

Longshore Wage Case And Union Solidarity

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Churchill Blames His Victims For Greek Slaughter

By Joseph Hansen

Winston Churchill, champion of capitalist counter-revolution for a quarter of a century, is now openly preparing the next great stage of the Second World War—suppression of the advancing European socialist revolution. In a sinister speech before the House of Commons on January 18, Churchill raised the banner of an unholy crusade against a spectre haunting Europe. The spectre Churchill wants to exorcise is "Trotskyism."

This is not the first time that Britain's Prime Minister has stepped forth as the director of reaction's vanguard. When the Soviet Union was born in the October 1917 revolution, Churchill organized the protracted Allied intervention which sought to drown the first workers' state in blood. Only the heroic defense of the Red Army led by Trotsky, combined with the support of the world working class, frustrated Churchill's designs.

Churchill spoke to Commons in another attempt to quell the political crisis his government faces in consequence of public indignation over the slaughter of Greek workers and peasants. He again slandered these heroic fighters as "brigands." He lied that Allied troops invaded Greece solely to bring the blessings of food and democracy. He did not breathe a word about General Scobie's orders that the Greek partisans give up the arms they had used against the German armies and get out of Athens. He lied that the partisans had provoked civil war, although it was British-armed police who fired on an unarmed demonstration against the British-supported puppet government of Papandreou. He was discreetly silent about his order to Scobie to provoke civil war even if he must kill women and children.

1945 RED-BAITING

Then came Churchill's red-baiting—a repetition of his red-baiting tactics against Bolshevikism in the First World War. Describing the infiltration into Athens of partisans defending themselves against British-backed counter-revolution, Churchill claimed: "For three or four days or more it was a struggle to prevent a hideous massacre in the center of Athens in which all forms of Government would have been swept away and naked, triumphant Trotskyism installed. I think Trotskyism is a better definition of Greek Communist and certain other sects than the normal word. It has the advantage of

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FLINT CIO COUNCIL SCORES ALLIED POLICY IN EUROPE

Taking the lead among American unions in publicly condemning Allied counter-revolutionary policy against the workers in Greece and throughout "liberated" Europe, the Greater Flint (Mich.) Industrial Union Council at its regular meeting on January 6 adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS: To forestall a Democratic Government in Greece and restore the puppet King George, the Churchill Government has slaughtered Greek Soldiers of the Worker's Army (ELAS) that drove the Nazis out of Greece, and WHEREAS: Allied tanks, planes, munitions and men were used against Greek Workers at the very moment when American Workers were being slandered with blame for an alleged shortage of armaments on the "Western Front," and

WHEREAS: Allied forces have been used also against Italian and Belgian workers who protested being ruled after "liberation" by the same native S. L. Averys, Tom Girdlers and Smith-Connallys who oppressed them under the Nazi heel, and

WHEREAS: American workers with our own Quislings and would-be Hitlers and Mussolinis to deal with have common cause with European workers trying to make a reality of their so-called liberation, and

WHEREAS: The right of Nations to determine their own government is a fundamental demand of oppressed peoples everywhere, regardless whether there ever was an Atlantic Charter, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council calls upon the CIO National Office immediately to launch a nation-wide campaign to protest the use of Allied troops against workers of any country who are trying to establish their own democracy. We particularly protest the Churchill-Scobie butchery in Greece. Let the people of Greece, Belgium, Italy, North Africa, etc., choose their own governments and deal in their own way with their native Mayors, Hagues, Hoovers, etc. We protest our brothers in the Allied forces—mostly denied the right to vote here at home—being ordered to shoot European workers who want a voice in their governments, and be it finally

RESOLVED: That copies of this Resolution be sent to the CIO National Office, to the White House, State Department, Winston Churchill, affiliated Local Unions, and the press.

12 Trotskyist Leaders Released After Imprisonment Of 13 Months

Roosevelt Rejects AFL-CIO Demand To Raise Wages

By R. Bell

The labor "statesmen" have just concluded another pilgrimage to the White House where, hat in hand, they pleaded for an upward revision of the Little Steel formula. The conventions of the CIO and AFL have repeatedly gone on record to conduct a fight against the wage-freeze. The spectacle of the top leaders of 13 million organized workers crawling to the shrine of "labor's friend" to beg for a handout symbolizes the "fight" which Murray, Green and Company are conducting.

Their abject attitude prompted one reporter to make this cynical comment: "For whatever good it may do, leaders of the CIO and the AFL have made it plain to President Roosevelt this week that the workers in their organizations are clamoring for action on their demand for higher wages to compensate for higher living costs." Both groups, he added, "left the White House empty-handed"

After the interview, Green and Murray reported that, "The President seems to be sympathetic" but told them that he would take no action in advance of a report which the War Labor Board was preparing. "With this reassuring pat on the head the bootlickers gratefully retired. The report, without which Roosevelt declares he will "take no action," is one of a whole series of thimble-rigged "cost-of-living" reports concocted by the WLB to justify the wage-freeze. The battle of statistics is another aspect of the labor fakers' "fight" against the Little Steel formula. It has been going on for years.

While Murray and Green spar with Roosevelt in their sham battle over the wage-freeze the cost of living continues to rise. Frozen wages in the face of a constant rise in the cost of living has reduced real wages and lowered the workers' standard of living. Profits have soared to the highest levels in history. The cost-plus patriots rake in fabulous profits as the costs of the war are loaded on the wage-earners. This is the reality behind Roosevelt's fraudulent "equality of sacrifice" program. In Roosevelt the profit-hogs have a consistent champion who uses his executive powers to fleece the workers for the benefit of the employing class.

VINSON DECREE

Recently, Roosevelt's "economic stabilizer," Fred M. Vinson, issued an order prohibiting the WLB from "deciding any wage issue without prior assurance from OPA that the Board's proposed order will not affect prices." The immediate effect of the order was disclosed when Philip Murray announced that "negotiations with the steel industry to put into effect the WLB's order of last Nov. 23, had just about broken down and that the case would be referred again to the WLB in a few days." The Vinson decree gives the OPA power to veto any decision reached by the War Labor Board. Thus the WLB decision granting the steel workers certain "fringe" demands

STRIKEBREAKING CREW

But the basic causes of the strike were the company's refusal to settle a mounting volume of grievances and the National War Labor Board's rejection last December 26 of the union's year-old demand for a 7 cents hourly raise. The board had stalled its decision to within a month of the

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speed forced labor. The immediate provocation of the power strike was the company's arbitrary shifting of a union steward from the day to the night shift. This was a move to undermine the seniority and grievance procedure established under contract with Local 270, CIO Utility Workers Organizing Committee.

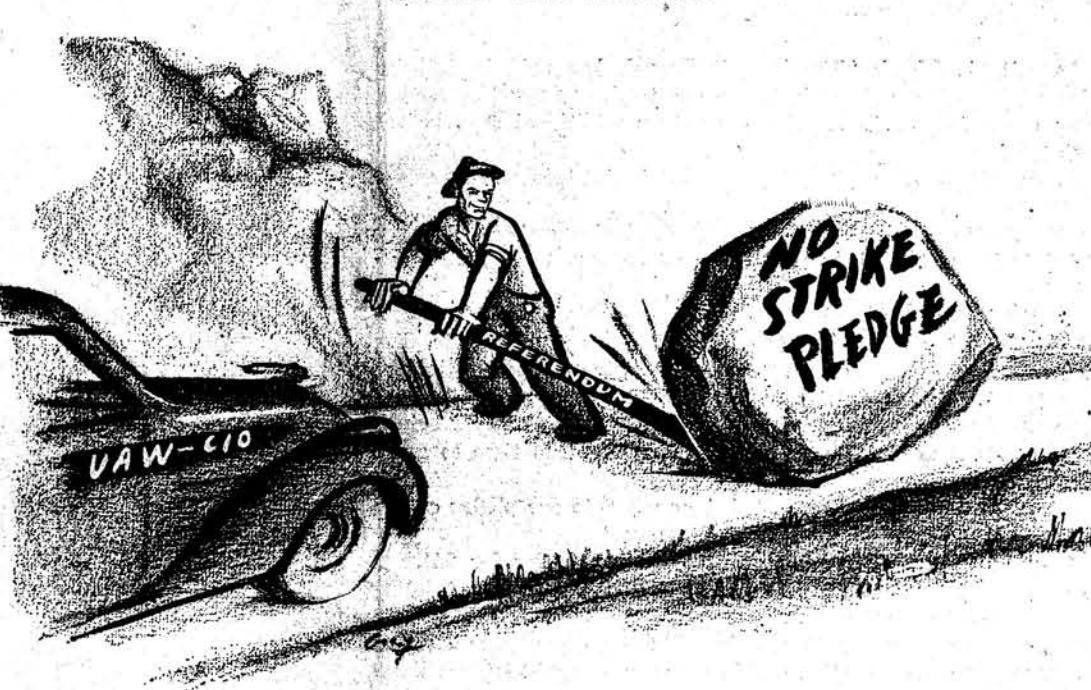
MURRAY'S LIES

Murray resorts almost entirely to the most hypocritical anti-strike propaganda of the corporations and their political agents, who always advance their anti-labor policies under the "boys in the foxholes" smokescreen. He appeals to the auto workers to reaffirm the "sacred pledge made to the soldiers, sailors and marines." Of course, this "sacred pledge" is the one-sided agreement—originally palmed off as a "three-way commitment between labor, management and government"—handed to Roosevelt after Pearl Harbor by the top labor fakers, who had never even consulted their memberships.

