

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

Stalinist Finks in the Ward Strikes

During the past three weeks through their press and union stooges, the Stalinists have been conducting their most virulent strikebreaking campaign to date. These rats have been busily trailing their slime across the magnificent strike struggle of the Montgomery Ward workers which has won staunch support in the ranks of the labor movement.

One of the most shameful acts of treachery perpetrated by the Stalinists was the stab in the back dealt the Detroit Ward Workers by the Stalinist officials of Local 65, CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees in New York. They belong to the very same international union which has been directing the strikes in Detroit, Kansas City and Chicago.

The Stalinist stooges in this local, headed by Local 65 President Arthur Osman, issued a public denunciation of the Ward strikes. In their statement opposing the struggle of the Ward workers for a union contract and increases beyond their 39 cents an hour wages, these finks slanderously linked the Ward workers with the "treacherous activities" of Sewell L. Avery, the open-shop plutocrat who for four years has been successfully defying scores of WLB and other government agencies' orders.

These deliberate strikebreaking moves of the Stalinist stooges have of course been applauded by the Daily Worker. But these finks have become so brazen that they even boast of the praise of the bosses for their activities. In the December 24 issue of the Local 65 paper, New Voices, right next to a double-banner, double-cross headline attacking the Ward strikers, was "proudly" displayed a letter declaring "we are in complete accord with the views set forth by Mr. Osman" against the Ward workers. This statement was signed by Sidney B. Felsenfeld, Executive Secretary of the Shoe Wholesalers Employers' Association!

"This act of collusion on the part of the ILWU and management completely destroyed the morale and terrorized the people in the retail store where our people had been working," Niestadt stated. He also declared that the action of the ILWU officials who were carrying out Bridges' strikebreaking policy, constituted interference with the internal affairs of another CIO union.

A final note. Last week Washington correspondents, including members of the CIO American Newspaper Guild which backed the Ward strike, interviewed a committee of Stalinists and their front men from the Stalinist-dominated Wayne County (Detroit) CIO Council. This committee had hot-footed to Washington to beg the government to halt the strike.

The committee boasted of "emphasizing" unyielding devotion to the no-strike pledge. "Do you regard the Ward strike as a breach of that pledge?" a reporter asked. W. G. Grant, Ford UAW Local 600 president, replied, "Yes."

"Did you notice," a reporter shot back, "that the WLB made an exception when it did not order the Ward strikers back to work?" Grant was taken aback. "Are you sure?" Several reporters, who had covered the WLB hearings, replied, "Absolutely." Grant could only answer feebly, "I think I'd check to make doubly sure."

As the reporters were clearly intimating, the Stalinists display a new low in finery when they attack a strike WHICH NOT EVEN THE CORPORATION-DOMINATED WLB DARED TO CONDEMN OPENLY!

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Youngstown Branch Leads SWP Camp To Raise \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund

\$18,000 Party Expansion Fund

A Fitting Welcome to Our 18 Class-War Prisoners
By Rose Karsner, Campaign Director

On New Year's Eve 1943, the prison gates closed on 18 of our comrades. That was a sad day for all of us. We answered this attempt of the government to behead our party by a concrete action—the fulfillment of the \$15,000 Fifteenth Anniversary Fund in double-quick time.

New Year's Eve 1944 was an occasion for jubilation in our ranks. It ushered in a new year of activity and reminded us that the remaining 12 of our imprisoned comrades would soon be with us again. The best welcome for them would be another concrete action—the fulfillment of our quotas in the \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund in double-quick time.

Sixteen days to go, and all our imprisoned comrades will be back with us. The Militant of January 18th will carry the last Scoreboard before they return. Let us show a high score in that issue. Let us express in this way our solidarity with them.

Rush in the funds! Wipe out all the zeros!

FROM THE BRANCHES

Milwaukee, N. Burns: "I believe that most of our comrades had Xmas expenses, but they are planning to contribute their share toward the Expansion Fund from the pay following Xmas. At any rate, we plan to have more than our quota in by January 22d." That's good news!

Kelly: "Our branch voted at its last meeting to raise its quota in the Fund campaign from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Although no returns have been made from Seattle, you may rest assured we will see to it that we go over the top before March 1st." And when Seattle talks, it means business.

New York: "You will be interested to know how our party inspires the new workers who join us. We took in a member two weeks ago. A week later he pledged \$100 to the Expansion Fund."

Chicago: "We are planning a showing of 'Thunder Over Mexico' and some films of Trotsky to supplement our collections on the Fund. We will surely complete our quota before March 1st with as high a percentage as possible before January 22d."

Buffalo, Boston and Detroit send in their collections weekly and all say they hope to fulfill their quotas by January 22d.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE AND FRIENDS

Rockville, member-at-large sends in \$10 and says "I will send some more."

Dayton, member-at-large encloses a check to complete his quota and says "I expect to contribute further later. If none is ahead of me, I should like to have the Gray cartoon which appeared in the Militant entitled 'Live Factories—Dead Men: Dead Factories—Live Men'." Comrade Brown will get that drawing.

Friend, down South, in a letter dated December 22d says "One month from tonight will be a very happy time for all of us. Please give my greetings to all of those I know. The enclosed \$10 is for the \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund."

A check from San Diego arrived just as we were going to press and was therefore not recorded in this week's Scoreboard. That wipes out one more zero. We hope the other three will disappear in next week's scoring.



A reader in Detroit writes us about the enthusiastic reaction of the automobile workers to Theodore Kovalesky's column, DIARY OF A STEEL WORKER.

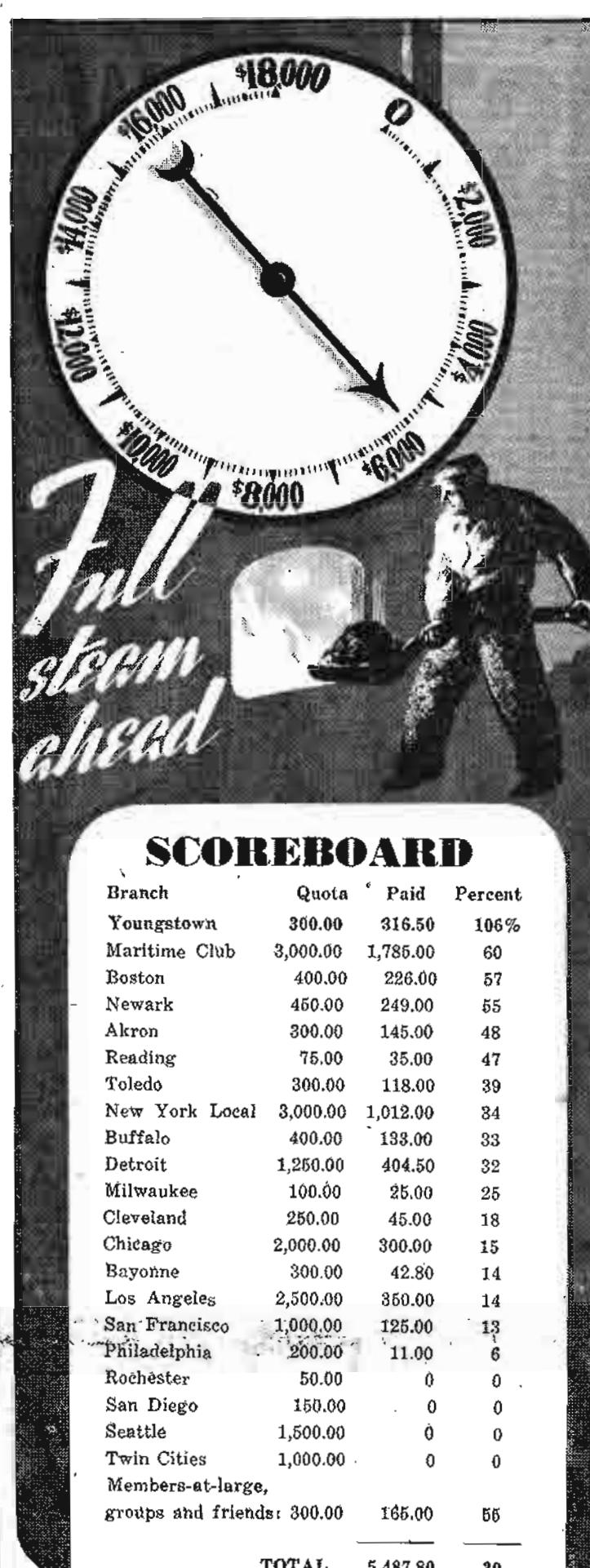
"I think I ought to mention that the most popular feature in The Militant among the workers at Ford's here in Detroit is the Steelworker's Diary. Hardly a day passes that I do not receive favorable comments on it. The workers eat it up."

