist press characteristically ignored the volumes of clear-cut evidence that the recent strikes were the outgrowth of a widespread revolt in the ranks of labor against the increasingly intolerable living and working conditions, and that the Trotskyists had openly avowed their solidarity with the workers.

The Tory newspapers of Northcliffe and Beaverbrook got busy in the sleek-like manner of fictional detectives, hinted darkly at "secret funds" coming from abroad to help the Trotskyists undermine the "loyalty" of British labor to the British imperialist war effort.

They ignored statements of the Trotskyists that their activities,



LEE KEEN

including the publication of their organ, the Socialist Appeal, were supported solely by the contributions of self-sacrificing working-militants and continued along the line of attempting to expose a "sinister conspiracy."

1. On March 30 the London Daily Sketch reported: "The strike of apprentices in certain engineering and shipbuilding establishments on Tyneside is believed to have been caused by the activities of a mystery man."

2. On March 31 the same paper wrote: "Behind the strikes that have involved more than 26,000 apprentices in British shipyards and engineering shops is a highly developed strike-promoting organization. At the head of this organization is a young man with headquarters in London. . . . The organization led by this mystery man has been disavowed by the Communist Party of Great Britain, who ally the movement with Trotskyist attempts to disrupt

the engineering industry and the engineering unions."

3. Five days later, the Sketch "solved" the riddle of the "mystery man" in a story captioned "YARD SOLVES RIDDLE OF STRIKE FUNDS". This story read, in part: "Nation-wide attention has been aroused by the Daily Sketch revelations of the Trotskyite activities behind the strikes in the coalfields, the shipyards and heavy industries in the North. Mr. Herbert Morrison (Minister of Home Security) was yesterday considering these Trotskyites. He had before him a full report on certain movements compiled by Scotland Yard's Special Branch, who have solved the mystery of the secret source of the funds that have enabled agitators to travel the industrial areas canvassing support for their movement and advising on strike development."

Thus in the course of a week, the "mystery man" with the "secret funds" turns out to be the public functioning organization of the Trotskyists. In the process of unravelling, the threads of this "mystery" passed from the struck coalfields and shipyards, through the offices of the Communist Party — to the police headquarters at Scotland Yard!

"RED SCARE"

The elements of this "Red Scare" are of a piece with the great frame-up of the Tory press which 20 years ago was used as a lever for repression against the revolutionary movement. In that frame-up the Tory press forged a letter in the name of Zinoviev, then chairman of the Communist International and used this to prove the existence of a Moscow-directed plot to overthrow the British government.

The "Zinoviev Letter" was proved, conclusively, to be a forgery, but the British capitalist class made full use of it before the exposure was made, against the labor movement.

NEW UPSURGE

At that time the British workers were beginning to recover their militancy after the fearful post-war depression. A rising rebellion put MacDonald and the other British labor party leaders in office and strengthened the trade unions in preparation for the great General Strike of 1926. Affrighted by the spectacle of the growing militancy of the workers, the British capitalist class resorted to the method of frameup in a desperate effort to halt the tide that was rising to swamp them.

Today, the workers are stirring once again. The great coal and engineering strikes are the har-

bingers of the coming revolutionary storm. British labor is breaking away from the leading-strings of capitalism. The servile labor flunkies in Churchill's cabinet, the Bevins and the Morrisons, are finding it increasingly difficult to serve their capitalist masters by holding the workers in check. The tide of the class struggle is washing up menacingly against the dykes of class-collaboration which the capitalists and the labor leaders erected. And so once again the method of the "Red Scare" is employed.

IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE

In embarking upon a general offensive against the workers, the capitalists always single out the revolutionary vanguard for the first attack. Roosevelt's government prosecuted and jailed the 18 trade union militants and members of the Socialist Workers Party in the famous Minneapolis case in an attempt to deprive the American workers of their revolutionary voice. This was the opening gun in the offensive against the labor movement in this country which has grown from month to month. The violent campaign against the British Trotskyists and the jailing of its leaders and members pursues a similar aim.

But there is an important difference between the two cases. The Minneapolis case opened on the eve of America's entry into the imperialist war and was in the nature of a preventive action. The persecution of the British Trotskyists takes place after five years of the imperialist slaughter, at a time when the war-weary English workers are breaking loose from the restraints imposed on them by the capitalists and are taking once more to the road of independent class action.

The British Tory government and its "labor" henchmen will not succeed in strangling the working-class movement. The British workers will see in the persecution of the Trotskyists the dirty designs of the British capitalists to destroy their movement, the first step which is the jailing of its most loyal, energetic and class-conscious fighters.

All the workers must and will rally to their aid against the reactionary capitalist class. The ILP conference at Leeds meeting in April passed, unanimously, a resolution condemning the arrest of the Trotskyists. The resolution repudiated the smear campaign of the Tory press against the Trotskyists and placed full responsibility for the strikes on the shoulders of the Tory government and the capitalist class, whose intolerable exploitation and oppression have alone been responsible for



The British capitalist press has eagerly joined the Churchill government's persecutions of the British Trotskyists. The newspaper scareheads reproduced above disclose the red-baiting campaign which has reached, especially in London, proportions that vividly recall a similar campaign during the 1926 General Strike.

THE UPSURGE OF WORKING-CLASS REVOLT

This is only the beginning. The reactionary offensive of British capitalism must be met by united and vigorous defense of the Trotskyists by the whole labor movement. "An injury to one is an injury to all!"

Jack Haston, Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party, wrote just before his arrest, when Tease, Heaton, Lee and Ann Keen had already been imprisoned: "In the coming days we believe that millions of workers will seek the solution to the social problems along the road we have outlined. Despite the sensational raids and arrests; in face of the slanders and lies, our Party—the Revolutionary Communist Party, will keep the banner of International Socialism aloft. We are confident the masses will rally to that banner."

POLITICAL PARTY

The interests of the class are embodied in the program. The instrument for carrying the program into action is the political party. It would require a microscopic eye to discern any essential difference in the programs of the Republican and Democratic parties which represent the interests of the same ruling class. Independent labor political action consists in formulating the interests of the working class in programmatic form, organizing a political party and appealing to the victims of capitalist class oppression, who constitute the overwhelming majority of the people, for support. The argument advanced by the "practical" labor politicians is that by running its own candidates on its own program, labor risks losing whatever influence it may have had with the party that is victorious in the elections. The truth of the matter is that the only impression labor has ever made on either of the major parties has been by the simple expedient of throwing the fear of God and the wrath of man into that party.

The CIO Political Action Committee claims to have a sum in excess of \$700,000 to spend on the coming elections. The CIO has a national organization of over 5,000,000 members. By spending its money, time and energy in organizing an Independent Labor Party on a program that meets the needs of the overwhelming majority of the people, there is no good reason why labor "cannot put up its own candidate for President." Whether or not such a candidate is immediately elected is not decisive. The movement would rally a huge protest vote of those who have been made the victims of the politics of both major parties. Such an expression of protest would have infinitely greater significance.

The failure of the labor movement to organize its own political party and run candidates on its own program, can only result as it did in the past few elections in the shift of a large section of the lower middle class to the Republican camp as a protest against the policies of the administration and the passive protest of large numbers of workers who stay away from the polls because they see no difference between the Democratic tweedle-dee and the Republican tweedle-dum.

"Unlike our own position," says Harris, "which was that of conscious support, many labor people gave him (Roosevelt) their unqualified support, going so far as to give, what we termed, a blank check for 1944." Harris

Anglo-American Alliance Torn By Inner Conflict

By James Cowan

The British and American capitalists are joined in a coalition to enable them to prosecute to a victorious conclusion the war against their Axis rivals. Nevertheless there are frequent reminders in day to day events that the antagonism between the two partners, springing from their economic rivalries has by no means disappeared — that, on the contrary, it continues and grows and may become, under changed conditions, the powder keg of a new explosion.

Due to the need for maintaining a minimum of unity in order to win out in the present conflict against the immediate enemy, the antagonism between the two Powers seldom rises above a muted friction. Occasionally, however, it bursts forth even during the war into strident notes of open hostility.

A few months ago the British imperialists were raising a clamor over plans by American aviation companies to monopolize for themselves the principal commercial airlanes of the world. Now they are alarmed by the decision of the U. S. Government to build pipe-lines from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean to enable the Standard, Texas and Gulf companies to exploit the oil riches of Saudi Arabia.

