

FREE THE 18!

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. VIII—No. 31

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1944

267

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

UAW President Supports Fight To Free The 18

Thomas Letter States Reasons Why Labor Should Back the Imprisoned Trotskyists

R. J. Thomas, President of the CIO United Automobile Workers, largest international union in the country, has declared his support for the 18 imprisoned Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO leaders convicted under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act.

Thomas, whose international represents over one million members, stated his position in a letter addressed to W. G. Grant, President of Ford Local 600, and read before the local's General Council meeting on July 9. It answered a Local 600 inquiry concerning the attitude of the UAW and CIO on the Minneapolis Labor Case by stating:

"I am of the opinion that these people should be supported for two reasons: first, the National CIO takes that position; and second, they were undoubtedly sent to prison under a law with which we cannot possibly agree. That does not mean that we agree with the policies of these particular individuals, but the case itself involves a serious threat to labor generally in the state of Minnesota."

Thomas' statement followed the action of the Resolutions Committee at the recent Michigan CIO Convention, representing 800,000 organized workers, which by a 6 to 1 vote endorsed a resolution in support of the 18 and has recommended its adoption by the incoming state executive board.

These expressions of support lend additional weight to the growing labor and liberal forces, now numbering close to 300 union, Negro, fraternal and civil rights organizations with over 2,000,000 members, which have given their moral and material aid to the Civil Rights Defense Committee's campaign to free the 18.

URGE PARDON

These resolutions, along with petitions bearing over 11,000 individual signatures and hundreds of letters from labor and liberal leaders, will be presented to the Presidential Pardon Authority in Washington during the first week of August by a CRDC-sponsored committee of nationally prominent union and civil rights spokesmen. This committee will urge President Roosevelt to grant an unconditional pardon to the 18 victims of the outstanding viola-

(Continued on page 2)

Allies Reveal Plan For Strangling the German Revolt

By Ralph Graham

With wide fissures opening in the Nazi regime, presaging its downfall, the imperialist bandits of the Allied "democracies" are making ready to put into operation their nefarious plans for strangling the working class revolution which they are now certain is going to follow.

Just as they sought to destroy the great Bolshevik Revolution which arose in Russia from the carnage of World War I, so today they stand ready to sink their bloody talons into a revolutionary socialist Germany.

CHURCHILL'S ROLE

Churchill was the principal plotter against the workers' Soviet Republic which emerged from the Bolshevik Revolution. He was to the fore in inspiring, encouraging and financing the White Guard counter-revolution and in organizing the inter-Allied military intervention. Among his imperialist co-conspirators was Woodrow Wilson, who preached the "right of self-determination of all nations" but worked to overthrow the Bolshevik regime which had been freely chosen by the workers and peasants of Russia. It was Wilson who sent American troops to Archangel and to Vladivostok to cooperate with the White Guard rabble in their attempts to drown the Russian Revolution in its own blood.

Once again, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, Churchill occupies the center of the counter-revolutionary stage, with plans for smashing the German socialist revolution. His leading fellow-conspirator this time is another "great Democrat" — Frank

Mont. The Jewish Labor Commit-

(Continued on page 5)

tion of civil liberties during World War II.

The flow of supporting resolutions and financial contributions from union and other labor bodies is increasing every week. Last week alone, resolutions and contributions were received from the following unions and labor fraternal bodies:

UAW-CIO Local 142, Dearborn, Mich.; UAW-CIO Local 3, Hamtramck, Mich.; Dairy, Bakery, Cereal and Food Workers Division (20 locals); CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, Detroit, Mich.; St. Louis Joint Council, URWDSSEA; CIO Textile Workers Local 139, Trenton, N. J.; CIO Textile Workers Local 140, Maynard, Mass.; AFL Machinists Local 68, San Francisco; AFL Food Packers Local 124, New York City; Sheep Shearers Union Local 1, Butte, Mont. The Jewish Labor Commit-

(Continued on page 5)

ment is accompanied by a reduction in wages for those employed. Those made jobless by cutbacks are forced into taking lower paid jobs in other departments or in other plants. In a survey conducted by the N. Y. Post it was found that such changes in employment result in "a pay cut of about \$20 a week." Many of these industrial expendables," says the Post, "have refused at first to work for lower pay, but they are being forced into new war jobs by the strict War Manpower Commission job-control which went into effect July 1."

With such pay cuts imposed on the workers through the medium of the Roosevelt-McNutt forced labor plan, the gradual elimination of overtime with its premium pay together with a shortening of the work week has resulted in a general drop in "take home wages." This decline in "take home wages" in the face of a constantly rising cost of living and higher taxes means a lowering of the worker's standard of living. While corporation profits soar to higher levels, wages remain frozen under the Little Steel formula. To close the widening gap between frozen wages and the rising cost of living labor must fight under the slogan of: a rising scale of

(Continued on page 2)

The productive capacity of American industry has expanded so prodigiously that for the first time in history capitalism is unable to provide full employment in the midst of a world-wide war, in which a potential labor force of over ten million is in the armed forces. The growth of unemploy-

(Continued on page 2)

MORTAL CRISIS STRIKES CRUMBLING NAZI REGIME

He'll Finish Them Both



Democratic Party Convention Furthers Big Business Aims

By Art Preis

Blessed and backed by a powerful section of the more far-sighted Wall Street interests, Franklin D. Roosevelt was renominated virtually automatically last week as the Democratic Party's 1944 presidential candidate. His platform, which reveals throughout his personal imprint, contains but one tangible plank — a pledge to prosecute to successful conclusion Wall Street's war for world domination, and to impose a conqueror's "peace by force."

Roosevelt, as he himself stated in his nomination acceptance speech, stands "on the record." That record shows that Roosevelt in his foreign policy has consistently advanced Wall Street's fundamental program of world domination. Under his regime at home, Big Business, through its control of the war production program, has immeasurably strengthened its monopoly grip on America's productive facilities and resources. It has piled up unprecedented war profits and thrust its hands into a grab-bag containing billions worth of government-financed plants and land developments. It has fastened such government shackles on labor as compulsory arbitration, wage freezing, forced labor decrees, anti-strike legislation, exhortation taxes.

running mate could in no wise affect the basic course and policies of the Roosevelt administration. That course is determined by the fundamental world aims of American capitalism, which Roosevelt has consistently pursued. The significance of the conflict over the vice-presidential nomination at the convention lies in its symptomatic character. It revealed Roosevelt's contempt for his servile supporters among the union bureaucracy, whom he knows he can count on, no matter how many blows he delivers to labor.

BOSSES AND CIO

Sidney Hillman, Philip Murray and the other "labor statesmen" of the CIO Political Action Committee chose to assert themselves at the convention by a demonstrative campaign for the renomination of Wallace. Their

(Continued on page 4)

Fall of Tojo Gov't Shows Sharpening Of Crisis in Japan

By Li Fu-Jen

Japan's imperialist ruling class is moving at an accelerated pace toward the abyss of social revolution. The collapse of the Tojo cabinet last week was a symptomatic reaction in the ruling summits to a growing restiveness at the base of Japanese society, which, as in the case of Nazi Germany, portends a violent revolutionary upheaval.

For seven long years the Japanese workers and peasants have

(Continued on page 4)

Germany Stands On Brink Of Mass Revolutionary Upsurge

Junker Officer Caste Makes Desperate Bid To Salvage Its Power By Deal With Allies

By William F. Warde

Hitler's totalitarian regime, which he boasted would "reign for a thousand years," is today in the throes of a mortal crisis. Eleven and a half years after the Nazi agents of German capitalism waded to power through the blood of the German working class, the rulers of Germany are at each other's throats and engaged in a virtual civil war. This savage conflict on top reflects profound revolutionary ferment below among the masses. The mighty German proletariat is preparing to rise up against its oppressors, wipe out the Nazi enslavers and deal death blows to capitalist-Junker rule.

ATTEMPTED COUP D'ETAT

The momentous events which began to shake Germany last week were precipitated by an attempted coup d'état led by Junker Generals and a reported assassination attempt against Hitler. A sweeping blood purge ensued within the commanding summits of the armed forces, already crumbling under catastrophic defeats. Hundreds of officers were reported executed, including Col. Gen. Beck, former chief of staff. Thousands more were arrested.

At the same time, there were persistent rumors of mutinies in the naval forces at Kiel and Stettin and among the troops at the front, and of clashes between the Wehrmacht and SS detachments.

Hitler, Reichsmarschall Goering and Grand Admiral Doenitz were compelled to appeal over the radio to the German army and people, pleading with them to ignore the orders of the conspirators and remain loyal to the Nazi regime. To ensure that loyalty, however, Hitler went to extraordinary lengths, placing Gestapo-head Himmler in charge of the army within the Reich and appointing Nazi henchmen over the army commanders.

Simultaneously with the disclosure of these events, dispatches reported violent disturbances in Berlin and other leading cities. Other accounts stated that the

streets of Berlin were deserted and patrolled by SS detachments and the Gestapo. Hitler has been obliged to institute martial law within Germany itself, signifying that his regime is now under a state of siege.

These are unmistakable signs of a developing revolutionary situation in Germany. They recall the events of 1918, when, after the Russian Revolution, the German General Staff abandoned all hope of victory, mutinies broke out in the armies and in the fleet, the workers, soldiers and peasants rose up, formed Workers and Soldiers Councils and working class governments were established in parts of Germany. With the subsequent unfoldment of events, the present crisis can lead to the overthrow of the Nazi regime through the insurrection of the masses. Germany stands on the threshold of the proletarian revolution!

The news that comes through to us is fragmentary and mutilated by a manifold censorship. But it is clear that incipient civil war has broken out in Germany. It has been set off by the Junker bid for supreme power. Hitler himself disclosed the engineers and aims of the conspiracy when he denounced the "clique of ambitious, unscrupulous, and at the same time foolish, criminally stupid officers" who "hatched a plot to remove me, and, together with me, virtually to exterminate the staff of the German High Command."