The following letter from a friend in Chicago expresses the spirit in which many of our readers are selling subscriptions to their friends: "I'd like to make a resolution and a special effort to obtain subscribers to The Militant... Please send me subscription blanks. I intend to get as many subscriptions as possible in my spare time."

A reader in Alhambra, Calif., sent this note with a trial sub for his friend: "Here is a two-bit subscription for The Militant from a Republican booster." He liked the pictures against Roosevelt and took them to the oil company where he works and pinned them on the bulletin board to razz the FDR 'enthusiasts.'

As the reporters were clearly intimating, the Stalinists display a new low in finery when they attack a strike WHICH NOT EVEN THE CORPORATION-DOMINATED WLB DARED TO CONDEMN OPENLY!

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Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
Youngstown	300.00	316.50	106%
Maritime Club	3,000.00	1,785.00	60
Boston	400.00	226.00	57
Newark	450.00	249.00	55
Akron	300.00	145.00	48
Reading	75.00	35.00	47
Toledo	300.00	118.00	39
New York Local	3,000.00	1,012.00	34
Buffalo	400.00	133.00	33
Detroit	1,250.00	404.50	32
Milwaukee	100.00	25.00	25
Cleveland	250.00	45.00	18
Chicago	2,000.00	300.00	15
Bayonne	300.00	42.80	14
Los Angeles	2,500.00	360.00	14
San Francisco	1,000.00	125.00	13
Philadelphia	200.00	11.00	6
Rochester	50.00	0	0
San Diego	150.00	0	0
Seattle	1,500.00	0	0
Twin Cities	1,000.00	0	0
Members-at-large, groups and friends	300.00	165.00	55
TOTAL	5,487.80	30	

Railway Bosses Swindle Workers From Puerto Rico

Puerto Rican workers, brought to the United States by promises of 63 cents an hour for an eight-hour day (inagnificent in comparison to the miserable wages paid by American exploiters in Puerto Rico), are being fleeced of their wages and forced to live under intolerable conditions, according to their complaint lodged with the Puerto Rico Commerce and Industry Association in New York.

Youngstown is concentrating on the sale of trial subscriptions with excellent results. The latest report is as follows: "Until the campaign starts officially on March 1, Youngstown is having at least one mobilization a week because events are so timely that we get a good reception. As a result of our last mobilization (1½ hours) I am sending 27 new 25c. subs. Please send us 100 more sub cards."

San Francisco plans to concentrate on the sale of trial subscriptions for the time being. Our agents writes: "San Francisco is going to do some concentrated sub-getting both in Oakland and this city. I believe the new rates will be of great value in helping us get subs. Also, the six-month trial period will give the new reader ample opportunity to really get acquainted with our ideas. In some cases, persons visited after three months were still hesitant, but when kept on the list for a longer period, renewed promptly. In any case, I am sure that we shall go forward tremendously in securing new readers for the paper and we will be all ready to go on to the new campaign March 1."

The workers testified that they were compelled to live in box cars, received poor food and inadequate care, and that they resented being "treated like coolies." Their request to be returned to their homes has been brushed aside by an executive of the Baltimore & Ohio road, who said that the deductions "were in accordance with the contract," but made no comment about working conditions.

Praise for the latest Pioneer pamphlet continues pouring in. Our St. Paul agent writes: "Please enter our order for 25 copies of the pamphlet, 'American Workers Need a Labor Party.' It's really a swell pamphlet—colorful and bright as can be—by far the liveliest pamphlet we've put out. I know we'll be ordering more—this is just a start until after January 23rd—a big day for the Twin Cities."

San Diego is equally pleased:

"Needless to say, we were all

very enthusiastic over this pamphlet. As a matter of fact, it very nearly broke up the meet-

ing."

Twin Cities Hold Sunday Forums

The Twin City Sunday Forum will be resumed Sunday, January 7, at 10 South Fourth Street in Minneapolis when Chester Johnson will speak on "Labor Looks at 1945." China will be the subject of the January 14 forum at which Warren Creel will be the speaker. With the "news behind the headlines" as its slogan, the forum will continue to interpret national and international events from a Marxist point of view each Sunday during the winter and spring months.

Full Discussion

Progressive Workers School 423 S

COMRADE HARRY KANTER

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29.—The Los Angeles Branch of the Socialist Workers Party today held a memorial meeting in honor of Comrade Harry Kanter, who died of a heart attack on December 23.

Comrade Kanter had been a revolutionary fighter in the Trotskyist movement since 1936. He was born in England in 1895 of a working class family, and was apprenticed to the millinery trade. At the age of seventeen he went to Australia, where while working at his trade he played a leading role in organizing the milliners' union.

In 1921 Comrade Kanter came to the United States. Here he worked to organize his shopmates in the Los Angeles area, serving as picket captain, a member of the steering committee, and later on the executive board of his union. During the milliners' strike of 1936, Comrade Kanter, who had long considered himself a socialist, met members of the Trotskyist movement and quickly took his place in the organized ranks of fighters for world socialism.

For three years he served on the Los Angeles Section Committee of the party and worked in the new San Pedro Branch of the Socialist Workers Party. In all of his party activities, he displayed enthusiasm and devotion. His place in our ranks will be hard to fill.

At the memorial meeting held in his honor tonight, Comrade Myra Tanner, Section Organizer, paid the tribute of the Los Angeles membership to a sterling revolutionary fighter, pointing out that his life was richly spent in the service of the working class. Comrade Frank C. speaking for the National Committee of the Party, by the death of Harry Kanter not only gales Local but the Party as a whole suffered.

As a fitting practical tribute to Comrad Los Angeles branch recruited seven new members to the Party in the week that Harry died, places in the struggle to which he had devoted so many of his years.

Trotskyist Youth Formed In New

City

In its founding meeting, held at 116 University Place, New York City, it officially adopted a statement of purpose to be "an organization of young workers that the solution of their problems lies in a socialist society." Their aim was to principles of revolutionary socialism as exemplified by Lenin and Trotsky, and embodied in the Workers Party; and the preparation of the working class struggle for emancipation.

Three basic rules of organization were adopted at the meeting. The first of these stated that any youth "who agrees to participate in the activities of the Youth Group and to abide by its decisions" is eligible for membership. Low dues were set, and the election procedure for the Executive Committee was established.

The Trotskyist Youth Group began one year ago as a small discussion group meeting in the homes of its first participants. These early meetings were attended for the most part by young people who were just turning to socialism as the solution of their problems. Disillusioned with the war, whose imperialist nature was becoming apparent to them with every day's events, and convinced that capitalism could offer no solution to the problems of war, fascism and unemployment, they began to study the principles of revolutionary socialism and to examine events from the Marxist point of view.

Three basic rules of organization are being mapped out. Regular Socialist Youth Forums will be maintained, further classes established, and work in the schools will be expanded and intensified. Its members are convinced that the group will grow and train leadership for the youth who will turn more and more to Trotskyism for the solution of their problems. They believe that only the first of a number of similar organizations which will be set up nationally, whenever the conditions are favorable. Together with those clubs and side by side with the Socialist Workers Party, the revolutionary youth will participate in the struggle for socialism.

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Jan. 26 - A Program for the Trade Unions

Lecturer MARK BRADEN, Newark Labor Secretary
SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

ELAS Defeats British-Backed EDES Forces

By Wells Thurber

One of the unlamented casualties of the Greek civil war is the EDES (Greek National Democratic Army) which up to the outbreak of hostilities still represented itself as a major faction of the resistance movement, contending for leadership of the Greek masses. The EDES constituted the armed body of the Greek royalists. It was opposed by the armed workers and peasants grouped around the ELAS (Greek Liberation Army) which is a military extension of the Stalinist-dominated EAM (Greek Liberation Front).

