

FREE THE 12!

THE MILITANT

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Big Complaints, No Action Marks AFL Convention

By Art Preis

The annual gathering of labor fakers, time-servers and pensioners who head the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated unions was concluded last week in New Orleans. For almost two weeks some 600 delegates deliberated on the wage-freeze and impending unemployment, world peace, political action, unity of labor and the sins of the CIO. All was staid decorum—except when internal issues of jurisdictional “raiding” and the “Class B” membership status of Negro workers were under discussion.

Never did the AFL, citadel of narrow and divisive craft-unionism, meet under such seemingly favorable auspices. The convention came at the crest of a war-impelled boom which has raised the AFL to a claimed all-time membership peak of nearly 7,000,000 workers. Fresh forces have been flooding into the AFL by hundreds of thousands. But the spirit of the tired, old bureaucrats at the helm has not been lifted in the least.

Wexing problems beset them on all sides. From within, there were the eternal jurisdictional squabbles, the insistent demand of the more than 1,000,000 Negro members for “first-class citizenship” status in their unions, and, above all, the mounting pressure of the ranks for decisive action to break the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula.

From without, they “viewed with alarm” the growing strength of industrial unionism as embodied in the CIO and shook their heads dolefully over the dismal prospects of impending mass unemployment. The fears of the craft union moguls on both these scores derived to a certain extent from a single consideration: each factor in its own way constitutes a threat to the steady increase in fees, dues and kick-backs which provide necessary compensation for the toil and trouble which besets the average AFL “labor statesman.”

CRITICISM—NO ACTION

At times, both in their resolutions and speeches, the AFL chiefs permitted themselves degree of petulant complaint and criticism against the Roosevelt administration's anti-labor policies. But it would be a mistake to think these old-line AFL bureaucrats intend to pursue any more militant and vigorous policy than the CIO leaders in defense of labor's interests.

Thus, the convention became momentarily steamed up over the refusal of the administration to modify the Little Steel Formula and the wage-freeze. The resolu-

(Continued on page 4)

CRDC CHRISTMAS APPEAL GETS SPLENDID RESPONSE

Contributions from Labor organizations and individual defenders of civil liberties are pouring into the Civil Rights Defense Committee's \$5,000 Christmas Fund to provide Christmas gifts and relief to the 12 Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners and their dependent families. The Christmas Fund will also enable the CRDC to continue the fight for unconditional pardon of all 18 Trotskyist and CIO? Truckdrivers Local 544 leaders, who were imprisoned under the Smith “Gag” Act.

Over \$600 was added to the fund last Saturday night when several hundred friends of the CRDC participated in a highly successful Christmas Fund Bazaar held under the auspices of the New York Committee of the CRDC. Many beautiful objects, jewelry and other goods contributed by sympathizers were sold for the Christmas Fund. The affair featured an auction of original paintings, art works and books, including autographed volumes by the noted novelists James T. Farrell and John Dos Passos and the recently-published autobiography of Rose Pesotta, a vice-president of the ILGWU-AFL.

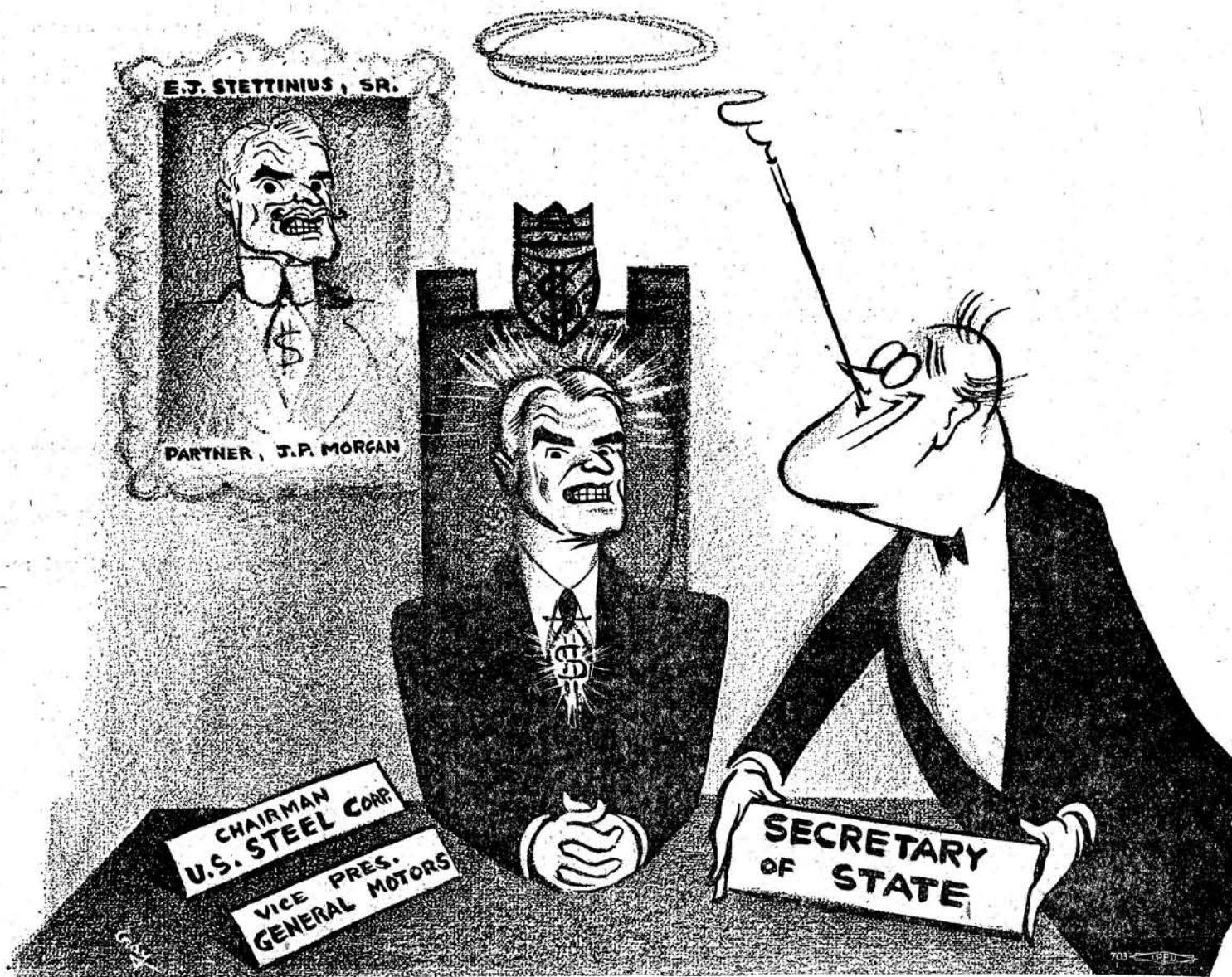
CRDC contributors are sending in heartening expressions of support for the Minneapolis Labor Case victims and the work of the CRDC. One letter states: “Enclosed please find my contribution to provide relief and Christmas cheer for the imprisoned men's families.”

A letter from Detroit says: “I am enclosing donation for the prisoners. . . Yours for a world without wars, without depressions, without bosses and without jails.”

Contributions to the CRDC Christmas Fund should be sent to James T. Farrell, Chairman, Civil Rights Defense Committee, 160 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Allied-Backed Puppet Government Provokes Civil Warfare In Greece

Junior Makes Good



Martin Dies Plans Labor Spy Agency

Unable any longer to conduct his red-baiting, anti-labor racket at public expense, ex-Congressman Martin Dies, of the ill-famed Dies Committee is planning to continue his profession with private capital. He is reported preparing to establish his own super labor spy agency, devoted to selling to corporations the information he collected as a Congressional red-baiter.

Littell Testimony Bares Scandal In Justice Dept.

By Wells Thurber

In the past week the lid was lifted on Roosevelt's Department of Justice, again revealing how its wheels turn in favor of Big Business and the political favorites of the administration. The scandal came to light when Roosevelt fired from government service Norman Littell, Assistant Attorney General.

During the war Littell has found himself three times before Congressional Committees forced to make exposures so sensational that in peacetime they would have rocked the nation as did the Tea Pot Dome scandal of the ill-famed Harding Administration.

First expose made by Littell

(Continued on page 2)

UAW Officials Plot To Hide Wage Fiasco

By R. Bell

News of a conspiracy to suppress the fact that the War Labor Board had rejected the demands of 75,000 Chrysler workers has just come to light. Parties to the conspiracy were the top leadership of the United Automobile Workers Union, CIO, the Chrysler Corporation and the Roosevelt Administration. The WLB decision, reached three weeks before the November 7 election, was kept secret from the public. To our knowledge, none of the large metropolitan dailies carried any account of the “settlement” of this highly important wage dispute. The only publication that carried a report of the decision,

one month after the event, is the magazine *Business Week*, which has a limited circulation among corporation executives and business men.

In commenting on the news (Continued on page 3)

Unarmed Demonstrators Shot Down By Papandreou's Police

General Strike Leads to Violent Clashes Between Workers and British Armed Forces

By Joseph Hansen

The streets of Athens ran with workers' blood as Allied troops sought to consolidate the counter-revolution in Greece. A hail of machine-gun bullets was the Allied reply to protests of the Greek people against disarming of the resistance forces who had fought Nazi occupation and paved the way for the landing of Allied troops. Incipient civil war was

Allies Thrust Monarchy To Fore In Italian Crisis

By Roy Lewis

The iron hand of counter-revolution is tightening on the throat of the Italian revolution. In their effort to maintain tottering Italian capitalism the Allies want to disarm the workers, stabilize the monarchy, protect high-ranking officials of the former fascist regime from the wrath of the people. The Allies are now speaking sharply and insistently over the heads of their puppets, trying to stifle the rapidly mounting revolutionary anger of the masses. This is the essential explanation of the Allied maneuvers which culminated November 26 in the resignation of the five and a half month old Bonomi cabinet.

That part of Italy today occupied by the Allies is split into two opposing camps. One of these camps is clinging desperately to the right, to the Allied conquerors. This is the ruling bourgeoisie with its monarchy, its priests, fascist butchers and quislings. The other camp, the working class, is pulling with enormous power to the left. The “Socialists,” Stalinists and Actionists—parties under heavy pressure from the masses but serving the bourgeoisie—are doing everything in their power to drag back the workers, halt the class struggle, freeze politics until the war is “won.”