Thus, Hitler admits he is now at war with the Junker military caste who provided one

(Continued on page 5)

How Workers Can Fight Peril Of Unemployment

By R. Bell

Estimates of the number of unemployed by the end of this year vary from two to four million. The latter figure is given by the AFL economist, Boris Shiskin, who contends it is based on "known factors" in the production program. Shiskin declared that the estimate of four million unemployed by the end of 1944 was "conservative," and is based on the assumption that the war against Germany and Japan is still going on. In the event of a

concession, the choice of Truman or Wallace as Roosevelt's

(Continued on page 4)

Stalinist Hooligan Assault Denounced In Washington AFL Convention Motion

In a frenzy of journalistic hydrophobia the Stalinist gutter

rag, *The New World*, (July 20) snarled through two full pages at the "Trotskites," a term which, in the vocabulary of Browder's pen-prostitutes, includes all workers and progressives who fight for labor's rights, civil liberties and free speech. The Stalinist frenzy was occasioned by the action of Local 104, embracing 20,000 members of the Boilermakers Union in Seattle, which had adopted a resolution condemning *The New World* for instigating an assault by Stalinist hooligans on a meeting of the American Friends Service (Quakers) held at the Plymouth Congregational Church.

The New World attributed the adoption of the resolution to a "Trotskite cell" in the Boilermakers Union and then proceeded to red-bait Local 104 for supporting and contributing to the defense of the 18 Minneapolis labor prisoners framed up under the notorious Smith "Gag" Law. The issue was "loaded" with reactionary muck dug out of the pages of its parent organ, the *Daily Worker*, in a desperate attempt to influence the state convention of the AFL which was being held at the time.

The Stalinist editors addressed the convention in an editorial lecture to the delegates on "how the

Fascism cannot be defeated by borrowing the methods of the fascists. The preservation of the labor movement requires vigilante defense of the democratic rights of labor. Organizing hooligan gangs to break up meetings, acting as fingermen for the cops, slandering and vilifying those who stand opposed to their policy of unconditional surrender to the bosses and their government, the Stalinists direct their main blows at the most uncompromising fighters for labor's rights and labor's interests — the Trotskyites.

The workers in the Pacific Northwest, who have a long and militant tradition in the struggle for free speech, have been taught a valuable lesson. Under cover of a red-baiting attack on "Trotskite cells" the Stalinists sought to terrorize the workers into condoning an act of political vandalism. The stinging rebuke administered by the organized labor movement of the State of Washington quickly called the Stalinists to order. We know that this lesson will not be lost on the American labor movement!

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

It is now going on three months since President Roosevelt broke the Chicago Montgomery Ward strike by seizing the plant on the pretext of compelling Sewell L. Avery, the nation's No. 1 Open Shopper, to comply with WLB directives issued last year. Avery has his plant back, is slashing away at the union, and hasn't obeyed any government directives to date.

Roosevelt has proved himself singularly flabby about enforcing the orders of his own agencies against such recalcitrant employers. Meanwhile, Avery is fighting a cagey delaying action through the courts against compliance with the WLB orders for granting of a maintenance of membership clause to the union.

Last week, the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Washington, D. C., got around to throwing out Avery's suit to enjoin compliance with the WLB's directives, issued 18 months ago, ordering his company to sign a maintenance of membership contract with the unions in his Detroit, Denver and Jamaica, N. Y., stores. The court ruled, binding on all lower courts, that no judicial agency may interfere with the enforcement of orders by a government war agency, and conversely, that WLB orders are not enforceable by court orders.

So far, this hasn't prodded a stiff out of Roosevelt or the WLB. Avery is sitting tight and planning to stall a lot longer by appealing to the U. S. Supreme Court. It should be plenty clear by now that Roosevelt has two distinct policies concerning the enforcement of WLB directives. When union men refuse to comply with the pro-corporation orders of the WLB, FDR swings a big club, using troops when he thinks it necessary, and he acts with the speed of a P-51. But when labor-hating profiteers like Avery spit in the face of the WLB repeatedly, Roosevelt becomes mighty absorbed in other things, like Democratic Party conventions.

* * *

Last week, this column reported one of the latest moves in the Stalinist campaign to disarm the unions and open the gates of the labor movement from within to the offensive of the open-shoppers. That was the action of the Stalinist leadership of Local 65, CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, in giving the employers a column in the local's paper, *New Voices*, to spread their opium among the workers.

A union leadership which opens the columns of the labor press to the propaganda of the unions' enemies isn't the type which will fight for the interests of its members, as the very issue, July 9, which publishes the first of the bosses' columns gives direct testimony. On the opposite page *New Voices* publishes the list of Local 65 WLB cases which have been stalled before that body. Local 65 has no less than 64 cases, one submitted as far back as February 1943, bogged in the WLB swamp. Almost half of the cases go back more than six months.

In the face of this miserable record of failure to defend the interests of their own membership and of servility to the employers, the Local 65 Stalinist leaders have the gall, in the July 23 *New Voices*, to stab in the back the members of their own international union who went on strike at Montgomery Ward. *New Voices* devotes an entire page to an attack on the striking union, and the leadership which backed the strike. It even goes so far as to state that the union in striking "did exactly what Avery wanted" and against their own union brothers defends the strike-breaking actions of Harry Bridges, who has been denounced throughout the labor movement.

This treacherous crew calls for a "real labor leadership"—namely, one which will "mobilize all the people of America behind the War Labor Board." What is needed is a mobilization of the Local 65 members to give the boot to the finky Stalinist machine, and get a militant leadership that will organize real fight to clean up the scores of Local 65 cases buried in the WLB "Graveyard of Grievances."

* * *

In his summation of the CIO Steel Workers wage case before the WLB panel hearings, CIO General Counsel Lee Pressman answered arguments of the steel corporation mouthpieces that the government has no power to balance price rises by granting wage increases. Pressman correctly pointed out that the only law limiting Roosevelt's power to raise wages is the Stabilization Act of October, 1942, which authorized him to maintain total wages and prices at their September, 1942 levels.

Pressman further quoted Roosevelt's statement in September, 1942, that "if we are to keep wages effectively stabilized, it becomes imperative, in fairness to the workers, to keep equally stable the cost of food and clothing and shelter and other articles used by the workers."

The CIO attorney pleaded: "If you take this commitment of the President of the U. S. to the people of the nation, we ask how can it be argued that it is the government's policy not to protect wages against a rise in the cost of living. Any contention to the contrary is to fly in the face of the policy announced by the President of the U. S."

Now this is a very impressive point—except that it was not addressed to the correct parties. If Roosevelt and his war labor agencies have not only the power but the policy "to protect wages against a rise in the cost of living," then why haven't they done so? On the contrary, through his two "hold-the-line" orders and the WLB's Little Steel Formula, Roosevelt is directly responsible for imposing the wage freeze while the cost of living has soared over 45 per cent. Only recently, on the basis of one of the dirtiest "compromise" deals on record, Roosevelt signed the emasculated "price control" bill, which virtually guarantees immunity to the war profiteers while they intensify their price gouge.

Pressman, Philip Murray, head of the CIO and the Steel Workers Union, and all the other CIO tops are playing a political con game. They admit the Administration's power and "policy" to keep wages in line with price rises, but then go through a lot of double talk trying to conceal the truth about Roosevelt, before whom they bow as abject servitors.

Although he has spilled a lot of demagogic twaddle about equalizing wages and prices, Roosevelt has used his power deliberately to clamp down the wage freeze and to protect the price-hoarding profiteers. Pressman and his like are covering up this fact with a lot fancy talk in order to keep the workers from a real fight for wage increases. That is why Murray and his lieutenants confine their "fighting" to whinings before the WLB, the very agency brought into being by Roosevelt, with the connivance of the union bureaucrats, to put a leash on the unions and frustrate their demands for wage increases.

He explained, "The object of the Militant Workers Federation is to coordinate the struggles of the working class in the unions and the factories, for a fighting, militant working class policy." In response to Scott's demand, "You want to shake the country?", Tears replied, "I want a socialist society in Britain and the world, which would completely overturn present day society."

Comrade Heaton Lee, a former organizer of native mine workers in South Africa, was asked: "What interest did you have in the boys going down the mines?" Said Lee, "I had great deal of interest. I have been down the mines for four years and I know what it is like. I know the chaos and waste that results from the private ownership of the mines."

He testified that he had spoken at meetings of the apprentices and given them political advice on how they could win the fight.

"My idea was that they should gain for themselves all the support they could among other sections of the working class... to bring pressure to bear on the Gov-

ernment to agree to their demands (nationalization of the mines)."

KEEN AND HASTON

The prosecutor's sarcasm reached its low point in his brief interrogation of Comrade Ann Keen, District Secretary of the Northeast (London) section of the Revolutionary Communist Party. His major question to her was "You devote your whole life to the work of the Revolutionary Communist Party?"

"Well, as much of my life as I possibly can," was her calm reply.

Comrade Jock Haston, General Secretary of the RCP, testified that he had, as a reporter for the *Socialist Appeal*, met the apprentices' delegation which had come to London to demonstrate before Parliament their opposition to the Bevin mine-draft plan.

"I suppose you discussed politics with the apprentices in London?" the prosecutor asked.

"I discussed politics with them as much as I could. I am a politician," Haston answered.

Comrades Tears and Lee were sentenced to 12 months, Haston to six months, and Keen to thirteen days imprisonment, for "aiding workers on strike." The comrades were not permitted to make a final statement before sentence was passed," writes the *Socialist Appeal*. "Despite this, the political issues were clear. The revolutionary policy of the

count on the sub drive, I could hardly believe it was over seven thousand subs. Our comrades have done a wonderful job. It seems incredible that with our limited numbers and all other work, so much was done in this recent campaign. New York especially receives my respect."

Rochester: "Comrades here are elated over the outcome of the sub campaign. Being on top is no small honor. As one comrade put it, this branch will now have to maintain the same high standard in all phases of party work. And I believe they will!"

Buffalo: "The Buffalo people don't feel

too bad about winding up in third place. They think, and rightly so, that in pacing the country through most of the campaign, Buffalo has functioned as a sort of spark plug that helped step up the tempo of the drive."

"Our renewal work is difficult mainly because the majority of people were not in. (It was a sunny Sunday yesterday!) But we will also go out evenings during the week in order to catch these people at home."

"We attempted to sell the four Minneapolis Trial pamphlets for 25¢, and were successful in selling five sets. In some cases people who did not wish to renew bought the pamphlets. Of the nine discontinued subs, four are leaving town, two are now in the armed forces, one address was incorrect and we can't check on it, and two are just not interested."

"Our agent in New Haven reports continued success in obtaining 3-month subs: "We went canvassing yesterday and got the four subs. In one block all told we have got nine subs. We are continuing our sub drive every Friday night."