A week after the British provoked the armed conflict, General Napoleon Zervas, leader of the EDES, reported that from 15,000 to 20,000 ELAS troops were invading his stronghold in Epirus. By December 22, ELAS had taken eight villages. A December 25 United Press dispatch reported EDES forces had been reduced from 12,000 to 4,000 or 6,000 men. The UP added: "Many EDES soldiers have deserted to the ELAS... and not all General Zervas' losses have been casualties."

Direct evidence that Churchill deliberately fostered and armed the EDES from the beginning is difficult to obtain since such operations are carried out secretly and the British military rigidly censors reports of observers. The full story of the British role in the conflict between EDES and other factions in Greece will probably not come to light until after the war. If the opinion of informed political writers, however, can be taken as an indication of the truth, only one conclusion is possible: — EDES was deliberately created by the British as an armed instrument designed to uphold the counter-revolutionary Glucksburg dynasty.

CHURCHILL ARMED EDES

"Newsweek," conservative capitalist weekly, reported January 31, 1944, from Cairo: "The United Nations missions are trying to reconcile the two Greek factions with some hope of success. Meanwhile, Zervas' forces are favored in the matters of supply." Churchill now implies the arms of ELAS were provided by the British. By remaining silent about British support of EDES, he thus gives a totally false impression.

The Nation, commenting in its May 13 issue on the revolt of the Greek armed forces in Egypt, declared: "Instead of supplying the EAM with arms to the same extent as before, the British government began to favor the much weaker National Democratic Army (EDES), thus laying the basis for real civil war in Greece. The EDES would never have dared to attack the EAM had it not been encouraged by unmistakable signs of the royalist and British policy." Later, as we shall see, Churchill accused the EAM and ELAS of being the attackers.

Gaetano Salvemini, noted Italian anti-fascist and professor of history at Harvard, wrote in the September 1 British Tribune: "If the British Tories have to go on playing in Europe their game of the balance of power, the 'natives' in Europe must have no peace. A second India has become necessary in Europe. Puppet kings surrounded by gangsters in the uniforms of army chiefs have to do the job..."

"The pattern is everywhere the same: helping discredited and powerless 'legitimist' royalist groups to come to the fore, then with the help of Stalinist agents forcing republicans to come to terms with 'royalist legitimists' and at the right moment disarming guerrillas, leaving only 'royalist legitimists.'

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International
266 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2
Phone: CUN 2526.
EDITOR: E. Grant.
BUSINESS MANAGER: J. Graham.

HANDS OFF GREECE Down with Churchill!

BRITISH TROOPS ARE IN ACTION AGAINST THE GREEK WORKERS AND PEASANTS!

The Greek reactionaries, aided by General Scobie, have fired on unarmed men, women and children. Spies are mowing down the Greek people! War is being waged against the Greek people by Churchill. Churchill and the ruling class, revile and slaughter those who only yesterday bore the brunt of the struggle against the Nazi occupation of Greece.

BRITISH WORKERS CONSPIRED TO "IGHT FASCISM" ARE BEING USED TO REPROLSE THE S.S. IN MURDING REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS. THEY HATE THE JOB. EVERY BRITISH WORKER HATES IT.

The Labour movement alone can stop it. **BUT WHEN THE ISSUE CAME UP IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WHAT A BETRAYAL OF THE WORKERS BY THE LABOUR LEADERS!** On motion against the Government:

80 LABOUR M.P.'S WERE ABSENT. 23 LABOUR M.P.'S VOTED FOR CHURCHILL!

33 LABOUR M.P.'S ABSTAINED! ONLY 24 LABOUR M.P.'S VOTED AGAINST CHURCHILL!

Workers! Force your leaders out of this cowardly position! Labour must mobilize the working class against the counter-revolutionary Government.

Having used the Partisans for its own ends, the British ruling class are demanding the dismemberment of their forces. At the same time they have reinforced and lavished arms upon the Greek "Regular Army" composed of Fascist thugs and murderers. Under the Papandreu clique 85 per cent of the Greek army and navy were imprisoned in Cairo. The "Security Battalions" of Greeks, armed and equipped by Hitler to repress the Greek workers and peasants, are being retrained by the reactionaries as a police force.

CHURCHILL'S POLICY IS: DISARM THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS; ARM THE FASCISTS AND REACTIONARIES.

Published by E. Grant, 266, Harrow Road, London, W.2
Printed by G. A. Brock & Co. Ltd., (T.U.) 78, Spring Row, W.10

Reproduction of a leaflet issued by the Revolutionary Communist Party, British section of the Fourth International, calling upon the workers to oppose British intervention in Greece, to force the Labor Party to break its treacherous coalition with the Tory government of Churchill, and to show their solidarity with the insurgent Greek masses. "Only the direct intervention of the British working class can prevent Churchill and the capitalists from destroying the workers' movement in Greece," the Trotskyist leaflet concludes. "End the coalition! Withdraw the British troops from Greece! For the immediate despatch of arms and food to the Greek workers under the control of the trade unions!"

Allies Impose New Puppet On Greece; Order Continued Warfare On Workers

(Continued from page 1)

situation and to calm down the mounting domestic political crisis.

Churchill continues to pursue the same principled line of avowed reaction as before his flight to Greece. On December 27 during the negotiations for a regency with leaders of the ELAS (Greek Liberation Army) Churchill brazenly declared that British armed intervention would not stop until the differences between the Greek Government and the ELAS had been settled "either by free negotiation or by increasing the use of military force."

Scobie, military representative of the Allies, is continuing Churchill's line without deviating

the slightest from the position he held before the appointment of Damaskinos. On December 31 he reiterated his ultimatum that ELAS must withdraw from Attica, hand in its arms, and disband.

The new puppet, Damaskinos, who previously supported the Papandreu cabinet, is likewise continuing Churchill's counter-revolutionary policy. On Christmas he issued a manifesto calling on the Greek workers and peasants to "fling away your arms and tear up that funeral shroud of Greece that your bloody conflict is weaving." His first official declaration as regent January 1 was to "call upon those bearing arms to agree to lay them down at once."

General Plastiras, appointed Premier January 2, has denounced the ELAS since his arrival December 12 and called on them to lay down their arms.

Most decisive of all, of course, is the continued use of Allied arms against the Greek workers and peasants. For four weeks Scobie has been "methodically clearing" the Athens area, killing and wounding thousands, taking thousand prisoner. Tanks, artillery, bombs speak the language of British imperialism more impudently than any of the proclamations of the royal and religious puppets.

STALINIST ROLE

The Stalinist role in this regency maneuver is as treacherous as it has been from the beginning of the conflict. Stalin aims to gain control over the elemental upsurge of the masses to prevent the further development of their revolution and to utilize this control as a card in his secret deals with the imperialist bandits.

Since the civil war broke out, the Kremlin has not said a word against Churchill's use of force and violence. Moscow did not even withdraw recognition of the Glucksburg dynasty as the official government of Greece. Churchill, Eden and Bevin have all declared that British troops entered Greece with the approval

of Moscow. Churchill emphasized this fact again on December 26 during his Athens visit: "We British... came here with appreciation of President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin..."

Inside Greece, the Stalinists have consistently blocked the movement of the masses toward socialism and supported the puppet governments set up by Churchill. Before the outbreak of the civil war—and even after they welcomed British troops. They took posts in Papandreu's cabinet and resigned only when the shooting began.

The Stalinists were the first to call for the regency. On the day the British provoked civil war, the Stalinist newspaper *Repubblica* published an article by the Stalinist leader, Jean Zevgos, demanding the establishment of a regency. On December 15 PM published a dispatch from Greece declaring that "Some members of the ELAS were said to be trying to persuade all parties to accept an interim government headed by Damaskinos."