Murray's flag-waving appeal, which reads as though it were plagiarized from an advertisement of the National Association of Manufacturers, is topped off by a truly fantastic claim. He asserts that the "peaceful pattern of labor relations" was responsible for "a year of progress on the home front." He has the

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Clear the Road!



Murray Intervenes To Bolster No-Strike Policy In UAW Poll

By Art Preis

Two sharply opposed forces are locked in bitter struggle as the climax approaches in the CIO United Automobile Workers' referendum battle over the No-Strike Pledge. The militant rank and file, local committeemen and officers, who daily feel the whiplash of corporation provocations, are mobilizing to scrap the no-strike surrender policy. Arrayed against them is the entire top bureaucracy of the UAW and CIO, backed by the corporations, the Roosevelt administration and the Stalinists.

Exploiting the vast resources and prestige of the CIO, the pro-Roosevelt Murray-Hillman machine is now intervening directly in the UAW struggle. So powerful is the rising offensive of the auto workers against the no-strike policy which has placed them at the mercy of the corporations, that the CIO chiefs have been impelled to rush openly to the aid of the hard-pressed UAW leadership.

CIO President Philip Murray proclaimed his policy of open intervention in the UAW referendum in his letter of January 12 to UAW President R. J. Thomas, declaring that "this is directed through you to the membership of the largest union in the world."

A full-page reproduction of this letter appears in the January 15 CIO News.

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brass to put into public print the obvious and absurd lies that the labor movement has actually been strengthened because the CIO helped to re-elect Roosevelt and elect a more progressive Congress. CIO unions, maintaining their no-strike commitments, have scored decisive gains for millions of workers."

This fiction is dished out to the auto workers as rising walls emanate from the pro-Roosevelt labor leaders themselves asking "Who won the elections?" This "progressive" Congress already looms up as one of the most reactionary in United States history. Its first act was to establish a permanent Dies Witch-Hunt Committee as a slap in the face to labor. Since the start of the new session its members have been competing for the "honor" of drafting the most viciously anti-labor legislation.

The past year wound up with Roosevelt turning over the State Department and the leading government agencies to the direct agents of Wall Street. The year concluded with Roosevelt and his brass hats demanding a Nazi-like system of universal forced labor.

It was the year during which the War Labor Board turned down all the basic wage demands of labor, most notably of Murray's own steel union, and hardened the wage freeze. It was the year in which brazen corporation provocations led to the greatest volume of defensive strikes in four years.

RANK AND FILE TALKS

But Murray's absurd arguments and downright lies are being most effectively answered by the auto workers themselves. The National UAW Rank and File Committee to Revoke the No-Strike Pledge is hammering home the truth in an organized campaign inside the shops, supplemented by leaflets, newspapers, radio talks, stickers, meetings, etc. One of the most powerful expositions of the reasons for rescinding the no-strike policy is contained in a typical rank and file leaflet, being cir-

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Railroaded For Opposition To Roosevelt War Program

First Labor Victims of Smith "Gag" Act to Speak in New York, Minneapolis, Chicago

(By Wire to THE MILITANT)

By Larissa Reed

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 24—After 13 months confinement behind federal prison bars, the 12 Socialist Workers Party and Minneapolis Truckdrivers' Local 544-CIO leaders railroaded under the Smith "Gag" Act were released this morning from Roosevelt's penitentiaries.

The 11 men prisoners arrived here at 11:30 A. M. today from the Sandstone, Minn., Penitentiary and held a joyous reunion with their relatives, comrades and friends who thronged the Great Northern railway station to welcome and honor them.

They are James P. Cannon, Alpert Goldman, Vincent Dunne, Farrell Dobbs, Felix Morrow, Carl Skoglund, Oscar Coover, Emil Hansen, Carlos Hudson, Max Goldman and Jake Cooper. The scene was extremely moving as those so long deprived of their homes and loved-ones stepped off the train. There were

(Continued on page 3)

NATALIA TROTSKY GREETED 12

Warmest revolutionary greetings to our friends upon their release. My deepest wish is for your success in the continued struggle for the better future of mankind.

Natalia Sedov

ROOSEVELT, BRASS HATS SPEED FORCED LABOR

By C. Thomas

Responding to the fervent appeals of the labor haters Roosevelt has renewed his demand for legislation conscripting workers for profit. He dispatched a message to the House Military Affairs Committee urging immediate action on the May-Bailey Bill now before that body. Along with his statement, Roosevelt enclosed a message from the top ranking brass hats, Admiral King and General Marshall.

The Commander-in-Chief and his Chiefs of Staff threw their weight behind the vicious May-Bailey forced labor measure in an effort to head off the growing opposition to labor conscription. Upon receipt of Roosevelt's communication, Chairman May of the Military Affairs Committee, co-author of the May-Bailey bill, abruptly terminated the hearings and announced: "We've discussed this matter long enough. It's now time to act."

However, resistance developed to this attempt to railroad the bill through committee and hearings were reopened for further testimony. The technique worked out by the forced labor advocates was to rush the measure through under cover of an emotional barrage laid down by Roosevelt's "psychological warfare" division. This barrage reached a frenzied peak in the period following the military reversal in Europe.

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NEW YORK MASS MEETING TO WELCOME MINNEAPOLIS CASE DEFENDANTS

HEAR

James P. Cannon

National Secretary, SWP

Albert Goldman

Attorney for Defendants

Farrell Dobbs

Editor, THE MILITANT

Felix Morrow

Editor, 4th INTERNATIONAL

HOTEL DIPLOMAT

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NEW YORK CITY

Friday February 2, 1945 - 8 P. M.

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National Secretary, CRDC—Chairman

Henry Frischer

United Retail, Wholesale & Dept. Store Employees—CIO

Benj. A. Gebiner

Asst. Gen. Secretary The Workmen's Circle

O. K. Fraenkel

American Civil Liberties Union

Benj. F. McLaurin

Brotherhood Sleeping Car Porters

James T. Farrell

Noted Novelist

Speed-Up Hits Rubber Workers

By Joseph Andrews

AKRON, Jan. 15.—The rubber industry this month launched a 120-day non-stop speed-up drive to increase the production of military tires. Sponsored jointly by the corporations and the government, the 4-month drive has been endorsed by the officials of the United Rubber Workers of America, CIO.

The program has been sent off with a cannonade of propaganda in the press, designed to convince the tire builders that there must be a truce in the class struggle in the plants, and that uninterrupted production and extra effort are needed.

Sixteen rubber companies, including the Big Four, Goodyear, Firestone, Goodrich and U. S. Rubber, have pledged, "Business as usual is out!" They also have faithfully promised that "there can be no changes in hours, wages and working conditions EXCEPT (the emphasis is ours) in the interest of greater production."

This pledge is a 100% fraud.

With the 120-day campaign hardly under way, the corporations have intensified their wage-slashing drive by cutting standards for piece work.

When the unions protest this violation of the 120-day agreement, the bosses reply: "But this is in the interest of greater production."

To what extent "business as usual" has been suspended was made very clear in an article written on January 8 by Drew Pearson which made a sensation in Akron. He revealed that for the next 120 days, precisely during the period of the so-called drive, War Mobilization Director Byrnes has extended high premium prices on passenger tires, \$1.30 per tire over the OPA price.

"Believe it or not," Pearson wrote, "the motorist will continue to pay an extra \$1.30 despite the fact that profits of the tire industry for the first six months of last year, before taxes, were 784 per cent of the average profit for 1936-1939. Byrnes however, yielded to army friends close to the tire industry and ok'd the continued price boost."

The profits of the Big Four of the tire industry for the first six months of 1944 was \$149,262,970, or 828 percent better than any 1936-1939 average.

It was no secret in Washington, Pearson intimated, that army big shots put the pressure on for their rubber industry friends, to see to it that profits-as-usual were continued for another 120 days.

Thus, as far as the corporations are concerned, the drive promises to be a huge success. The sky's the limit for these slave-driving profiteers.

Sherman H. Dalrymple, President of the URWA, has signed the union's part of the 120-day agreement, which states that union members must "adhere and comply with our pledge to refrain from work stoppages during this war emergency regardless of the provocation."