INCREDOULOUS

According to a London dispatch to the New York Times on March 22, the British capitalists were "incredulous" when they first heard of the project and voiced "anxiety over the strategic implications of the pipe-line, with emphasis on a possible American naval base in the Mediterranean."

While the youth of America is being slaughtered on the battlefields in this war for "democracy" and the "four freedoms," American monopoly capitalism does not forget for a single moment the real aims and purposes of the war. It is engaged in parceling out the world, earmarking areas all over the globe where it intends to seize natural riches and rule the peoples. The Arabian oil project is but one example of this policy of grabbing and looting.

The essential purpose of the present war is a new division of the world in accordance with the actual strength of the imperialist states. Britain's world supremacy was challenged in the war of 1914-18. It was challenged precisely because Britain's economic power was on the decline. The swollen British Empire had become an anachronism. Victory over German imperialism in the first world war enabled Britain to retain her Empire, but it could not restore her economic leadership, which had passed irrevocably to the United States.

U. S. CAPITALISM

The first world war gave tremendous impetus to the development of America's productive plants. While Britain's largely archaic economy was strained to the utmost by the war, the American economy, utilizing abundant natural resources and the newest techniques, forged steadily ahead. American capitalism emerged from the war stronger by far than any of its rivals. By 1930 it was producing 39 percent of the world's coal, 35 percent of the hydro-electric power, practically all the natural gas, 71 percent of the oil, 60 percent of the wheat and flour, 60 percent of her meat, 35 percent of her iron, 90 percent of her timber and wool, and all of her cotton, copper, nickel and oil. In the field of electric power, the most important requisite for modern industry, Britain's production in 1925 was only 282 units per head of the population as compared with America's 710 units.

Contrasting with this position, England had to import 80 percent of her wheat and flour, 60 percent of her meat, 35 percent of her iron, 90 percent of her timber and wool, and all of her cotton, copper, nickel and oil. In the field of electric power, the most important requisite for modern industry, Britain's production in 1925 was only 282 units per head of the population as compared with America's 710 units.

What Britain's declining economic position meant in terms of world trade is illustrated by the fact that her exports in the period between 1913 and 1928 decreased five percent, while American exports increased by 48 percent.

BRITISH FATE

"We are fighting for our lives in world markets," Lord Riddell told a convention of British advertising men in 1929. "Our fate as a nation depends on extending and developing our trade."

A system of imperial preferences was worked out to preserve at least the British colonies from the inroads being made by the American trader, but American big business with its cheaper and more attractive products breached every tariff wall which British ingenuity could devise. Moreover, the American capitalists retaliated against Britain's efforts to keep her empire a closed trading preserve by enacting the Tariff Act of 1922

which was avowedly directed against British imports.

British capitalism was fighting a losing battle against its Yankee rival. Canada became the best market for American exports and Britain's share of foreign capital invested in that dominion fell rapidly while the American share increased. The dollar gradually replaced the pound as the most stable medium of international exchange. Wall Street replaced the City of London as the financial center of the world.

Commencing with 1933, the year of Hitler's rise to power, German imperialism began lifting itself up by its bootstraps, and several years later again made its bid for world hegemony. Wall Street had the same aims and thus the second world war became inevitable. In this way, was postponed the imminent showdown between Britain and the U.S. in the face of the more immediate menace of unbridled German imperialism.

BRITISH DECLINE

As events have transpired, prosecution of the war against Germany in coalition with Britain, has enabled the American imperialists to advance quite far toward their goal of world domination without actually fighting their British rivals. Weakened British imperialism has been compelled to lean even more heavily on the Wall Street colossus and this has enabled American business to penetrate further and further into the preserves of the British Empire. Together with the planes, tanks and guns going to India, Australia, New Zealand, Africa and the Middle East under lend-lease are sent boatloads of American-made consumption goods and capital goods of all kinds. These new markets will not be peacefully relinquished after the war. On the contrary, American capitalism intends to expand and extend its markets and spheres of influence.

Meanwhile, the Wall Street tycoons have also acquired strategic bases in British possessions. There can likewise be no question of peacefully relinquishing these once Hitler's vanquished. American imperialism does not advance only in order to retreat from positions won. To insure profits, markets are necessary. To guarantee the markets, military and naval bases are indispensable. This is what the war is about.

NOTICE

The National Office of the Socialist Workers Party is very much in need of a good typewriter for the next few months. If you have a typewriter you can loan for the next period or contribute, will you please communicate with the National Office, SWP, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.—Tel. AL 4-8547.

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Steel Union Delegates Flay No-Strike Policy

(Continued from page 1)

where. And Murray cannot conceal from them the truth that despite all the fine-sounding resolutions, the indignant protests against the injustices imposed on the steel workers, the elaborate program of demands, the convention failed to adopt and set in motion the one thing the dissatisfied rank and file are seeking—a real program of fighting union action that will bring results.

For stripped of all its flowery phrases, the only program of "action" adopted by the convention under the whipping and prodding of Murray and his machine is to accept without effective resistance the intolerable provocations of the corporations, to rely exclusively on the War Labor Board where the steel union's demands are being stalled indefinitely, as even Murray indicated, and to dutifully vote once more for Roosevelt as the "only leader labor can trust."

For almost two days the delegates had been subjected to a relentless pounding by Murray, his top lieutenants and sundry guest speakers on the need to reaffirm the no-strike pledge, unreservedly approve Murray's conduct of the union's wage case before the WLB and go "all-out" in working for the reelection of Roosevelt.

Whatever opposition might have existed appeared to be thoroughly stifled and cowed. Murray rode high, completely dominating the convention. He seized every opportunity for another lengthy oration, intervening at the first intimation of discussion from the floor. His speeches alone took well over half the convention's time, and his right-hand henchmen and guest speakers monopolized most of the remaining time. Murray had over 500 of his own pay-roll machine men seated as delegates, who intimidated and shouted down other delegates. Out of over 2,300 delegates, not more than 40 had the chance to speak during the entire convention, and their total time on the floor did not exceed five hours. Every time a delegate spoke, even on the most minor question, Murray would begin pacing up and down the long stage, nervously apprehensive lest any discussion lead to an expression of opposition sentiment.

By the afternoon of the second day of the convention, the delegates appeared to have been lulled into a state of complete apathy. The "Report of Officers," on which some opposition had been expected, had been slicked through without a murmur. Murray decided the time was ripe for introducing the resolutions, drafted by a hand-picked committee headed by Van Bittner, one of the four top officials.

RECEIVED COPIES ONLY BEFORE DISCUSSION

Although the resolutions had been prepared several days before the convention, the delegates received copies of them only a few minutes before the discussion began. A delegate managed to get the floor and humbly suggested that the resolutions be held over until the next morning, to give the delegates a chance to study them. Slurringly, Murray sharply declared, "We'd all like a day off. But this is a working convention, and there's a war on." The presentation of resolutions proceeded.

The first two resolutions were passed without comment. One was just an elaborate expression of praise for Murray himself. The other endorsed the Anti-Poll Tax Bill. Murray's resolution reaffirming the no-strike pledge was then introduced. There was a slight stir, a dutiful flurry of applause from the machine delegates. Murray's eyes ranged intently back and forth over the delegates. All appeared serene.

A delegate took the floor, speaking in favor of the resolution, striking the usual patriotic note. There was mild applause.

Then Mark L. Brown, youthful president of Local 2715, Reading, Pa., a member of the resolutions committee, stepped up to the "mike." He stated that he had not known he was a member of the resolutions committee until after his name had been announced in the convention. But if he had had the opportunity to attend the drafting of the resolutions he would have opposed reaffirming the no-strike pledge.

Immediately, an electric tension seemed to run through the convention. There were some boos from the machine men, and remarks of "sit down," and "throw him out." But Brown was not defeated. As he spoke, the hall became very silent.

He proposed that the convention "withdraw the no-strike pledge and be prepared to permit use of the strike weapon after all other means of settlement have failed." For the first time, there was a considerable applause. Murray's face began to turn beet-colored. He started pacing.

After telling of the destructive advantage the employers are taking of the no-strike pledge, Brown continued: "Let us end the unfair and cowardly campaign against workers' rights being conducted in the United States." A regular volley of applause swept the convention.

"I call to the delegates' attention that with the no-strike pledge as it exists it is placing the onus for any work stoppage on our members and officers, no matter what the cause," he stated. "We have given to our enemies a weapon in the public press that is not justified in that it is not a single-edged sword but a double-edged sword that strikes back at us and not at the employers."