The Associated Press reported the same day that the leaders of EAM (Stalinist-dominated National Liberation Front) in a proposed truce sent to Scobie called for creation of a regency. The offer was withdrawn "temporarily to meet British insistence that it be signed by heads of the ELAS."

At the conference called in Athens December 28 by Churchill, the three delegates appearing in the name of ELAS were George Siantos, acting secretary of the Communist Party, Emmanuel Mandaklis, reported to be a member of the Communist Party, and Dimitri Partsalides, a Communist Party member and secretary general of the EAM. First point in the proposal these delegates placed before the British as the basis for laying down the arms of the Greek workers and peasants was establishment of a regency. All present at the conference agreed unanimously on this point.

On December 31 the Stalinist Partsalides declared that he



Young ELAS fighters in Piraeus, seaport of Athens, during the first weeks of the British attack upon their forces, display the arms—small rifles and machine-guns—with which they heroically fought off British tanks, heavy artillery, and bombers.

An Open Letter To R. J. Thomas

(Reprinted from Dec. 7 issue of "Voice of Local 212," organ of Briggs Local 212, UAW-CIO, Detroit).

Dear Brother Thomas:

On November 28, the Detroit Times quotes you as follows:

"Any one who strikes today while our sons and brothers are shedding their blood on the battle fronts is a 100 percent scab. He is scabbing on his union because any strike today hurts the union; and he is also scabbing on his country because any interruption to production, no matter how slight, causes delay to our ultimate victory in the war."

Coming close on the heels of your recent speech before a Kiwanis club, where you glorified free enterprise in a manner worthy of an official of the National Manufacturers Association, your unqualified condemnation of war workers as "scabs" makes many of us in the UAW wonder whose side you are on.

You say that "any interruption of production, no matter how slight, causes delay to our ultimate victory in the war." This means that if ten workers engage in a three-hour stoppage, (no matter how instigated by management), they would be guilty of the most vicious kind of scabbing, according to you. Are you aware that in the past two months the Briggs Manufacturing Company laid off no less than 5000 workers? Among those laid off, especially among the women, there are hundreds who are still out of work because they can't find jobs in industry. And if you think such sweeping layoffs have taken place only at Briggs, you should inquire at Packard, Ford, General Motors and other plants in this area. How about the tens of thousands of man-hours lost to war production because of these layoffs, Brother Thomas?

Why is it that you are so silent about this? Why is it that you go out of your way to lash at strikers, but make no demonstrative protest whatever over these mass layoffs? Why is it that you do not take management and government to task for the complete lack of any plans which would preclude wholesale layoffs?

Grievances of the Auto Workers

Do you know what these layoffs entail, Brother Thomas? They hurt not only those directly affected, but also scores of others who are transferred, shifted to inferior jobs, demoted to lower-paying codes. Are you aware that in the hectic confusion attending these layoffs, supervision has not been above trying to discriminate against women and Negroes? Moreover, Brother Thomas, stewards with enough guts and militancy to protest against such discriminatory practices are at times picked off and fired. Such goadings on the part of supervision have been at the bottom of most wartime walkouts. If by any chance you think this has been true only in Briggs, ask the workers in other auto plants, ranging in size all the way from Bower Roller Bearing Company to Ford and GM.

Maybe you don't know about these things, Brother Thomas. Maybe you are too busy hobnobbing with government brass hats and members of business men's clubs to keep in touch with what's taking place in the shops. It is only natural that when one spends most of his time in the company of government bureaucrats and industrial executives, one sooner or later begins to see things from their point of view.

Certainly industrial executives must have read your blast against strikers with great satisfaction and encouragement. If they were in the habit of putting the heat on workers, before, they will have every inducement to do so to an even greater extent now, especially since your statement clearly implies that workers who strike, REGARDLESS OF THE PROVOCATION ON THE PART OF THE COMPANY, will be regarded as scabs by their ranking international officials.

Workers don't relish being classed as scabs, Brother Thomas. In their language a scab is the most despicable specimen of humanity—a traitor to the working class. Workers do not violate union policy by walking off the job for the fun of it. They do so because the company takes advantage of our no-strike pledge to thumb its collective nose at our bargaining procedure, to speed up production, discriminate against certain workers, stall endlessly on honest grievances, and fire our most militant stewards on the slightest pretext.

As long as the no-strike pledge lasts the companies will continue to do those things, because labor will be deprived of its only effective weapon. Your uncompromising support of the no-strike pledge can mean only one thing: You desire that labor shall continue to be deprived of its most potent weapon. Presumably your blast against strikers as "scabs" was timed to affect the results of the forthcoming referendum on the no-strike pledge.

If the auto workers are to continue being denied the right to strike, and if the highest officer of our nation continues to castigate workers for stoppages, while glossing over the company provocations which inspire the stoppages, then, Brother Thomas, we will actually be bound over to the tender mercies of our employers.

Surely this is not what you want... Or is it?

PERLEY P. McMANUS

SWP Convention Articles Featured In December F.I.

The December issue of *Fourth International*, now on sale, features the Eleventh Convention of the American Trotskyists, held in New York November 16-20. An appraisal of this convention by the editors of the magazine surveys the progress made by the Socialist Workers Party since the imprisonment of its leaders one year ago.

"The convention was,"

the *Fourth International* declares,

"... expressive of a double test

the party has undergone:

the testing of the party's temper under

conditions of capitalist per-

secution; the testing of the party

cadres, their ability to carry for-

ward the work of the party in

the absence of the im-

prisoned leaders.

One is a criticism of the resolu-

tion adopted by the 1943 National

Committee Plenum of the Social-

ist Workers Party. This criticism

was written by Felix Morrow

shortly before his impris-

onment.

Its viewpoint was rejected by the

convention.

The second article is a reply

to Comrade Morrow's criti-

cism by Comrade E. R. Frank in a

speech delivered for the National

Committee of the Party to the

New York membership during the

preconvention discussion.

In the "Review of the Month"

the editors discuss the results of

the 1944 Presidential elec-

tions.

They point out that, contrary to

a superficial impression,

Roose-

velt's reelec-

tion marks a fur-

ther stage in

the breakdown of the capital-

ist two-party sys-

tem in America.

They analyze the many factors

which indicate the growing de-

sire of the advanced workers for an

independent labor party.

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tional may be obtained for 20

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116 University Place, N. Y. 3,

One Year After The 18 Entered Prison

By Paul Abbott

One year ago on December 31, 1943, 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and officers of the Minneapolis Truck-drivers Local 544-CIO, defendants in the famous Minneapolis Labor Trial, were put behind prison bars. Roosevelt imprisoned these labor leaders as part of his preparations for imperialist war.

The Administration's main objective in this prosecution was to eliminate the only serious political opposition to Wall Street's war by removing the leaders of the Socialist Workers Party from public activity. The agent of plutocracy in the White House sought to prevent the American people from hearing the Trotskyist program of socialism as the alternative to capitalist depression and wars.

"The new situation is very clear to us," declared James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the SWP and one of the prisoners, in his farewell address on December 26, "and I think our understanding is accurate. As the United States began to gear all its machinery for entry into the new imperialist war, it became necessary again to fool the people. Here, as throughout the world, a tremendous, world-wide mechanism of deception, falsification and misrepresentation was turned loose on the people. . . Our party alone did not betray, did not sell out. We Trotskyists told the truth. That is the reason, and the only reason, we are on our way to prison."

Roosevelt hoped to terrorize the Trotskyist movement by his persecution of its leaders. He failed completely. "A movement that is built upon ideas is a power that is hard to destroy," declared Cannon. "Indeed, it cannot be destroyed. You remember the tragic time three years ago last August, when Trotsky fell victim to the assassin. Many people speculated, that now with the great genius-leader dead, the movement he had created would be scattered to the four winds and soon disappear. We knew it was not so, because the ideas Trotsky left behind were a mighty cement to keep the ranks together. The party didn't fall into disintegration. Far from it, the party continued to live and to grow. That will be the case now too. We go to prison confident that we are leaving behind us capable men and women who are qualified to take our places in the leadership of the party."