The workers, insistently sur-

(Continued from page 3)

(Continued on page 5)

SWP Program Of Expansion

We reprint herewith for the information of our readers a part of the organizational report delivered by M. Stein, Acting National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, to the Eleventh National Convention of the American Trotskyist movement held in New York Nov. 16-20. It deals with the proposed program of expansion of the Socialist Workers Party. These proposals were unanimously adopted by the convention delegates.

By M. Stein

For the next period of our party's activities we are proposing a rounded program of expansion, embracing all aspects of our work. We are proposing a bold program that will mean a great forward leap for our movement. It is proposed, in addition, that we carry out this program by the same Bolshevik campaign methods which have characterized our recent activity.

In introducing this program let us first state briefly the main motivating factors from which the proposals flow:

(1) Our main task, that of breaking out of isolation and steering a course to the working masses, still lies ahead of us. No matter how our program stands the test of events; no matter how correct our ideas; no matter how just our cause, unless we succeed in bridging the gap between our small revolutionary party and the masses, we will never fulfill our mission and will go down in history as another failure.

(2) While in the past our slow, modest growth was conditioned by an unfavorable objective situation, there is a radical shift taking place today, a shift that is bound to offer us great opportunities. The workers are becoming restless under the burdens the imperialist rulers have imposed on them. They are becoming disillusioned with the imperialist war aims. This was reflected in the trade union conventions held in the recent months. It was reflected most vividly in the UAW convention and the struggle against the no-strike pledge. The slogan for rescinding the no-strike pledge, which not so long ago had been our exclusive slogan, has become the slogan of masses of workers.

The sentiment for independent political action among the militants in the trade unions has been growing stronger. Even though

the PAC has succeeded in sidetracking this movement for the purposes of the election campaign this year, we can say confidently that the movement for an independent labor party will grow in strength in the next stage. And this slogan, too, which not so long ago was advanced almost exclusively by us, will in the next period become the slogan of the trade union militants nationally, just as it has already become the slogan of a growing number of trade union militants, especially in Michigan.

(3) In addition, the revolutionary struggles occurring today on the European continent, struggles which are bound to extend to the colonies, and which will grow fiercer with time, are also bound to have their repercussions on this continent.

(4) We do not need any new program. Our American resolution has outlined the political course that lies ahead of us. It indicates the slogans that will become most appropriate at the next stage.

This resolution itself makes no pretense of presenting a new program. It bases itself on the program of the 4th International and, in particular, on the program of transitional demands adopted in 1938 and supplemented later at the outbreak of the war with our proletarian military policy. Our course in our agitation for an independent labor party was mapped out in 1942 and this course applies today even more than it did then.

Proceeding from these considerations — i.e. the knowledge that the objective situation will be far more favorable than it has been in many years, and the fact that we are armed, and equipped with the correct program and with the appropriate slogans—we must strike outward to an ever-increasing extent. We must reach out with our ideas to an ever-greater number of the most oppressed and exploited sections of the masses.

1. THE MILITANT

The wonderful reception that The Militant has received from the new readers, their enthusiasm for our paper, indicates that The Militant is the key to our program of expansion. The Militant is the generator supplying the power with which the party and

(Continued on page 2)

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

CIO Bureaucracy And The Stalinists

An ominous development for organized labor is the growing alliance between the top CIO bureaucrats, traditional labor lieutenants of capitalism, and the newest and most outspoken defenders of Wall Street's "free-enterprise" system, the Stalinists. The recent CIO convention revealed increasing collaboration between the Murray-Hillman leadership and the Stalinists, from whose arsenal of rabidly reactionary slogans and policies the CIO bureaucracy is borrowing to an ever greater extent.

Scarcely a hairline of difference exists between the Murray-Hillman CIO convention resolutions and the swell regularly poured forth by the Stalinist Daily Worker. These resolutions were drafted, in fact, by Lee Pressman, well-known Stalinist agent and Murray's legal counsel. Indeed, the Daily Worker Dec. 1, published the main resolutions in four page supplement, "despite the shortage of paper," as "guide" to all labor "in the solution of foreign and domestic problems."

This Stalinist disregard of the paper shortage is understandable, particularly when one examines the key CIO resolutions on the no-strike policy and "post-war jobs." These are clearly designed to lay the basis for the permanent no-strike policy openly advocated by the Stalinists.

A short while ago the CIO leaders were attempting to quiet unrest in the ranks by intimating that after Germany's defeat they would "reconsider" the no-strike policy. Now, the CIO leaders demand, on threat of dire punitive measures against the militant ranks, that the "no-strike pledge" be kept as a "sacred obligation" until the "complete destruction of the German and Japanese military forces."

The resolution on "post-war jobs" makes it further apparent that the no-strike policy is intended to be permanent. The "post-war program" looks to nothing less than "sincere cooperation" between the CIO and the "many forward-looking industrialists" who "will respect the rights of labor, bargain with the unions in good faith, and recognize that post-war prosperity must be built upon increasing purchasing power and increased production."

Such a future for American labor, as envisioned by the CIO leaders, is built upon rotten straw, the reactionary fiction of "good-will" and harmonious collaboration between the ruling capitalist class and exploited labor. This is the will-o-the-wisp — the golden "post-Tehran" capitalist era — the Stalinists have been using to lure the workers into the bottomless pit of permanent no-strike surrender to the bosses. It is with this myth also that the CIO leaders hope to disarm the workers before the grim realities ahead, when the employing class and its government launch the full savagery of their open shop offensive.

This tendency of the CIO bureaucrats to collaborate with and adopt the most reactionary features of the Stalinist trade union line was further strikingly illustrated by CIO United Automobile Workers President, R. J. Thomas. In his Nov. 27 interview with the Associated Press, Thomas reached directly into the Daily Worker cesspool in his desperation to find some weapon to halt the upsurge against the no-strike pledge in his union. He seized upon one of the foulest strikebreaking slanders of the Stalinists, declaring that "the worker who strikes while the war is on is guilty of scabbing... is a 100 percent scab."

This term, traditionally used

SWP Plans Big Expansion Drive

(Continued from page 1)

all its institutions will advance. This is why we lay primary stress on The Militant in our expansion program.

(a) Concretely, we propose to transform The Militant into a big national weekly. Our aim is a 50,000 circulation.

(b) That as soon as practicable The Militant be increased to 8 pages. We have seen what a qualitative change has been made in the paper when it was changed from 4 to 6 pages. The addition of 2 more pages will give us the chance to add new popular features to the paper, to brighten it up much more, and to give it proper balance for our needs.

(c) We propose to reduce the subscription rate of The Militant to \$1.00 per year.

(d) We propose to start off in order to achieve the goal of 50,000 circulation, with a campaign for 10,000 new readers — to be followed by a second subscription campaign sometime before the end of 1945.

Our job is to get more and more readers and let The Militant itself do the job of convincing them week in and week out, thus drawing them closer to the party. The stormy events of the next period will help us greatly. Our agitation in our paper will be confirmed by the experience of the workers and will find greater receptivity. Our line will gain plausibility in the eyes of the workers; plausibility which will in time become transformed into conviction.

2. BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

For the publishing branch of our activities, we propose to complete as speedily as possible the publications program we have planned earlier. This includes the publication of two volumes of Comrade Trotsky's "Five Years of the Comintern" and Comrade Trotsky's "Man and His Communist Future."

We propose, in addition, that the incoming committee be instructed to outline a program of publishing as many as possible of those of Comrade Trotsky's works which have been out of print — namely, the writings on Germany, France, etc. The new workers joining our party find it increasingly difficult to familiarize themselves with Comrade Trotsky's writings that our movement had published earlier, because most of them are out of print. We must make extraordinary efforts to place these writings, this Marxist treasure, at the disposal of the advanced American workers.

In addition, we propose the publication of popular pamphlets on timely topics. Such a pamphlet on the labor party is now on the press. We are also planning to get out a selection of the "Shop Talks on Socialism" and of Comrade Jackson's column, "The Negro Struggle", and others.

3. FIELD ORGANIZERS

The expansion of our party work must also include an increase in the staff of fulltime field organizers, to provide organizers in those localities where the situation requires it. We will, in addition, have to pay attention to new localities where the possibility for the organization of party branches will present itself. We have seen one example of it most recently in Cincinnati, Ohio, where we have no party branch. A worker on his own initiative sent us seven subs to The Militant and said in effect that he would like to place himself at our disposal to carry on the work of spreading The Militant.

This is no isolated phenomenon. If we are in a position to send out national organizers to such and other localities, it will be possible to form new branches. It may even be advisable to send an organizer into new territory, get several hundred subs to The Militant, and then proceed elsewhere to repeat the same per-

formance. The Militant would then do the work of education and organization. The planting of this seed in fertile soil will bring rich harvests.

First Return On Fund

In the spirit of "Trotskyists do what is necessary, not what is possible," the branches and locals of the Socialist Workers Party are swinging into action to raise the \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund. They aim to approximate as closely as possible 100 percent of the total by January 22, 1945, the day the class-war prisoners are to be released.

All the branches tentatively accepted their proposed quotas at the convention. A number have already formalized this acceptance by vote of their membership. Some have revised theirs upward: Boston by \$100; Cleveland by \$100; Milwaukee by \$25 and Newark by \$50.

Despite the heavy expenses incurred by many branches to help finance the recently concluded convention, several have already begun collections and sent in their first payments toward the quotas. They are: Boston, Detroit, Newark, New York Local, N. Y. Maritime Club, Reading, and \$100 from a member-at-large. Youngstown takes the prize this week. The organizer of this branch writes modestly:

"Following our inspiring convention and the reports which were made at our branch meeting of members and friends, we decided to make some improvements in our organization to more efficiently carry out the program of expansion decided upon at the convention. We agreed to accept our quota of \$300 and immediately collected \$316.50 in cash and \$25 in pledges. We expect to considerably go over our quota by January 23rd. Enclosed find check."

To date, a total of \$1,999 has been received by the national office.

formance. The Militant would then do the work of education and organization. The planting of this seed in fertile soil will bring rich harvests.

4. EDUCATION

As this expansion program unfolds and becomes realized, the need of placing greater stress on our educational needs will become more pressing. New members joining the party must be educated towards an understanding of the party program and policies as the only sure way of assimilating them in a Bolshevik party. Our educational proposals, mentioned earlier and elaborated more fully in the Party Builder, must be carried further along step by step. Our plan to establish the Trotsky School system, which would take care of the Marxist educational requirements of the new recruits, promising candidates for leadership, as well as of the requirements of the top leadership and all the categories in between — this plan we propose to put into effect as part of our expansion program.