"WE WILL NOT BUCKLE DOWN"

In ringing words that evoked a real thunder of applause, he concluded: "We must serve notice on these American fascists who are preparing new forms of slavery for us that we will not buckle down to that slavery."

Murray, visibly disturbed and red-faced, quickly strode to the "mike," after Van Bittner failed to get any enthusiastic response on his no-strike plea.

Murray used every trick of oratory, every threat and demagogic appeal he could muster to beat the delegates back into line. His voice rose to a shout and descended to a whisper. He claimed the delegates were "jeopardizing the union." He spoke in the name of the "boys in the foxholes." He reminded them of their support of Roosevelt and emphasized the "coming invasion." Above all, he placed at stake his own leadership, using his personal prestige to beguile the convention. "I am not aware that the pledge itself has had any disastrous effects upon organized labor," he asserted, in the face of his own previous complaints earlier in the convention about the "inequities" of the Little Steel formula and "unjust administration" of the wage-freezing Stabilization program.

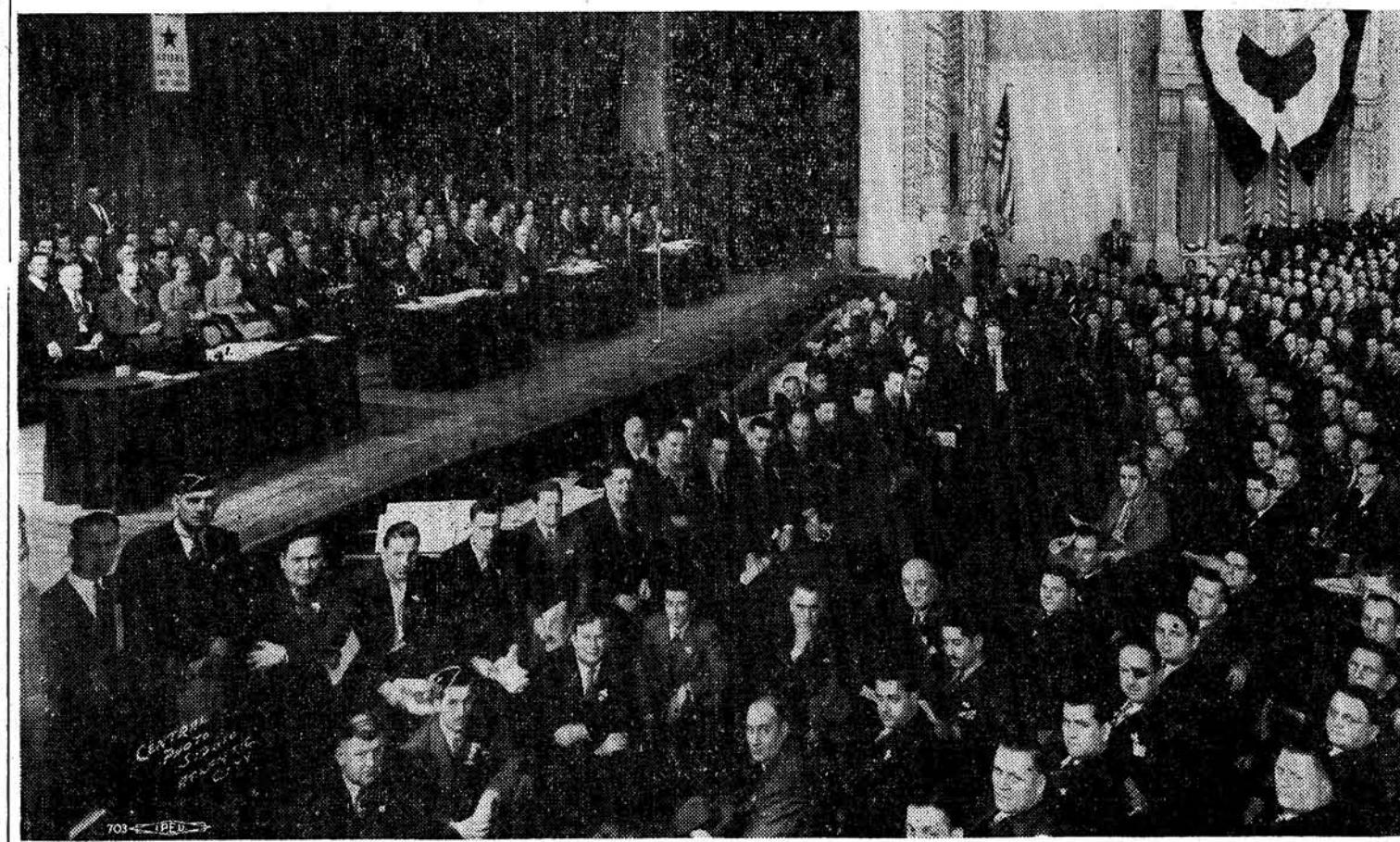
No sooner had he concluded, than his pay-rolled stooges began yelling, "Question, question." Murray hurriedly put to vote a motion to end debate. There was a loud affirmative. But an even stronger negative. Murray announced the motion for the previous question had carried.

Immediately, a storm broke forth. Loud, angry shouts arose from every section of the hall. "Do you call that democracy?" several voices were heard to cry above the uproar. Delegates started moving down the aisles to get to the "mike." Scores were on their feet frantically waving their arms demanding the floor. To appease the rank and file, Murray, for the first time, was compelled to back down and permit further debate.

Then a Negro delegate, Timothy Smith, president of Local 2603, Buffalo, N. Y., secured the floor. When he started to speak against the no-strike pledge, the machine men again began heckling, but their forceful words soon captured the attention of the convention.

In answer to Murray's flag-waving, Smith stated, "I have a son and two nephews in this war, who started out in perfect health, and two of them have already been shot up." Then he challenged Murray. "I have four or five grievances which I'll give the Executive Board. If they can settle them, I'll support the no-strike pledge. But I know they can't." He described graphically the conditions in his own shop, and the impossibility of getting anywhere with grievances. "Grievances are piled high in the War Labor Board." He evoked hearty applause, when he said, "Yes, we can take our grievances to arbitration. But what happens. The lawyer gets \$12,000—
we get two cents."

Scene at Cleveland Convention of CIO Steel Union



Then he directly put the finger on Murray and his henchmen for aiding the companies against militant union men. "There is a tendency among executives of this union to pick out and discipline stewards and local leaders for strikes in local plants. Those who have given blood, sweat and tears to build this union are being pinned up against the wall by the executives."

PUT THE FINGER ON MURRAY

But though Smith's talk was heavily applauded, Murray prevailed. The vote on the no-strike resolution carried, with a strong minority, perhaps a fourth of the delegates, shouting, "No!" A motion was then put to make it a unanimous vote. But the courageous militants, refusing to be intimidated, shouted "No!" once more, and prevented Murray from being able to claim full support for his do-nothing, capitulation program.

There were several important reasons why the no-strike resolution finally passed, despite the clear-cut sentiment of the rank and file against it. In the first place, the opposition was unorganized. The whole debate arose spontaneously. The militants have developed no outstanding leaders and spokesmen, and have not put forward a definite program of their own. The Murray machine, well-oiled and powerful, was on the alert for any caucuses, and it was next to impossible for the militants to get together and map out a program and strategy for the convention.

The delegates did not have a choice of leadership. They were compelled to accept Murray, and therefore his program, because they did not see any other leadership which can replace the leaders now on top. Once they had expressed their indignation at the no-strike pledge, they nevertheless, in the majority, reluctantly went along with it once more rather than break with Murray.

Most important of all, they are still committed, however unenthusiastically, to the Roosevelt administration and its war program. It was above all their inability to hurdle the political obstacle, which binds them to capitalist politics, including the no-strike policy, that frustrated their real desires to break out of the trap created by the no-strike pledge.

The only other significant discussion in which the delegates participated was on the resolution denouncing discriminatory policies against the Negro workers and calling for defense of the rights of Negroes in industry and the armed forces. Several delegates, white and Negro, spoke pointedly on this question, describing the practices of the companies in discriminating against Negro men and women. One Negro delegate made an impassioned plea, "When my boys come back, I want them to come back not like in 1918, when they made a mockery of democracy, but really to the four freedoms they talk so much about."