TROTSKYISTS GAIN

The year's events have borne out Cannon's predictions. The Socialist Workers Party has grown stronger. It gained valuable recruits. Its press has leaped in circulation. The most successful convention in the history of the American Trotskyist movement held last November culminated the year's activity of the party and set new ambitious goals for 1945.

These gains were made against the most bitter efforts of the Roosevelt administration and its labor lieutenants to whip up hatred for the Trotskyists in the labor movement. The Stalinists also combined with Daniel J. Tobin, head of the AFL Teamsters International, in an unprecedented slander campaign against these working class leaders, railroaded into prison. Their attempt to smear the 18 as "fascist agents" reflected their alarm over the fact that the Minneapolis case had become the most celebrated civil

rights case in the country. The fight to wipe out the Smith "Gag" Act from the statute books, initiated and organized by the Civil Rights Defense Committee, is labor's fight. For its own safety, labor is duty bound to carry this fight through to the end.

LABOR'S FIGHT

Six of the 18 Minneapolis labor prisoners were released last October. The remaining 12 will be out this month. But the fight must continue for their pardon and the restoration of their civil rights. The Minneapolis case is a dangerous precedent that can be used against other militant trade unionists or working class leaders in the future. The fight to wipe out the Smith "Gag" Act from the statute books, initiated and organized by the Civil Rights Defense Committee, is labor's fight. For its own safety, labor is duty bound to carry this fight through to the end.

By C. Thomas

From its very inception, the scheme to draft labor for work in private industry was designed to prevent the workers from defending their standard of living. The outbreak of war, the drafting of millions of young workers into the armed forces, the boom in war production created a "tight" labor market. The natural drift of labor is to industries paying higher wages and providing better working conditions. Competition between employers in a tight labor market would inevitably mean higher wages and a more equitable distribution of the national income.

During "normal" periods, the employers depend upon a large reservoir of unemployed workers to keep wages down. During periods of war, the army of unemployed is absorbed in the military forces and expanded war production. The employing class then utilizes political

means—its control over government—to prevent competition between individual employers which would increase wages and thus reduce the rate of profit appropriated by the owners of industry.

The capitalist government, functioning as the executive arm of the employing class, seeks to establish a monopoly over hours, wages and conditions of employment. The government aims to eliminate "competition" between individual employers in the interests of the employing class as a whole. Thus workers are frozen to their jobs at frozen wages while the cost of living rises and profits soar. The employers' share of the national income rises at the expense of labor. The result is a gradual lowering of labor's standard of living.

But the workers do not "voluntarily" submit to the imposition of a lower standard of living. As prices and profits continue to rise, real wages fall. Demands for wage increases become more persistent. Finding themselves stymied by Ro-

osevelt's wage-freeze and the no-strike policy of their own leadership, the workers try to solve their problem by shifting to industries working longer hours, paying higher wages and providing better working conditions. To prevent the workers from taking advantage of "competitive" wage rates in different industries, different geographical localities, etc., the government issues decrees imposing penalties on workers for leaving their jobs for other employment without "permission."

JOB-FREEZE PENALTIES

Thus the job-freezing schemes of the Roosevelt administration aim to establish government control over the movement of labor, over wages, hours and working conditions. These schemes are enforced by compulsion upon workers for violating Roosevelt's job-freezing executive orders. These penalties fall into several categories. Workers are punished by being deprived of employment, by imprisonment, or by being drafted into the armed forces. An analysis of the deve-

LABOR CONSCRIPTION

Finding these penalties "inadequate" to regiment the entire working population the forced labor advocates began whooping it up for labor conscription. The first National Service Act was drawn up by Grenville Clark, Wall Street lawyer and behind-the-scenes manipulator of the political agents of Big Business. Clark's labor draft plan was embodied in legislation submitted by Senator Austin in 1943. It provided for conscripting all adult males between the ages of 18-65 and women between 18-50 for work in private industry. The penalty for violators was imprisonment. In this way those workers who could not be coerced by the threat of being drafted would be subject to the threat of imprisonment. The bill died in the 1943 Congress and was not revived until Roosevelt came out for labor conscription legislation in his message to Congress in January 1944.

Senator Austin, co-author of the Austin-Wadsworth National Service Act, reintroduced his forced labor bill immediately following Roosevelt's message. Spokesmen for the Roosevelt administration—spearheaded by the brass-hats—began a nation-wide agitation for labor conscription. But the slave labor bill was so raw that the labor bureaucrats were compelled to speak out against it. The only section of the labor movement that endorsed it were the Stalinists. Despite powerful support from the capitalist press, radio, manufacturers' associations, etc., the pressure of the people was strong enough to stem the reactionary drive for forced labor legislation.

Blocked in their legislative drive the forced labor advocates have since executed a series of flank

NOTICE

The National Educational Department of the Socialist Workers Party is anxious to secure the following literature in English, German, French or Russian:

Theses of the first 3 congresses of the Communist International.

All copies of the magazine "The Communist International" of 1922 in which articles by Zinoviev appear.

Zinoviev's writings on the Italian Socialist Party, January-July Imprecor.

If you can give, loan or sell these to the National Office, please write to:

Charles Carsten
National Educational
Director, SWP
116 University Place,
New York 3, N. Y.

attacks to attain their objective.

All sorts of schemes were advanced to fix penalties on 4-Fs and men over draft age who left their jobs without permission. These schemes found a sympathetic ear in Roosevelt. Failing to accomplish his plan by legislation, Roosevelt used his tremendous war powers to strengthen the job-freeze shackles by executive decree and put over his program piece-meal.

ROOSEVELT'S DECREES

Thus Roosevelt issued a decree which went into effect July 1, 1944 placing all male workers over the age of 17 under the control of the Government's United States Employment Service. Under the Roosevelt-McNutt "prioritization" plan workers would be compelled to take jobs in industries and areas designated by the USES. Those who refused, said McNutt, would be "deprived of unemployment compensation benefits," and wouldn't be able to get a job without a certificate from the USES.

Again, in December 1944, following a frenzied campaign around fake "ammunition" and "manpower shortage," Roosevelt issued another decree instructing Selective Service to induct all those within draft age who left their jobs without permission, of their draft boards. Spokesmen for the administration have announced they are now planning to bring the 4-Fs and older men within Roosevelt's recent "work or fight" decree.

As the resistance of the workers to the wage and job-freeze mounts, Roosevelt resorts more and more to methods of compulsion to hold the wage-freezing line. Rule by executive decree is substituted for legislative action in dealing blows against the labor movement. The wage freeze was imposed by executive decree. The job-freeze likewise.

Roosevelt is consistently moving in the direction of regimenting and enslaving the working people through the use of his executive powers. And this conscious agent of capitalist reaction is touted as the foremost "friend of labor" by the treacherous labor lackeys who boast they reelected him to office!

READ
'THE FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL'



By V. Grey

Some Bethlehem steelworkers, not well versed in political economy, have wondered from time to time, "How come Eugene Grace is entitled to a take of \$523,000 per annum?" The answer is just simple arithmetic.

Say you get 2500 dollars a year for working—when you work. Then if you worked twice as hard, or twice as long—16 hours a day—you'd get twice the money, or 5000 dollars. A little more, counting the time-and-a-half. If you are twice as skilled, on the other hand, after spending five or six years in an Engineering college, you might make the \$5000 a year on the basis of just an eight hour day, like the engineers do. That's fair enough.

But Eugene Grace gets a salary of 523,000 dollars a year. It could be that he works 209 times as hard as you, because that's how many times \$2500 goes into \$523,000.

Of course, you might object that you eat Wheaties in the morning, too, and you can't understand how anyone could have 209 times the energy you do.

Well it's possible, then, that he works 209 times as long. That's 1672 hours a day. And you can make the same amount of money yourself if you're not too lazy to put in the time.

But that doesn't quite make sense. So if he doesn't work 209 times as hard, and he doesn't work 209 times as long, maybe he works 209 times as skilled. He must be 209 times as educated. Where an engineer went to school twice as long as you, Grace must have gone 209 times as long, or about 1672 years.

However, he couldn't have started attending college in the third century A.D. because they didn't have any colleges then.