We propose to build on the experiences of the Michigan Vacation School and to establish next summer a national training school of longer duration where all the stress would be laid on education rather than vacation. It is our proposal to gear the Trotsky School, which is part of our educational project, to the requirements of the summer training school. That is, as soon as we are able to establish the Trotsky School and select the student body which is to devote a period of time to education, it would be the task of the comrades thus privileged to be selected for full-time study of Marxism, to equip themselves as the faculty for the training school in the summer, and prepare the courses for the training school. This will enrich the school and at the same time give the school faculty the necessary experience in teaching others.

5. \$18,000 PARTY EXPANSION FUND

To make this program possible we come before the party with the proposal to raise an \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund. We have set the sum at \$18,000 because the party proved in the \$15,000-15th Anniversary Fund campaign that such a sum is a realistic goal. We furthermore wish to symbolize the imprisonment of our 18 comrades by raising \$1,000 for each of the prisoners. Our expansion program and the \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund will be the best possible welcome home for our comrades when they are released.

The success of our expansion program will require the united effort of the whole party. It will require financial sacrifices of every one of our members. It will require a lot of hard persistent work. But, on the other hand, there is nothing more nourishing than the fruit of achievement, nothing more satisfying than the feeling of a job well done. There is nothing more gratifying than watching your party, armed with your program, march forward in expansion and growth.

Our sacrifices for the party have not been so great after all when you look around and we can see how the capitalist class has imposed the sacrifice not only of money, but also of life and limb of millions of youth and adults in the cause of imperialist slaughter, in a cause in which the people have no interest whatever. Our cause, the cause of liberating humanity from the shackles of exploitation, from the misery of war, deserves all the sacrifices we have made and even the greater sacrifices we will be called upon to make in the days ahead. Only to the extent that the party is infused with all our energies and strength, will the party grow and become powerful.

Let us then unite in the firm determination to fulfill this program of party expansion as another leap forward on the road to the masses. As the party grows, we will have bigger, more audacious campaigns, until that day when we will plan and execute the most audacious of them all, the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of the socialist society.

Give NOW to the

MINNEAPOLIS LABOR CASE

CHRISTMAS FUND

FOR THE PRISONERS AND
THEIR FAMILIES

JAMES T. FARRELL

Chairman

CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

160 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Here is my contribution of \$..... for the Minneapolis Labor Case Christmas Fund.

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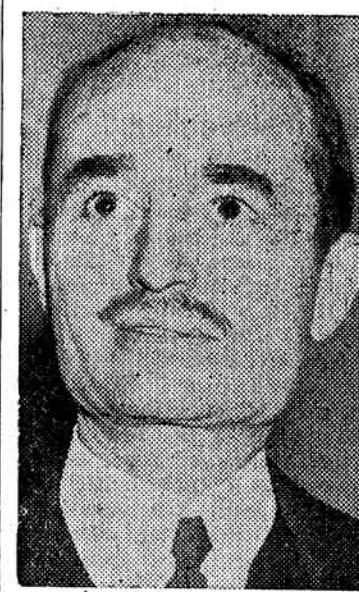
LITTELL BARES SCANDAL IN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page 1)

was a Navy Department contract which would have given away to Standard Oil priceless government oil reserves at Elk Hills, California.

Second expose made by Littell was a plan of Wall Street stooge Will Clayton, former Surplus Property Administrator, to place government-owned land on the market through big real estate interests who were slated for a juicy commission.

Third expose was an attempt by the War Department to return to private owners the Breakers



BIDDLE

Hotel in Florida at a loss to the government of some \$500,000 a year for five years. The hotel had been leased as a center for wounded soldiers.

BIDDLE'S INTERVENTION

In all three cases Littell was sharply called to account by Attorney General Biddle for testifying as he did before the Congressional committees taking evidence in the scandals. Biddle was "irritated" and "exasperated" over the disclosure of the facts in the attempted oil steal, and "doubted the illegality of the contract."

In the notorious Clayton affair, Littell charges, Biddle wrote Clayton saying that his Assistant was "not expressing the views of the department . . . only his personal views." When the shameful hotel scandal was made known to the Truman Committee, Littell declares, his superior ordered him to "take no further action," and later "sought a deviant way to suppress the Littell report."

But Littell didn't take Biddle's hints. He went right ahead when the Maritime Commission requested his department to begin condemnation proceedings against the Savannah Shipyards Co., subsidiary of Empire Ordinance, "because of failures and notorious incompetence." The Maritime Commission, itself notoriously friendly to Big Business, was forced into this action by shocking revelations about Savannah Shipyards before the Truman Committee.

Government appraisers valued the property at \$985,165. Not a bad figure considering that Empire Ordinance, a vast concern of which Savannah Shipyards is one subsidiary, mushroomed on war orders from an original investment of only \$5,000. Empire Ordinance has been investigated for fraud in the manufacture of munitions.

After Littell took the case to court, Biddle began pressing for the resignation of his "unreasonable" Assistant. Talk was heard of replacing Littell with a cog that would run more smoothly in the machinery of justice. Littell reports that the Attorney General at one time was "quite interested in the possibility of promoting one of Tommy Corcoran's brothers who was an attorney in the office of the U. S. District Attorney in New York City." Biddle even argued, says Littell, that Corcoran "ought to be appointed Solicitor General of the United States."

ROOSEVELT ACTS

Roosevelt himself took time out to poke into the gummed-up wheels of justice, writing Littell that he "hoped for his own career he would resign." Littell reports he was even "offered another post in the government if he left the Justice Dept. without any fuss." He declined the offer.

When Littell filed a 25-page memorandum with the Senate War Investigating Committee, citing the facts outlined above, Roosevelt acted without delay. In a letter to Biddle, the President labelled Littell's memorandum to Congress "insubordination." "This is inexcusable," continued Roosevelt, "and under the circumstances my only alternative is to remove him from office which I have done today."

and the Truman Committee once dipped into its shady manipulations. But Empire Ordinance bears a charmed existence. It is so sure of the power of its charm that it thought \$985,165 not enough in the condemnation proceedings. The charm it depends upon is Thomas G. Corcoran, former member of Roosevelt's brain trust, now peddling influence under the guise of "practicing law" in Washington. CORCORAN AND BIDDLE

As Littell prepared to go to court with the government case, Corcoran called on his personal friend, Francis Biddle, who also happens to be a Roosevelt favorite. The wheels immediately began revolving to rescue the beleaguered Savannah Shipyards Co. "The Attorney General telephoned to me at 5 p. m. on May 14," recounts Littell, "to ask about settling this case." Littell was surprised. "Out of thousands of condemnation cases, this was the only settlement about which the Attorney General ever called me." Littell feared public scandal would touch his department and stuck by his guns.

Corcoran had succeeded only shortly before as attorney for the defense in settling the anti-trust case against Sterling Products. The still rose from that white-wash deal, for Sterling Products belonged to an interna-



CORCORAN

tional cartel, another member of which was the German Trust, I. G. Farbenindustrie. One of Corcoran's brothers is vice-president of Sterling.

"On Saturday, May 22," continues Littell, ". . . the Attorney General gave a cocktail party at his house." Again the screws were put on Littell to settle this "hot potato" out of court — at a sum above the government figure. But not even Attorney General Biddle's cocktails could sway the Assistant.

On June 31 Littell was summoned to a conference with Corcoran's law patrons, Dempsey and Koplavitz, and his good personal friend Attorney General Biddle. They again put the heat on Littell. Biddle declared: "You settle most of your condemnation cases, don't you? You told me you did!" Littell concurred, but explained there were "factors in this case which I would not discuss in the presence of opposing counsel."

After Littell took the case to court, Biddle began pressing for the resignation of his "unreasonable" Assistant. Talk was heard of replacing Littell with a cog that would run more smoothly in the machinery of justice. Littell reports that the Attorney General at one time was "quite interested in the possibility of promoting one of Tommy Corcoran's brothers who was an attorney in the office of the U. S. District Attorney in New York City." Biddle even argued, says Littell, that Corcoran "ought to be appointed Solicitor General of the United States."

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Our agent in Buffalo forwarded the following comments of trial subscribers who renewed their subs: "One subscriber said, 'I could sit here all day and tell you things I like about that paper.' Another told us, 'At first I didn't pay much attention to it, but I happened to read it once and now I like it fine.' A colored woman told us she is keeping a scrapbook of clippings from The Militant to give her son when he comes back from the war."

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JAMES T. FARRELL

Chairman

Pierlot Offers Belgian Bases In Exchange For Churchill's Aid In Suppressing Masses

By Paul Abbott

Barely three months after the German armies have been driven from Belgium, the Allies and their political puppets are forcing the Teheran Conference decisions down the throats of the masses with the aid of barbed wire barricades, armed police, light tanks, semi-martial law and the bayonets of the British armed forces.

The capitalist counter-revolution backed by the Allies is entrenching itself in Belgium as part of its preparation to drown the advancing European workers' revolution in blood. On November 30, Leslie Hore-Belisha, former British War Secretary, revealed in the House of Commons that the Pierlot government set up by the Allies had "offered" to Britain "strategic outposts, and economic outposts as well—similar to those we gave the United States in the West Indies."

Hore-Belisha then implied the objectives behind the generous offer to Britain from the Pierlot government: "It is sometimes suggested that any advocacy of economic, political or strategic unity in western Europe is a threat to Russia . . . There is nothing more challenging in our desire to organize the strength of the nations on our flanks than there is in Russia's organizing the nations on her flanks."

BRITISH AIMS

Just as Wall-Street has established a military shield in the West Indies against Europe, so England wishes to establish a military shield on the European continent to promote its imperialist aims and to protect its interests against the inevitable workers' revolution which will constitute an extension of the Bolshevik revolution in October 1917.

That is why the mass protest of the workers is being met by armed force on the part of the Allies together with an announcement of the Allied High Command that it would support Pierlot "by arms, if necessary, on the issue of disarming members of the resistance movements." An anti-Pierlot demonstration on Nov. 25 led to the wounding of 45 workers.