To guarantee that no matter what the provocation, no worker will dare to strike, the army has sent several hundred soldiers into

SPECIAL OFFER

In Defense of Marxism \$2.00

This volume contains Trotsky's last writings which are among the most lucid expositions of Marxist methodology and Bolshevik principles of organization. Presenting the Marxist analysis of the Soviet Union and the reasons for defending it against imperialistic attack, these articles and letters stand out as a brilliant Marxist polemic against the petty-bourgeois revisionists who broke away from the Socialist Workers Party in 1939.

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by James P. Cannon

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Released Trotskyist Prisoners

HONOR ROLL

JAMES P. CANNON
GRACE CARLSON
JAKE COOPER
OSCAR COOVER
HARRY DEBOER
FARRELL DOBBS
V. R. DUNNE
MAX GELDMAN
ALBERT GOLDMAN

CLARENCE HAMEL
EMIL HANSEN
CARLOS HUDSON
KARL KUEHN
FELIX MORROW
EDWARD PALMQUIST
ADREW RUSSELL
OSCAR SKOGLUND
CARL SKOGLUND



The Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners released this week photographed in the Minneapolis headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party just before their imprisonment on December 31, 1943. Standing (left to right) Farrell Dobbs, Harry DeBoer, Ed Palmquist, Clarence Hamel, Emil Hansen, Oscar Coover, Jake Cooper. Sitting (left to right): Max Goldman, Felix Morrow, Albert Goldman, James P. Cannon, Vincent Dunne, Carl Skoglund and Grace Carlson. Harry DeBoer, Ed Palmquist and Clarence Hamel were among the six released last October. Carlos Hudson, one of the twelve released this week, was ill at the time and does not appear in the picture.

12 Trotskyist Leaders Released After 13 Months Imprisonment

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laughter and tears, embraces and kissing, hard, sincere hand-claps.

Workers understand the purpose of sending these soldiers into the plants and are treating them with kid gloves. If they remain in the plants long enough, and if the workers explain patiently to them, many of these soldiers will come out sympathetic to the unions.

But their presence in the plant as a company-sponsored attempt to intimidate workers is a threat against the union.

That they were not sent in to build tires as their primary duty is made obvious by the fact that soldiers are being sent into various departments and even into production of civilian goods. The plan is to spread them throughout the plant to act as a brake on the workers while the company pushes its ruthless wage-cutting and speed-up drive.

Workers understand the future of their revolutionary party, the Socialist Workers Party.

DEFENDANTS' STATEMENTS

James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, stated: "We are glad to be out. The work of the party in our absence shows that our party is based on ideas and cannot be halted in its work by the imprisonment of a few individuals. This makes our whole experience well worth a year in prison."

Vincent R. Dunne, National Labor Secretary of the SWP and great fighting leader of the Northwest Teamsters movement, declared: "We went to prison as the result of a frameup against the labor movement. We entered prison with the unchangeable idea that the party not only would carry out our great work for our broad socialist aims, but that the labor movement would also respond to the call of the Civil Rights Defense Committee which defended us so well and would make a counter-attack on reaction stemming from high places and carry on its great work."

Albert Goldman, one of the prisoners and brilliant defense attorney in the famous Minneapolis trial, stated: "We are elated at the support the labor movement has given us and the cause we represent. We are now out and ready to continue the struggle in the same manner that we conducted it before we were sent to prison. With a party strengthened during our absence, we shall continue to educate and organize the workers."

Farrell Dobbs, Editor of *The Militant*, said: "It is an understatement to say I am happy to be back. We all have learned a great deal while we were away which will be put to good service for the party."

Felix Morrow, Editor of *Fourth International*, stated: "We know we are coming back to a growing party and to ever-growing opportunities for bringing our socialist message to great masses. Despite 13 months behind prison walls, we have been able to follow the life of the labor movement and the party. We know that despite all reactionary prejudices, the labor movement has a great capacity to fight. It is the party's duty and the party's glory to play an increasingly important role in that task."

Oscar Coover, Minneapolis SWP organizer, stated: "I am glad to be back among our comrades and we are ready to take our places in the ranks again and carry on the fight."

GO TO HEADQUARTERS

From the railway station, the returned comrades were escorted to the Minneapolis party headquarters, fine new headquarters secured during their absence and which they had not seen before.

There, amid mounting excitement and happiness, they are being treated to their first real home-cooked "spread" since entering prison 13 months ago. The menu included roast beef—a treat that lighted up the faces of the ex-prisoners.

Comrades Goldman and Morrow proceeded east after a brief stopover at the Minneapolis station to receive the hearty greetings of their Twin Cities well-wishers. Comrades Cannon and Dobbs will return to New York City after a day or two stay here.

These four will be the principal speakers at the Welcome Home Mass Meeting sponsored by the Civil Rights Defense Committee to be held next week in New York City. This meeting in honor of the 12 will be addressed also by a number of prominent labor and civil liberties leaders. It will be held Friday, February 2, 8:15 P.M., at the Hotel Diplomat, 108 West 43rd Street.

MASS MEETINGS

The other 8 released Trotskyists will be guests of honor at a public Homecoming Banquet in Minneapolis, to be held Sunday, January 28, 6:30 P.M., at the Labor Lyceum, 1800 Olson Memorial Boulevard. On his way to New York, Comrade Goldman will stop over at Chicago, his home town, where he will address a mass meeting in honor of the 12 on Thursday, January 25, 8 P.M., at the Ashland Auditorium, Ashland Boulevard and Van Buren Street.

The Minneapolis Labor Case constitutes the outstanding violation of civil liberties and workers democratic rights in the Second World War. The trial and conviction of the 18 Trotskyists and leaders of the famous Northwest drivers movement occurred in the summer and fall of 1941.

BACKGROUND OF CASE

This blow against the rights of labor and the revolutionary socialist was delivered by the Roosevelt administration as a major preparatory step for shackling the militant labor movement and harnessing it to Wall Street's war program. As leaders of the powerful Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544 and uncompromising fighters against capitalist war, the Trotskyists were regarded by Big Business and its government as the most serious obstacle within the labor movement to Wall Street's anti-labor and imperialist designs.

The occasion for this frame-up was provided by AFL Teamsters Czar, Daniel J. Tobin, one of Roosevelt's most loyal labor lackeys. For years, Tobin, had been at odds with the Trotskyist leadership of Local 544, whose militant struggles had inspired a tremendous resurgence of the entire Northwest labor movement. In June 1941, Tobin proposed to remove the Local 544 elected leaders. The membership responded by overwhelmingly voting

to disaffiliate with Tobin's union and join the CIO.

Tobin promptly appealed for aid from the White House. Roosevelt as promptly seized on the long-awaited opportunity and ordered the Department of Justice to take "appropriate" action. FBI raids on the Socialist Workers Party headquarters in Minneapolis and St. Paul followed, and in October, 28 SWP and Local 544-CIO leaders were brought to trial under the vicious Smith "Gag" Act. After a historic trial, in which the defendants uncompromisingly defended their Marxist convictions, 18 were sentenced to prison on December 8, 1941, the day of the United States declaration of war.

The Civil Rights Defense Committee launched a nation-wide campaign to reverse the convictions. Labor and civil liberties organizations and leaders assailed the trial and convictions as a blow at the rights of free speech and press guaranteed in the Bill of Rights of the U. S. Constitution.

LABOR SUPPORT

In the course of the defense campaign over 500 labor organizations, representing more than 4,500,000 workers, have come to the support of the 18. Despite this tremendous volume of protest, the U. S. Supreme Court three times refused even to hear an appeal. On December 31, 1943, the 18 were sent to prison. In October 1944, President Roosevelt through his pardons board brushed aside the appeal of millions and refused even to consider a pardon for the 18. Six of the 18 were released last October on termination of their shorter sentences.

Although released, the 18 victims of capitalist class justice are now deprived of their civil rights.

The infamous Smith "Gag" Act under which they were imprisoned still stands on the statute books as a continuing threat to the entire labor movement. Organized labor will have to fight harder than ever for repeal of this "dangerous thoughts" law.

Twin Cities Forum

EVERY SUNDAY

3:30 P.M.

Minneapolis Headquarters

Socialist Workers Party

10 South 4th Street

Come and Hear

"The News Behind the Headlines"

How Stalinism Rules Bulgaria

By Paul Abbott

After a six-weeks visit to Bulgaria, Joseph M. Levy has published a series of articles in the *N. Y. Times* depicting conditions there under Stalinist domination. Living conditions have worsened. Levy says this is particularly true of the Jews who were singled out for persecution under Nazi occupation. "They are clotheless, shoeless and starving. They are existing, not living, under the most unsanitary conditions, three and four families sharing a dingy little room which is unheated and without windows. . . . The children's bitter cries for food and agonizing moans of the sick are still ringing in the writer's ears. Despite innumerable appeals for help, no relief from abroad has been forthcoming."