EUGENE GRACE MUST BE A GENIUS

How is it then, that he knows 209 times as much? Is his brain 209 times as big? No. There's really only one answer. It's genius. He must have been born with it. He must be inspired with some knowledge far beyond our power to understand. He never learned it the ordinary way.

But that's the way genius works, you see. A poet, for instance, just sits down with a rose in front of him or maybe a glass of whiskey—and before you can stand a quarter up on its edge, he dashes off a whole poem, beautiful as anything.

Eugene Grace is like that poet. You can't compare a man like Mr. Grace with ordinary men. (You can't compare \$523,000 with an ordinary income either).

Of course some ordinary people can't understand what it is that a genius like Mr. Grace actually does—what his work really is. But that doesn't mean anything. People never do understand genius anyway.

I bet you thought this shop ran pretty much by itself what with a couple of hundred of us working men and women, a couple of maintenance men, machinists and a foreman we see as little as possible. But if you'd read the company bulletin board as carefully as you should, you'd see a letter from Mr. Grace himself every year or so telling you how hard we all worked (including him).

You might have thought that what with us people to make the coke, make the iron, make the steel and steel products, what with salesmen to sell it, what with the government to buy it and whole armies begging for it so they could blow it to pieces right away, you might have thought Mr. Grace wouldn't have much to do. That's where you'd be wrong.

No, he doesn't fool around with the production end of steelmaking. He doesn't waste his valuable time with the business end of it either. But every month, rain or shine, come hell or high water, he has to preside over a board of director's meeting, where he tells them how to divide up the thirty-eight million dollars in profits that they skim off every year.

And if you don't think THAT'S 209 times as much as you could do if you were in his place, then you must be a Trotskyist or something.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

JANUARY 5, 1935

SACRAMENTO—At the start of the infamous Criminal Syndicalism trial of 18 militant leaders of the Agricultural and Cannery Workers Association came new evidence of the frame-up nature of the case. The California Growers' Association initiated proposals that District Attorney McAlister be hired as special prosecutor. McAlister, defeated in the November elections in which he campaigned on a red-baiting platform, was to leave office Jan. 5.

"The truth is," said The Militant, "that the Sacramento cases are being pushed not so much by local conservative politicians as by the growers of the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys, and the banks of Frisco, who are against unions everywhere and always." Describing the selection of the jury, The Militant continued, "Workers have been disqualified and most of the jurors selected so far live in the fashionable part of town."

NEW YORK—In the first of a series of articles on incipient fascist movements in the United States, The Militant discussed the demagogic "Share the Wealth" formula of Senator Huey (Kingfish) Long of Louisiana, who on September 1, 1934 had been able to claim a following of nearly a million and a half. Under the banner of a "reformist" program to curb monopolies, Long tightened his grip on the apparatus of the Louisiana government and spread out feelers in other states. Political maneuverings and Tammany-style corruption helped swell his ranks.

WASHINGTON—Rejecting the 5-5-3 ratio of ships (5 for the U.S., 5 for Britain, 3 for Japan) by which the United States maintained supremacy in the Pacific, Japan demanded "disarmament"—the scrapping of "offensive" ships, and the establishment of equal tonnage for all three nations. In reply, Washington announced a Pacific "maneuver" of the Navy. "A new armament race has begun," warned The Militant. "Another step toward war has been taken. Let the workers of the world be on guard for their own interests."

SAAR BASIN—The Saar Basin, with a predominantly working-class population of 900,000, prepared to cast its vote in the coming plebiscite, to determine whether it would remain under French control or return to Germany. In Germany, a defeated working class lay prostrate under Hitler's iron heel; in France, the working class was following the same false policies and leadership of the Stalinists and Social-Democrats, which had led the German labor movement to disaster.

ROME—"The Pope announced," said an editorial in The Militant, "that the Roman Catholic Church would observe 'strict neutrality' in the Saar. . . The other day, however, all the leading bishops in the Saar read statements from their pulpits . . . urging their congregations to vote for returning to Germany."



Scene at Christmas party given in Minneapolis on December 22 for the children of the Minneapolis Labor Case Prisoners. 23 youngsters enjoyed an afternoon of games, entertainment, and refreshments—with gifts presented by Santa Clarence Hamel, one of the Minneapolis prisoners released in October. The party was sponsored by the Twin Cities branch of the Workers Defense League.

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

Athens and Georgia

The Greek masses have been engaged in a bloody war against British imperialism. The Negro people in America are engaged in a social struggle for full citizenship and complete equality. Far removed tactically and geographically as are these two struggles from each other, yet they have a political interconnection that deserves close scrutiny.

We have all seen how the brave Greeks under the ELAS have carried on their civil war in such a resolute fashion. Invaded by the Italian Fascists and then by the Nazis, oppressed, famished, enslaved and diseased, still they are struggling courageously against the attempts of Churchill under the guise of "liberation" to enslave upon them a government composed of the same exploiting traitors who helped oppress their own countrymen at the time when the Nazis were overrunning the country.

In this most recent war between the British military arm and the Greek people, it is well for us to remember that the British and their Greek puppets, have mercilessly fired on and murdered men, women and children. They have used machine guns, tanks, planes and heavy artillery against the "liberated" Greeks—the same instruments of death that are ostensibly so badly needed on the German front.

The American government has tried to give the impression that it is blameless for this British policy in Greece. Like Pontius Pilate, it has tried to wash its hands of the whole affair. Each and every gangster, however, in a murder mob, is equally guilty of the crimes committed by his cohorts. Let us not forget that many of the weapons that were used against the Greek workers had been manufactured here for the profit of American capitalists.

What bearing do these facts have on the Negro struggle? Simply this. We should thereby bring to a victorious end.

Pioneer Paragraphs

LENIN AND TROTSKY — LEADERS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

When an idea is in the air of an epoch, that is to say, when the general conditions for its birth and growth are present, men begin to have a presentiment of it, and it is frequently conceived by several men at the same time. Marx and Engels arrived at the same conclusion as to the foundations of modern society, and, in twenty-five years of admirable intellectual collaboration, founded scientific socialism. The Russian Revolution was to realize in action — but action nourished by solid thought — a collaboration just as remarkable: that of Lenin and Trotsky.

Expelled from France in 1916 by an order signed by Malvy (Jules Guesde was in the cabinet), as a result of a provocation; then deported from Spain as an undesirable element, Trotsky went to New York where he stayed for a short time, engaged in revolutionary activity; and then to Canada whence he planned to set sail for Russia. Interned in a concentration camp with his wife and children, he finally was set free, thanks to the intervention of the Petrograd Soviet. He arrived in the capital on May 5, 1917, and his first speech, delivered as soon as he got off the boat, demanded the seizure of power.

His personality, as an orator, journalist, and organizer, sometimes seemed to overshadow that of Lenin, which at first glance appeared less striking. Lenin was good-natured, unassuming, ordinary in appearance; an outsider would scarcely have noticed him; he spoke with extreme simplicity, and it was not so much his language as the force of his reasoning which moved his audience. He wrote, without particu-

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Louise Leslie

QUESTIONS

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116 UNIVERSITY PLACE
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Diary Of A Steel Worker

By Theodore Kovalesky

Every now and then you pick up the paper, and somebody who'd like to be a poet has a verse there telling how pretty the snowflakes are, and how pretty winter is, and how much he likes it. Most likely you don't read it, but if you do, you know whoever wrote it isn't a steelworker, because winter isn't so good when you're a steelworker.

If you live fairly near the mill, you get up cold and sleepy and trudge to work through ruts and snowdrifts. The wind and snow sting as they hit your face. The street lights are cold and pale, for it's entirely dark outside, and it won't be light until you've been working quite a while.

If you live farther away (and many do, because steel plants are located usually outside the cities, on the rivers and lakes) you have to get up even earlier to make the trip. The snow drifts over the roads, and you can't get your car out, or else the old jalopy won't start. Winter brings out all the bugs in an old car. Then you take your chances with the bus lines.