A strike in Brussels protesting the violence of the Allies and the reactionary policies of its puppet government paralyzed the city November 29. Street car services virtually stopped, postal employees did not report for work, and telephone exchanges ceased to function. Railway men and shop clerks joined the protest. Strikers and sympathizers gathered by the thousands in the downtown area. The strikers demanded wages adjusted to the skyrocketing cost of living, revised working hours, food, coal, and the punishment of Nazi collaborators.

The Allied armed forces stood by to take over the telephone exchange. Steel-helmeted police established neutral zones at public buildings where Allied troops "parked" armored vehicles ake to axle, safe-guarding the Pierlot government from the wrath of the people. Pierlot replied to the masses by banning parades, mass meetings and demonstrations, and by "prohibiting" strikes of public service employees.

According to the December 3 N. Y. Times, disarmament of the Belgian partisans evoked praise from the Berlin radio.

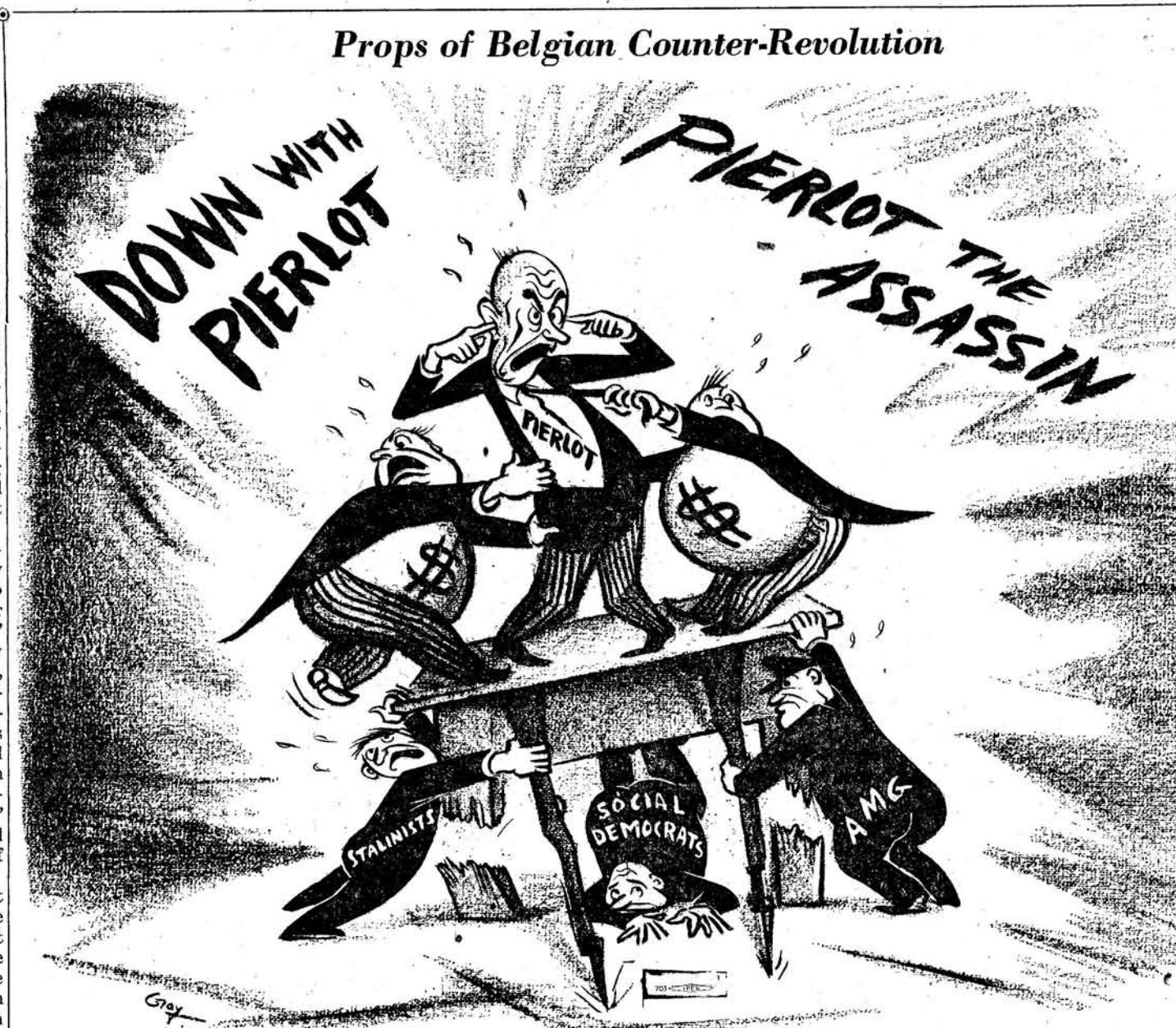
Auto Union Leaders Conspire To Hide WLB Wage Rejection

(Continued from page 1)

ed—and somewhat red-faced—that the rejection, though dated Oct. 20, still is generally unknown. Customarily, important decisions of this sort emerge from the NWLB or its regional offices with a fanfare of publicity." Why did the UAW officials, the government and the Chrysler corporation conspire to conceal this information from the workers?

The Chrysler wage dispute dragged along for a year and a half. Negotiations with the company began in the summer of 1943. The case was submitted to the regional WLB in Detroit for "arbitration" about a year ago after "negotiations" broke down. The regional board rejected the union's wage demands last June, citing Roosevelt's "wartime stabilization policies" as their reason for doing so. The case was appealed to the WLB in Washington which handed down its decision upholding the regional board on October 20. With the insignificant exception of a slight increase in vacation pay, every single demand of the union was flatly rejected!

One of the reasons for the conspiracy of silence is indicated by *Business Week* which states: "During the period of publicity, the confidence game is passed off as 'collective bargaining' by



Allies Shove Monarchy To Fore In Latest Italian Political Crisis

(Continued from page 1)

ing leftward, seeking leadership capable of guiding them in the struggle for power, are stretching these parties to the snapping point. Commentators in Italy speak about dissident right and left wings in all these parties. While the masses pull these parties in one direction, the Allies jerk the controlling strings in the opposite direction. That is why the Italian cabinets set up by the Allied conquerors gyrate and jump so fantastically.

ROLE OF ALLIES

Italy, converted into one of the major battlefields of the second World War, has been ravished. Her factories are bombed and crippled, her fields sown with mines, her transportation system wrecked, her labor power devastated, her feeble economy truncated and torn between opposing armies. Famine and disease stalk Italy, lashing the people toward revolution. Under these conditions the Allied conquerors cannot set up a stable puppet regime.

The Allied Commission is worried and fearful. Few illusions as to its counter-revolutionary role exist any longer among the people. News of its real role is spreading into the north where German armies still occupy the cities. The slow Allied military advance is giving the industrial proletariat of northern Italy time to understand what Allied occupation means to the nation—and also time to prepare.

Roosevelt and his labor lackeys, and what of the General Motors wage demands which have been pending before the WLB for many months? Walter Reuther, head of General Motors division of the UAW, has been lulling the workers with the fiction that their wage demands were a cinch once the steel workers got "theirs." But the only "fringe" demand granted the steelworkers that means anything was the wage differential for the swing and graveyard shifts—which the auto workers already have.

In actuality, the Chrysler wage demands set the pattern for the rest of the UAW. By its action in the Chrysler case, the wage-freezing, strikebreaking, employer-dominated War Labor Board has established a precedent to be used in knifing the demands of all the auto workers. The auto militants must demand an accounting from the Thomas-Ades-Frankenstein leadership of their role in this conspiracy. A fitting answer to the conspirators would be an overwhelming vote to rescind the no-strike pledge in the UAW referendum. Bonomi is conspiring with them in the execution of this design.

Although the Italian cabinet set up by the Allies is appointed, not elected; must be approved by the Allies and can be dissolved

at the stroke of the pen by the Allied Commission, Bonomi tendered his resignation to Humbert as if the Crown Prince really headed the Italian government and there were no occupying army astride prostrate Italy.

The House of Savoy stands irrevocably discredited in the eyes of the Italian masses. Bonomi's gesture was calculated by the Allied politicians to give the appearance of life and power to the monarchy. The Crown Prince—like a well-prompted actor—has since gone through the gestures outlined for him by the Allied Commission, calling in the leaders of the various parties and asking Bonomi to form a new cabinet just as his father once asked Mussolini to form a new cabinet.

HALT PURGES

This whole shoddy maneuver reveals all over again the character of the Allied puppets. They are the most rotten type of bourgeois politicians, outbidding each other to sell their services to the conqueror, leaping at the most revolting alacrity at a finger snap of the foreign masters.

PARTIES OF "THE LEFT"

The parties of the right, the Liberals and Christian Democrats, have openly backed up these machinations on the Allies. The "Socialists," Stalinists and Actionists, knowing that support of the maneuver will further compromise them in the eyes of the masses, hesitate. The hesitation of the "Socialists" and Actionists probably arises from genuine fear. The Allied anxiety to push forward the monarchy means that the "democratic" scenery is being shifted off the stage. The Allies not only do not intend to leave the "democratic" facade standing in face of the hisses and boos of the proletarian audience, but are advancing the props of the right.

The Stalinists, acting in accordance with instructions from the counter-revolutionary Kremlin, have hesitated publicly, but at the same time have been calling for "unity." In the Italian situation that means: relax while the right is being blown.

The present political crisis demonstrates how the lines of the class struggle are sharpening in Italy. Day by day the intolerable tension makes it more clear that the only way out of the impasse for the working class is the program of revolutionary Socialism. Only institution of a planned economy in Italy can save the nation from the abyss and open up the road to reconstruction. The slogans of revolutionary action are acquiring burning reality for the Italian workers. They can save themselves from the developing counter-revolution only by organizing their Soviets, taking power, and fighting in unity with their fellow workers on the continent for a Socialist United States of Europe.

PUSH MONARCHY FORWARD

To provide a rallying point for the forces of internal counter-revolution, the Allies are pushing forward the puppet around whom it now hopes to group the Italian agents willing to carry out the shameful terms of the secret peace treaty. This puppet is Crown Prince Humbert of Savoy. Bonomi is conspiring with them in the execution of this design.

Exposes the methods and aims of the politicians who oppose labor's interests, outlines labor's place in politics, shows how intelligent and independent political action today can lead the labor movement forward.

A Tribute To One Who Died Young

The following letter, accompanied by a check for \$50, was received last week by the Civil Rights Defense Committee in response to its Christmas appeal for funds to aid the wives and families of the 12 Minneapolis Labor Case Prisoners.