Such conditions, of course, are concomitant with war. Hope for alleviation rests with organization of a planned economy. However, Stalin promised Churchill and Roosevelt not to overthrow capitalism in Bulgaria. Levy quotes a member of the Arms Commission who reveals that Molotov outlined Moscow's policy as follows:

"To strengthen the position of Bulgaria the conduct of your Young Communists, assisted by our Young Communists, must cease once and for all. This conduct is certainly not the work of the leaders of your party or ours, but the work of youth. Bulgaria will remain a democratic country and we will not interfere in her internal affairs."

If certain Communists continue their present conduct, we will bring them to reason. Bulgaria will remain with her democratic Government and her present order and will govern herself in the manner that she may decide. . . . Do not be too optimistic. Bulgaria must bear certain burdens. We are not alone. We have Allies who insist that Bulgaria assume certain responsibilities — principally under the influence of your neighbors."

PARTISAN YOUTH

Molotov thus promises that Stalinism will do its best to maintain capitalism in Bulgaria despite the wishes of the people. His references to the "work of youth" are made clear by the following extract from Levy's report: "Tens of thousands of youngsters, most of whom were formerly Partisans, have received Tommy guns, rifles or revolvers and been put in charge of policing the country. Because of the harsh, brutal methods used against them and their families during the last three years, these youths are embittered and filled with a strong desire for vengeance."

Levy explains that "During the period of the Nazi regime. . . . there were from 12,000 to 15,000 Partisans roaming the Bulgarian mountains, resisting the local police and military authorities, and occasionally staging acts of sabotage to German supply dumps. . . . The most barbaric and inhuman methods were employed against the Partisans. Not only were they killed and their bodies left lying naked in village or town squares — to intimidate the population — but all their relatives, including women and children, also were executed by firing squads, burned alive or hanged to the nearest telegraph pole."

Levy declares that the Bulgarian people "are hoping for early Allied action to establish a democratic regime." The masses of Bulgaria, however, have already shown what they want. When the Red Army entered their land, they held great welcoming demonstrations, raising the Red flag and saluting with the clenched fist. The Bulgarian ruling class, observed a capitalist correspondent, "were alarmed at the prospect of Communism. At one time it looked as if it were only a question of a few hours before the Communists took over."

The insurrection nevertheless was halted in its stride by the hastily formed puppet government which, with the backing of the Stalin clique in Moscow and aided by the top Bulgarian Stalinist leaders, proceeded to disarm the masses and order them about as its reactionary predecessors had done. The Army of occupation intervened when the movement of the masses threatened to topple the capitalist regime.

The Stalinists set up a class collaborationist "Fatherland Front" whose representatives take part in the government side by side with former reactionaries. "A virtual reign of terror prevails in Bulgaria," declares Levy; "in which ordinary civil rights are almost non-existent. Such elementary democratic principles as free speech and free press criticism are taboo."

STALINIST REGIME

Levy describes how the Stalinists control the regime: "In Bulgaria today one finds a government within a government. One is visible, the other invisible. To all appearances, and especially for foreign consumption, Bulgaria is ruled by a coalition government in which Agrarians, the Zveno, Socialists and Communists are equally represented. In fact,

Lynn Case Appeal Rejected Again By Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has for the second time refused to take action in the Lynn Case, reports the Lynn Committee for the Abolition of Segregation in the Armed Forces. This case has been nationally recognized as a test case involving violations of the Selective Service Act by Jim Crow methods of selection by racial quotas.

On May 29, 1944 the Supreme Court ruled that it could not review the case on the pretext that Winfred Lynn, who had instituted suit for release from the army at the time of his induction, was no longer in the custody of his first commandant at Camp Upton, N. Y. He is now a corporal serving in the South Pacific.

The Lynn Committee, with the assistance of Arthur Garfield Hays, noted civil liberties attorney, appealed the first refusal to review. It is this appeal which has just been rejected.

The legal basis for the suit is the wording of the Selective Service Act, which states that "in the selection and training of men under this act . . . there shall be no discrimination against any person on account of race or color." Lynn was inducted to fill a "Negro quota" in Queens, New York, June, 1942.

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Stalinist Fink Clause In ILWU Contract

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 17—On December 5, 1944, the Stalinist leadership of Local 6, warehousemen's section of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, CIO, signed a new three-year master contract with the San Francisco Distributors Association, affecting over 12,000 workers. This contract, widely advertised as another step toward "unity" contains no wage increase for the great majority of the workers. Instead, it features Bridges' notorious permanent no-strike pledge and an even more infamous "strikebreaker clause."

The *ILWU Dispatcher*, as is usual with every Bridges action, hailed the event as a "great step forward in industrial relations—a challenge to all sections of American labor and capital who are giving serious thought to the Post-War World." This sentiment was promptly echoed by the *People's World*, West Coast Stalinist sheet, which headlined its article on the contract "A Model for Post-War Industrial Peace."

Rank and file warehousemen have not responded to these exalted proclamations, however. What they wanted and did not receive was a 15¢ per hour raise asked for in the negotiations. The wage increase was sold down the river for this "Post-War Unity." According to Richard Lynden, president of Local 6, the union had requested a general wage increase of 15¢ per hour, but in the interests of settlement had agreed to forego a general increase at this time.

Rank and file longshoremen too, have begun to wonder if their new contract, now up for negotiation with the same demand for a 15¢ increase, will not follow the same course.

The only concessions gained by the union were a 5¢ increase only for those women making 70¢ per hour, vacation pay to be based on a 48 instead of a 40 hour week, and a 5 day sick leave clause. Even the 5¢ increase, granted only for the lowest scale of pay for women, has not been O.K'd but is subject to approval by the WLB.

STRIKE-BREAKER CLAUSE
For these piddling concessions, the union signed a three year no-strike pledge binding the union not to strike either during the war or after. But even this was not enough for the Stalinist sellout artists. Something new has been added—a **STRIKE-BREAKER CLAUSE**.

The clause binds the union to an agreement "that it will not support strikes and picket lines by unions not party to this agreement unless such union's right to organize peacefully has been interfered with by the employers, or unless it has been denied the peaceful means of its dispute." In other words, the Stalinist-Bridges clique has gone so far as to refuse aid to a brother union UNLESS that union has gone through every phase of mediation, conciliation and arbitration demanded by the Stalinists.

This finiky stand has been followed in both words and action. The daily press of December 5 carried the statement of President Richard Lynden that "the union will not support strikes of other unions which are called solely for

Rankin Speaks on Negro Slavery

In keeping with the reactionary character of the new Congress, Democratic Congressman Rankin of Mississippi, greeted it with one of his typical tirades against labor and the Negro people. As usual, this Southern Bourbon interspersed his fascist-like rantings with a pious expression of his "good-will" toward Negroes.

He boasted that once he had even condescended to shake hands with an old man who had been one of his grandfather's slaves. "My people were slave owners," he bragged, "but they didn't enslave the Negro, they lifted him from savagery."

This is like the lynch gang who cynically sneered when they murdered a Negro, that they didn't hang him, they "just lifted him up from earth to heaven."

economic gains or which are not considered valid strikes." The Stalinist-Bridges leadership has thus discarded labor's most precious weapon—labor solidarity. It was only upon such solidarity that the ILWU was able to survive.

The 1934 San Francisco general strike, the tenth anniversary of which Bridges so loudly eulogized a few months ago, threw the whole power of the labor movement behind the fight of the ILWU to organize and win a living wage. Now Bridges cynically throws overboard this weapon to which the ILWU owes its very existence.

That the Stalinist-Bridges clique mean to follow this path of betrayal has been demonstrated by the Montgomery-Ward strike. Though Montgomery-Ward has flagrantly defied the demand of the workers for a well-earned wage increase; though Montgomery-Ward has defied the union, government and WLB (giving even the Stalinists no legal loophole to slip through); though every other CIO union has come out in support of the workers, Bridges has bluntly ordered the ILWU warehousemen working for Montgomery-Ward to stay on the job and handle "hot goods" from the strike-bound plants. Bridges is determined to carry out his strikebreaking agreements with the bosses to the letter.

Thinking workers can only draw the following conclusion. The Stalinist-Bridges clique will stop at nothing in their unconditional surrender to the bosses.



Reprinted from "LABOR"

Murray Seeks To Avert Auto No-Strike Defeat

(Continued from page 1)

culated by members of Chicago's huge Chrysler-Dodge Local 274.