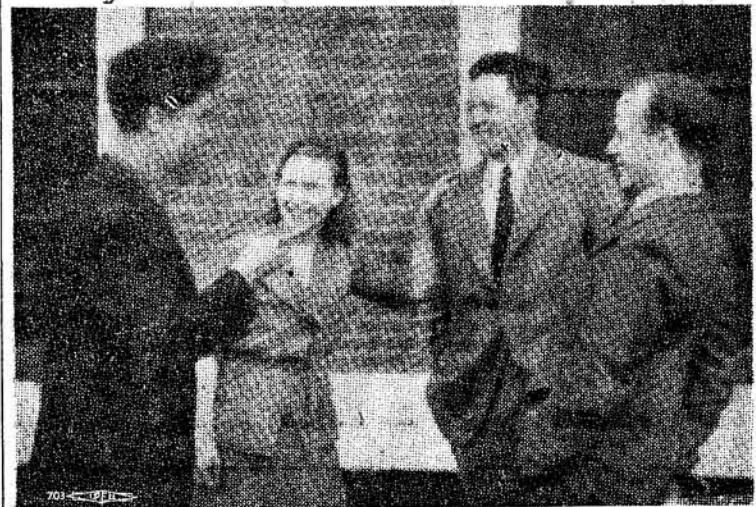
Agents sent the following comments concerning the Militant Subscription Campaign:

Chicago to West Side Branch (New York Local): "We wish to extend our hearty congratulations for your superlative work in the sub drive and to acknowledge you as the champions in our three-way competition. "We hope to turn the tables in the coming literature campaign."

Detroit: "When I saw the latest

Trial Shows British Trotskyists Were Sent To Jail Because Of Their Socialist Views

The Four British Trotskyists



Comrades Jock Haston, Heaton Lee, Ann Keen, and Roy Tearse, photographed shortly before their trial.

R. J. THOMAS STATES SUPPORT FOR IMPRISONED TROTskyISTS

(Continued from page 1)

the request at a meeting of the Executive Board.

At the July 9 Council meeting, the CRDC distributed copies of \$50, and contributions have been received from four more lodges of the Workmen's Benefit Fund, No. 245, N. Y. C., 368, Reading, Pa., 265, St. Louis, Mo. and 248, Secaucus, N. J.

STALINIST SABOTAGE

The letter from R. J. Thomas was requested by the Ford General Council at its June 11 meeting, following the action of the Council in tabling the question of support for the 18 when the clique of Stalinists, who hold strategic posts in the Local, fought viciously against a resolution of endorsement.

Nevertheless, in this body hitherto dominated by the Stalinists, the resolution was narrowly defeated by a three-to-two vote. That the ranks, given an opportunity to get full and unbiased information on the case, that one of them had to be called to order by President Grant.

When the local CRDC committee sought to obtain permission to speak before the next council meeting to answer the Stalinist slanders and falsifications with the documents in the case, the Stalinists succeeded in blocking these examples.

Workers Can Fight No-Work Peril

(Continued from page 1)

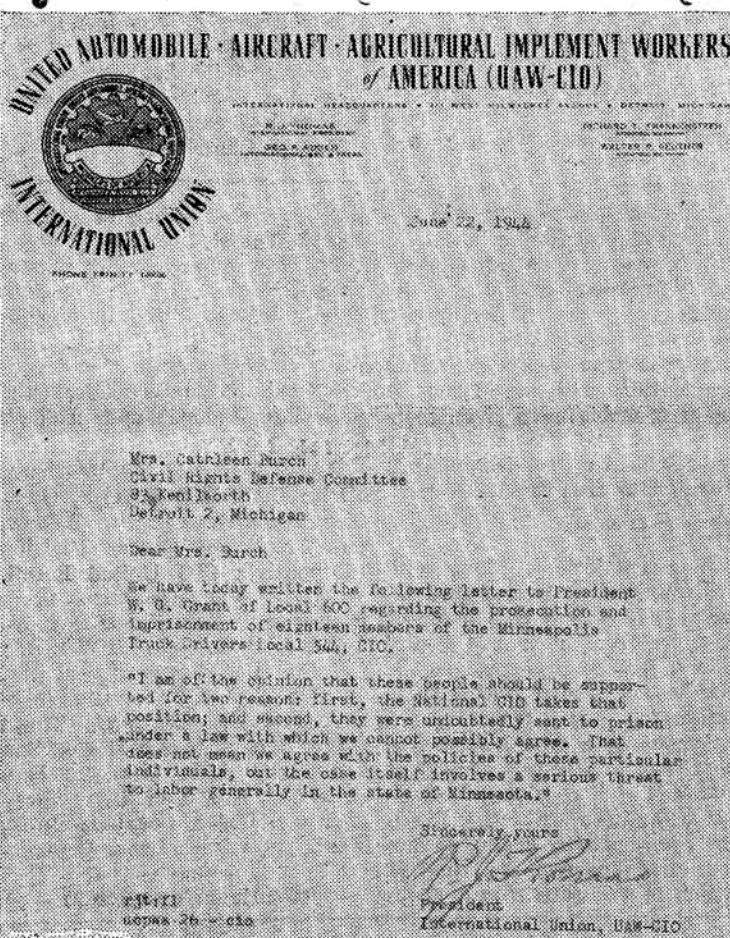
living of the workers, to raise the cultural level of the masses. As the productivity of labor continues to increase, making it possible to produce greater wealth with the application of less labor power, the slogans: nationalization of industry under workers control and the sliding scale of wages and hours, pave the way toward a solution of the problem of fully utilizing the means of production and full employment for the workers.

SLIDING SCALE

The sliding scale of wages and hours simply means that, as the productivity of labor increases, the hours of work are reduced with no reduction in pay. Full production would be maintained by adjusting the hours of work with the rising productivity of labor. With each rise in the cost of living, a corresponding rise in wages. With each increase in the productivity of labor, a corresponding decrease in the number of hours worked. Through the medium of nationalization under workers control and the sliding scale of wages and hours, the material needs of the people can be met and a high standard of living maintained.

The slogan of "free enterprise" is nothing but a demagogic cover for perpetuating the system of monopoly control of production for monopoly profits with its consequent result of unemployment, insecurity and want in the midst of potential abundance. Labor can best advance the interests of the majority by fighting under the slogans: nationalization of industry under workers control and the sliding scale of wages and hours.

Thomas Letter Supporting The 18



San Francisco School of Social Science

SUNDAY NIGHT OPEN FORUM

"The Myth of Post-War Planning"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 - 8 P. M.

305 GRANT AVE. (at Sutter) 4th Floor

Refreshments Served After Forum

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL Table of Contents

FOR JULY 1944

Ten Years of Our Theoretical Organ

THE MONTH IN REVIEW

One Year After the Fall of Italian Fascism
The Verdict Against the British Trotskyists
Stalin's Policy in Rumania

"For the Fourth International!"

On the Anniversary of Clement's Murder

Financial Jugglery at Bretton Woods.....by Sam Marcy
Significance of the Cuban Elections.....by J. B. Stuart
Crisis in the British Labor Party by Our London Correspondent

Lessons of the 1934 Revolt in Austria.....by P. Berger
Religion—Its Social Roots and Role II.....by Felix Morrow
Australian Working Class and the War (from the Manifesto of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Australia) II

FROM THE ARSENAL OF MARXISM

Our Current Basic Military Task III.....by Leon Trotsky

20c a copy — \$2 for a yearly subscription

ORDER FROM BUSINESS MANAGER
116 University Place New York 3, N. Y.

Buy 'The Militant' Here:

AKRON

News Exchange, 51 S. Main

BOSTON

Bay State Pharmacy, 840 Tremont St.; Andelman's Newsstand, 284 Tremont St.

NEW YORK

Manhattan: 14th St. between 2nd Ave. and University Pl.; Newsstands on 42nd St. between 5th and 6th Aves.; Harlem—Newsstands N.W. corner Lenox Ave. and 125th St.; S.E. corner Lenox Ave. and 135th St.; S.E. corner Lenox and 116th St.

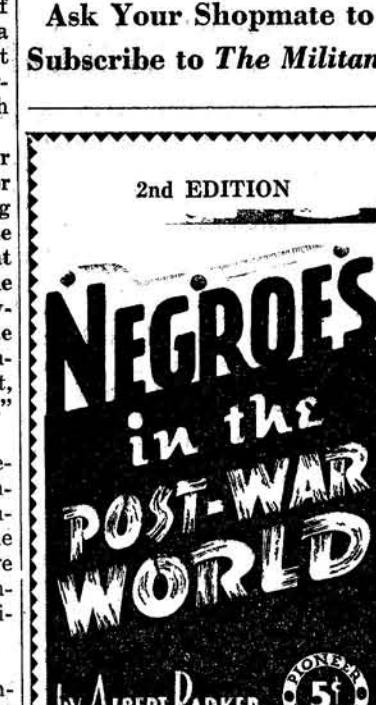
Brooklyn: Newsstand at BMT DeKalb Ave. Subway station, and 5223 - 4th Ave. Queens: H. L. Robertson, 108-49 New York Blvd., Cocheo, 41st St. and Jackson Ave., L. I. C.

PHILADELPHIA N.W. corner 13th St. and Market St.

SAN DIEGO, CAL. 242 Broadway

SAN FRANCISCO Fitzgerald News Agency, 21-4th St.; Duncan's Newsstand, 1986 Sutter St.; Ray's Smoke Shop, 1174 Sutter St.; MacDonald's Book Store, 867 Mission St.; Golden Gate News Agency, 81 - 3rd St.

SEATTLE Eckert's, corner Washington St. and 1st Ave.; Bishop's Drug Store, 507 Jackson St.; Pioneer News Agency, 238 2nd Ave., South; Harry's Book Store, 905-3rd Ave.; Bill's Smoke Shop, 1120-1st Ave.; Newsstand, 1520 Westlake St.



PIONEER PUBLISHERS
116 University Place
New York 3, N. Y.

Bonus Army: March Of The "Heroes Of 1917"

The following article reprinted in condensed form from the July 25, 1942 issue of *The Militant*, was written by Felix Morrow, who was present as a labor reporter at the Bonus March outrage. Comrade Morrow is one of the Socialist Workers Party leaders convicted under the Smith "Gag" Act, now serving a sixteen month prison term at Sandstone Penitentiary.

By Felix Morrow

On July 28, 1932, General Douglas MacArthur, then Chief of Staff of the Army, led his troops — cavalry, tanks and infantry — down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D. C. At Third Street they charged the first contingent of the enemy.