Walter Merriweather, a Negro delegate from Buffalo, hit the issue squarely on the head. He stated he was for the resolution. "But what made me rise to speak is the question of the way the resolutions are handled after they are passed. In the event you don't mean to put the resolution in action, then I would say to you vote against it. The working class of people among the Negroes are not satisfied by resolutions. They want them backed by actions. We do not hope to win our freedom just by resolutions." The Negro delegates who numbered over a hundred were amongst the clearest and most militant speakers.

CHIEF OBJECTIVE TO BOLSTER WLB

One of the chief objectives of the Murray machine at the convention was to bolster up the government's labor relations machinery, particularly the War Labor Board. But the only thing good the leadership could find to say about the War Labor Board is that it had granted the maintenance of membership clause, so that the union leaders could continue to collect the membership dues even if the workers were deprived of one gain after another and could not defend themselves against price rises, heavy taxation and the provocations of the corporations.

Pressman, the union lawyer, disclosed that the employers plan to drag their testimony out in the current steel case for another year. He complained that they are arguing their cases individually, through over 300 lawyers, each presenting a separate brief. "You may well ask what are we to do?" He answered his own question by proposing that the workers get busy sending in resolutions.

Murray described in detail the "skullduggery" of the employers and government representatives on the WLB. He virtually admitted that the steel workers have already been turned down on their wage demands, when he described the wage-freezing report on price and wage stabilization recently issued by Stabilization Director Vinson, WLB Chairman Davis, OPA Director Bowles and the War Food Administrator, as a "report which for all practical purposes provided an answer to the steel workers demands."

Murray waxed indignant because he had written each of these government officials decrying their shift from previously stated positions, "but I never received a reply." What Murray concealed from the convention was that Roosevelt himself had demonstratively issued the report of his four underlings, and had publicly approved their conclusions.

It was clear that Murray sought to extricate himself from the impasse into which he had led the union's wage demands through reliance on the WLB. At one point he chided the delegates because they were apathetic to the discussion on the union's wage policy. He tried to make it appear as if the delegates were not interested in the higher wages. But after the passage of the no-strike resolutions, the delegates realized that discussion about the campaign for higher wages was fruitless, when their hands had been tied and they could not fight effectively.

In The Colonies

By LI FU-JEN

SOUTH AFRICA

The Union of South Africa is one of the wealthiest territories of the British Empire. It produces 90 per cent of the world's gold supply, a good half of the diamonds, and is rich in other mineral resources. A large part of the country is given over to agricultural pursuits and cattle-raising. Industry is neither large nor extensive, but it is growing. The white population of some 2,000,000 people is outnumbered four to one by the 8,000,000 natives who toil in the mines, factories and farms.

Juridically, the Union is not a colony but a "self-governing" Dominion which has the same international status as Canada and Australia. But for the bulk of the inhabitants—the natives—it is just as much a colony as India. In some respects, indeed, the South African natives are worse off than the colonial slaves of British imperialism in India. The Hindus, for example, are permitted to elect representatives to India's provincial legislatures, but the South African natives are denied even this dubious privilege. They are permitted only to elect three or four WHITE MEN as their "representatives" in the Union parliament. "Self-government" means simply the privilege of the white minority to rule over, oppress and exploit the black and colored majority.

It is for the profit of British absentee bondholders that the native workers toil in the mines of South Africa. Fabulous fortunes, matching those of America's "Sixty Families" have been amassed from the enslavement and exploitation which we have described above. The British imperialists have squeezed enormous wealth from the country. For the native inhabitants, the producers of all this wealth, they leave literally nothing. Social services are almost absent, as they are in India. There is not even universal grade school education and countless thousands must remain illiterate, qualified only for the most menial work.

A peculiarity of South Africa which distinguishes its social relationships from those of other colonies, is the fact that it has a white working-class. In India, the white population consists exclusively of the white capitalists and civil service employees of the British imperialist government. But in South Africa there is a distinct class differentiation among the whites. It is white men who perform all the skilled and most of the semi-skilled jobs in mines, on the railroads, in industry, etc. They are exploited workers despite the fact that their wages are at least ten times greater than those of the natives and that there is a vast social gulf between the natives and themselves.

The rulers have deliberately fostered this white labor aristocracy in order to keep the two sections of the working-class divided and to use the whites as a sort of auxiliary instrument of imperialist rule. But the logic of capitalist development is gradually narrowing the social gulf between native and white workers. The growth of industry and the diamond mines at Kimberley many thousands of them toil in heat and humidity for wages that are the equivalent of about seven dollars a month.

INDENTURED LABOR

When the shift is over, they do not live the lives of free men, but are herded in company compounds with high fences. They may not leave the compounds without passes, and these are not granted freely. Native mine labor is indentured labor. The mining companies employ "recruiting agents" to scour the reservations in search of "hands" to help the gold-bearing rock. The government has seen to it that the natives are so pressed by taxation in the reserves that they readily fall prey to the blandishments of the recruiting agents who hold out to them the prospect of "high wages" and a thrilling city life. They get neither. During the term of the contract they are divorced from their women-folk. No women are allowed in the mining compounds.

DIVIDE LABOR

Against this trend, the white trade unions, imbued with a Jim Crow sentiment of race hatred against the natives, have fought for years in vain. Today the white workers are coming to realize that they have a common interest with their native fellow-workers and a spirit of comradeship and class solidarity is making itself felt. Things which would have seemed inconceivable ten years ago are happening today.

Fraternal delegates from native trade unions sit at congresses of the Trades and Labor Council, the national trade union body. Some of the white unions have even abolished the color bar membership on equal terms. And right now the Trades and Labor Council is campaigning to secure collective bargaining rights for native trade unions which thus far have received no recognition from the bosses or the government.

MENIAL JOBS

Wages in industry and on the land are even lower than in the mines. All skilled and most semi-skilled occupations are barred to native workers. Only the worst menial jobs, including domestic service, are open to them. Domestic servants and workers in industry must get a pass from their white master if they wish to be out after dark and all are subject, in the cities, to a midnight curfew. Police courts are crowded each morning with these semi-slaves who have been picked up without passes and fines are imposed on them which make a sizeable dent in their meager pay. In numerous cases the victims must go to jail for several days because of inability to pay a fine about the equivalent of a dollar. In other cases they prefer jail to payment of the fine because it means free lodging and food for several days.

By law, every adult native male is obliged to perform work for some white master so many weeks of the year. Unless he can furnish proof that he has fulfilled this requirement, he is slated for a prison sentence. When the Nazis and Fascists enforce laws such as this, there is an instant out-

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READ
'THE FOURTH
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The Negro Struggle

By Charles Jackson

W. White: Negro Fighter or Nero Fiddler?

Our colorful secretary of the NAACP has recently returned from a 25,000 mile tour of the war fronts made under the auspices of the War Department for the purpose, we are told, of "studying the problems" of Negro soldiers. Since his return "the little man has had a busy day." There have been speeches, a nation-wide radio talk, plans for a membership drive to be led off with patriotic parades and, undoubtedly, many social gatherings for the top members of the NAACP and other selected elite guests.

Mr. White achieved his latest headline when he fired three-question telegram at Gov. Dewey, potential Republican presidential candidate. Its contents: 1. Are you against the poll tax as a requirement for voting? 2. Do you favor the present bill pending in the Senate to abolish this tax? 3. Will you urge Republican Senators to vote for cloture?

Dewey, a foxy capitalist politician, replied in the affirmative to the first question and deftly sidestepped the last two. Thereupon, our Mr. White exposed sly Governor Dewey by pointing out that the last two questions were the most important. He inferred that Dewey was trying to "fool the Negro people" and that, therefore, the NAACP bigwigs would try to line up the membership behind good old FDR this fall.

STEADY EYE

But, Mr. White, the Negro workers, exploited and insecure, and the Negro soldiers, drafted to fight for "democracy" in a Jim-Crow Army, are viewing your theatrical gestures with a steady eye. They will not be diverted by your grandstand play.

Nero played the fiddle while Rome burned. Are you a Nero fighter or a Nero fiddler? Are you distracting us with a lot of fiddling while our hearts burn with resentment against the second-class citizenship imposed upon us by American capitalism with its maxim of divide and exploit? Do you take your cue from the "militant mass" or are you playing to the tune of the "talented tenth"? Can't you hear the voice of the Negro masses roaring out the earnest demand: WE WANT EQUALITY—HERE AND NOW. In at least three ways, Mr. White, you are failing the Negro masses.