Summing up the "balance sheet" of the no-strike policy, the leaflet shows: "LABOR SACRIFICED: The right to strike, that is, the right to its most powerful weapon in the fight against the big monopolists who are ALWAYS working to lower our living standards and crush our organizations. The right to fight for higher wages—because wages were frozen. The right to look for or get another job or a better job—because jobs were frozen and we could move from place to place ONLY by the permission of the employer. The right to have our wages go up as the cost-of-living went up—because our wages were frozen by the 15 per cent 'Little Steel Formula' while

the cost-of-living has gone up since January, 1941, by more than 45 per cent, according to the figures of our own International President, R. J. Thomas. The right to collective bargaining—because all demands and grievances went to the War Labor Board, which denies our demands and ignores our grievances, or else buries them in its vaults for months and years.

"LABOR GAINED: Nothing!"

What is the no-strike "balance sheet" for the employers?

"INDUSTRY SACRIFICED:

Nothing! Nothing except their comical pledge not to lock out labor at a time when a lock-out meant suicide for them. INDUSTRY GAINED: Land bought for them at government expense. Factories erected on this land at government expense. Machin-

ery placed in these factories at

government expense. Raw materials guaranteed to them by a hundred government agencies. An ample supply of labor guaranteed to them by the government, with jobs frozen and wages frozen and strikes frozen and grievances frozen.

"Juicy cost-plus contracts, with

profits guaranteed by the government. A War Labor Board, set up by the government, which looks carefully and tenderly after their interests. The highest salaries in history for corporation executives, with NO \$25,000 limitation as was promised. The corporations moan and weep about the 'high taxes.' What are the facts? Let us quote just two simple ones from the statement by CIO President Philip Murray, and remember them well: 'Corporate profits for 1944, AFTER TAXES, increased 198 per cent over the 1936-1939 peacetime era. Corporate profits for the same year, before taxes, show an increase over the peacetime era of 449 per cent.'

"BOYS IN THE FOXHOLES"

Indignantly, the Dodge workers ask, "What about the boys in the foxholes? Who shouts the loudest about this? The corporation chiefs, their spokesmen and tools, their paid editors and scribblers. Their nerve is almost as colossal as the profits they are making. They want to teach US patriotism! They are the same people who would not convert to war production, who would not produce a single airplane, tank, cannon, rifle or bullet for the 'boys in the foxholes' until the government guaranteed them their heavy blood-profits.

"Who are the 'boys in the foxholes'?" They are OUR sons, brothers, Our sweethearts or husbands, Our fathers. We are a million times more concerned with them than the ice-hearted

corporations who squeeze a brutal profit out of everything those boys wear and everything they use. We are so concerned with them that: We do not want them to come back to open shop conditions . . . to low-paid jobs and back-breaking hours . . . to smash or paralyzed unions. When we fight to make our union strong and effective, we are also fighting for THEM!"

These demands were made on

the pretext of increasing efficiency.

Gregory Garrison, attorney for the employers charged that

"since 1934 efficiency of Longshore work on this coast has steadily pursued a downward course . . . and we are convinced

that we have the poorest efficiency record in the world."

The facts prove otherwise. Bridges, in his "everything for the war effort" policy has voluntarily introduced speedup measures

to steady gang" reporting each day to the hiring hall, whether work is available or not. (The "shape-up" practiced before 1934 was the vicious means used by the employer to practice favoritism, blacklisting and other methods of creating antagonism among the men).

(6)—A ruling which would prevent a longshoreman, discharged by the employer "for cause" from being dispatched from the hall until his case is heard and decided upon. (Another form of blacklist—nothing else!).

Other employer demands in-

clude a reduction in the size of

gangs from 16 to 8 men (the em-

ployer hiring only as many men

over the number of 8 as he feels

necessary); 30 days suspension of

any worker convicted of work

stoppage, insubordination, or

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(2)—A "decentralized" hiring

hall. (This demand which was

presented on the pretext of sav-

ing travelling time would further

weaken centralized control of job

distribution by the union).

(3)—"Preferred gangs" to

work steady for an employer

without going through the union

hall.

(4)—An increase in sling

loads. (Instituting speedup measures with a consequent relaxation of safety conditions).

(5)—A return to the "shape-

up" with every man not in a

Longshoremen Given Wage Run-Around As Bridges Hobnobs With Shipowners

By Robert Chester

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 17—Rank and file longshoremen of Local 10, International Longshoremen's Union, CIO are restless these days. After three years of waiting, a wage raise seems as far away as ever. Recent hearings before a special WLB panel have not brought it any closer. Meanwhile conditions on the job, won in the great strikes of 1934-1937, are being given up without a struggle.

Longshoremen have not received a wage increase since 1941. Polite requests by the Stalinist-Bridges leadership for a 15¢ per hour increase, made in 1942 and 1943, were summarily rejected by the bosses. Finally on August 7, 1944, the union, under pressure of the rank and file, reopened its contract with the Waterfront Employers Association for the purpose of obtaining, in addition to a wage increase, "vacations with pay, sick leave, increased rates for handling explosive and damaged cargo, and a guaranteed 36 hour work week." The employers not only refused to grant any of these demands but countered with demands of their own.

After religiously following the procedure outlined by the government agencies, going through 12 steps of negotiation, conciliation, and arbitration (in the record time of four months), the case came before a special three man WLB panel.

The panel held its hearings in the swanky Mills Tower. Ten days of testimony were concluded with a dinner for the panel jointly sponsored by the union and the waterfront employers. Before ad-



BRIDGES

journal of the final session, panel chairman Arthur S. Meyers commented: "I have never had the pleasure of listening to two better prepared cases than the cases of the union and the employers and I have no doubt that I echo the opinion of my fellow panel members."

Meyers should know. "He is," admiringly comments the *ILWU Dispatcher*, "an experienced mediator who has served as chairman in such famous cases as . . . the dispute between the four companies comprising 'Little Steel' and the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in 1942." (This dispute ended with the imposition of the Little Steel Formula upon American labor.) To still further assure the expectant rank and file that all was well in the "unity" camp, the Dec. 29

issue of *The Dispatcher* front-paged a picture of Mayor Roger Lapham, former American Hawaiian Steamship Co. magnate and President Frank Foisie of the Employers Association together with Bridges and Goldblatt of the ILWU "hobnobbing a couple."

Behind the beaming faces of the employers lies a cold calculating purpose. They seek nothing less than a return to pre-1934 conditions when they ruled the waterfront with a high hand without "interference" of any union. At the hearings they made demands calculated to undermine the union and prepare the basis to smash it when they considered the time ripe. The following are some of their demands.

(1)—A ruling which would prevent a longshoreman, discharged by the employer "for cause" from being dispatched from the hall until his case is heard and decided upon. (Another form of blacklist—nothing else!).

Other employer demands in-

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troduced speedup measures

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

Get Into the Union Struggle

One of the things that rightly gripes active Negro unionists and progressive white unionists is the fact that there still remain in many plants hundreds of Negro workers who refuse to join the local union or, just as bad, they sign up and then let themselves lapse out of good standing by non-payment of dues.

Offhand, such a situation would seem almost unexplainable in view of the fact that the growing force of the trade union movement, especially the CIO, has been more responsible than any other factor for the relative gains made by Negro workers in recent years.

For black workers to turn their backs on certain locals of the AFL which set up "auxiliary" (polite name for Jim Crow) sections is not only understandable but it is exactly as it should be. Under such conditions they have no voice and no vote and they are thereby not even given the chance to put up a fight to change the reactionary policies of such a local. But what we are kicking about applies to unions which take the Negro brothers in on an equal basis, such as, for example, the UAW-CIO, where a relentless battle has been waged for years against job discrimination.

There are hundreds of Negro workers today who have the chance to join a UAW-CIO union and are passing it up. It is specifically these Rip Van Winkles that we would like to take a crack at this week and see if we can awaken them from their costly snooze. We say costly because it is not only these negligent workers but the Negro people as a whole who will have to pay the price for this bull-headed attitude.

However it is not so much condemnation as explanation that's so badly needed. In fact, the lines that these Negro non-unionists come up with prove that they are looking at the whole matter in a short-sighted manner and are blind to the more basic issues.

"Why pay six bucks to join the union? I was only hired in here because there was no one else to take the job." "Why keep up the buck a month dues when I know darn well that as soon as the company can get along without me I'll be kicked out in the street?" Even though the union means well, I'll be the first to go even according to their rules because I have less seniority."

Or, "the union claims, on paper, to be against all forms of discrimination but I can point out a dozen cases around this man's town where Negroes have been discriminated against either in hiring or in upgrading. Certain union officials, including Negro union officials, have been called in and what have they done about it? They have carefully and quietly stashed those grievances

Churchill Blames His Greek Victims

(Continued from page 1)

the advantage of being equally hated in Russia." With these words, Churchill gave a vote of confidence to Stalin as one of the initiates in the fraternity of counter-revolution sworn to suppress the struggle for socialism. What Churchill means by "Trottskyism" is revealed by a news flash from Greece, published in the London *Evening News* three days before the war began, that the two thousand textile workers of a well known thread-spinning mill in Greece had taken possession of the factory and appointed a "management committee." The appearance of management committees indicates an advanced stage of working class revolution. Such committees mean that the former capitalist management has either decamped or been dispossessed because of its sabotage of production. If such anti-capitalist actions were threatened on a wide scale, small wonder Churchill rushed troops to Greece.