With tear gas and bayonet jabs and rifle butts they drove a group of World War veterans from shacks and half-demolished buildings which had been their homes for ten weeks. The veterans, expertly tossing back tear gas bombs, retreated only when physically overcome. The soldiers set fire to the shacks to make sure the veterans would have nothing to return to. The flames and smoke rose high, a fitting frame for the dome of the Capitol rising above them in the background.

THE BATTLE OF ANACOSTIA FLATS

Under the personal direction of General MacArthur the soldiers — they were young boys; all veterans of the World War had been combed out and left behind at Fort Myers — repeated the mopping-up operation in nearby streets. Then they moved across the river to Anacostia Flats, where the main body of World War Veterans were encamped in shacks and tents. All told, there were about 20,000 vets, about 400 of them with their wives and children. Driven by the troops, they were scattered that night over the neighboring states of Virginia and Maryland. The flaming shacks and tents looked like a big city devastated by incendiary bombs.

That was the end of the Bonus March, so far as Washington was concerned. But 20,000 marchers, scattered to the four winds, told millions of workers and farmers how they had come to ask for bread and got bullets. Two veterans murdered that Bloody Thursday, Eric Carlson and Bill Hushka, became symbols of the gratitude of the ruling class for whom they fought in 1917.

The Bonus Army was a completely spontaneous creation of the unemployed veterans. No one issued the call for the March. It just happened. Driven by hunger and want, small groups of veterans in various parts of the country started for Washington. Like a snowball rolling down a hill the March gathered volume; at least 30,000 vets arrived in Washington between May 20 and July 28.

For these tens of thousands to come penniless across the country was possible only because everywhere they found the masses actively in sympathy with them. Everywhere the unemployed, with sound instinct, understood the B.E.F. was breaking a path to Washington which could later be followed by the unemployed with broader demands. The Bonus Marchers had, besides, the powerful moral authority of men who had risked their lives ostensibly for a world in which they would be secure.

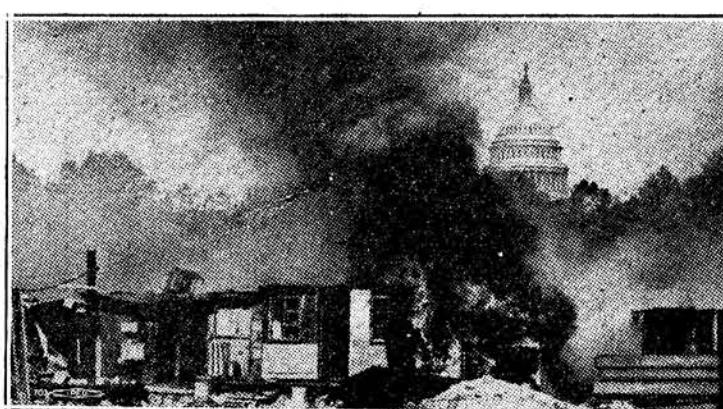
Hence the marchers easily brushed aside all attempts by federal and local authorities to prevent their continuing on to Washington. They commandeered freight cars and coupled them onto fast trains to Washington. They relinquished them only in return for state-owned trucks which carried them from one state to the next...

HEROES OF 1917 — BUMS OF 1932

Two slogans were especially popular among the veterans. They painted them crudely on signs and on the freight cars and jalopies: "Heroes of 1917 — Bums of 1932." "We Fought for Democracy — What Did We Get?"



Part of the Bonus Army camp of tents and shacks at Anacostia before General MacArthur's troops burned it down.



Veterans' shacks at Pennsylvania Avenue and 3rd Street, set afire by troops, light up the Capitol.

The slogans caught on with the great crowds who came to cheer on the veterans in every city and hamlet. Under popular pressure city authorities welcomed the vets, fed them and housed them, and made money collections to help speed them on.

General Pelham D. Glassford, Chief of Police of Washington, later wrote: "some members of the wealthy classes throughout the nation looked upon the occupation of the nation's capital as a revolutionary action."

Negro veterans were conspicuously active in many of the contingents. That new winds were blowing was clear when Negroes arrived side by side with whites in some of the Southern contingents and lived side by side with them in the shacks in Washington.

Perhaps the most significant fact about the Bonus Army is that all government attempts to get it to leave Washington failed. In the end only naked force could drive out the veterans. They had come to get Congress to vote immediate payment of the Adjusted Service Certificates (issued in 1924 but payable in 1945, granting \$1 a day for service at home and \$1.25 for overseas service.)

On July 16 Congress adjourned at midnight, the Senators and Representatives sneaking out side doors and fleeing the city, in fear of the veterans. Now, said the authorities, the veterans should all leave. Before adjourning, Congress had voted \$100,000 for fares to return veterans to their homes. But most of the veterans would not leave. Many had no homes to return to, the rest would not return empty-handed. The cry went up for a special session of Congress. In any event the veterans would not leave Washington.

POLICE CHIEF GLASSFORD AND HIS ROLE

Police Chief Glassford played a very skillful game. He announced that he had accepted responsibility for seeing that the B.E.F. was fed and housed — and appointed himself the (Bonus) Army's Secretary-Treasurer. Likewise he appointed one W. Waters, from Portland, Oregon, as Commander-in-Chief of the B.E.F. Whether Waters and similar "leaders" were FBI agents to begin with, or whether Glassford corrupted them, they were his agents.

With the bait of some tents and field kitchens he set up in Anacostia Flats, Glassford had Waters order the men to go there. Between Washington and Anacostia were the river, and drawbridges which could be raised to prevent the men from going to the capital. Only a few contingents refused to go to Anacostia and they set their shacks up on Pennsylvania Avenue, the main artery of the city.

Food and shelter were deliberately sabotaged by Glassford and his agents. Offers of farmers' groups to send food were ignored, the food-collections kept down to starvation levels, sums donated by sympathizers were not used for feeding the men, etc. For ten weeks many of the men slept on the ground. Their attempts to build beds and more permanent shacks were discouraged by the M.P.'s on one pretext or another.

The men had come to demonstrate to Congress. But the only

demonstration the Waters leadership called was a patriotic parade on the evening of June 7. A California contingent which broke away from Waters organized a Death Watch from July 11 to July 16 — a 24-hour-a-day picket line — and this was the only organized veterans' group at the Capitol throughout the March.

Yet, despite all these terrible handicaps, the men stood firm. Neither paid fares, nor promises of jobs through government agencies elsewhere, nor threats, nor the terrible living conditions at Anacostia, nor the demoralizing role of the Waters leadership — nothing could make the veterans leave Washington.

MACARTHUR LEADS THE TROOPS

Hence by the end of July the federal authorities decided they dared wait no longer. The Treasury Department, which owned the property at Pennsylvania and Third, ordered the police to remove the veterans from the property. In the attempt to do so, the police killed Bill Hushka and Eric Carlson. Under the pretext that the police were no longer able to maintain order, troops were called out. General MacArthur considered the task of driving the veterans out so important that he — the ranking figure of the army! — personally led the troops.

How deeply the country resented the treatment of the B.E.F. was indicated when General MacArthur was booted off the platform at the American Legion Convention at Portland, Oregon, in the fall of 1932.

When it was announced that MacArthur would lead Roosevelt's inaugural parade, protests poured into Washington in such volume that secret service agents took extraordinary precautions, fearing an attempt on MacArthur's life. Roosevelt insisted on backing MacArthur, who not only led the parade, but served out his term as Chief of Staff. In the end, in spite of Roosevelt's veto, immediate payment of the Adjusted Service Certificates was voted by Congress and the issue was ended.

THEY REMEMBER BLOODY THURSDAY

Today publicity has put a halo of heroism around MacArthur. But those still living of the 20,000 veterans of Bloody Thursday have not forgotten. Often, in the intervening years, I have run across such veterans and we have re-lived that day. For not a few of them, it was the turning-point in their lives. I am thinking especially of one of them, who, four years later, led a sit-down strike. "We learned their tricks in Washington," he said. "When they tried to fool us into going out of the plant or letting them in, I remembered the B.E.F. That's one reason why we won our strike."

He and others like him drew the lessons of Bloody Thursday. And they have handed down the story to millions of others, including many of the soldiers now marching off to war. When the government tries to make bums out of the Heroes of the present war, we shall see that the great battle of the "Heroes of 1917 — Bums of 1932" was not fought in vain.

Hillman's Primer For Practical Politicians: A Poor Substitute For Independent Labor Program

By C. Thomas

In a pamphlet recently published by the CIO entitled "Political Primer for All Americans," Sidney Hillman, chairman of the Political Action Committee, bares his political soul before the eyes of the workers. It is not a pretty sight. A more appropriate title for the pamphlet would have been "Political Primer for Ward Heelers," or the gospel of political corruption as preached by a "practical" politician.

Hillman prides himself on being a "practical" politician. A practical politician is an artful fellow; an opportunist who pretends to be all things to all men; lavish with his promises before election and skilled in playing both ends against the middle after; a demagogue and baby-kisser; in short, a "heeler" utterly devoid of principle.

Hillman's pamphlet is devoted to teaching the art of practical politics which consists of garnering votes, by hook or crook, for the machine candidate. In the section devoted to training "heelers" it is pointed out that precinct captains "are men of influence

else in the precinct—and the job's yours." A very simple formula on how to carve out a political "career" in one easy lesson!

By coincidence, a few weeks after Hillman published his "Political Primer" an article appeared in *Life* magazine, July 17, entitled: "Mayor Kelly's Chicago,"

It is an illustrated "success" story of the political boss of one of the most corrupt and graft-ridden machines in the country. Boss Kelly, a "practical" politician, is pictured as the friend of labor and management, Jews and Gentiles, blacks and whites. Verily, he is all things to all men.

Having mastered the technique outlined in Hillman's primer, Kelly's ward heelers are a model for Hillman's aspiring "precinct captain."

"Do anything," says Hillman,

"that needs doing. Become acquainted with your bosses (1) and neighbors. . . Do whatever favors you can for people. . . Get control of more votes than anyone

even illiterate. They need help. The men who give it to them are Kelly's 50 ward bosses. . . The people pay for this help with votes." As Hillman points out in his primer, that is "the least a grateful voter could do."

KELLY'S "SERVICES"

Among the many chores performed for "grateful voters" by Kelly's ward heelers there are listed: "settling disputes over the use of common clothes-lines, getting poolroom licenses, donating money to churches, fixing parking tickets, creating new city jobs and filling them with the 'right' people, getting home relief, filling out income tax blanks, etc., etc."