In the first place, we are ready for MASS ACTION. We are fed up with just reading about our plight, hearing about it and talking about it. We want to DO something about it. If you mingle with the crowds as they leave the average Negro meeting, you will hear them asking: What have we accomplished by just listening to things we already know? What now? Why not an organized mass protest?

MASS ACTION

We see Negroes standing up in crowded theatres to object when Negroes are portrayed on the screen as ignorant clowns. Picketing of the Senate has been planned when the poll taxers start their filibuster. Such methods, if carried out in an organized fashion, will accomplish more to

PIONEER PARAGRAPHS

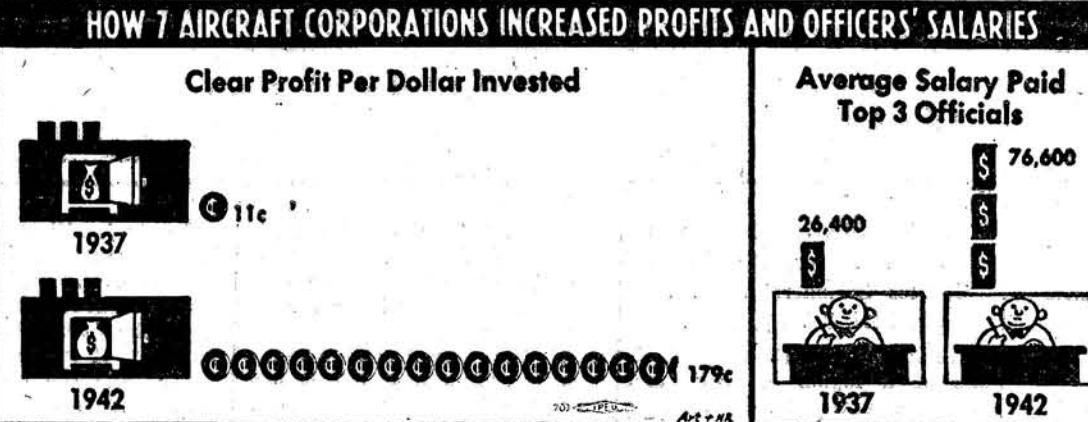
CAPITALIST CLASS CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE DEMOCRACY

After the war a series of brilliantly victorious revolutions occurred in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary and later in Spain. But it was only in Russia that the proletariat took full power into its hands, expropriated the exploiters, and knew how to create and maintain a Workers' State. Everywhere else the proletariat, despite its victory, stopped half way because of the mistakes of its leadership. As a result, power slipped from its hands, shifted from Left to Right and fell prey to Fascism. In a series of other countries power passed into the hands of a military dictatorship. Nowhere were the parliaments capable of reconciling class contradictions and assuring the peaceful development of events. Conflicts were solved arms in hand.

The French people for a long time thought that Fascism had nothing whatever to do with them. They had a republic in which all questions were dealt with by the sovereign people through the exercise of universal suffrage. But on February 6, 1934, several thousand Fascists and Royalists, armed with revolvers, clubs and razors, imposed upon the country

the reactionary government of Doumergue, under whose protection the Fascist bands continue to grow and arm themselves. What does tomorrow hold?

Of course in France, as in certain other European countries (England, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries), there still exist parliaments, elections, democratic liberties, or their remnants. But in all these countries the class struggle is sharpening, just as it did previously in Italy and Germany. Whoever consoles himself with the phrase, "France is not Germany," is hopeless. In all countries the same historic laws operate, the laws of capitalist decline. If the means of production remain in the hands of a small number of capitalists, there is no way out for society. It is condemned to go from crisis to crisis, from need to misery, from bad to worse. In the various countries the decrepitude and disintegration of capitalism are expressed in diverse forms and at unequal rhythms. But the basic features of the process are the same everywhere. The bourgeoisie is leading its society to complete



The 'Liquidation' Of The American Communist Party

(Continued from page 1)

ago. The Stalinists are the only ones in the labor movement who support the "slave labor" compulsory service act, a measure borrowed from the Fascist countries. Even trade union bureaucrats like Green and Murray have protested against the forced-labor proposal.

The Stalinist leaders surpass, if anything, the perfidy of the social-democrats during the last world war, in their betrayal of the working-class, their support of the imperialist war, their abandonment of the socialist revolution. The practical application of this policy is already to be seen in Italy, where the Stalinists have joined in the reactionary police-military dictatorship of Badoglio and the King in order to oppose, frustrate and destroy the Italian revolution.

In the second place, Mr. White, you have made no attempt to ally us as a minority group with any political parties that represent the working people as a whole. Instead, you are still flirting with the capitalist parties, to the detriment of the Negro masses. You have, however, been forthright enough in taking a definite stand against all "radical" movements. The Negro, despite the fact that he has most to gain from Socialism, is sharply warned against it.

THE TWO PARTIES

Mr. White, the Republican and Democratic parties are both controlled by the same big business interests. You are living in a political yesteryear when you ask the candidates of the two major parties to state their intentions and then support the one who promises the most in the prettiest words. What your Dewey and your Roosevelt promise the Negro means nothing. They both represent the big employers. Their interests never coincide with the interests of the working people, into which group the vast majority of Negroes fall.

The advanced workers realize that labor must have its own party. Independent political action on the part of labor is the only medium by which the aims of the NAACP or those of the working class as a whole will ever be realized. It simply doesn't make sense to see a member of a Jim-Crow group support a candidate of a party which is controlled by those people who profit by Jim Crowism. The sooner we break with the two capitalist parties the sooner we will be on the road to equality. True, the white trade union bureaucrats are still backing the capitalist parties, but if you place up your finger on the labor scene you will find which way the wind is blowing among the rank and file. Furthermore, Negro workers, doubly oppressed, must lead, not follow, in the coming working class awakening.

If you are a genuine Negro fighter, Mr. White, you will lead us, with our allies, the white workers, toward militant mass protest and political independence of labor; if you are merely a fiddler, you will stand idly at the head of this powerful mass movement playing your "Mairzy Doots" version of the Negro struggle until the onrushing flames of social progress consume you in their wake.

STALINIST POLICY

The active counter-revolutionary policy of the Stalinists was indicated with transparent clearness by Browder in his interview with PM, when he said: "Our emphasis upon agreement that transcends all class divisions is in no way an underestimate of the crisis of the present system. But we know that the only alternative to this program (of 'national unity') we put forward is a real catastrophic smash-up of a large part of the world which may throw our country and most of the world back into barbarism for 50 or 100 years."

The "catastrophic smash-up" is Browder's cunning and dishonest way of referring to the socialist

reactionary government of Doumergue, under whose protection the Fascist bands continue to grow and arm themselves. What does tomorrow hold?

Of course in France, as in certain other European countries (England, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries), there still exist parliaments, elections, democratic liberties, or their remnants. But in all these countries the class struggle is sharpening, just as it did previously in Italy and Germany. Whoever consoles himself with the phrase, "France is not Germany," is hopeless. In all countries the same historic laws operate, the laws of capitalist decline. If the means of production remain in the hands of a small number of capitalists, there is no way out for society. It is condemned to go from crisis to crisis, from need to misery, from bad to worse. In the various countries the decrepitude and disintegration of capitalism are expressed in diverse forms and at unequal rhythms. But the basic features of the process are the same everywhere. The bourgeoisie is leading its society to complete

revolution. In order to ward off this danger to capitalism, he joins hands with Wall Street and advocates "national unity" — meaning submission of the workers to the capitalist exploiters. He seeks to rescue the decayed capitalist system from the perils of the socialist revolution. The practical application of this policy is already to be seen in Italy, where the Stalinists have joined in the reactionary police-military dictatorship of Badoglio and the King in order to oppose, frustrate and destroy the Italian revolution.

If they wish to struggle for socialism, if they wish to defend the Soviet Union — which can only be defended by the struggle for socialism — they must abandon the putrid, stinking corpse of the Stalinist party. The process of decay and putrefaction has gone so far that it is utopian to imagine that the party can be reformed. In the struggle for socialism it long since yielded place to the Trotskyists, banner-bearers of revolutionary Marxism, socialist internationalism and the struggle for a socialist world.

It is equally utopian for any oppositionists in Browder's party to think that they can create some sort of middle party, standing between Stalinism and Trotskyism and dedicated to the socialist struggle. Trotskyism is the Leninism of the present day. It is the embodiment and continuator of all the great traditions of Marxist-Leninist teachings and struggle. The mass revolutionary party cannot be built in opposition to the Trotskyists. It will be built as part and parcel of the Trotskyist movement.