Churchill's red-baiting against Trottskyism flows from a coldly calculated attempt to lay down the ideological line for the Allied conspiracy to crush the rising working class movement of Europe. "We are toiling through a mighty maze," declared Churchill, "but I can assure the House it is not without plan." This plan was laid down at the Teheran conference where Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin not only carved up Europe into spheres of influence, but agreed to put down socialist revolution wherever it might arise. Churchill is now engaged in executing and defending this counter-revolutionary scheme plotted at Teheran.

Churchill made it clear that British troops were sent into Greece with full approval of Roosevelt and Stalin. In a previous speech he indicated that he made an error in not including a contingent of American troops among the invading forces. Undoubtedly he will be more careful on this score in future operations. More important, however, in diverting blame from British imperialism is his construction of a scapegoat called "Trottskyism." That is why Churchill pictured

the Greek workers as brigands, murderers, inhuman monsters. Churchill is deliberately trying to shift the "blame" for bloodshed onto the shoulders of his victims.

To insinuate that the EAM follows the banner of Trottskyism is a lie. The EAM is headed by Stalinists, who, as Churchill himself points out, are "not always free from the danger of being discredited," but who nevertheless have done their utmost to hold back the Greek masses from revolutionary action.

We do not know the truth about internal political relations in Greece. Churchill's censorship, his gagging of the press, prevent us from knowing the complete

facts about his traduced opponents. But we are sure that the Greek Trottskyists march in the front ranks of the struggle against foreign imperialism and its native agents.

The January *Socialist Appeal*, organ of the British Trottskyists, reports that in some provincial editions of the capitalist press a story appeared that of "three prisoners interviewed by British journalists" in Greece "two stated that they were Social Democrats, and one that he was a member of the Fourth International."

The *Socialist Appeal* likewise quotes the August 5 *Economist*, economic organ of British Big Business: "Recalcitrant Commu-

nism used to be pretty strong in Greece years ago. Its spokesmen, who labelled themselves curiously as 'Archivo-Marxists,' gave many headaches to the leaders of the Communist International in Moscow. Under the Metaxas regime the 'Archivo-Marxists' were wiped out by police repression; and it seems somewhat doubtful whether the same movement has now been able to reemerge and to sway the Greek guerrillas.

"But it is quite possible that some such unorthodox Communist tendency may have established itself among the 'men of the mountains' firmly enough to oppose the Lebanon Agreement and to reject any conciliation with the dynasty. If so then the Russian military mission in Greece will be confronted with a task which may be as much political as military. The Mission has

and almost the minute it stopped he was put to work on blast furnaces. A white boss with a sneering, scornful face showed him what to do and complained in passing about the 'damned Bolsheviks' who had stirred up trouble in the plant and made it necessary for the foreman to do a pile of extra work trying to teach a bunch of ignoramus how to work on the furnaces without killing themselves and everybody else. Ben didn't know about any of these things, but he thought it was a pity for anyone to be stirring up trouble in a world that was troubled enough anyhow.

The very first day, Ben saw he had been mistaken. Here too, life would be hard. He worked until he almost dropped from exhaustion and then worked some more. He sweated until his clothing was drenched. It wasn't the good, clean sweat boiled out of his body by the southern sun, but an unhealthy kind of sweat that was strange to him and made him feel sick. After a long time the boss came up to him and told him he could go and sleep for a spell. Ben dragged himself to the box car where there was a bunk for him and went miserably to sleep. He never forgot those first days.

Before long the strike was over, and with it went a large portion of the hopes and dreams that Ben had held concerning the north. Angry, bitter white men came back into the plant, taking the jobs that Ben and his new friends had held, calling the newcomers names, refusing to have anything to do with them. Only the dirtiest, lowest paying work was left to the Negroes. For a long time there was hard feeling.

What Ben Came to Learn—and to Do

In spite of the low wages (he recalled the "big money" the stranger had told him about) Ben managed to send for his wife and family and to install them in a rented house in the Negro steelworkers' section, where he became part of the community, no longer feeling out of place in a strange land. In fact, the land was quite like the south. True, there were no lynchings, but there was Jim Crow all the same. In slack times Ben found that the colored workers were the first to be laid off, the last taken back. He saw young white workers advanced ahead of him even though he knew the work better than they, and in many cases, taught them all that they did know about furnaces. Ben finally worked up to a job as keeper, but that was as far as he could go, and he knew it.

Still, in spite of the discrimination that he found in every phase of life, Ben came to realize that all white men were not the same. Bit by bit he came to know some of us and to like us as we liked him, as workers like each other when they work together day in and day out, laughing together, struggling together on tough jobs. I think he was even beginning to understand the whole problem—how children are trained in ideas of racial superiority by the ruling class of a nation so that the working class will be split up and unable to fight against the real enemy, the capitalists, how race baiting is used by the companies as a union-busting weapon. He knew the difference all right between Girdler or Grace and the white steelworker.

When the SWOC started organizing the plant, old Ben was a strong union man from the start. When they called us reds he recalled what they had told him in 1919 about the Bolsheviks. Above all, I guess he remembered how he had been barred from advancement. The CIO stood for racial equality and better conditions for all workers, and Ben was all for the CIO.

But now that's all past, and Ben's in his grave, and Ben's CIO local has sent a wreath, and pretty soon everybody will forget all about him. Only, this is important to me. We weren't great friends. We knew and liked each other, as I've said. What's important is this: this isn't just the life of old Ben Grimes, old at fifty-six years of age. This is the life of old tens, of millions of Negroes, discriminated against from birth to death, given the hardest and worst paying jobs, denied opportunities, worked and worn out.

If only I had the opportunity, I'd like to talk to every white worker in the country and show him what his colored brothers have to put up with. I'd like to show him what causes Jim Crow and how it breaks up the unity of the working class and harms the white workers almost as much as it hurts the Negroes. If I could do that, we'd be a lot nearer the solution of all our problems.

PITTSBURGH—In the American Federation of Labor, there was

growing unrest, as the need for industrial unionism was felt in mass industries. Symptomatic of the ferment was an unofficial rank-and-file convention called by militant unionists, to be opened in Pittsburgh on February 3. Many of the major AFL unions were to be represented, with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, Tin and Sheet Metal Workers in the forefront.

"Ostensibly this 'rank-and-file convention' is called to

consider the decisions of the official San Francisco convention recently held by the AFL and to lay plans for carrying out these decisions," said The Militant. ". . . But there is implicit in such a procedure a revolt against the AFL officialdom."

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August 1934 living costs skyrocketed—because of the drought,

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production control. The result? In that one year, real wages—

purchasing power—in the cotton industry in the north fell away

15 percent; in the south, 25 percent."

Diary Of A Steel Worker

By Theodore Kovalesky

DIARY OF A STEELWORKER

The newspapers have carried a tiny note informing the public that "Benjamin Grimes, beloved husband of Eliza" etc. is no longer among the living, the local has sent flowers, and Johnny Crummit has taken over the keeper's job that old Ben used to have. Every now and then one of the fellows will say something about Ben, but even that will die out soon. He's just one more worker whose tired-out body has been laid to rest in a peaceful grave.

Old Ben came out of the deep south a quarter of a century ago, a tall, hungry-looking man of thirty with big, powerful hands, calloused from the plough. Life had been hard there. Daily he had struggled to bring forth good live crops from his stale patch of earth. The sun beat upon his head, and the Jim Crow system pressed down upon his spirit, and he felt himself trapped.

It was a happy day for Ben when the white stranger came to his door and said, "Boy, how'd you like to go north and make a lot of money working in a steel mill?" Ben felt the trap open. He thought he saw a new life for himself and his family, a life that would not be so hard and barren.

So Ben went north in 1919 as a scab and a strikebreaker. He didn't know that there was a great strike throughout the nation's steel plants. He didn't know that the steelworkers had put up too long with intolerable grievances, and that finally they had borne all they could and had banded together to fight with doomed courage for a halfway decent life. He knew nothing of this. All he knew was that he was going to the fabulous north to make a lot of money.

The train took Ben and his fellow passengers right into the plant, and almost the minute it stopped he was put to work on blast furnaces. A white boss with a sneering, scornful face showed him what to do and complained in passing about the "damned Bolsheviks" who had stirred up trouble in the plant and made it necessary for the foreman to do a pile of extra work trying to teach a bunch of ignoramus how to work on the furnaces without killing themselves and everybody else. Ben didn't know about any of these things, but he thought it was a pity for anyone to be stirring up trouble in a world that was troubled enough anyhow.