Of the services rendered by the machine which *Life* does NOT list are: police protection for organized vice, gangsterism and racketeering—one of the main sources of revenue for every corrupt political machine—as well as the services of Kelly's injunction judges in breaking strikes (Montgomery-Ward), and the use of Boss Kelly's cops to shoot down peaceful workers as was done in the Memorial Day Massacre at Republic Steel. This ward-heeler organization that Boss Kelly has perfected is the ideal which Hillman preaches in his primer for practical politicians.

The methods of Boss Kelly and his machine are the methods of Tammany Hall, Mayor (I am the Law) Hague, Boss Crump, and other such "practical" politicians who "boss" the Democratic and Republican parties. "The truth is," says Hillman, "that politicians are no more corrupt than the people who elect them. The people corrupt the politicians." Adding insult to injury, this bureaucratic panderer to the political needs of the bosses unload upon "the people" the responsibility for the cesspool of corruption inherent in the capitalistic two-party system—which Hillman and the "labor statesmen" defend against those militant

workers who try to break away and form labor's own political party.

In contrast to "the people" who "corrupt the politicians" Hillman lectures that: "Politicians are good, friendly people. They resolve conflicts, compromise in the best sense. The alternative to our politicians is a dictator, someone who hates life and people." If it were true that the only alternative to "our politicians" is a dictator "who hates life and people," the future of humanity would be bleak and dismal indeed.

HILLMAN'S OUTLOOK

Hillman's political horizon is bound by the two-party system and when he speaks of "our politicians" as the only alternative he refers specifically to the "practical" politicians who boss the two major parties. What an inspiring picture for the top political leader of the CIO to draw for the most progressive section of the electorate. Yet the Stalinist Daily Worker, a rabid partisan of Hillman's policies, views the results of the Michigan primaries with alarm, offering the explanation that "the powerful labor movement in the Detroit area just did not turn out and vote." This is the "practical" result of Hillman's politics.

A WORKER'S PROGRAM

What the workers want is a program that will do away with depressions in the midst of potential abundance; a program of job security and full employment; a program that will raise the standard of living of the working masses. In short, a political program that offers a SOLUTION to the elementary problems of food, clothing and shelter and frees them from the haunting fear of unemployment, insecurity and want.

Such a program can only be advanced by a political party that bases itself on changing society, and not upon maintaining the status quo. Only the working class can build a party capable of leading the oppressed and exploited sections of the population forward. With such a program, and an Independent Labor Party to forward the program, the people will flatten the ward heelers like steamroller and along with them, the "practical" politicians, who stand as obstacles in their path.

British Soldiers' Parliament Causes Worry To Brass Hats

Setting up their own "Troops Parliament" with an overwhelming Labor majority, British soldiers in Cairo are causing the brass-hats and reactionary Tory Government lots of worry.

The troops Parliament, according to an article in the May 26 issue of the London *Tribune*, grew out of a discussion group which had been conducted by the troops for years in a Cairo Service Club. Last November, a South African Army Division presented a mock parliament as its contribution to the regular monthly meeting. So popular was the program that it became the permanent form of the discussion group meetings.

LABOR MAJORITY

After two meetings of the mock parliament, general elections were held in which Labor received 119 votes, the Common Wealth party 55, Liberal Party 38, and Conservatives only 17. At the March 1 meeting of the Troops Parliament, Labor presented its program for the coming session, to last for six months. Bills scheduled to be "acted upon" were on India, Housing, Land and Agriculture, Nationalization of Power, Fuel and Transport, and an Education Bill.

Nevertheless, the April 5 meeting of the parliament was packed by starting time, and many reporters whose desire for news outweighed army orders were present. High-ranking officers also appeared. Tension mounted.

Before the Speaker of the parliament took the chair, according to the report, "an army officer walked onto the platform and read a notice from the military authorities which said in effect, that as the German radio was making capital out of the parliament, it should no longer be called by that name . . . and that further, civilians (allowed in if accompanied by soldiers) were not in future to attend."

A vigorous protest against such army interference was unanimously voted by all parties, including the Tories! The parliament then proceeded with its business of the day. The Chancellor of the Exchequer put forward his bill to break the big banks' stranglehold on the national economy. The report concludes: "He praised the labor movement, 'the child of the working people of Britain, the engineers, miners and steel workers,' and appealed to (the) Common Wealth (party) to park their snobbery and confusion, and march side by side with their comrades against a common enemy. The bill was passed. Cairo Troops Assembly had nationalized the banks!"

MARCH WITH WORKERS

Small wonder that the military authorities are striving to hush the voice of the British soldiers' parliament, which puts to shame the class-collaborationist policy of Labor Party leaders engaged at home in propping up the Tory regime! But the military authorities might just as well try to sweep back the ocean with a broom. The British troops who have gone on record for nationalization of the banks, like the 82 British soldiers who recently signed a petition for the freedom of the British Trotskyists, are marching step by step, not with the Churchill government, nor with the treacherous Labor Party bureaucrats, but with the leftward-moving British working class.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

JULY 28, 1934

AUSTRIA — "Central Europe was charged with the dynamite of a new world war when the Nazis assassinated (Premier) Dolfuss in an unsuccessful move to extend the boundaries of Nazism," reported *The Militant*. "Whether the powder keg . . . will now go up in explosion and thrust humanity into bloody slaughter is still unclear. . . France and England . . . are considering a warning to Germany to respect Austrian 'independence' . . . They are interested in maintaining the distribution of the booty . . . as it was handed out in Versailles in 1919."

"A sinister cloud that hangs over the international complications . . . is the danger that the plunder gangs now at each other's throats, may bury their differences for the time being and agree on Hitler's 'drang nach Osten' — an assault on the Soviet Union."

MINNEAPOLIS — "Martial law was proclaimed here today (July 26) by Farmer-Labor Governor Floyd B. Olson, in an effort to break the general strike of drivers and helpers which is now rounding out its second week," a special wire to *The Militant* declared.

Martial law was invoked at the behest of the employers after the police reign of terror had failed to break the strikers' ranks. On July 20 police gunned in a brutal pre-arranged assault had slain striker Harry Ness and wounded fifty other workers. On July 24, the workers of Minneapolis, 40,000 strong, marched in an inspiring funeral procession for their martyred brother, and listened to the stirring words of Albert Goldman, union attorney, who said:

"If ever anyone was guilty of malicious, premeditated murder, and attempt to murder, it was the police who fired at the pickets last Friday. . . The life of our murdered brother typifies the lives of all workers. How long will the working masses tolerate a social system which gives to over 12,000,000 unemployed the right to starve . . . to millions more the right to be exploited and receive a miserable wage? The answer has been given by the workers of Toledo, Milwaukee, Birmingham, Fresno, Portland, Seattle and Minneapolis. . . The workers have numbers and the fighting spirit of Harry B. Ness. . . If the workers will be filled with such a spirit, they will not have to die. They will live and conquer the forces of exploitation, of reaction, of murder."

This Coupon and 25 Cents Entitles You to a 3-Month Subscription to **THE MILITANT** A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Published in the interests of the Working People The only newspaper in this country that tells the truth about labor's struggles for a better world

You may start my subscription to **THE MILITANT** with your INTRODUCTORY OFFER of 13 issues for 25c. I enclose 25c (coin or stamps).

Name (Please Print)

Street

City

State

Apt.

Zone

THE MILITANT

Democrats Further Aims Of Big Business

(Continued from page 1)

purpose was to stir the dead ashes of the New Deal by representing the cause of Wallace as the cause of "liberalism" and his renomination as a definitive victory for the "progressive" forces within the Roosevelt administration and Democratic Party. The real party bosses — Flynn of the Bronx, Hague of Jersey City, Kelly of Chicago and Hannegan of St. Louis, plus the strong contingent of Jim-Crow Southern Democrats — determined to demonstrate who was really running the Democratic Party. With the aid of FDR's letter to Hannegan, they lined up their forces and on the second ballot the party bosses gave the nod to the delegates. Wallace and his following were flattened under a landslide, which gave Truman a ten to one majority.

As was to be expected, Hillman, Murray and Company hastened to affirm their continued abject loyalty to Roosevelt and his boss-ridden capitalist party. They reassured their baffled constituents that Truman was, after all, a "liberal." This product of the notorious Pendergast machine in Missouri, wholly acceptable to the party bosses as a "practical" politician amenable to machine dictates, built up his "liberal" reputation in the past couple of years as chairman of the Senate Committee investigating the conduct of the war production program.

This committee was established as a safety valve for popular resentment against the thievery in the war contracts agencies ridden by corporation dollar-a-year men. Its revelations were intended to satisfy malcontents that "something was being done about it." Its practical results, however, have been lean. No jail doors have been heard clangling behind any war profiteers and crooks exposed by Senatorial investigation.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE

Where the labor henchmen of Roosevelt received their most significant rebuff was in the deliberations of the convention's platform committee. Murray addressed the committee and called upon it to adopt the program of the CIO Political Action Committee as evidence of the party's concern for "the aspiration of plain people everywhere."

Specifically, Murray urged inclusion in the party's platform of measures to effectuate Roosevelt's "New Bill of Rights." He asked approval of the principle of guaranteed annual wages, assurance of full employment through gov-

ernment jobs where private industry fails to provide jobs, guarantees against any grab of government-built plants by private interests. Murray called for "an extremely strong declaration" against racial, religious and minority discrimination and for positive support to a permanent FEPC, the immediate enactment of an anti-poll tax bill and a "genuine soldiers vote bill."

These proposals all received short shrift. The platform adopted offered not a single concrete proposal on the matters of reconversion and full employment, gave no assurances on the disposition of government-financed plants, proffered labor nothing more than unspecified "additional humanitarian legislation."

The plank on discrimination against Negroes was obviously a full-blown concession to the "white supremacy" Southern Democrats and has aroused great Negro protest. Walter White, Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, although a supporter of Roosevelt, correctly characterized this plank when he said, "The Democratic mountain labored and brought forth a mouse of evasion." More forthright was the pro-administration newspaper *PM*, which described it as "a fraud and deceit by any standards of measurement."

ROOSEVELT RESPONSIBLE

Murray complained that an "extremely serious situation" has resulted from the "lack of proper, effective economic stabilization."

The workers are bearing the overwhelming economic burdens of the war while the corporations and big farm owners are getting not only enormous war profits but assured profits after the war. Murray sought to center the blame for this "lack of effective economic stabilization" on such Roosevelt lieutenants as Byrnes. But it is obvious that responsibility for the wage-freeze, the failure to control prices, the protection of the war profiteers, rests squarely with Roosevelt.