* * *

"Please accept the enclosed check as a small contribution to your cause. It is given in memory of Richard McLaughlin, 'killed in action' somewhere in France early in November, 1944. Feeling the urge to do something to honor his memory, I know that this is the way he would want me to do it . . .

"When I came to this country in 1940 as an anti-fascist refugee, Richard McLaughlin, then 21, was my first American acquaintance. I had been in this country but a few days and did not speak its language. He offered his services, claiming that he would like to get some knowledge of German in exchange. He did not ask for any payment. After several weeks, he finally permitted me to refund his fare by then he would come to see me quite regularly and was not able any more to hide the fact that he could not spare even the subway nickel. But these were the times we grew to know each other. Soon all these formalities disappeared and Mac, as we used to call him, was a friend to whom our house was open day and night, who enjoyed tremendously to join us for entertainment and discussion, and whom we shall miss beyond words.

"We shall miss his familiar, urgent knock at the door . . . We shall miss his arguments, his passionate pleading for the causes he had adopted, his intellectual alertness, his stupendous eagerness to learn. He wanted to teach me English? Hell no, all he wanted was to satisfy his passionate longing for knowledge, more knowledge, his yearning to meet people, to conquer a new chapter of history, to gain a new understanding of world affairs, to confirm his established belief that revolution, and revolution only, was the answer to the murderous ways of class society.

"We shall miss his love for all genuine art, especially that of the American colored people whom he regarded as his brothers and comrades par excellence . . .

"Intellectually he set an example of self-liberation. In evening City College classes which he attended eagerly, he not only made Socialist friends, but he also laid the scientific foundation to those studies he embarked upon later, studies which led him over Thorstein Veblen in the last consequence to embracing the political philosophy of Marxism with the emphasis on Leon Trotsky's works and theories.

"I shall never forget those heated arguments and discussions we had! Almost thirty years his senior, I owe him much of what I know now about America. And I often had to confess that also about Europe he knew more than I. His foremost interest was languages. This Irish boy, born in New York, finally spoke German without an accent. He had a good working knowledge of Spanish, Italian and French. But he would also pick up a Yiddish newspaper, printed in Hebrew, and read to me the editorial in his English translation . . . He was one of the most gifted young men I ever met.

He Worked To Advance Mankind

"Yet in this 'land of opportunity,' his career ended as an usher at \$11 a week. For he was a genuine proletarian youth. He detested and would not have fit in the smart clothes and the polished looks of one who wants to go places in this society. When others would date pretty girls, Mac would spend his time picketing a bus line which mistreated Negroes. He did not think of the advancement of Richard McLaughlin. He thought of the advancement of mankind. Life had very few smiles for him. He had seen too clearly its abominable grimace, and his mind was made up to fight for changes in a world interpreted long enough.

"The war encroached upon his plans. The tragedy which has ended now in death began at once . . .

"His basic training was routine. When Africa was invaded, Private McLaughlin rode on a boat carrying an infantry outfit over the ocean. His eagerness to learn never left him. His linguistic and intellectual talents to be sure, seemed to be of no avail to the army. But on African soil he would soon interview the Arabs in their very language about their situation, rather than partake in the usual G. I. canteen entertainments . . .

"Then, after the invasion of France, he was transferred to a combat unit and soon to Europe. When last heard of, he was in France. His last letter of October 15, 1944 ends thus:

"I may be able to put to use my linguistic ability. I hope so. I have seen some combat and think it's no good for my digestion—when I'm scared I can't eat. Please let me know in a letter what you think of the general world situation in respect to things which concern us."

"That is, that was my friend Mac. If I would know that there are armies of young revolutionists like him around the earth, I would feel better for the future of mankind."

Just Published

AMERICAN WORKERS NEED A LABOR PARTY

by Joseph Hansen

PIONEER PUBLISHERS, 116 University Place, New York, N. Y. 15¢

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Roosevelt's New Cabinet Member Fortifies Wall Street Control Over Foreign Policy

By Joseph Hansen

Wall Street has begun cashing in the chips of its election victory. This is clearly the meaning of Roosevelt's appointment on November 27 of Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., as Secretary of State. The placing of this member of America's ruling oligarchy in charge of foreign affairs is another instance of the trend of Big Business political policy in recent years to honeycomb strategic government posts with its own men.

The Nov. 28 N. Y. Times declares, "The President has been understood to view Mr. Stettinius... as a Government official who was reassuring to big business." In an editorial, the Times adds: "The appointment is happily free of all political implications. It is plainly a reward of merit."

What are the "merits" of the 44-year-old Stettinius? Surely not his achievements in the State Department; he has been there only one year. His "merits" must be all the more unusual, for he has been placed in charge of the foreign affairs of the United States in the fifth year of the Second World War, precisely when the question of "peace" treaties begins to take precedence over all other phases of the conflict.

A Happy Choice

The first great "merit" in the career of Stettinius was the selection of the family in which to be born. He rejected a working class birth and made the wise choice of a cradle among America's 60 ruling families. His astuteness was further revealed by selecting for his father in this narrow circle nothing less than a partner in the House of J. Pierpont Morgan.

At an early age his natural talents began to assert themselves. According to the newspapers now lauding his "merits," at the university he practised looking democratic by abstaining from riding around the campus in his father's Rolls Royce. He likewise early recognized that brains and education are commodities that can be purchased. He never graduated, but turned his attention to organizing an employment agency for indigent students.

His success at milking indigent students brought his "merits" to the attention of a vice-president of General Motors, according to the press. And so he went to work as stock room attendant at the Hyatt Roller Bearing Works at 44 cents an hour. Stettinius did not pause to organize a union and try to raise this miserable rate of pay. Such were his "merits" that in a little more than three years he became nothing less than a Vice President of General Motors.

Big Business Politics

The auto barons sent him to Washington during NRA days to defend their special interests. His "merits" in this assignment were so conspicuous that Myron Taylor of United States Steel—which like General Motors is dominated by the House of Morgan—invited him to become vice chairman of its Finance Committee. By the age of 37 he had been promoted to Chairman of the Board. The up and coming Morgan lieutenant soon familiarized himself with the international connections of

the steel trust and the problems of ruling the steel industry.

In 1939, as his next assignment in the Morgan empire, he gave up his \$100,000 salary, "resigned" all his connections with Big Business and became a dollar-a-year Chairman of Roosevelt's War Resources Board. A man with such a wholesome attitude could not help prove reassuring to Big Business. Consequently he served in addition on the National Defense Advisory Commission and as director of priorities in the OPM. His "merits" in these posts were so gratifying to Big Business that in 1941 he was made Director of Lend-Lease.

Two years of struggling along on his dollar-a-year salary, handling tens of billions of dollars in Lend-Lease, clinched his "merits" in the eyes of Wall Street. When Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles resigned in 1943, Stettinius was shot into his post.

Thus we can see how justifiable is the conclusion of the N. Y. Times that his appointment as Secretary of State is a "reward of merit." The Times should know—Thomas W. Lamont of the House of Morgan has personal connections with its editors.

Liberals Wring Their Hands

PM, however, representing liberal opinion, has a different view of Stettinius. A Nov. 28 editorial declares: "Not even his greatest admirers claim for Stettinius either outstanding abilities, deep insights, or passionate convictions... his connections with United States Steel mean that he has connections with the cartel structure of the world."

And then PM, one of the most blatant pro-Roosevelt papers in the country, wrings its hands: "The moral for American progressives is a stark one. Here we are at a time when the future of world labor and world democracy will be decided by what happens in international policy, and especially what happens in the American State Dept. and the American Senate. And here we are just a few weeks after a great progressive electoral victory. Yet in the first major appointment after that victory, the progressives have suffered a defeat."

The Real Moral

PM doesn't have the "moral" quite straight. The real moral is that labor took a defeat in the election. Wall Street won. The only way labor could have made headway in the election would have been through an independent labor party. The only reason Roosevelt can make appointments like that of Stettinius is because Hillman-Murray and the other labor lieutenants of Wall Street, delivered him the labor vote and blocked the organization of an independent labor party.

Wall Street can place its favorite sons throughout the government and get the almost unanimous endorsement of Congress for its choices only because no independent labor party exists to protest and fight.

The real moral of the Stettinius appointment—and its approval by Congress—is, build an independent labor party.

Child Labor Increase

The auto barons sent him to Washington during NRA days to defend their special interests. His "merits" in this assignment were so conspicuous that Myron Taylor of United States Steel—which like General Motors is dominated by the House of Morgan—invited him to become vice chairman of its Finance Committee. By the age of 37 he had been promoted to Chairman of the Board. The up and coming Morgan lieutenant soon familiarized himself with the international connections of

the steel trust and the problems of ruling the steel industry.

But now the situation is entirely different. American capitalism entered its period of absolute decline after the 1929 crash. It is no longer able to mitigate the class conflict over the division of the national income by granting significant concessions, but seeks to take back those concessions already won by the workers through bitter struggle. To maintain its power to buy back the products of labor, it is necessary to drive down the living standards of the workers.

While accusing the CIO of "raiding" AFL unions and belittling its more dynamic industrial union character and increasing influence, the AFL moguls repeated their annual plea for "labor unity." They called for the CIO to "erect ones" to return to the "house of labor." But it was clear they did not mean real unity, on the basis of preserving and extending industrial organization.

The utterly reactionary character of the AFL tops was further revealed on the burning question of Jim-Crow segregation of Negro workers into special "auxiliaries" of various international unions. Ugly and insulting words were spoken against A. Phillip Randolph, head of the Sleeping Car Porters, for demanding a resolution condemning and outlawing "lily-white" policies. Resolutions were passed against discrimination in government, armed forces and industry—but not inside the AFL internationals. The AFL leaders, who could commit the entire AFL to a no-strike pledge, pleaded no authority to order non-discrimination within its member organizations.

But the actions of the select few at the AFL convention does not bespeak the real mood and views of the AFL membership. Like the rest of labor, the ranks are growing more discontented, more eager for real action against the wage-freeze, more disgusted with do-nothing, servile policies. Stormy days are coming; the AFL workers will be heard from,

false policies of the union leadership.

The class collaboration policies of the labor bureaucrats have been carried through under the slogan of "national unity" which is based on the fraud that the interests of the workers are identical with those of the employers.

This deception has served to further enrich the capitalists at the expense of the wage earners. The wartime experience of the American working class has proved again that those who preach the identity of interest between capital and labor are either hypocrites, demagogues or liars.