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There is substance in Churchill's fears about the establishment of Trottskyism in Greece, for Trottskyism is the program of revolutionary socialism. If the people of Greece were permitted to exercise their democratic right to choose their own form of government, they would undoubtedly proceed to set up a workers' republic and organize socialism as the only way out of imperialist war and capitalist chaos.

Buy "The Militant"

IN MILWAUKEE

at the newsstand on the north-west corner of Wisconsin Ave. on Third St.

10 Years Ago

In The Militant

JANUARY 26, 1935

SACRAMENTO—Fighting for the freedom of the 18 Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union leaders, framed up on charges of "Criminal Syndicalism," a united front defense committee held its first meeting on January 19. The first act of the committee was to draft a call for a conference of all unions and other labor organizations, scheduled for February 10.

The call was signed by the Workers Party, the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, the Socialist Party, the American Civil Liberties Union, Charles Gordon of the Stalinist-controlled International Labor Defense, and the Communist Party. "Will this united front last until the case is closed?" asked The Militant editorially.

"This we cannot guarantee since it involves more than our party. Our position is clear. . . We are pledged to carry (the defense) out honestly not only for the sake of one defendant who shares our views, not only for the sake of the other seventeen defendants, but for the sake of the working class—the real defendant at Sacramento."

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BUFFALO

Charles Jackson

Writer of THE MILITANT column

will speak on

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Sunday afternoon, February 11th, 3:30 p. m.

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Questions

Discussion



NEWS ITEM: "Widespread hunger is being borne with great dignity" by the Italian people, says Herbert Matthews, N. Y. Times, Jan. 18.

Roosevelt Rejects AFL-CIO Demand To Raise Wages

(Continued from page 1)

prompt action now is much more important in the war effort than the perfecting of details." Among the "details" which Roosevelt considers so unimportant is one

providing that anyone who leaves a job "without permission" shall be "subject on conviction to the penalties provided by the Selective Service Act, which run to \$10,000 in fines and five years' imprisonment" or both. This is just a minor "detail" to labor's "friend" in the White House.

Committee members said, "they would apply corresponding provisions to those who are directed by their local boards to take essential jobs and fail to do so." For quitting a job, or failing to take a job when directed to do so, a worker can be fined \$10,000 or sent to jail for five years, under the provisions of the May-Bailey bill. There is another provision prohibiting unions from enforcing closed shop contracts. Still another would bring strikers within the provisions of the measure. But Roosevelt brushes aside these

savage penalties and union-wrecking provisions as petty "details" and demands that a forced labor bill be adopted forthwith.

With the exception of the strikebreaking Stalinists, all sections of the labor movement are on record against driving the workers to forced labor for the benefit of the profit-hungry bosses. The union bureaucrats have so far confined their opposition to purely verbal objections voiced by the top leaders. No serious attempt is being made to mobilize the many-millions of organized labor against the conspiracy to railroad a slave labor bill through Congress.

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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.

Greetings To The 12

This week we greet with joy the emergence of the 12 Trotskyist leaders from Roosevelt's "democratic" prisons where they have been incarcerated for thirteen months.

These valiant working-class revolutionists committed no crime whatsoever against the interests of the people. They simply did their duty to the working class in its hour of greatest need. They told the truth about the exploitation, the tyranny, the hopelessness of life under capitalist class rule. They told the truth about the imperialist war. They urged the masses to rid themselves of the plutocratic leeches and build a socialist society which could give peace, security and plenty to all.

These were unpardonable crimes under a social system where the lie which serves the exploiters has been crowned King. That is why the Roosevelt administration railroaded the Trotskyists to prison under the infamous Smith "Gag" Act.

Our comrades never flinched in the fight against this vile conspiracy. All have dedicated their lives to the cause of the working class, to the struggle for a socialist world. They were prepared to pay the penalties meted out to those who dare oppose the ruling minority on behalf of the oppressed majority. They viewed their persecution not only as a blow directed against the entire labor movement but also as an opportunity to warn the workers against the plans of the capitalist war-makers, to teach the ideas of socialism, and to give an example of principled revolutionary struggle against capitalist reaction.

We are proud of the manner in which our comrades fulfilled their obligations to the working class. It is worthy of the finest traditions of the revolutionary socialist movement.

We command the Civil Rights Defense Committee for the magnificent nation-wide fight it conducted for the freedom of the 18 and for the repeal of the vicious Smith "Gag" Act.

We hail the more than 4½ million members of over 500 labor organizations who rallied to the support of the 18 class-war prisoners in a splendid demonstration of class solidarity.

This fight does not end with their release. These devoted working class fighters have been deprived of their civil rights. The viciously anti-labor Smith "Gag" Act remains a constant threat to labor and democratic rights.

Restore the civil rights of the 18! Repeal the Smith "Gag" Act! Defend labor's rights! Under these slogans the struggle must and will go forward.

Roosevelt Deceit

The official organ of the Railroad Brotherhood, *Labor*, focuses an editorial spotlight on the deception practiced by Roosevelt in the recent election. "Strangely enough," the editorial remarks, "the President did not have anything to say about this scheme to draft labor for private profit when he was facing the voters in the last campaign. He opened his battle for the presidency at a dinner arranged by the Teamsters' Union. On that occasion he might have said something like this:

"My friends, I assure you that if you will elect me for a fourth term the first thing I will do will be to demand that Congress pass a law to draft American workers. We all know he didn't say anything like that. So far as we can recall he never mentioned the labor draft during the campaign."

This cynical deceit is not peculiar to Roosevelt—although this master demagogue excels in the art of hoodwinking the people. It is characteristic of all capitalist politicians and parties foresworn to uphold a system of exploitation, tyranny and oppression. The political structure of capitalist "democracy" rests on the twin pillars of deceit and force. In pre-election periods the political agents of the ruling class mask their subservience to the predatory money interests and swear eternal fealty to the interests of the common man. After the returns are in and they take office, the mask is discarded—until the next election.

Roosevelt is an old hand at this routine. If all his broken promises were compiled in one book, it would make a formidable volume. According to capitalist standards, Roosevelt is a "smart" politician. A smart politician is one who promises the people one thing prior to the election, does exactly the opposite after—and gets away with it. Once in office the stage-play is finished. The President can defraud the electors; for four years his seat is secure. He is independent of those who elected him. Capitalist law does not permit him to be recalled.

Lacking their own political party, the workers are denied any control over those elected to office. It would be impossible to perpetuate this farce were it not for the treacherous role of the "labor statesmen" who prevent the workers from organizing their own Independent Labor Party.

The War Criminals

During the last world war, the Allied rulers threatened dire punishment for the war criminals of the opposing imperialist camp. What finally happened? The Kaiser lived to a ripe old age in luxurious exile. With the benevolent aid of American bankers, the German capitalists and Junker generals survived to plunge the German masses into a second world imperialist slaughter.

At the start of this war the Allied leaders proclaimed that "this time" all the fascist war criminals, including Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito, would "pay in full." A special United Nations War Crimes Commission was established to draft a "war criminals" list and devise machinery for bringing them to justice.

But as the day of Allied military victory draws closer, the reluctance of the Allied rulers to deal harshly with the fascist war lords is being amply demonstrated. In Italy, for example, leading fascists are not merely protected from the masses by the Allies, but are retained in positions of power and privilege.

The real Allied attitude toward the fascist war criminals has been further revealed through the resignation of the head of the War Crimes Commission, Sir Cecil Hurst, who complained that its work was being "frustrated" by the British Foreign Office. The London *Sunday Express* discloses that Churchill's government objects to trying the fascist leaders "in the dock of a criminal court." It wants them "dealt with politically"—as was Napoleon, who was never put on trial but merely exiled.

The Allied imperialists feel that an open criminal trial might prove "embarrassing," explains the *Express*. ". . . Those in the dock might endeavor to have prominent British statesmen brought to the witness box to give evidence for the defense. This evidence would take the form of past utterances in praise of the prisoners and, in some cases, the extolling of the virtues of Nazism and Fascism.

Altogether, it would be an embarrassing business to have these skeletons trotted out in court." The Allied rulers also fear that such a trial might lead to the demand that *all* the war criminals be placed in the prisoners' dock—the capitalist imperialists of both war camps whose greedy rivalry for world markets, colonies, spheres of influence has plunged the peoples of the earth into the bloodiest shambles of all history.

The fate of the war criminals is not being written in the secret conclaves of Allied commissions. It is limned in the flames of the international socialist revolution now rising in Europe. None will escape stern retribution.

As Leon Trotsky predicted in the 1940 "Manifesto of the Fourth International": "The butchers of the second imperialist war will not succeed in transforming Hitler into a scapegoat for their own sins. Before the judgment bar of the proletariat all the present rulers will answer. Hitler will do no more than occupy first place among the criminals in the dock."

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.