In the cold and darkness, you're always twice as sleepy. You stand there, trying to stamp the numbness out of your feet, trying to squeeze it out of your fingers by opening and shutting your hands. You wish to hell the bus would come. The man next to you is also trying to keep his blood circulating by stamping his feet and rubbing his hands. He wishes to hell the bus would come. The others are all standing there feeling miserably and wishing it too.

Most of them are entirely silent, but every now and then one will mutter a few curses about how the bus line doesn't give a damn about the workingmen. You agree with him but you don't bother to answer. He's not talking to anyone in particular anyhow.

Then somebody says, "Here it comes," and the whole crowd of you begin to mill and push toward the curb. There aren't very many seats, and if you can get one, you may be able to get a little nap on the way out. Luck's with you this morning. The bus stops almost in front of you, and you don't have to worry about getting in to get seat. You just let the crowd behind you push you into the bus. You get your seat, all right, and you watch the rest of them shoving in, until the bus is packed so tightly that the driver can hardly close the doors.

The bus struggles with the snow for a moment and starts groaning and bumping along in low gear. You sit back, glad you're not jammed into the front of the bus, and scrape some of the frost from the window so you can look out. You're going through the red light district, but at this hour, almost everything is quiet. Here and there through an uncurtained window you glimpse the bare walls of a furnished room, pallid under the light of an unshaded electric bulb. Sometimes a person moves past the window. Everything looks very sordid.

At this hour, much of the city is sleeping. Only the prostitutes, going to bed, and a portion of the workers, going to work, are stirring. It is very cold and lonely.

On the Way to the Mill

You go on. The bus creeps and lurches past the railroad yards and warehouses. The window steams up again, and you wipe it with your glove. On the walls of the bus are signs forbidding smoking, but many of the workers have lighted cigarettes and pipes. The bus driver doesn't say anything. He has a cigaret himself. The air is thick with smoke, and you hear some non-smoker in the back complaining about it, but nobody pays any attention to him, and he sulks quietly. Across from you a kid (how young some of the workers are nowadays!) leans his head against the window and sleeps with his mouth open.

The bus strains up the ramp of a canal bridge, and as the window begins to cloud over again, you make out the vague outlines of a freighter laid up for the winter. You cross that bridge and one or two others and go on through the darkness.

The old bus groans up a hill, and from the top, you see at last your destination several miles down the road. There is a rusty glow in the sky. It's not very beautiful. The sky is too black, and the glow is too brown to call it beautiful. Besides you're too sleepy in the stuffy bus to appreciate it.

As you approach the giant mill, you see the flickering, angry yellow flames of the coke oven and a dusty golden shaft of light projected from one of the open hearths. Between the open hearth and coke oven the sky lights up as No. 4 furnaces begin to cast and run cinder.

The bus lurches a last time and pulls to a stop. The men standing up fall against each other and swear as they crush the paper bags carrying their lunches. You make your way out of the bus into the cold, surprised to find how bad the air inside had become. Again the snow stings your face. Your eyes begin to run, and you sniffle a bit as you show your badge to the cop at the gate and begin to plod through the snow, up the road, and over countless railroad tracks on the way to your department. The warmth of the bus seat has left you. The sky is very dark. Once again you feel cold all over and terribly tired.

But the work day is just beginning.

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(Continued from page 1)
will not only reach but surpass it.

The swift growth of *The Militant* in the past year has demonstrated that thousands and tens of thousands of workers are accepting our paper as their own.

They value the news of events in the American and world labor movements which *The Militant* alone presents and explains in a scientific, Marxist manner. With the constant exposure of the lies of the imperialist war-makers with the growing threat of cutbacks and unemployment at home — these workers are learning through everyday experience the need for workers' government and a socialist society to solve their problems. *The Militant* aims to help them find the road to emancipation from capitalist wars and insecurity.

The surest indication of the appreciation of these new readers is that so many have already become volunteer agents, selling hundreds of subscriptions to *The Militant* in the past few months to their friends and shopmates. Inspired by their example, we intend to enlist all of our subscribers, new and old, into a

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December to head off threatened strike. In his attempts to break last year's mine strike, he repeatedly took over the coal mines with no apparent reluctance.

Attorney General Biddle has conceded to Avery that the WLB directives are only "recommendations," defending the "seizures" solely as a strikebreaking requisite. But the administration has never treated WLB directives to workers as mere "recommendations." Such directives have been enforced promptly and firmly, and the WLB itself has been armed with punitive powers. In addition to siding with the employers 99 times out of a hundred, the WLB has penalized strikers by delaying concessions, withholding union security clauses, reducing retroactive pay grants, etc.

The workers can be certain that, whatever the immediate consequences of the latest Ward "seizures," they will operate in the long run only to reinforce Roosevelt's fundamentally anti-labor policy, his kid-glove treatment of the labor-hating open-shoppers, and his club-wielding against workers defending their elementary rights.

TOUGH TOWARD LABOR

But the administration has never exercised similar "caution" in its attacks on labor. Roosevelt had no hesitancy or legal scruples when, six months before Pearl Harbor, he ordered Army occupation of the North American Aviation plant and drove strikers back to work at the bayonet point. He observed no legal fine points when he "seized" the railroads last

December to head off threatened strike. In his attempts to break last year's mine strike, he repeatedly took over the coal mines with no apparent reluctance.

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- HOW TO FIGHT IT
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By LEON TROTSKY

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Speaker: Joseph Hansen

Author and Lecturer

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Refreshments

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

VOL. IX—No. 1 Saturday, January 1, 1945

Published Weekly by
THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSN.
at 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.
Telephone: ALgonquin 4-8547
FARRELL DOBBS, Editor

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

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per year; 50¢ for 6 months. Foreign: \$2.00 per year, \$1.00 for 6 months. Bundle orders: 3 cents per copy in the United States; 4 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 5 cents.

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



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

— LEON TROTSKY

JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR:

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

Voice Of Imperialism

The leading mouthpiece of American imperialism, the New York *Times*, in a December 29 editorial lauds Churchill's plan to set up a regency in Greece. The *Times* takes to task those who believe "Britain seeks to dominate Greece politically and commercially, close Greece off from other markets, exploit Greek resources for Britain's benefit."

A mistaken view, claims the *Times*. "The life-line of the British Empire runs through the Mediterranean." What Churchill really evinces is a "natural interest in wishing a country so close to that lifeline as Greece to be orderly and prosperous and democratic."

Under this democratic wool, however, the teeth of American imperialism are clearly visible. To make understandable to its readers the "gesture of British good-will" toward Greece, the *Times* observes that "we have a similar interest in small countries bordering on the Panama Canal."

The shooting of Greek workers and peasants is indeed reminiscent of the way American troops were sent to Nicaragua during the twenties to hunt down the followers of Sandino who struggled for democracy in that unhappy country.

Britain's policy of setting up puppet regimes in Greece is likewise reminiscent of the scandalous origin of the Republic of Panama. This tiny country, straddling the Isthmus of Panama, was set up through a revolution against Colombia in 1903 financed by American dollars and backed by the Theodore Roosevelt administration.

A similar revolution had previously ended the kingdom of Hawaii and brought these islands directly under the spreading wings of the rapacious Wall Street vulture. Puerto Rico and the Philippines were seized following the Spanish-American war. Cuba also fell into the orbit of American imperialism. Wall Street today has its own puppet regimes like that of bloody Vargas in Brazil.

The *Times*, trying to justify Churchill's actions, admits that Washington is pursuing a similar policy to this day. "If we think realistically enough,

about lifelines, we may even remind ourselves that we sometimes take an interest in the kind of government possessed by countries no nearer to the Panama Canal than Argentina."

However, the *Times* doesn't go quite far enough. Wall Street has predatory interests in other areas besides the two American continents. Big Business has been assiduously penetrating British markets since the beginning of the Second World War. The oil trust has broken the monopoly of the British oil barons in the Middle East and is utilizing this deal as a model for similar deals in other raw materials now held by the British.

Even in Europe, long considered native territory by the British, the Wall Street colossus is raising its own voice. Belgian workers have been shot down by troops under the command of General Eisenhower. American representatives exercise joint control with the British in Italy. And even in Greece the American vulture casts its shadow. Thus at the conference with ELAS delegates called by Churchill to set up the regency of Damaskinos, the American Ambassador, Lincoln MacVeagh, sat as a more than interested observer.