While Murray and Hillman offered opposition to the party bosses and Southern Bourbons, the AFL pro-Roosevelt leaders simply went right down the line with the party bosses. They confined their role to behind-the-scenes conniving with the Flynns, Kellys and Hagues. AFL Teamsters President Daniel Tobin made a seconding speech for Roosevelt, in part payment for past services rendered by Roosevelt, particularly in the government's framework of the Socialist



Workers Party and Minneapolis Truckdrivers Local 544-CIO leaders.

What the Democratic platform concretely affirmed was the intention of the Roosevelt regime to establish a system of collaboration between the victorious powers "endowed with power to employ armed force to ensure peace." It was significant that the platform did not propose to eliminate fascism — did not even mention the word. Roosevelt, through his deals with Darlan, Badoglio and the bloody monarchs of Greece and Jugoslavia, as well as by the conduct of his Allied Military Governments in the conquered territories, has already demonstrated that his purpose is to crush all independent actions of the European masses against the capitalist oppressors and attempt to reconstitute "stable" reactionary regimes.

Primarily, the platform "stands on its record," the first boast of

which is that "the Democratic Administration...saved our system of free enterprise." That is, Roosevelt saved, and bolstered by his measures, the system of the "economic royalists" whom he used long ago to berate. It boasts of the measures for relief of the unemployed, the labor legislation, etc. It does not mention that Roosevelt's crumbs of reform never solved the problem of unemployment; that in 1939, there were still 11,500,000 jobless, of whom a couple of million existed on WPA wages ranging from \$19 to \$60 a month — as the saying went, "not enough to live on and just too much to die on." It does not mention that America's workers won their collective bargaining rights on thousands of picket lines, in bitter battles where the government sided with the employers, through the blood shed by labor's martyrs.

This, at best, is all the capitalist system, under Democratic

or Republican guardianship, can offer the American workers in the future. The labor bureaucrats who played their feeble and servile roles at the Democratic Party convention betray the interests of the workers when they seek to portray Roosevelt, leader of the Hagues, Flynns, Kellys and Southern Bourbons, and the foremost agent of capitalist imperialism, as a "Friend of Labor."

The only friends labor has are in its own ranks. The only program which can provide peace, plenty and security for the workers is one devoted solely to their own class interests and directed against the monopoly profiteers, gangsters and parasites of the capitalist class. In opposition to the political tools of capitalism, the Republican and Democratic parties, labor must organize our own independent labor party.

'Peace-Loving' Profiteers!

Big Business suffered a sharp attack of "peace jitters" last week when news arrived of the attempted coup d'état by the Junker militarists against the Hitler regime and the collapse of the Japanese cabinet headed by Premier Tojo. Stocks quoted on the N. Y. Stock Exchange dropped in value by close to two billion dollars in what the N. Y. Times described as "the sharpest reaction on the stock market in more than three months."

What the profit-bloated capitalists fear, said the Times, is that "any furtherance of the unrest (within the Reich) might easily lead to a shortened war on the Continent."

These are the same capitalists who would have the workers believe that this is a war to destroy fascism and preserve democracy.

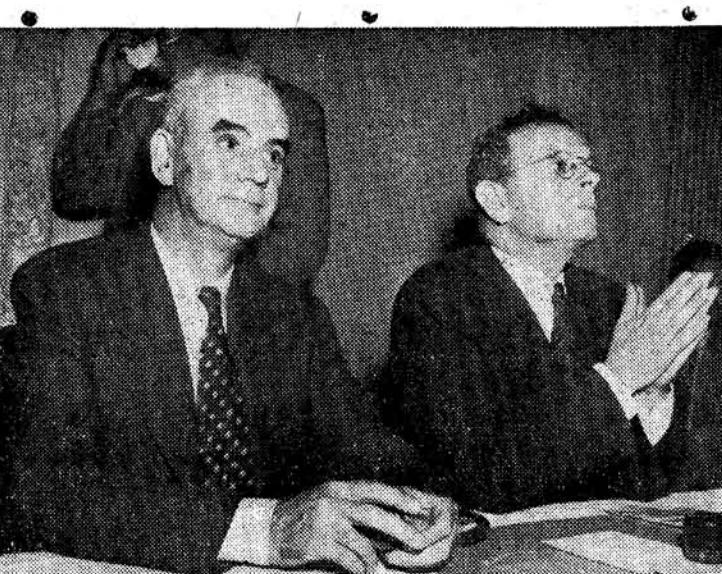
MASS UNREST

However, we do know that there is a strong undercurrent of mass unrest which occasionally bursts to the surface. Four months ago, through the medium of Japanese newspapers which somehow reached the outside world, we reported the mounting war-weariness and rebellion of the Japanese masses, manifested in strikes and food riots. (The *Militant*, April 1, 1944).

Japan's ruling class has heeded these warning signals. They decided to make Tojo and his cabinet the scapegoat for all the military failures and economic hardships. Tojo has been jettisoned and his place as premier filled by Gen. Koiso, former governor-general of Korea.

But a mere change of cabinet will not even mitigate much less remove, the crisis which precipitated Tojo's ouster. Japan's ruling class is sitting on a social volcano. Revolution is beginning to loom on the horizon of the Land of the Rising Sun.

CIO Heads at Convention



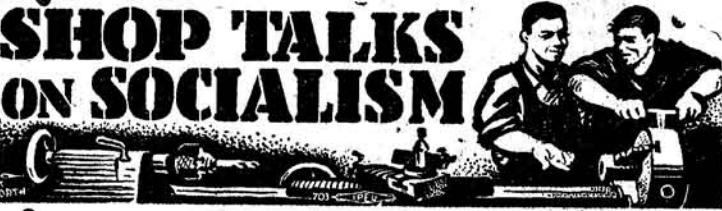
CIO President Philip Murray (left) and Sidney Hillman, head of the CIO Political Action Committee, photographed at the Democratic National Convention on July 18, as they vainly tried to get the PAC program adopted by the Resolutions Committee.

In Detroit, Mich.

You can get
THE MILITANT
at the
FAMILY THEATRE
NEWSSTAND
opposite the theatre

Buy THE MILITANT

IN CHICAGO
at
THE SOCIALIST WORKERS'
BOOKSHOP
160 N. WELLS STREET
Tel. Dea. 7562



By V. Grey

The boys were talking it over in the washroom. Slim, who worries a lot about what he reads in the papers, was saying, "Now take this Bretton Woods Monetary Conference. You don't know what's going on there because they just tell you what they want you to know. But I read where they kicked some big shot silver man out of the meeting. That could mean anything. But I figure the big issue is gold. And that's something this country has got plenty of."

"Well, you can have my share of it," Shorty broke in.

"You tell 'em about the gold, Pop," said Fred with a wink at Shorty.

The old boy crossed his legs and began: "Well, sir, what's gold anyway? You can't eat it, you can't wear it, you can't build houses with it. It's just a yellow metal that folks all get together and say is valuable. Then they fight over it, kill each other and have wars about it. Now suppose we made a law that gold wasn't valuable anymore and had slips of paper made with so many hours of labor printed on each one. They'd only be good for a month or two. No one would hoard them and the big bankers wouldn't control things anymore. It's as simple as that."

NOT SO SIMPLE

But it isn't as simple as that. And the boys know it, even though they do let Pop ramble on. In the first place, it's not the material you get paid in that makes so much difference. It's how much of it they pay you. Say you get paid \$35. That's an ounce of gold. Scrap iron is about the same price per ton. You'd certainly rather get paid in scrap if they gave you two tons of it. You'd just turn around and exchange it for two ounces of gold or \$70.

You'd change it to gold because that would be more convenient than going to the grocer with a couple bushels of scrap for a bunch of groceries, and to the landlord, the butcher, the gas company, etc. These people would have no immediate use for the scrap either, although they too would be glad to take it, if they could turn and sell it at more than the amount of your bill.

You see, gold is a product of labor, just like iron ore, steel, and the things you make in the shop. It takes a lot of labor to find a place where there's gold. It takes more labor to make the mining machinery, and it takes plenty of labor to get the gold out of the ground under even the best conditions. And there is a great deal more labor involved in getting an ounce of gold than there is in stamping out an automobile fender on number 3 press.

That's why, even after mining the ore, blasting the iron, making the steel, rolling the sheet metal, cutting to size, stamping out the fender, hammering, polishing and painting it, etc.—after all this, it still has about the same value as an ounce of gold. Both the fender and the ounce of gold take about the same amount of labor to produce.

We have to use something easy to handle and dependable in value. Gold retains its value much more steadily than most other things. Thus it not only has value by itself, but it supplies a measure of value. For instance, you can say that the wealth of the United States is 400 billion dollars in gold. Well, there isn't that much gold above the ground. And no one would want to turn all the wealth into gold anyway.

But the factories, mines and mills, if each were sold one at a time, would exchange for 400 billion in gold. This would be possible because the same gold could be used over and over again. You could just as easily say the wealth amounted to 20 billion head of cattle, except that the price of beef is changing so rapidly that tomorrow morning you'd have to change the figure.

It's like the heat-treated plug gages they use in the inspection department. They're made in the tool room with a two-ten-thousandths of an inch tolerance. For quite a long period of time they provide a dependable measure of slots and holes that have to be just right. You couldn't use your finger or a scale, or your naked eye. But you can use the same gage again and again to measure thousands of parts. And you use a small number of gages when you consider the hundreds of thousands of items that pass in and out of the inspection department to be tested.

Some people, who think more or less the way Pop does, want to make a law changing the value of gold. But you couldn't make gold any easier to find, any easier to mine or carry across the ocean just by passing a law. You could call a 365 thousandths plug gage a 665 but that wouldn't make it any bigger. You could make a law that an ounce of gold was worth \$70 instead of \$35. And because dollars are easy for the government to print, that would be simple enough. But \$70 would just equal what \$35 did before. That's all. The ounce of gold wouldn't be any bigger and would be just as much butter and eggs as before. Only the price in dollars would be doubled.

Of course, many workers who are a few hundred dollars in debt think of this "cheap money" as a way to beat the loan sharks, because their debts are in dollars. And once dollars were twice as cheap, they could pay up that much easier. That part of it is true to a certain extent.