Terrorism and Zionism

Editor:

The two Palestinian youths who shot Lord Moyne have been sentenced to death by the Egyptian court. The proceedings of the trial were censored but the motives driving these Jews to such desperate acts are readily recognizable.

Lord Moyne was Under-Secretary of Colonial Affairs during a time when the alternative for millions of Jews was emigration to Palestine or slaughter at the hands of Fascism. Churchill was not the least moved when Jews drowned because of Moyne's policy in the administration of Palestine. No, Churchill the humanitarian agitated for the closing of the "Jewish Homeland" to victims of capitalist barbarism; giving them the universal capitalist freedom—freedom to die. Three million Jews have died.

What are the Zionists doing? They hold weekly banquets, rallies, conferences and congresses where the more aggressive Zionists may on specific occasions mildly criticize British policy in Palestine. On the record, the Jewish Agency has sweated blood to recruit 30,000 Jews to fight for the maintenance of the British Empire in this great imperialist war. American Zionism by forcing Silver out of its leadership in favor of Stephen Wise has thereby placed the movement in the position of abject subservience to British and American imperialists.

Neither by acting as tools of British imperialism nor by individual terrorism can the Jewish

problem be solved. The Jews and Arabs of Palestine need a revolutionary party to guide them in fighting imperialism, pointing the way in the fight for socialism, which will emancipate all minorities. In the period of capitalist death agony, Jews the world over cannot fight under the banner of reactionary nationalism, but must fight in unison with the only progressive force in society today—the working class—fighting for a new and better world!

Henry Hill
Trotskyist Youth Group, N. Y.

British Workers And UAW Militants

Editor:

May I congratulate you on the excellent report of the UAW Conference which appeared in your issue of September 16th, copies of which are now arriving in England. Comrade Preis has succeeded in projecting the atmosphere of the conference floor into the pages of *The Militant* in what is in my opinion a unique piece of working class journalism.

Here in Britain, the American trade union movement seems a fairly complex problem for the average trade unionist, though I

have no doubt the same applies to the American worker in relation to the situation here.

Since receiving *The Militant* I have passed it on to some of the Amalgamated Engineering Union members and it is pleasing to note how easily they grasp the significance of the struggle being waged by the militant wing of the UAW. They compare it with the problems which we face in the AEU and are able to appreciate the similarity of the

struggle against the common enemy.

Here also an internationalist outlook is being concretely developed and this is very important for the British workers. I hope to be able before long with material such as this to introduce a discussion on American trade union problems in the branch.

The conference proceedings seemed very promising and the net gain must have been a strengthening and consolidation of the left wing. In this activity I am sure the supporters of *The Militant* are playing their part, perhaps in unspectacular circumstances but with a confidence and determination that must inevitably bring great results.

The key to good trade union work is the correctness of one's ideas plus patience and more patience. To be able to weigh up a situation objectively and "keep one's feet on the floor" without succumbing to tail-endist empiricism or racing ahead of the workers' political development will speed the day when the Fourth Internationalists in Britain and America will be in the leadership of the unions.

S. H.
London

Wants Definitions

Editor:

I read *The Militant* each week and am well satisfied with it. As for suggestions, I think that the defining of ten words or so each week such as subsidy, tyranny, and proletariat would be good as many people read the words but don't look up the meaning.

L. O. L.
Huntington Park, Calif.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

West Indies

With each year of the war, the burden of imperialist rule has weighed down more heavily on the people of the West Indies. Although these islands are among the most fertile regions of the world, Britain's policy of deliberately retarding industrial development and of growing only one main crop—sugar—has fostered direst poverty. At the beginning of the war, sporadic strikes over wages and working conditions expressed the deepening unrest of the masses.

When the United States established military bases throughout the islands, many hoped Wall Street might prove more benevolent than London. They were not long in being undeceived. Seeking to end imperialist oppression of both the London and Wall Street variety, the workers and field laborers of the West Indies are now turning toward socialism.

In Barbados, for instance, a professed socialist has been elected to the Assembly. According to the London *News Review*, this socialist is a wealthy Negro, Grantley Adams, who began his political career as a conservative but became convinced after holding public office that socialism offered the only road for the Barbados people. 90% of whom are colored. Adams' party won seven seats in the Assembly. This impressive electoral victory is clear proof that sentiment for socialism is growing rapidly in the West Indies.

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Coal production is lower than under German occupation. Malnutrition and low wages are affecting the productive power of French miners to an alarming extent. Conditions are so bad, according to *Temoignage Chrétien*, organ of the Christian Democrats, that men deliberately injure themselves in order to get on the sick list for a few days rest.

The rising revolutionary temper of the French masses is indicated by a raid of 350 housewives in Valenciennes (northern France) upon a sugar refinery. The march of housewives upon sources of food held by the capitalists and their agents is a classic symptom of approaching revolution. In Paris, housewives are organizing committees to present lists of grievances. Most active in organizing these committees, according to *N. Y. Times* reporter Archambault, are Communists, Socialists and other advanced elements. Archambault does not specify whether these "elements" are following party programs.

"Housewives began to be formed into committees only a few

weeks ago," continues Archambault in the January 19 *Times*; "and the movement is extending rapidly, particularly in the south. In Toulouse, for instance, every ward now has a committee that meets weekly and discusses grievances and complaints. It is hoped soon to reorganize committees in every town and village in the country."

Belgium

PM, January 14, published an interesting interview with a Belgian resistance fighter at Fort Eben Emael. Only 21 years old, he had been in the Belgian underground for three years.

"I'm a worker, and I suppose I speak from the worker's point of view. But most of us are very bitter against the Belgian industrialists who worked willingly for the Germans and made huge fortunes. Sometimes they played both sides to keep their skins safe. They would give 50,000 francs to us and then make 2,000 from the Germans.

"I think some of them are sabotaging a return to work in Belgium right now and are thinking longingly of the German occupation days. In those times there were no strikes or labor troubles because the workers would be sent off to German concentration or labor camps if they kicked up trouble. Belgian workers are miserably paid—80 francs a day—and the cost of living is terrific. Butter now is 250 francs for a little over two pounds.

"The Pierlot government has accomplished nothing. You would think that all the time they were in London they would have worked out some good system of food distribution. Actually they had nothing ready when they returned to Brussels.

"As far as cleaning out the old collaborationists is concerned, we have had lots of life sentences and even executions of young fascist fighters of de Grelle.

"But none of the great industrialists who have made fortunes out of the war has been touched. "We Resistance men helped the Americans take this fort from the Germans and we have been on duty here ever since. Now the Pierlot government wants to kick us out and put us in the Army under our old reactionary officers. We don't want that."

There were two questions and answers in the leaflet which made it particularly "unsuitable" for public dissemination.

"Question: Will those who have completed 12 months of training be obliged for further service?

"Answer: Yes, after the period of training there will be a period of obligation. That period can be served in the regular army, or navy, the national guard or the reserve corps.

"Question: While serving the period of obligation, can the reservist be called to active duty?

"Answer: Yes, at the call of the Federal government."

In short, as it was pointed out in *Labor*, weekly organ of 15 railway unions, "young men who go through the compulsory training will be subject to military service for an indefinite number of years thereafter. Suppose such young men, having returned to industry, go on strike for better conditions? Why, they would still be in the 'period of obligation' and so it would be the easiest thing in the world to summon them to the colors and thus break the strike.

"Perhaps someone will say that can't happen here. Well it happened in France when a democratic regime still governed the country, back in 1937. Railroad workers struck and the government cracked down by calling them into the army. France, you see, had the kind of peacetime conscription now advocated for this country."

Supreme Court Juggles Words on Child Labor

Roosevelt's hand-picked Supreme Court on January 8 did another chore for the sweatshop interests and child labor exploiters. By a 5 to 4 decision, the August court sustained an appeal of the Western Union Telegraph monopoly permitting it to employ children under 16 as messengers.

The decision was a masterpiece of legalistic hair-splitting intended to evade the child labor provisions of the Wage-Hour Act by uncovering an "exception" in the instance of Western Union.

Under the Wage-Hour law, firms producing goods for interstate shipment are prohibited from employing child labor. The juridical jugglers of the Supreme Court tossed the words of the law around with practiced dexterity. While the court agreed that telegrams are "goods," they were not "shipped." Because, you see, the messages themselves were not sent—only "electrical impulses."

Even a minority of the court, no mean hair-splitters themselves, could not quite stomach the "linguistic purism" of the majority. In his dissenting opinion, Justice Murphy was constrained to remonstrate: "To sacrifice social gains for the sake of grammatical perfection is not in keeping with the high traditions of the interpretive process." But, of course, the Supreme Court was acting strictly in accord with the "high traditions" of the capitalist legal system.

Justice Murphy pointed out that "by reading into the Fair Labor Standards Act an exception that Congress never intended or specified, this court has today granted the Western Union Telegraph Co. a special dispensation to