ROOSEVELT'S HOAX

Roosevelt's "equality of sacrifice" promise during the war, like his promise for 60,000,000 jobs "after the war," is a monstrous hoax. If the decaying capitalist system survives it can only bring mass unemployment, hunger and despair. In this period, when the struggle over the division of the national income is directed

toward the government, the

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The "LABOR WITH A WHITE SKIN CAN NOT EMANCIPATE ITSELF WHERE LABOR WITH A BLACK SKIN IS BRANDED" — KARL MARX.

Negro Struggle

By Charles Jackson

Plenty Of Grievances

Bill Peterson, from whom we heard through this column a few weeks ago, says that we have plenty to be burned up about. Here's how he puts it:

"Negro workers have plenty of grievances. In the shops with the cutbacks coming, competition for jobs is leading to unfair race discrimination. To secure upgrading in most shops is almost impossible."

"What all Negroes claim is the inalienable right to be free to exercise first class American citizenship. American 'democracy' throttles the legitimate expression of Negro development. Political officials close their eyes to the injustices meted out to us. The government officials have declared by their actions that Negroes are not competent to be given full citizenship. We deny this strenuously!"

"The government has committed many crimes against the Negro. Since 1920 they have done everything to exploit us. They have given us little chance to cope with the environment. If we are deficient in skill or experience necessary to enable us to fit into the management of American affairs, it is because they have never given us the opportunity to develop those qualities. We demand responsibility at once!"

"The Negro resents and condemns the constant segregation of the Negro in the U. S. Army. Furthermore, the present government has taken good care to see that, in addition to segregation, the Negroes in the army have very little chance to get equal treatment."

"These two general grievances — political and economic bondage and segregation, are dominant. Beyond them there is almost any number of detailed complaints."

THE REAL RECORD

"American Negroes are starved for education. In the South, where segregation is worse, uncounted millions of state money is spent in public schools exclusively for whites, while a few wretched pennies are spent on public schools for Negroes. In view of this fact it is no wonder that the education obtained is sometimes miserable."

"The American government points to the 'record' in public health and emphasizes the wonderful job it has done. Yet the Negroes' death rate is the highest in the United States. Not less than 20 percent of the entire Negro population is poorly nour-

ished, which means that 2,600,000 Negroes in this America don't get enough to eat."

"Social discrimination is a bitter point. The record in the field of social reform for Negroes is negligible. It is ridiculous that even men like Paul Robeson may not enter many of the hotels in American cities. Yes, American color snobbery has left more than one unpleasant trace."

"The great official power of the various State, County and Municipal governments serves to make complete equality for Negro citizens impossible. Now, even the Federal government does many things to subdue Negroes."

"The white Americans have been taught to feel that Negroes are incompetent, shiftless, bribable and hopelessly chained to religious superstition. They say that the Negroes' 'capacity for equal citizenship' is a fantastic overstatement. It has been stated hundreds of times that Negroes have an 'inferiority complex.' If any Negro has sense of inferiority it derives mostly from generations of being snubbed and treated like dogs."

"The policy of capitalist 'democracy' in a word, is to keep the substance of full citizenship from the Negroes. Negro police, in a word, is to defeat this aim. Suppression of a fixed and arbitrary type is no longer to be tolerated. 13,000,000 black workers will no longer take such treatment. Also they can no longer be fooled by false compromises by their so-called friends."

TIME TO FIGHT

"The time to fight is now! If capitalist America has refused to give Negroes equal citizenship during this global war, it is hardly possible that they will do it when the conflict is over."

"We can no longer remain loyal to our open enemies or our so-called friends. We must give our support to that group whose platform includes that all people be given full citizenship rights immediately."

"The only organization which will bring equal citizenship, beyond a shadow of doubt, is the Socialist Workers Party. That is so because its program is — union of all the workers against the capitalists who control the government. When Negroes give to that organization full support, then and only then will their grievances have reached the tone of 'sounding brass and crashing cymbals.'

Pioneer Paragraphs

THE LESSON OF MINNEAPOLIS TEAMSTERS STRIKE OF 1934

There was no essential difference, in fact I don't think there was any serious difference at all between the strikers in Minneapolis and the workers involved in a hundred other strikes throughout the land in that period. Nearly all the strikes were fought with the greatest militancy by the workers. The difference was in the leadership and the policy. In practically all the other strikes the militancy of the rank and file workers was restrained from the top. The leaders were overawed by the government, the newspapers, the clergy and one thing or another. They tried to shift the conflict from the streets and the picket lines to the conference chambers. In Minneapolis the militancy of the rank and file was not restrained but organized and directed from the top.

All modern strikes require political direction. The strikes of that period brought the government, its agencies and its institutions into the very center of every situation. A strike leader without some conception of a political line was very much out of date already by 1934. The old-fashioned trade union movement, which used to deal with the

bosses without governmental interference, belongs in the museum. The modern labor movement must be politically directed because it is confronted by the government at every turn.

Our people were prepared for that since they were political people, inspired by political conceptions. The policy of the class struggle guided our comrades; they couldn't be deceived and outmaneuvered, as so many strike leaders of that period were, by this mechanism of sabotage and destruction known as the National Labor Board; they weren't fooled by any idea that Roosevelt, the liberal "friend of labor" president, was going to help the truck drivers in Minneapolis win a few cents more an hour. They weren't deluded even by the fact that there was at that time in Minnesota a Farmer-Labor Governor, presumed to be on the side of the workers.

Our people didn't believe in anybody or anything but the policy of the class struggle and the ability of the workers to prevail by their mass strength and solidarity. Consequently, they expected from the start that the union would have to fight for its right to exist; that the bosses would not yield any recognition to the union, would not yield any increase of wages or reduction of the scandalous hours without some pressure being brought to bear. Therefore they prepared everything from the point of view of class war. They knew that power, not diplomacy, would decide the issue. Bluffs don't work in fundamental things, only in incidental ones. In such things as the conflict of class interests one must be prepared to fight.

(From "The History of American Trotskyism," by James P. Cannon, pp. 146-148. Pioneer Publishers, 1944, 280 pp.; cloth \$2.75, paper \$2. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York, 3, N.Y.)

Allied Powers' Puppet Regime In Greece Provokes Civil War By Its Move To Disarm The Masses

(Continued from page 1)

government police opened fire with machine guns and tommy guns... Crouching behind low walls, lodged on flat roofs and on second floor balconies, police poured thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition into the massed demonstrators...

"As a second body of EAM demonstrators came down the street, police increased the intensity and range of their fire, using heavier weapons, probably mortars and light anti-tank guns..."

"A few British armored cars were on the scene when the police first opened fire. Others which arrived later parked among the scattered remains of the demonstrator's banners several of which lay in large pools of blood."

"INCREDIBLE COURAGE"

"Athenians, hardened by eight years of dictatorship and terror, showed incredible courage in the face of these modern weapons of destruction... While the police were firing upon the unarmed demonstrators, the mass of the crowd continued to march on erectly. Only a few sought cover... When the marchers reached the spot where their comrades were killed, they paused for a few minutes to pay homage to the dead. The tanks moved slowly in, ordering the crowd to proceed."

"When the police ceased their 'wild and savage' firing, 23 dead lay in the streets. More than 150 were wounded. Most of the victims were boys and girls under 18."

MARTIAL LAW DECLARED

"On the following day, Dec. 4, General Catsovas, acting military governor of Athens, gave armed formations 72 hours notice to quit the area. Any ELAS members attempting to enter Athens after this time would be 'treated as enemies.'

"Lieut. Gen. Scobie declared martial law and curfew in Athens and said he was standing firmly behind the Papandreu government. He 'intends to treat the action of the ELAS troops as mutiny, to be put down by force if necessary.' Drumhead courts-martial were set up to enforce the martial law. Three formations of workers, according to press reports, were disarmed by British troops, one group of 300, another of 800, a third of 1200.

"Strikes which had begun Dec. 3 spread rapidly. EAM called for a general strike. All shops, factories, ministries and public and private installations were paralyzed. The ELAS seized two police barracks in Piraeus, port of Athens. They were told to withdraw or suffer the consequences. Dock workers in Piraeus paraded, armed with clubs, knives and a few guns. Some demonstrators set up machine-guns in various points.

"Greek partisans defied the orders of Scobie and poured into



General Scobie, British Commander of the land force in Greece is shown accompanying the puppet Premier George Papandreu to the Acropolis. Last weekend Scobie's forces were placed at Papandreu's disposal in his massacre of the demonstrating Greek masses.

Athens seizing 21 out of 28 police stations in and around the city. British troops took back two out of four stations in Piraeus reestablishing Papandreu's police, 400 other partisans attacked Anglo-Greek naval headquarters armed with automatic weapons and machine-guns. British armored cars repulsed the attack. In the Thessaloniki district of Athens the ELAS closed on besieged royalists from three sides, battling them for 15 hours. They outnumbered their foes six to one. British tanks rescued the royalists, according to a Dec. 5 INS dispatch, leaving 150 ELAS dead. A whole ELAS division is reported to have infiltrated into the capital in groups.

The puppet cabinet of the Allies abandoned their government offices, fleeing to the Hotel Grande Bretagne guarded by British tanks. Premier Papandreu officially proclaimed a "government crisis." By this he meant he could no longer carry on without reforming his cabinet. On Dec. 5, the puppet government apparently was still without any news of the situation outside the capital in groups.

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The savagery of the Allied occupation toward the Greek masses is in glaring contrast to their solicitude for the counter-revolutionary forces of Greek capitalism. The police, protected by the British and escorted to their stations after assaults by armed workers, are the very same police who served under the bloody dictatorship of Premier Metaxas from 1937 to 1941. They are the same killers who served the Nazi military with the same savagery with which they now serve Allied conquerors.

These events in Greece expose the absolutely counter-revolutionary role of Allied imperialism. Allied armies are occupying Greece for the same reason they occupy Belgium — to put down the rising workers' revolution in Europe. The N. Y. Times, mouth-

piece of Big Business, expresses this clearly when it says in its main editorial of Dec. 4, "The present political problem in Greece is in microcosm the present political problem of Europe." The editorial states that British and American armies "once they have recognized any government... are bound to support it if necessary against violence or armed insurrection from any source."