But what about your pay at the shop? You'd still be producing as many things as before. The boss would be selling them for at least twice as many dollars. And you would have to pay twice as many dollars for everything you bought, but you'd only be getting the old amount of dollars in your check. Result: You'd have to force the boss to give you a hundred percent raise in dollars in order to be as well off as you were before.

PRODUCTION DECISIVE

This whole attitude of Pop's and people like him comes from looking at things one-sidedly. They look at gold as the basis of the whole capitalist system when it is in reality only the necessary medium of exchange or basis for such a medium (currency).

It is true that domination of money exchange and credit increases the power of the ruling class and extends it to the farthest corners of the earth. But, first and foremost, it is production that counts. If all the gold in the world were annihilated at one stroke, doubtless a few financiers would go broke because they had too much of their wealth tied up in gold at the moment. But the overwhelming bulk of their wealth as a class is in the productive industries of the country. There, millions upon millions of wage slaves like Pop and Shorty are laboring day and night to increase the wealth of this class...

That's how they heap up their millions and billions—by taking the cream of what you produce and leaving you the skim. You're producing "gold" for them and plenty of it. General Motors, for instance, makes more money than any gold mining company in the world. The third of a million people working for G. M. are paid an amount of gold that equals only a part of what they produce. The rest is kept by the bosses and turned into private swimming pools, racing stables, champagne baths and maybe a little gold. A lot goes back into production too—to buy new factories and machinery so as to make still greater profits in the future.

There is a tremendous surplus of goods unsold, one of the main reasons for this being that the worker doesn't get back what he produced. Whether he gets paid in gold, airplane parts or peanuts. At such a time the screwballs will rant louder than ever about "gold." You have to use something easy to handle and dependable in value. Gold retains its value much more steadily than most other things. Thus it not only has value by itself, but it supplies a measure of value. For instance, you can say that the wealth of the United States is 400 billion dollars in gold. Well, there isn't that much gold above the ground. And no one would want to turn all the wealth into gold anyway.

But the factories, mines and mills, if each were sold one at a time, would exchange for 400 billion in gold. This would be possible because the same gold could be used over and over again. You could just as easily say the wealth amounted to 20 billion head of cattle, except that the price of beef is changing so rapidly that tomorrow morning you'd have to change the figure.

It's like the heat-treated plug gages they use in the inspection department. They're made in the tool room with a two-ten-thousandths of an inch tolerance. For quite a long period of time they provide a dependable measure of slots and holes that have to be just right. You couldn't use your finger or a scale, or your naked eye. But you can use the same gage again and again to measure thousands of parts. And you use a small number of gages when you consider the hundreds of thousands of items that pass in and out of the inspection department to be tested.

True, gold and money will begin to lose their importance at the very first toll of capitalism's death knell. But it will take some time before world production is so enormous, and people's material wants so well taken care of, that it becomes a matter of indifference whether gold or wampum is used for exchange.

Yes, only under a Workers' Government will money begin to lose its importance. But we don't want to lose sight of the main issue right now, which isn't the money or the gold, but the bosses' private monopoly of our means of livelihood—his power of life and death over us. It is on this road our struggle lies. When we are successful there, it will be easy to adjust the system of exchange.

defeating the progressive demands of the Birth Control advocates.

Women have been more backward politically than men because until lately women's work was confined for the most part to the home. Housework chains a woman to the most discouraging, soul-and-mind-killing, long-hour day! Housework drudgery keeps her away from the great experiences of industrial life, keeps her mind centered on petty personal matters, hides from her the real causes of life's problems.

Housework is a stigma of poverty or near poverty. The poorer the family, the bigger the task of the wife and mother, since better wages for the husband gives her a chance to send out the laundry, to buy labor-saving devices, to indulge occasionally in a restaurant meal. No wonder that Hitler, who tried his best to keep women backward, proclaimed that church, kitchen and children are the woman's sphere! But under the economy of war, even Hitler could not keep women at home.

However, women who have spent many years in industry will be different persons from the women who had previously worked "only for the family." The bigger aspects of the industrial world will be clearer to them.

Organized labor must do its utmost to get these women into unions while they are in industry. If the unions lose this opportunity, many industrially-trained and misled women may become strike-breakers in the future. Today, the working woman has an open mind. She may reach the right conclusions by herself, but to safeguard the future of the working class, this cannot be left to chance. The value of trade-unionism must be taught to her.

Capitalism created the working class, which is historically bound to overthrow capitalism in turn. In the Second World War, capitalism has brought forth an army of women wage earners, who previously had been far away from the battlefield of labor. Now women work side by side with men, women have joined the industrial army, women are due to become fighting members of the working class.

War forces women into industry. For many years women had entered gainful occupations, but they had shunned industrial work.

Now ten million women in the United States alone are working in industry. This means a revolution in women's lives. Factory work taught man the divergency between his own interests and the interests of the bosses; it made a union man of him, for the union he learned the importance of having his industry organized, and from there the next step was to learn that he was only a part of the working class fighting for its rights. Industrial work made men class-conscious.

Industrial work will awaken in woman the same understanding of her class interests. At home she thought she was working for herself, for her children, for her husband. In her narrow view, she often blamed her husband for his lack of money. It may take time until women learn that even at home they are actually work-

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

VOL. VIII—No. 31 Saturday, July 29, 1944

Published Weekly by

THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N
at 116 UNIVERSITY PLACE, NEW YORK 8, N. Y.

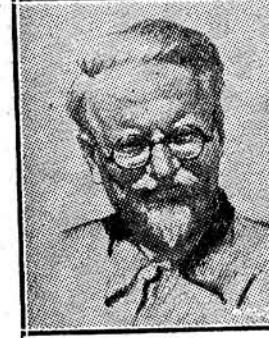
Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8547

FARRELL DOBBS, Editor

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

Subscriptions: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months. Foreign: \$3.00 per year, \$1.50 for 6 months. Bulk 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.

MCF Policy

When the Michigan Committee for the Promotion of a Farmer-Labor Party issued its call for a conference to establish a "new political party," it was addressed primarily to groups standing outside of the labor movement who, by their composition and social position in the community, could only play a subsidiary role. In commenting on the conference call *The Militant*, February 19, expressed the opinion "that some union militants were being enticed by the prospects of a short cut to the formation of a labor party by skipping over the head of the Michigan CIO." We pointed out the "danger that in their impatience to get on with the formal organization of a labor party, the militants will be led into taking precipitate and premature action." Today advanced workers in Michigan realize that without the firm support of significant sections of the union movement it is impossible to establish a genuine labor party.

Writing in *The Call*, (March 17), Kenneth Rogers giggled over the fact that "the revolutionary followers of Leon Trotsky... warn' the progressives, who are now organizing in the hope of building a real farmer-labor party in the midwest state, they must proceed slowly," and attempt to win the ranks of the Michigan CIO over to their support. These people, whose funny-bone is tickled by the idea that the primary requisite for building a labor party is the support of labor, hope to gather together a motley group of professors, preachers, YMCA secretaries, women's clubs, students, co-ops, etc., give this outfit a "labor" facade, and pass it off as a "real farmer-labor party." In reality, such an approach can lead only to the formation of pale carbon copies of Norman Thomas' anemic "all-inclusive" Socialist Party.

In contradistinction to these political-adventurers and their "experimental" politics, *The Militant* takes a serious attitude toward the movement for independent working class political action. We attempt to gauge the sentiment of the workers, to analyze the movement, to point the direction of its development. We are no sideline critics. We support every advance of the progressive workers toward independent political action. When the Michigan Commonwealth Federation was launched, we greeted the new party as a step in the right direction.

We said then: "Any new movement organized to break the political monopoly of the American

capitalist class, must be prepared to cope with the furious onslaught that will be launched against it from all sides... The new political movement can only grow, however, and come to fruition, it can achieve its high promise, only if it sets forth an unambiguous fighting program that answers the needs of the workers and poor farmers and then steadfastly adheres to this program regardless of the opposition."

Those leaders of the MCF who under cover of a fake militancy refused to conduct a real struggle for the support of the union ranks during the formation of the MCF, revealed at the Michigan CIO convention the true source of their hesitancy and false policy. They fear to clash with the top CIO bureaucrats. They neglected to organize their forces. They failed to appeal to the convention for endorsement, failed to present their own program, and even failed to put up a fight against the perfidious program of the Hillman-Thomas Political Action Committee. Hammond, chairman of the MCF, was concerned with independent political action only AFTER the coming election campaign.

The militants who have devoted so much energy to the creation of the Michigan Commonwealth Federation do not, we are sure, agree with Hammond's methods. They know that the MCF can function as an organizing center to carry the struggle for labor's independent political action into every local CIO union in the state of Michigan.

They know that the sentiment for the formation of an Independent Labor Party is bound to grow as the perfidy of the "friends of labor" in the camp of Democrats and Republicans becomes more flagrant in the critical period ahead. This sentiment must be organized to win a majority of the Michigan labor movement to the support of labor's own political party. Only upon the foundation of the trade union movement can an Independent Labor Party be built which is worthy of the name. That is the task of the coming MCF convention.

Empty Promises

According to a report appearing in the July 15 issue of the *United Automobile Worker*, out of 13,000 workers formerly employed at the two plants of the Brewster Aeronautical Corporation, only 500 remain. Of the thousands "disemployed" by the Brewster shut-down, a majority have been compelled to take jobs at sharp reductions in pay, while some are still out of work. Of the many promises made the Brewster workers during their dramatic "sit-in" demonstration not one has been fulfilled. Administration spokesmen promised to rush legislation through Congress before its adjournment providing for severance pay, unemployment compensation, etc. Congress adjourned for the election campaign sidetracking all "reconversion" legislation with the exception of the George-Murray Contract Termination Bill which provides generous cash payment to war contractors.

Spokesmen for Roosevelt promised to overhaul the government's contract termination policies. The WPB promised to investigate the possibility of new contracts for Brewster. The Navy Department promised to see what could be done about another Navy contract. It was these promises which finally "convinced" Frankenstein, head of the UAW-CIO Aircraft Division, to call off the demonstration. The "sit-in" was called off, said Frankenstein, because "he was convinced that the intervention of President Roosevelt, James F. Byrnes, Director of Economic Stabilization, a Senate subcommittee and other Federal Officials would bring early re-employment to the 13,500 employees facing dismissal." Frankenstein, being a Democratic politician, is a great believer in "promises," especially when they are made by the leaders of his own party.