The Trotskyists stand alone against the imperialists and their war. They stand alone against all the perfidious betrayers of the working class and the Soviet Union. Alone they hold aloft the proud banner of working-class internationalism, the banner of socialism. Every militant worker must find his place beneath its folds.

MCF Petitions For A Place On Ballot

LANSING, Mich., May 9.—The Michigan Commonwealth Federation filed petitions today of nearly 8,000 signatures, mostly unionists, to place the party on the November ballot. 6253 is the required legal minimum.

While the state secretary checks the sufficiency of the signatures, the MCF is studying the possibility of running candidates as mandated by the March 4-5 and the State Committee meeting of April 30. The recommendations will be made to the July 28-30 convention, which will probably meet in Lansing.

The hotel in Grand Rapids, where the July convention was scheduled to be held, cancelled the reservations in favor of the Democrats and Republicans who have also been scheduled to hold meetings.

It was at this stage of the controversy that the Stalinist find Joseph Curran, decided to put in an appearance. Rushing to the defense of the Maritime Commission and in particular, of its union-busting head, Admiral Land, J. Curran, in the guise of an "authority" defended the Liberty ship against all critics and denied that there was any question as to the ships being seaworthy.

Everybody understood this speech for what it was—advance payment for favors he hoped to receive. Immediately afterwards the Soviet agencies in this country involuntarily gave the lie to Curran when they notified the Maritime Commission that they were refusing to accept the score or more Liberty ships that were due to be delivered to the Soviet Government unless these ships were re-built. The Russian Liberty ship S.S. Valery Chekov, incidentally, had also come apart in northern waters a short time before.

The Commission remonstrated that there was no shipyard space for the work of rebuilding.

The Soviet agency insisted, however, so eventually space was found in a Canadian yard for the rebuilding of these ships. (It is not known whether the Maritime Commission in defending the Liberty ship to the Soviet Agency representatives quoted Joseph Curran). Curran's finking did not go unnoticed by the seamen who were given a further object lesson in the cynical depravity of Stalinism.

LIBERTY SHIPS

When the Liberty shipbuilding program was inaugurated under the guidance of the late Secretary of the Navy Knox with his formula, "We can build 'em faster

Ship Crackups Due To Profiteering Practices

By Arthur Sharon

Sixty-five merchant and naval seamen lost their lives last week in the sudden and tragic breakup of the Liberty ship, S.S. John Straub while in Alaska waters. This latest breakup follows by a few weeks a similar accident on the S.S. Joseph Gaines in which ten merchant seamen gave up their lives. These two cases are only the latest in a number of such accidents which have taken place since the Liberty ships were first launched. The public first became aware of

what has long been an open secret in the shipping industry when the Liberty tanker, the S.S. Schenectady broke in two a few hours

after she was turned over by

Kaiser's Swan Island yard to the new operators. This event which occurred a year ago right alongside a dock in full view of several thousand witnesses, created such a scandal that it forced the holding of a public hearing. The hearing revealed that defective plates were furnished by the Carnegie Illinois Steel Corporation, that the ship design was faulty and the production methods questionable. Despite these revelations, the investigation was quietly dropped. Since then one Liberty ship after another has cracked open, with a number of them completely coming apart.

CLASS-CONSCIOUS WORKERS

If they wish to struggle for socialism, if they wish to defend the Soviet Union to its mortal foes, Class-conscious workers in the ranks of Browder's "party" must soberly consider all the implications of the new policy upon which the convention will place its rubber stamp.

SEATTLE WATERFRONT

On the Seattle waterfront today seamen are caustic about their old enemy the Maritime Commission. These men, among whom are numbered the most highly skilled sailors of any port in the world, are not complaining about the usual occupational hazards they face on every type ship.

The Liberty ship, however, is in a different category. Were it not for the scarcity of jobs, the hundreds of seamen now involuntarily on the beach would never take a job on a Liberty ship. Sailor Alexander Schenck, survivor of the Gaines disaster, testified before a congressional committee that he would never sail again on a Liberty ship. After a long stay on the beach, the next ship he made and the last he was ever to make was the John Straub.

It is equally utopian for any oppositionists in Browder's party to think that they can create some sort of middle party, standing between Stalinism and Trotskyism and dedicated to the socialist struggle. The mass revolutionary party cannot be built in opposition to the Trotskyists. It will be built as part and parcel of the Trotskyist movement.

The Trotskyists stand alone against the imperialists and their war. They stand alone against all the perfidious betrayers of the working class and the Soviet Union. Alone they hold aloft the proud banner of working-class internationalism, the banner of socialism.

Practically every Liberty ship sailing out of Seattle to Alaska has been re-rigged on the initiative of the crews. But the sailors' art can scarcely overcome the basic structural faults of the Liberty ship. On some "Liberties" where large cracks open up—usually athwart the No. 3 hatch—attempts are made, as on the S.S. Chief Wachuk, to hold the ship together with turnbuckles and chains. This is the most a sailor can do at sea in such an emergency—and prepare the lifeboats for immediate launching.

NEW PLANS

Despite the mounting evidence that the ships are non-seaworthy, the Maritime Commission went ahead with new plans to convert a large number of these ships into troop transports. Instead of gambling with 75 or 80 lives the proposal was to take a chance on 1500.

Responding to mounting pressure, the Truman Committee formally held hearings on the question of the Liberty ship.

It heard numerous witnesses and then adjourned after recommending that certain structural stiffeners be put into the Liberty ship.

Admiral Land and his Commissioners continued to stoutly defend their department against what they called "sneak" attacks.

It was at this stage of the controversy that the Stalinist find Joseph Curran, decided to put in an appearance. Rushing to the defense of the Maritime Commission and in particular, of its union-busting head, Admiral Land, J. Curran, in the guise of an "authority" defended the Liberty ship against all critics and denied that there was any question as to the ships being seaworthy.

Everybody understood this speech for what it was—advance payment for favors he hoped to receive. Immediately afterwards the Soviet agencies in this country involuntarily gave the lie to Curran when they notified the Maritime Commission that they were refusing to accept the score or more Liberty ships that were due to be delivered to the Soviet Government unless these ships were re-built. The Russian Liberty ship S.S. Valery Chekov, incidentally, had also come apart in northern waters a short time before.

The Commission remonstrated that there was no shipyard space for the work of rebuilding.

The Soviet agency insisted, however, so eventually space was found in a Canadian yard for the rebuilding of these ships. (It is not known whether the Maritime Commission in defending the Liberty ship to the Soviet Agency representatives quoted Joseph Curran). Curran's finking did not go unnoticed by the seamen who were given a further object lesson in the cynical depravity of Stalinism.

LIBERTY SHIPS

When the Liberty shipbuilding program was inaugurated under the guidance of the late Secretary of the Navy Knox with his formula,

"We can build 'em faster

than they can sink 'em," this

be broadcast. Every hour saved on production was just that much more gravy.

Over a year ago Pioneer Publishers issued the book *Maritime* in which Frederick J. Lang first exposed the real plan of the government and the shipowners. While hymns of praise were being sung to the Liberty ship, this book which came out of the foliage, and was addressed to the foliage, had this to say . . . "the present mass production Liberty ship is a jerry built job, made to be sunk. They are thrown together with thin plates . . ." Further, he said, they are "slow ten knot jobs in no way adequate to meet the demands of present day shipping, especially under war time conditions." This is now confirmed by the decision of the Maritime Commission to abandon the 3 year old Liberty ship program in favor of building the Victory ship which will be stronger and faster.

SHOP-TALKS ON SOCIALISM

By V.

"You can't ever have a socialist society because it's against human nature." You hear that argument every so often. People use it almost without thinking. But this only shows they haven't figured out just what human nature is—and they haven't a very clear conception of socialism. They usually just mean that everybody wants to get rich, that everybody says, "I'm for me, and to Hell with the other guy." That everybody would be sore because he couldn't be a millionaire under socialism, and they'd all cheat, rob, and cut the other fellow's throat to become wealthy.

But why is it this way? How can a thing be his and the company's at the same time? Because that's the way the fellows look at it. And when the fellows and the rest of the workers kick the capitalists out, the tools will be one man's and everybody's at the same time. And that's the way the fellows will look at the whole shop too. It will belong to each of them and to all of them. And why should they want to steal the shop from the rest if they know they can make as many fine things as they want to, as many autos and airplanes and clothing and fishing tackle as they choose, for the use of everybody, and make it all far better and far easier than today, without layoffs and shutdowns. The fellows would all realize this, because they'd be doing it, and if anyone was screwy enough to try to take over the shop for himself, the fellows would give him the same thing they'd give to a sneak who'd steal a pair of mikes—the bum's rush!