The Times then concludes approvingly, "Hence the British have been thoroughly justified in supporting both the Pfeiffer Government in Belgium and the Papandreu Government in Greece. To maintain public order and their own authority, both of these, like the de Gaulle Government in France, had no alternative but to demand that the Communists and other resistance groups turn in their arms."

WEAPON OF HUNGER

According to INS, Dec. 5, Lincoln MacVeigh, American Ambassador to Greece, declared, "We will give liberal support to any government the Greek people want, but with civil war hanging over the country, American aid to Greece has had to stop. The ships in Piraeus harbor may have to move out and all our relief work has had to stop. Thus if real civil war breaks out and goes on for some time, the people of Greece may face more months of starvation."

If the masses of Greece and Belgium entertained any illusions about the role of the Allied imperialists, the events in Brussels and Athens are fast wiping out these illusions.

STALINIST BETRAYALS

The main obstacle between the Greek working class and the advancement of the proletarian revolution is now Stalinism. The treacherous role of the Stalinists, however, becomes clearer each day. Instead of opposing Allied imperialism and warning the masses, the Stalinists supported the Allied conquerors, accepting posts in their puppet cabinet.

Cold calculation marked their lies that the Allies were bringing democracy and liberation to Greece. When the Allied commander began pressing for disarmament of the workers in the teeth of popular resentment, the Stalinists did not expose his aims, but on the contrary prepared to help carry them out.

"IF NECESSARY..."

In the face of the present slaughter, Stalinist Dimitri Partsalides, secretary general of EAM, declared, "if necessary, we will fight for liberty against Papandreu and his gendarmes." Despite the infliction of civil war on the people, the Stalinists raise the question as to whether or not it is "necessary" to fight! Partsalides added, that "after yesterday's clash, the ELAS could not surrender our arms by Dec. 10 as ordered." Although the Stalinists still hope to deliver up the arms of the working class, with the outbreak of armed conflict, their task is rendered far more difficult.

The terrible ordeal into which the Allies have plunged the Greek workers will, however, soon serve to bring into glaring relief the treacherous role of the Stalinist leaders. Then the wrath of the heroic Greek workers will turn upon these betrayers.

Diary Of A Steel Worker

By Theodore Kovalesky

Today the steel towns are darkened with smoke. They're murky with the fine dust spewed out of the blast furnaces. In the dawn you look up at the open hearth stacks that loom over the towns, and you see smoke trailing out of them, brown-red, white, and black. At high noon you see it. At sundown it still pours out.

Sometimes as you look, your mind goes back a few years. You remember those same stacks standing there naked, smokeless. At night when you look toward the lake and see the sky suddenly burst into flame as some engineer over on the cinder-dump empties the ladles into the water, you may recall that the night skies were once much blacker.

Perhaps if you're a serious sort of guy you may look beyond today and into the gray tomorrow when once more the stacks will be dead, and little groups of men will again gather in front of the corner saloon outside the big gate, repeating with desperate eagerness rumors that two more open hearths are soon to start up, that another blast furnace should be in operation in the near future, or that the rolling mill is going to take on thirty men before long.

Now, with all the talk about returning to the forty-hour week, increasing numbers of steelworkers are thinking of things like this.

To us the five day week is a menacing specter, and the shadow of this apparition is—the depression.

I'll never forget what we had to go through during the last depression. I remember working six or eight days a month and bringing home miserable little paychecks of fifteen dollars or thereabout every couple of weeks. After that there was a period when I worked even less and earned less, but, in spite of that, there was no relief for us, because I was employed.

How the bills piled up! We used to get coal from the plant on credit; but they didn't give us any bargain price, and, every now and then when we least expected it, they would deduct a good sized payment for it out of our scanty checks. I think that that one thing made us hate the company more than any other action of theirs. I'm not sure, though: there was another thing. After I was laid off entirely, the company "union" got magnanimous once or twice and sent us baskets of food on holidays. The newspapers made a big thing of it—(the less fortunate steelworkers were not being forgotten)—but when you tried to use the food, half of it wasn't fit to eat.

Ah, but that layoff! How I remember that! I don't know now why I dreaded it so much. As long as I was working there was no chance to get on Relief, and I was earning less than I would have gotten from the Welfare, when you consider the different things that you could get from the Relief Office... if you went down and raised enough hell. I suppose it was just the "foolish" pride of a man who is willing to work and doesn't want to go begging. But whatever it was, I know each day I worked I was in mortal fear of being called into the office to hear the words "We'll notify you when we need you again."

But finally it happened. I couldn't tell Mary. When my next work day came along, that is, the next day I would have been scheduled to work if they hadn't laid me off, I took my lunch and went down to Emil's place, and I didn't go home until shift-changing time. Of course it wasn't long before the truth came out. Hell, you can't keep a secret like that when payday rolls around.

Running Fight With The Welfare People

From then on it was a running fight with the Welfare visitors and sometimes with the people in the Welfare Office itself. One time I even hung around the mayor's office until the cops began to think I wanted to do him some harm and chased me away.

Little Dick was eight then, and Joey was twelve. Both kids needed plenty of milk, but nobody seemed to care whether a couple of Little "Polacks" had a chance to grow up healthy or not. It was the same over at the DiRosa house a few doors away. The visitor told them bluntly that the government had enough "American" children to take care of, and anyway Italian kids could get along without milk. It's easy to imagine how the colored kids made out!

I remember how we used to live in the kitchen, because we couldn't afford to heat the rest of the house. I remember on Christmas Eve begging a shabby, drooping little bundle of evergreen branches from a dealer who knew no one would ever want to buy it. That was my kids' Christmas tree!

I remember the way we got to feel then. Except for special things like the remarks that Welfare visitors used to enjoy making now and then, or rotting food in a Christmas basket, we were past anger. Our hearts had been squeezed too dry for resentment. We were conscious only of a dull aching feeling of apathy, a hopeless misery.

Every day was the same. There was no faith in the future, and hardly any remembrance of the past. The idea of working, having a steady job and steady income, was something unreal. We almost doubted that we had ever worked, ever lived like human beings. Out on the streets we would watch the automobiles with amazement, wondering how in the world so many people had been able to save up money enough to buy them. One day I found a dollar on the pavement and rushed home with a lump in my throat. It took a long time for the anger to come back.

Yea, that's what poverty means, in fact that's what capitalism means to the workers. Our scars from the last depression aren't even healed yet, and over our heads another, a greater and more terrible depression is hovering like an immense threatening buzzard that waits to feed on us.

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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.

A Year Of Teheran

One year ago Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin met in strict secrecy at Teheran when they reached certain agreements on their objectives in the Second World War. At the conclusion of their conspirative conclave, they issued a joint declaration which presumed to state their aims.

"We are sure," they said in part, "that our concord will make an enduring peace... We shall seek the cooperation of all nations, large and small, whose people are dedicated to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance..."

The supporters of American imperialism together with the liberal and labor licksiptiles of Roosevelt took all these deceitful promises at face value and tried to pass them off as sterling silver. The Stalinists ecstatically shouted that Teheran ushered in a new world historical era of progress.

From the very first we took an altogether different attitude toward the Teheran conference and its consequences. On Dec. 18, 1943 *The Militant* stated: "The Churchill-Stalin-Roosevelt declaration of Dec. 1... is one of the vaguest and in consequence most sinister diplomatic documents that has ever issued from the mills of secret diplomacy... The real reason for secrecy is that the discussions at Teheran are a continuation of the conspiracy being hatched by Churchill-Stalin-Roosevelt against the coming European revolution, above all the German revolution. At the same time, it is a conspiracy to subjugate the European peoples... That is the real gist of the Teheran conference."

The events of the past year in Europe have served to expose the shabby lies of the co-conspirators and their choir-boys and to demonstrate that we Trotskyists alone told the truth about Teheran.

In Italy the Allies with Stalin's acquiescence have set up a puppet government composed of the detested monarchy, former fascist generals, and a few political ghosts and traitors to the working class willing to carry out the terms of a peace treaty so shameful that to this day it has not been made public. While the Allies shield ex-fascists and their capitalist collaborators, they have

ordered the armed workers in the North to cease resistance against the Nazis and lay down their weapons.

In France, in Belgium, in Greece the Allied imperialists are imposing their puppet governments upon the people by force of arms while they seek to disarm, subjugate and suppress the insurgent masses who demand bread, peace, jobs—and "free lives untouched by tyranny." Blood has already been spilt on the streets of Athens and Brussels.

Similar facts could be multiplied without end. They all go to prove that, instead of eliminating these scourges as promised at Teheran, the three evil counter-revolutionary conspirators who met there plotted and are working to establish in Europe their own brands of "tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance."

Wall Street's Choice

Emboldened by the abject subservience of the "labor statesmen" in the recent national elections, Roosevelt has moved without delay to strengthen Big Business control over American foreign policy. Roosevelt's appointment of a J. P. Morgan lieutenant, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., as Secretary of State, underscores his aim of furthering the imperialist ambitions of the marauding plunderbund which seeks to dominate the world market and make Wall Street the center of world tribute. The appointment of Stettinius was heralded as the beginning of a general "reorganization" of the State Department. Subsequent appointments have already installed such tycoons as Nelson Rockefeller, son of the oil magnate, and William Clayton, world's largest cotton jobber, in key positions.

The new Secretary of State has been groomed since birth by the House of Morgan to battle for the special interests of Big Business. Along with Rockefeller, he is one of the clan of Robber Barons directly linked with the top ruling capitalist circles. As scions of America's ruling Sixty Families, they are ideally suited instruments to advance the economic positions seized by Wall Street during the war.

Already the press reports that Stettinius proposes to institute a "general rearrangement of foreign economic functions" increasing State Department "jurisdiction in the foreign economic field." The appointment of these moneybags to shape United States foreign policy lays bare the reactionary and predatory aims of Wall Street's war.

Two Conventions

The recent conventions of the AFL and CIO met during a critical period in the history of American labor. The problems which loom on the horizon are of titanic proportions. The two organizations reported a combined membership approximating 13 million workers. Another million workers are probably organized in the ranks of the Railroad Brotherhoods and independent unions. The organized contingent of the American working class has achieved giant stature. It represents a power mighty enough to lift the country on its shoulders. Once this power is unleashed, the death knell of capitalist tyranny, exploitation and oppression will have sounded.

Standing at the head of this trade union colossus is a craven gang of pigeon-hearted poltroons, who quail at the very thought of struggle. All their energy and cunning is applied in keeping labor subservient to the exploiting class. In payment for services rendered, the employers and their government, use all means at their disposal to bolster the bureaucratic authority of the labor skates in policing and "disciplining" the ranks.