The Navy Department, however, dominated by Wall Street "admirals," is unconcerned with the fulfillment of such promises. Following the partial shutdown in the Brewster plant the Navy Department recently cancelled the contract of the Burchell Products Corporation, "disemploying" 900 workers on three hours notice. This was followed by a Navy Department "cutback" at the Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation which "disemployed" 1,500 workers at Holyoke, Massachusetts. While the Burchell workers staged a protest meeting in front of the plant, the Worthington Pump workers followed the example of Brewster and staged a "sit-in" appealing to Roosevelt for a restoration of their jobs.

Experience has already shown that while the "sit-in" demonstrations dramatize the plight of workers thrown out of jobs, by themselves they are insufficient to combat the growing unemployment. Sit-ins are only one weapon in the program of economic and political action labor needs to achieve its aims.

To win the demands put forward by the Brewster and Worthington Pump workers in their demonstrations, the entire labor movement must undertake a coordinated economic and political struggle on a national scale against Wall Street's projected program of unemployment and hunger. This counter-campaign must be guided by the slogans of a sliding scale of wages and hours, the expropriation of all key industries, and their operation under workers' control of production.

IN DEFENSE OF THE SOVIET UNION

By LEON TROTSKY

(A Compilation — 1927-1937)

10 CENTS

PIONEER PUBLISHERS

116 UNIVERSITY PLACE NEW YORK

WORKERS' FORUM

The columns are open to the opinions of the readers of *The Militant*. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers, but keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed. — Editor.

Killed in Action

Editor:

As my son, who received your papers, has been killed in action in Europe, will you please not send your papers.

I thank you very much for the pleasure you papers gave my boy, before and after he was called to the colors.

G. P.
Birmingham, England

Winning Grievances

Editor:

For almost three years the management of the Buick Motor Division of Melrose Park, Illinois have been pushing the workers around. Grievances have been piling higher and higher without ever being settled. It wasn't until about two months ago that the workers found out how to win their grievances without the blessings of the War Labor Board, the Impartial Umpire, and all the other agencies of the bosses.

About two months ago the workers on the night shift in the tool room decided to take matters into their own hands. A gage grinder was arbitrarily fired by the superintendent of the department for scrapping a tool, after working in the plant for two years with a perfect work record. On behalf of the dismissed worker, the men in the department, with the exception of one Stalinist fink, shut down their machines. In two hours the worker who had been fired was reinstated with an apology by the superintendent.

Three weeks later — this time on the day shift — in the tool room, another worker was arbitrarily released for refusing to obey the whim of a foreman. The workers, learning a lesson from the work stoppage of the night shift, followed suit — with two differences in this stoppage. I. The department was completely shut down because there were no Stalinist stooges to fink on the workers.

Two weeks later — this time on the day shift — in the tool room, another worker was arbitrarily released for refusing to obey the whim of a foreman. The workers, learning a lesson from the work stoppage of the night shift, followed suit — with two differences in this stoppage. I. The department was completely shut down because there were no Stalinist stooges to fink on the workers.

About a month after the last work stoppage occurred, the management gave the workers a two-day holiday (or layoff) July 3 and July 4. When the men came back to work on July 5, they were told they would have to work Sunday, July 9, that is, about 2300 of them. They were willing to work providing they would receive double time for that Sunday work. They were assured by management that they would receive double time for that work day.

On returning to work Monday,

Lively Forum

Editor:

This was the reaction of one worker who attended the open forum at the San Francisco School of Social Science on "The Non-Strike Pledge and Post-War Planning":

"You know, it did me good to sit there and hear working people — just like me — explain and discuss all these deep subjects in such an intelligent way. I guess that I, like many other working people, thought that you had to go to the educated professors and politicians to hear these things discussed. Well, I see that I was wrong, because you people know what you're talking about, all right, and I like what you say. I'll be back next time and I'll bring a fellow that works with me."

The forum which is held Sun-

day evenings at 305 Grant Avenue

was very well attended. The audience included 7 Negro workers.

The workers quoted above took an active part in the discussion, also.

E. H.
San Francisco

Editor:

Likes Kovalesky

Editor:

I have just finished reading the July 15 issue of *The Militant* and wanted to tell you what a corking good issue it is. I think the "Shop Talks on Socialism" by Grey are great. I particularly got a kick out of that swell article on "What Capitalism Means to Toil-Worn Workers" by Theodore Kovalesky. Where has he been keeping himself?

I edit a small mimeographed paper for my union, and Kovalesky's article made me think and look around a bit at the immediate surroundings of our working place. It reminded me of the indignity of my work place. When we want to rest a bit we have to go to the toilet and take our pants down, otherwise we are loitering. How many times have the men griped about it! I decided to write an article about it somewhat in Kovalesky's vein. Again I say *The Militant* is tops.
J. F.
Newark

Canada

Editor:

Each week *The Militant* is about the best paper that is printed; it gives news from England and other countries which is not printed in any other paper and it has improved wonderfully since 1940. It's up to all thinking people to increase its circulation as much as possible. The copies I have are threadbare, so many people have read them; and I'm still getting them back and passing them out.

I never got a copy of the magazine as yet, but that's all right so long as I get *The Militant*. As Robert G. Ingerson used to say, "We must snatch from the throat of treason the tongue of slander." There are an awful lot of toilers in this country who have got to unlearn what they have already learned.

They are like a crewless vessel without a rudder, ready to go drifting into shoals and breakers; no need for me to tell you! They are orphaned completely like leaves blowing in the autumn breeze; they have no conception of the evolutionary movement continually going on within society. The damage that has been done by political backwardness in the last fifteen years is terrible.

E. D.
Canada

believe, is being fought for 250,000 people to the level of pariahs in the land of their birth.

SOUTH AFRICA

Manpower edicts by the state government of New South Wales, whereby workers were forced to take jobs in canneries and other factory establishments, were declared void by a state court ruling handed down in Sydney May 25.

Chief Justice Jordon, delivering the court's unanimous decision, said: "The regulation as it stands could, if valid, reduce Australians to a serfdom more abject than any obtaining in the Middle Ages," adding that there was nothing in the constitution of the New South Wales commonwealth "which authorizes the executive government to impose on the people a status of villeinage."

Yet this is precisely what the government, acting for the Australian capitalist class, sought to do. Its forced labor edicts are on a par with War Manpower Commissioner McNutt's order which "froze" workers in this country to their jobs as of July 1. It is in line, too, with the action of the British Minister of Labor, Ernest Bevin, in forcing workers to labor in England's coal mines under the Pit Ballot Scheme, which caused the apprentices' strikes last March.

In all the capitalist "democracies" the same vicious anti-labor drive is on — a drive to regiment the workers, deprive them of their liberties, convert them into serfs. And this, be it noted, takes place in the very midst of a war, which, the capitalist rulers would have us

believe, is being fought for 250,000 people to the level of pariahs in the land of their birth.

SPAIN

The regime of butcher Franco, which Winston Churchill praised so fulsomely in a recent House of Commons speech, is sitting on top of a volcano.

Testimony to the mounting insurrectionary mood of the masses comes from no less an authority than Jose Maria Gil Robles, leader of the extreme reactionary Catholic faction of the Spanish ruling class, who is now in Lisbon. Gil Robles, as minister of war in 1935, took charge of the bloody suppression of the revolt of the Asturias miners which preceded the Spanish civil war.

In a private letter to General Asensio, present war minister in Franco's cabinet, quoted in the July issue of *The Nation*, Gil Robles writes: "But let us be sincere. In many provinces we are living practically under anarchy: attacks on farms, robberies, banditry, owners unable to visit their properties, travelers being kidnapped. It is my absolute conviction that in this case the victor (Franco) will never have peace, especially since the vanquished are convinced that they will become victors themselves through the help of the entire world. The authorities may multiply the formation of armed forces; they may shoot people by the hundreds. Nothing will be achieved."

From the ashes of defeat in the great battles of the civil war only a few years ago, the Spanish revolution is rising again.

66 Who Died in Mine Fire Were Murdered for Profit

66 miners at Powhatan Point, Ohio, were burned to death on July 5 in one of those coal mine disasters which are so frequent they rarely rate more than a few paragraphs near the bottom of an inside page in the boss dailies. They were just a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands of mine workers who have been injured, maimed and killed in mine accidents during the past year alone.

Under the best conditions, mining is dangerous work. Not many of those labor-haters who called for shooting the striking miners last summer would venture down into the depths of the average coal mine, even for a visit. But those 66 miners who died in the bowels of the earth from the smoke and flame of the Powhatan Point mine fire didn't die by any "Act of God." They were murdered — murdered for profit!

That is what the United Mine Workers Journal revealed last week when it charged the mine company with responsibility for the death of these 66 workers because of its refusal to observe the minimum safety measures prescribed by government inspectors.

The fire was touched off because of improperly placed electrical equipment after the federal inspectors had twice unsuccessfully urged the company to take corrective steps concerning the placement of insulation, switches, fuses, spray equipment, trolley hangers, grounders and "many other devices for isolating electrical current underground." Even after the fire broke out, in order not to "lose a single ton of coal," the UMW Journal charges, the company kept the miners at work for more than two hours before the first of them were ordered up.

Let the workers remember this the next time the corporation agents start yelling "treason" when union men are forced to strike.

Corporation War Profits Reach New High Levels

There's not much cheerful news in the papers these days for most people. Casualties mounting. Wages frozen tight. Unemployment mounting with new production cut-backs. Cost-of-living soaring faster, with the new price-control bill, signed by Roosevelt, giving the green light to the war profiteering price-gougers. Not much the working man can get the old Pollyanna spirit from.

But there's been one cheerful note — for a few favored people — in the papers recently. Maybe you saw it in last week's financial sections. "Profits Stay High for Corporations" or, "Corporate Profits Hold High Level."

Big Business is getting richer than ever. Over a million workers laid off since last November. Prices shooting skyward. But there's no freeze on war profits. Wall Street isn't in this war for fun. It's got ideals yeah, billions and billions of dollars worth of ideals.

The Department of Commerce's July "Survey of Current Business" reports that corporate net profits for the first three months of this year hit a new high, \$2,213,000,000 as compared with \$2,200,000,000 during the same period of 1943. And the plutocrats didn't do so badly in '43. The net take last year was \$8,533,000,000, five per cent more than in 1942, "despite a considerable rise in taxes."

In case you're worried about the plush-bottom boys being favored in the "post-war" period, just ease your mind. It seems there are "indications that corporations were holding a larger proportion of net income in reserve