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212 Roi

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

VOL. VIII—No. 21 Saturday, May 20, 1944

Published Weekly by

THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N
at 116 University Place, New York 3, 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. Single copy: 5 cents. Double orders: 3 cents per copy in the United States; 4 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 5 cents.

"Entered as second class matter March 7, 1944 at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."



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.

CIO Political Action

As an aftermath of the movement for the eight hour day, characterized by tremendous strikes and demonstrations in May 1886, the Chicago trade unions answered the repressions of the employers by launching the United Labor Party. Meeting on September 27, 1886, the United Labor Party drew up its platform and nominated its candidates. The preamble to the platform stated: "It is impossible for a trade unionist to be an active political worker in the Republican or Democratic Parties and remain an honest man in the ranks of labor." In the fifty odd years that have elapsed, the truth of this statement has been confirmed again. Just this last week, it has been illustrated anew by the CIO head, Philip Murray.

When the CIO Political Action Committee was first launched, Murray wrote an article in the February issue of the *American Magazine*, purporting to be a statement of principles of the Political Action Committee. "We are," Murray declared, "for the present, committed to no man or political party. We shall, in the next few months, have our organization perfected and its general principles agreed upon. We shall then, before the national convention of the two major parties, hold a national meeting or conference of our own. We shall draw up and present to the American people a specific set of principles for the general welfare. Then, after the political conventions, we can decide what action to take regarding the two parties and the individual candidates, whether for state or national offices, or for the presidency."

The impression that Murray was obviously attempting to create was that the CIO Political Action Committee would meet in national conference and draw up its own program. This program would then be submitted to both major parties and the party and candidates endorsing the CIO program would be supported in the election. The ambiguous formulation was intended to give lip service to the idea of independent political action which was permeating the ranks of the CIO.

What has happened to this promise? Last week Murray mounted the rostrum of the Steel convention in Cleveland and announced his backing for Roosevelt without asking for any commitments. What has happened to the promise made by Murray in his article that the CIO Political Action Committee would endorse only those candidates who supported its program? The promise has been

forgotten. It was merely a scrap of paper. It was only demagogic.

By their unconditional support of Roosevelt, Murray and the other leaders of the CIO have committed themselves in advance to any program written not by Murray and Hillman, but by the political agents of Big Business who dominate and control the Democratic party. It is truly impossible, as the militant workers of Chicago pointed out as long ago as 1886, for a trade unionist to be an active worker in the Republican or Democratic parties and remain an honest man in the ranks of labor.

Stalin's Accomplices

The Social Democrats in this country profess to be deeply disturbed and outraged by the actions of the Stalinists in rushing to salvage the corrupt, reactionary regime of Badoglio and the House of Savoy. It goes without saying that the treachery of the Kremlin and its henchmen merits condemnation. It is likewise unquestionable that the Stalinists have played the leading role in this whole filthy transaction. But they were not alone. They had accomplices.

After all, the Stalinist poodles weren't the only trained animals to turn a sudden somersault. But from all the fulminations of the *New Leader* one would never suspect that *every single one of the six parties of the "democratic" Junta had participated in "reconstituting" the Badoglio government*. There is not a mention of the despicable compliance and treachery of the Italian "socialists." Not a word about the role of Sforza, that great champion of "democracy"—whose literary contributions used to be one of the *New Leader's* proudest features. Not a whisper about the whole corrupt liberal crew, along with the eminent Professor Croce, who now sit cheek by jowl with the Stalinists in the "new" Badoglio cabinet.

These hypocrites behave like the quick-witted crook who apprehended in a crime shouts "Stop, thief!" and goes through the motions of joining in the chase.

The indignation of the Social Democrats against the Stalinist betrayal in Italy is a pathetic exhibition of hypocrisy. Not only are they accomplices in the crime, but they are avowed supporters of reactionary, counter-revolutionary regimes. For example, they are staunch supporters of Mikhaiлович in Yugoslavia, and they never tire of chiding Churchill for not giving undivided allegiance to the "Chetnik" cause. Just what is the essential difference between the monarchical-clerical-reactionary shadow regime of King Peter of Yugoslavia and the Victor Emmanuel-Badoglio outfit? Slice it how they will, the Social Democrats demonstrate—as they have in the past—by their support of Mikhaiлович that they have nothing in principle against collaboration with police-military dictatorships. What they do object to is having the Stalinists cut in ahead of them. What really disturbs them is that the competition of a really big concern like the Kremlin's peddling the same wares, is pushing them out of business.

Franco Deal

The deal between Washington-London and Franco, the fascist butcher of Spain, has thrown the liberals into a new dither. Freda Kirchwey of the *Nation* and the editors of *PM* have been covering reams of paper to demonstrate that Franco is an untrustworthy, scheming rascal who has no intention whatever of living up to his agreement to cut down on his exports to the Nazis; that the Allied diplomats have really been imposed upon; that the most innocent dupes are in Washington, and so forth and so on. You can always rely on the liberals to muddle things up.

To be sure, the "restrictions" allegedly imposed on Franco are nothing but a fake. But who are the actual perpetrators of this fake? Precisely those gentlemen—headed by Churchill and Roosevelt—to whom the liberals are addressing their admonitions and exhortations. Every dirty deal needs some sort of a covering. The "restrictions" on the export of wolfram, etc., from Spain to Germany are simply a cover and nothing more.

The entire history of the Franco regime and of the Allied dealings with it have long demonstrated that Franco exists and survives only by virtue of the support he has unfailingly received from the "democracies." They helped hoist him into power by their policy of "neutrality" during the Spanish civil war; they have since kept him in the saddle by propping his perfidious regime. The downfall of Franco is not something that Washington and London would either welcome or help bring about. On the contrary, they are as fearful of such an eventuality as Franco himself. They fear the surge of the revolutionary masses that would therewith erupt once again on the Iberian peninsula and that would merge with the greater conflagration which is impending on the European continent itself.

Washington and London have proved time and again (the Darlan deal, the Badoglio deal, the entire history of the *AMG*) that the Franco type government is the one type on which they depend and in which they place any confidence at all to stem the tide of proletarian revolution in Europe. Their policy in support of Franco is directly related to their basic European policy.

Generally speaking, the utterly reactionary character of the capitalist "democracies" becomes most glaringly revealed today when the tasks of the counter-revolution are sharply posed by the course of events. Too horrified to open their eyes in order to look reality—and themselves—in the face, the liberals invent all sorts of fantasies, alibis, and downright lies. In point of fact, that is their chief social function in the service of capitalist reaction.

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Workers' BOOKSHELF

THE RUSSIAN ENIGMA by William Henry Chamberlain, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1944. 307 Pp. \$2.75.

William Henry Chamberlain is one of a legion of newspaper correspondents who, disillusioned by the crimes of Stalinism, has become a trumpet for the imperialist "democracies". In the past period he has been busy issuing long indictments of the Soviet Union from the pages of the *New Leader*, attacking Stalinism and the Bolshevism of Lenin and Trotsky with equal venom.

But American capitalism is embarked for the present on a policy of making a deal with Stalin, clearly recognizing the counter-revolutionary and anti-working class character of his bureaucracy. The leading spokesman of American capitalism frankly praise the Kremlin dictator for his reactionary policies, and so Chamberlain, reluctantly it is true, and strewing reservations as he goes along, must follow suit. This "anti-Stalinist" who attacks Bolshevism as being practically the same as Stalinism, approves precisely those reactionary measures of the Stalin regime which the capitalists applaud. This is the main content of Chamberlain's "impartial", "non-extremist" estimate of the Soviet Union in *The Russian Enigma*.

Three themes run like threads through the entire book. The first is that Bolshevism and Stalinism are products of Russian absolutism. A long history of Russia under Czarist oppression is given in Chapter II in order to arrive at the conclusion: "From the extremism of autocracy it was an easy step to the opposite pole of extremism; revolutionary dictatorship."

The element of truth in this

assertion, that the same backwardness of Russia that nurtured the iron despotism of the Czar was partially responsible for the rise of the Stalinist bureaucracy, is not what Chamberlain emphasizes. He wishes to convey the idea that Russian "tradition" makes it easy for the Soviet masses to put up with tyrants and dictators bearing hardship stoically over long periods of time, suddenly "flaring up in an outburst of wild revolt" and then succumbing to a new group of dictatorial rulers.