The authentic voice of the rank and file was smothered at both conventions. This was particularly noticeable at the CIO convention. The CIO arose and developed in conflict with the fossilized bureaucracy of the AFL. In the less than ten years of its existence, the gap between the top CIO leaders and the ranks has widened into an abyss. Not a single echo of the revolt in the CIO ranks against the unconditional surrender policy of the top leadership was able to cross this divide.

The period of war reaction has speeded up the process of bureaucratization inside the CIO. But the CIO top bureaucrats face a far more difficult problem in maintaining their control than their counterparts in the AFL. The CIO is based on the most dynamic section of the American working class in the mass production industries. These workers have militant traditions of struggle. Capitalism in decay can no longer grant significant concessions but seeks to take away those concessions won in the past decade. More immediately and directly than the AFL, which is still largely based on the aristocracy of labor, the CIO faces a life and death struggle for its very existence.

In this struggle the union militants must understand that the bureaucrats function as labor lieutenants of the capitalist class. The government which they support functions as the executive arm of this class. The struggle thus assumes a political character which requires that the workers break decisively with all agents of the class enemy. The labor lackeys who cling desperately to Roosevelt's coattails must be replaced by a new leadership and program. This task is national in scope and political in character.

The auto militants at the recent UAW convention have pointed the road. The organization of a genuine progressive wing in the unions based on a program of working class independent action on the economic and political field can rally a decisive section of the American working class for the fulfillment of its historic tasks. The transitional program of the Socialist Workers Party provides an indispensable guide to the new leadership that will inevitably arise in the next period.

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.

Telephone Operator Strikes Back

Editor:

The following letter was written to PM, the so-called "liberal" newspaper published in New York, which opposed the strike of the telephone workers.

"I am a telephone operator here and my sympathies were with the strikers. In fact, I'd be quite willing to go on strike myself. Why? Figure it out. How much does the girl operating your switchboard get? No measly \$20 a week, I'll wager. Have you ever tried to live on that kind of money, especially now? We have been asking for a raise in pay for over two years and it has been stalled and delayed at every turn. We have to take all sorts of insults from customers who abuse us and call us names."

"You're on the wrong side this time. You're doing the pushing around. We operators have been too meek and patient too long. I'm glad something is being done at last."

N. S.
New York

"P. S.—My husband is fighting in the Philippines and he's on my side."

Demands Release Of Trotskyists

Editor:

The following letter appeared in the December 4 issue of *The Progressive*.

"I do not see how *The Progressive* can help but put in a few licks each issue condemning the Government for keeping the 18 Socialist Workers Party members in jail. As your paper pointed out—but that was several months ago—these 18 were convicted only for their beliefs: their beliefs being mainly that capitalism is the cause of most of the ills of society today."

"These ills are mainly wars and depressions, and these ills in society will continue and get worse until the people abolish capitalism with socialism. The Socialist Workers Party members, who call themselves Trotskyists, predict that the capitalists will not give up their ownership and control of industry without a struggle, and base their prediction on history..."

What is significant about the

persecution of these 18 Trotskyists is that it is the first step in further persecutions of the working class, or anyone who speaks out against the ruling class. Those who stand idly by and think they are safe from persecution may be next on the list.

"Who knows who will be next? Even *The Progressive* will not be safe because it does such a good job in pointing out the evils existing under the present system. "So I say, run an item every issue demanding the release of these Trotskyists."

Lorn Keppy,
Huntington Park, Cal.

Policies Decisive

Editor:

Kovalesky's many fine sketches are now topped in my opinion by his portrait of "Terry O'Day"—the evolution of a trade union militant into a cogwheel of the Murray machine. It is just this question which so many workers do not understand—they think in terms of "honest" men and "crooks," and when an official does something wrong, they wonder "how much did he get?"

This is one of the points *The Militant* must continue to explain: it's not a question of "honesty," but the rotten policies of the bureaucrats which are responsible for the mess. We need further elaboration of this idea in the clear and simple terms employed by Kovalesky.

M. B.
Newark

Trotsky Is Author

Editor:

Last week *The Militant* mentioned the pamphlet issued in Italy called "The Life of Lenin," which Stalin had attempted to have suppressed by the Allied officials.

The December 1 issue of *Justice*, official organ of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, verifies what many of us suspected about the authorship of this work:

"The matter aroused some curiosity in Washington. I am now able to report to you that the author of the pamphlet which the Russians found so objectionable is none other than the late Leon Trotsky."

Garment Worker
New York

Bosses Profit From Worker's Inventions

Editor:

I am sending a copy of "Labor and Management News," official publication of the War Production Board, for your consideration.

This publication is being given widespread distribution in local plants, and since I have never noticed any criticism or mention of it in *The Militant*, I thought its should be called to your attention.

How workers can be so gullible is beyond me. To begin with the name sounds as ironical as a "Lion and Lamb Committee" (as if their interests were mutual also). I have outlined what workers receive "honorable mention" for in this paper:

"At the Oklahoma City plant of Douglas' Aircraft Company, Inc., Robert K. Headley's suggestion on splitting sections into four prefabricated assemblies has accomplished savings of 92,000 man-hours per year. Headley was awarded an honorable mention. Another such honor went to Andrew J. Craver for a metal spacer pin used in heat treating and to Walter D. Wrigley and H. F. Cook for their form block for fin braces. This form block used on a hydro press, cuts an eight-hour job to 36 minutes."

Now for another subject. I have noticed in recent issues of *The Militant* that you make a practice of abbreviating the names of groups or parties. At the bottom of page 1 of the November 11 issue under the article entitled "Mexican Government Launches Violent Anti-Labor Offensive," the CTM, Stalinist, is mentioned. I was unable to identify or define these initials. I would suggest you compile a list with their abbreviations in the corner of *The Militant* for the benefit of new readers in particular who need our earnest consideration.

H. C.
Cincinnati, O.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We employ abbreviations because of space limitations. However, when we use an unfamiliar abbreviation, we try to give the full name at the beginning of the story so that the reader can refer to it at a glance.

The initials CTM stand for Confederacion Trabajadores Mexicanos (Mexican Workers Federation).

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

South Africa

One Negro was killed, six seriously injured and 50 more put in the hospital as the result of a violent anti-Negro riot in Johannesburg in mid-November. Thousands of whites and Negroes were involved in the riot, stated *Ally Labor News*.

According to the statement of an eye-witness, Rev. Michael Scott, the trouble began after a trolley had run over a Negro. The white trolley driver and conductor chased away the family and friends of the injured man, using abusive language. An angered crowd of Negroes threw stones at the trolley car and a free-for-all started when white youths attacked the Negroes.

Scott declared that police made no effort to interfere with bands of riotous whites who roamed the streets beating up any Negroes encountered. In the name of the Campaign for Right and Justice, of which he is organizing secretary, Scott called upon the Minister of Justice to hold a judicial inquiry.

This assault, like similar incidents that have preceded it, was the product of the vicious discrimination to which Negroes are subjected in South Africa. They have no rights and are treated as pariahs in a land in which they number 7,000,000 out of a total population of less than 10,000,000. In recent times, the Negroes have begun to assert themselves in organized fashion. They have demanded repeal of the Pass Laws under which they were converted into virtual slaves and an end to the whole system of race discrimination.

Replying to the just efforts of the Negroes to win human rights, the white ruling class incites the dregs of the white population to acts of mob violence, bordering on pogroms, in order to terrorize the rebellious slaves.

Commenting editorially on the Johannesburg riot, the liberal

weekly *Guardian*, which is published in South Africa, declared that the country "is heading for a chaos of racial strife" which can only be prevented by a firm and open stand "for the principles of justice and humanity."

The paper points out that "millions of South Africans (the Negroes) starve, go half naked, live in hovels, and die of tuberculosis and syphilis, but never a word of protest comes from the pack of racists in the Dominion and National parties (parties of the white ruling class) or their henchmen in the church and press."

One could hardly expect a word of protest from white imperialist rulers of this British Dominion who profit from the subjection of the Negroes to abominable conditions. The Negroes can win their freedom and the right to live and be treated as human beings only in vigorous struggle against the oppressors. Their just cause must become the cause of the whole world working-class.

According to the statement of the Negroes, which is resorted to mass shootings to compel workers to stay in armament factories which, because of the Allied air attacks, have all become potential death-traps.

The paper asserted that 300 workers had been "summarily shot" on orders of Gestapo chief Heinrich Himmler as the result of a strike at Mannheim following an air attack. A strike in Dusseldorf was quelled only after the Nazis had massacred "several hundreds."

According to a Zurich dispatch appearing in the London *Exchange Telegraph*, German police records show that there were 463 executions in the Reich in October. Of the total number of victims, 298 were Germans and the rest foreign workers. Of the Germans executed, 213 were killed for "political reasons" and the rest for black-market offenses and robberies during air raids.

They sent a statement of protest to the press exposing the organized anti-labor character of the meeting. Subsequently, by action of the Board of Regents, Gordon, Peach and Foster were fired. An investigation of the dismissals by the American Association of University Professors has thus far resulted in a condemnation of this action. Dr. Rainey's discharge followed the issuance of the AAUP report. He had supported its contentions.

British Cocoa Monopoly And The 'Four Freedoms'

The exploitation of 800,000 native cocoa producers in West Africa by British imperialism was cited by Roi Ottley, noted Negro author, as a sample of the pattern of exploitation the British ruling class intends to continue and extend through the war for the "Four Freedoms."

British manufacturers of cocoa products, who have a virtual monopoly on the world market although the American people are the largest consumers, have been able to extract over \$1,000,000 net profit from the produce of the family farms.

A combine of British manufacturers maintains a purchasing "pool" which fixes the prices of the raw product and compels the native farm-steaders to sell at fantastically low prices. The crop is then divided among the chocolate firms and a portion of the chocolate is then resold to American firms.

Ottley reports in the N. Y. daily PM, that "this squeeze play caused a revolt of the African natives in 1937. The farmers refused to sell their crops; some even burned them. They also declared a boycott of British manufactured goods, principally Lancashire cottons."

After an "investigation" by a British government commission, a Cocoa Marketing Commission was established under the British Food Ministry when the war began. It was headed by one of the big cocoa manufacturers! This commission "immediately established prices which were even lower than the Africans had