When the *Times* voices sympathy with Churchill's "good try at solving this problem" in Greece, one can easily see that such sympathy arises out of direct experience in handling similar problems of empire.

Profits Of War

The dollar patriots are doing all right under the "equality of sacrifice" program. A few reports culled at random from the financial section of the capitalist press provide an eloquent commentary on Roosevelt's promise "to take undue profits out of war."

A few weeks ago, the Securities and Exchange Commission disclosed that, "1,271 registered American corporations added \$803,000,000 to their aggregate net working capital during the first six months of this year (1944)."

The statement of a leading tire manufacturer, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, disclosed: "After providing for all charges including \$58,727,714 taxes and adding \$2,500,000 to the reserve for contingencies, the net profit was \$16,310,845, the largest in the company's history."

Eight manufacturing companies engaged in war production "had total earnings of \$154,284,969 or 12 percent above the \$137,332,893 reported for the nine months ended with September, 1943." Profits in 1944 showed a substantial increase over 1943.

In addition to these lush war profits, the corporations are laying away nest-eggs for the "post-war" period. In its quarterly analysis, the Security and Exchange Commission reports that: "Corporations also continued to accumulate post-war credits in refundable taxes, raising the total of such refunds to \$1,800,000,000, as of June 30, an increase of \$200,000,000 in the quarter."

On top of that, the corporations have "a vast reserve of possible excess-profits tax refunds, over \$30 billion, to protect them if their incomes drop below the 1936-39 level." Who says that "war don't pay!"

But the profit-hogs who have their snouts buried deepest in the bloody trough keep clamoring for more. Speaking at a dinner of the Economic Club in the grand ballroom of the Hotel Astor, Irving S. Olds, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, said that "this hope of profit must not be curbed, regulated or opposed unreasonably or unwisely."

Roosevelt and his henchmen boast that the "line is being held." Against whom?

Third World War

The outlines of the secret "peace" plans now going into effect in Greece, Italy, Belgium, etc. are the economic and political outlines of an imperialist truce that will inevitably explode into a Third World War far more violent and destructive than the war we are now experiencing.

Paralleling these "peace" plans, new developments in military weapons outline something of the nightmarish type of conflict to be expected in a Third World War.

The V-type weapons in particular show that man's inventive genius, unless turned into constructive channels, can lead to the suicide of humanity. Already the Germans are utilizing, as part of their routine battle equipment, rocket explosives that rise 60 miles above the earth's surface, cross nations in their flight toward populous cities, and explode with terrible violence. These rockets travel at speeds so high that if sustained they could span the Atlantic in one hour.

American military engineers, the press informs us, are now strenuously attempting to reproduce and even surpass the new German weapons.

The rocket-propelled bombs have thus outmoded the old type projectiles just as rocket-type planes have outmoded airplanes powered by gasoline engines and air-flogging propellers. A qualitative change has occurred. The old weapons are being superseded in the way firearms superseded the sword and cross-bow. We can expect developments in the new weapons that will make these first specimens look like a clumsy flint-lock alongside a quadruple Bofors gun that automatically wheels, lowers, raises and fires in accordance with calculations provided through radar.

Man's inventions which, under a rationally organized social system could be the source of boundless benefits, now threaten to destroy him. If a Third World War is not to become the grave of civilization, the workers of the world have no time to lose in organizing their forces to tear the power out of the hands of the rapacious warring capitalist cliques and establish socialism.

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

Praises Morale of Ward Pickets

Editor:

Recently I helped picket the Montgomery Ward stores here in Detroit. Inwardly I felt good in being able to walk again on the picket line after months of having to bow to the directives of the CIO International in observing the no-strike pledge. There was a thrill in being able to express the sentiments that arose in me against the capitalists. Much to my delight I saw men and women join our line from several different locals, mostly UAW members with here and there a sprinkling of other CIO locals.

Of the UAW locals giving active support were Briggs Local 212, Ford Local 400, Local 351, Local 490, Packard Local 190, Dodge Local 8, Local 174 lent its sound car. Even one member from Local 155, a Stalinist-dominated local, came on the picket line. The militant Briggs 212 Local is giving most active support.

Holding a Local 212 day, this Local sent out members on Wednesday, Dec. 20, directly after work to a Ward Store. Saturday Dec. 23 again brought out the members of 212 at all four Ward stores in Detroit. This local, the leader of the revolt against the no-strike pledge at the UAW Convention in Grand Rapids, is educating its membership in real trade union solidarity.

The Ward strikers in their twelfth day of picketing were still very high in morale. Not only did they come out in force, but they kept their spirits high. In spite of bitter zero weather, with snowstorms and strong winds, the pickets kept a solid line. Cheerful, but aggressive toward scabs, they marched every day from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

The UAW leaders, though promising full aid to the Ward strikers, have given it but half-heartedly. The locals are not endeavoring to get their membership to support the Ward strikers, with the exception of those locals I mentioned.

The fear that the Ward strike

might awaken the auto workers life. I have been a socialist for 30 years.

A man said to me that there are two or three factions in Greece but I say they don't seem to have any trouble except with the English Scobie army.

Another man said to me today that there never will be a third party. I said: the people before the flood didn't think it would rain.

I am wise to the old parties. They are Siamese twins. They are the class that robbed the Indians, Mexico, Colombia, the Philippines and Spain, all with the gun.

When a man ties himself to a stump if someone offers him something for doing it, and he can't get loose—or if he votes for a Republican or a Democratic ticket—he is not feathered out yet.

There were two men about to be electrocuted, and they were freed everything they asked for the day before they were killed. One of the men understood what the racket was but the other didn't. The one who didn't understand said to his partner: "This pen is not as bad as they say it is: I've heard a lot of bull about it." The wise one answered, "Well, they feed you pretty well the day before they kill you." The first one answered, "Oh, I thought there was something phony about this."

When a Republican or Democratic voter wakes up and finds out what is the matter, he learns they have put a halter on him — while he was asleep.

C. F. A.
Seattle

(Ed. Note: Most of the books and pamphlets written on the life of Eugene Debs are now out of print, but can be found in public libraries. Pioneer Publishers has for sale a copy of "Debs — Authorized Life and Letters," by David Karsner.)

An Old Socialist

Editor:

I want to send you one dollar for 4 different introductory subscriptions. I am 74 years old. I have a little piece of property just big enough to live on. I have no steady job. I do a little carpenter work to keep up with

P. B. C.
Hamilton, O.

Wants Records

Editor:

May I suggest the inclusion in The Militant of chronological tables: A Chronology of Deceit, FDR's record, and a Chronology of Treachery, Stalin's record, as a jog to the memory of our readers. These can be brought up to date and repeated occasionally.

I. W.
Cleveland, O.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Bulgaria

Counter-revolutionary Stalinism is attempting to reconstitute the rotten capitalist order in the Balkan countries under regimes "friendly" to the Kremlin. These regimes consist of coalitions between Stalin's political agents and elements of the pre-war dictatorial governments which brutally oppressed the workers and peasants.

Reporting on the Christmas Day announcement of the establishment of a provisional Hungarian government at Debrecen in eastern Hungary, N. Y. Times foreign correspondent Raymond Daniell observes: "It seemed to be modeled after the others that were established in Balkan countries now under Soviet control, consisting as it did of an amalgam of 'rightist' figure heads and 'leftist' (Stalinist) hatchet men."

An example of the governments Stalin is imposing on the Balkan peoples is the regime in Bulgaria. Here, after discarding the government established by the resistance movement which overthrew the pro-Nazi Bagradianoff ruling group, Stalin's agents have set up a regime incorporating notorious fascists.

Two such well-known fascists placed over the Bulgarian people by Stalin are Col. Gheorgheff and Col. Veitchoff, as Premier and Minister of War respectively while Stalinists occupy the Ministries of the Interior, Justice and Labor. Gheorgheff and Veitchoff were leaders of the junta which assassinated the peasant leader Stambulsky in 1923 and attempted a fascist coup d'etat in 1939.

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