Although Chamberlain demonstrates clearly enough that a line of blood separates Stalinism from Bolshevism, he makes every effort to identify the revolutionary dictatorship of the Soviets in the first days of the Revolution and Stalin's later dictatorial regime. For him Stalin is merely a "natural" successor to Lenin as Lenin is a "natural" successor to the Czar.

The second and third themes of the book are closely linked together; in fact they are two variations of one and the same theme. Chamberlain explains that world revolution was a fantastic, utopian dream of Lenin and Trotsky, and, consequently, Stalin's reactionary policies (of chauvinism, the establishment of new privileged bureaucracy, etc.) were "necessary", "practical" steps for the good of the Soviet Union.

Chamberlain continually implies that Lenin and Trotsky conceived of the world revolution as something that would appear all at once and without fail. From this false premise he reaches the doubly false conclusion that since the revolutionary movements in Europe were temporarily defeated the idea that successful socialist revolutions can take place in the rest of the world has been demonstrated once and for all to be false. This is Chamberlain's

Reviewed by DAVID JEFFRIES

Montgomery Ward Workers Are Left Holding The Bag

(Continued from page 1)

is as precarious as it has been at any time since its representatives first talked with Ward management more than two years ago."

Second, we learn that leading corporations throughout the Chicago area are following Avery's lead and are refusing to renew union contracts, until new elections are held. This campaign is of an especially invidious character, as it wears out union energies and resources in preparing every year for elections which even when won—"don't mean a thing."

INVIDIOUS CHARACTER

Third, the National Labor Relations Board, under the pressure of Big Business and its new labor-baiting offensive, has already stated that under present procedure the employer has the

privilege of seeking examination of union representation when confronted by complaints by two or more unions." The Board further announces that it is now calling a hearing to consider instituting a new regulation which will permit the employer to petition for union elections.

TRUE MEANING

The true meaning of this vicious anti-labor thrust can be fully understood when we recall that the big corporations launched a full scale campaign two years ago for the passage of precisely such an "amendment" to the Wagner Act, by Congressional action. Due to union pressure, this "amendment" failed. Today, the NLRB a Roosevelt administrative agency, blandly announces that it is considering adopting this anti-labor provision by its own arbitrary decree.

The Ward case must become an

alarm signal for all labor. Its lesson is unmistakably clear: if organized labor persists in placing reliance in boards, hearings, litigations, lawyers, briefs, etc., it will slowly be sapped of every bit of its fighting strength. The corporations will then quickly move to wipe out the whole union movement and bring back the open shop. Labor can smash this conspiracy against its existence and rights only by reasserting its independence. The unions will become independent again only when they cease to rely on the NLRB and reassert their right to strike.

For a Rising Scale of Wages to Meet Rising Living Costs

International Notes

GERMANY

Signs are multiplying that the German workers, held down for eleven years under the bestial totalitarian rule of the Nazis, are recovering their confidence and will to struggle. Following recent reports of a revival of genuine Communist activity among the workers and the constitution of an underground trade union center, comes news of an extensive strike movement in the most important cities, including Berlin, Hamburg, Zeissen and Brandenburg.

According to the British Ministry of Information, the terrible Allied air bombardments are the immediate cause of the strikes. It is usually the workers' residential districts, grouped about the industrial sections of the cities, which take the brunt of the attacks. Tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of working-class families have had their homes destroyed. The conditions of life, bad enough in normal times, have become intolerable.

On top of the harassment and anguish caused by the raids, and the loss of sleep during night alerts, the German workers are being forced by the Nazi task masters to speed up on the job so that material losses may be made good and the war machine kept running. Dissatisfaction is mounting and in some of the big industrial centers has almost reached the stage of open rebellion.

The German armed forces are also beginning to be infected with the spirit of revolt. A report carried by the Swedish newspaper *Stockholm Tidningen* states that

about 100 of Hitler's Austrian soldiers were killed or wounded recently during a two-day battle when an entire battalion of Austrian Alpine troops on the Murmansk front mutinied. Their meat ration had been cut and they had been told that they were not to be relieved although they had been stationed on the Murmansk front since the beginning of the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

Col.-Gen. Eduard Dietl, commander of the German army in the Arctic, ordered newly-arrived German troops to quell the mutiny and a battle ensued. The surviving mutineers were sent to concentration camps in Norway and will be sent to Germany for court-martial, the Swedish paper said.

INDIA

There is probably more than meets the eye in the decision of the British imperialists to release Mohandas K. Gandhi, Indian nationalist leader, who was imprisoned in August, 1942 in the Aga Khan's palace at Poona following a decision of the Congress Party to embark on a campaign of civil disobedience. Gandhi's failing health was given as the reason for his release. That is undoubtedly part of the reason. In addition the day after his release was effected, Gandhi's spokesmen said it was a "foregone conclusion" that he would meet with the British viceroy, General Wavell, "in an attempt to reconcile the differences between Great Britain and India and thereby swing a united India into the war." (AP

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Allied And Axis Bankers Still Do Business As Usual

There's a war on. The aim of the war, according to Roosevelt and Churchill, is to crush the Axis in order to preserve democracy and to bring peace and freedom to all the world. For this supposed aim, men are dying on all the battle-fronts. They will die on May 22 as on every other day. But that is not going to prevent the moguls of American and British Big Business from gathering in Berne, Switzerland on that same day, together with Nazi and Japanese capitalists, to split a dividend that is to be declared by the Bank of International Settlements.

"War or no war," states the *N. Y. Times*, authoritative Wall Street mouthpiece, "the Bank of International Settlements will hold its 14th annual meeting on May 22 at its headquarters in Basle, Switzerland. What is more, representatives of the Allied nations, although they be junior members, will attend the meeting, as well as banking representatives of the Axis nations. According to schedule, the president, Thomas H. McKittrick, a U. S. citizen, will preside, and the directors will declare a dividend."

Due to votes gained through occupation of most of Europe, Hitler's government acquired nominal control of the Bank, which is a clearing house of international finance capital. But the good "democratic" bankers of America and Britain have continued their membership. Dividends are more important to them than high-sounding principles. American banks headed by the First National Bank of New York represent American interests in the Basle bank. First National is a J. P. Morgan enterprise.

And so on May 22 the American and British bankers will sit cheek by jowl with their Nazi and Japanese banking conferees in Basle. News of this amicable get-together, one may be sure, will not appear in Army newspapers published on the battle-fronts. It might evoke dangerous thoughts in the minds of the soldiers.

Canadian Workers Protest Release of Two Fascists

Two of Canada's top flight fascists, Joseph Farr and John Lorimer, have been released from internment by the Canadian government and the action has aroused a storm of protest similar to that in England when the Churchill government released Sir Oswald Mosley, the British fascist leader.

The pair were interned following a trial in which conclusive proof was adduced of their connections with Mosley and also with Fritz Kuhn, New York leader of the German-American Bund. But their release was effected secretly last month and has only just come to light. When questioned as to the why and wherefore, Minister of Justice Louis St. Laurent replied: "The Department of Justice does not make any public statements when men are interned or when they are released."

Protests have followed thick and fast. The CIO United Electrical Workers Union in Canada asked all its locals to hold protest meetings and the Toronto District Labor Council (AFL) passed a unanimous resolution, denouncing the government action. When 81 merchant seamen docked in Halifax after a North Atlantic run they sent a protest to St. Laurent which read: "We demand that they, and all fascists be interned immediately." Royal Canadian Navy gunners serving on the same ship with the seamen also signed the protest.

The tender consideration which the "democratic" capitalist governments show for avowed fascists is not extended to genuine anti-fascist fighters in the working-class movement, many of whom languish in prison camps in Canada as well as other parts of the English speaking world. Mosley and Farr and Lorimer were interned in the first place, not because they were fascists and enemies of democracy, but because they were considered aides of the German rivals of Anglo-American capitalism. Their release is one more proof that democracy is not the real issue of the war.

Corporation 'Farmers' Attempt New Land-Grab

The great land-owning barons are out to get their talons on the great agricultural reclamation project being carried out by the Federal government in California's rich Central Valley. An expenditure of \$200,000,000 has been authorized for the irrigation of the project which is expected to bring some 550,000 acres of new land into cultivation.