

## Steel Wages Case And Steel Profits

— SEE PAGE 4 —

VOL. IX—No. 7

## AFL Interviews SWP Candidate In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8—"Building a labor party is the essential next step for the labor movement if it is to stem successfully the wave of reaction that threatens its very existence in the period ahead," Myra Tanner Weiss, Trotskyist candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, today told the United AFL Interviewing Committee representing 500,000 AFL members in Los Angeles County.

Asked whether she would withdraw from the race and throw her support to the labor-endorsed candidate for mayor if she is not endorsed, the Trotskyist candidate stated, "If the labor movement puts forth an independent labor ticket, we would certainly withdraw and support such candidates vigorously. But we definitely would not support a Democrat or Republican candidate. Both of those parties are employers' organizations."

"We consider it a matter of extreme urgency for the labor movement to enter the political field with its own candidates—not simply to go on supporting the Jerry Voorhis and Helen Gahagan Douglas 'friends of labor' who promptly vote for the 'work or jail' labor draft opposed by the entire labor movement."

"With the prospect of reconversion and unemployment before us, the bosses attempt to pit the returning veterans against organized labor, to set racial and national groups against each other to smash the labor movement."

"I have studied the development of many fascist groups locally and nationally and have noted with alarm their growth and activity. Only the labor movement will fight these organizations. We cannot permit any complacency in this struggle. Labor must organize itself not only in the economic field, but in the political field as well."

The Committee noted that the Trotskyist candidate was a member of the AFL Waitresses Union in 1940, and of the Cannery Workers Union, SIU, AFL in 1941, and was a delegate to the California State AFL convention in 1941, and to the founding convention of the SIU, AFL.

### LOCAL ISSUES

On local issues brought forward by the AFL Committee, Myra Tanner Weiss commented as follows:

The "Jacobs Plan": "The City employees are grossly underpaid. I most certainly oppose any plan to pay them less than union wages."

Proposed sales and excise taxes: "I am opposed to all direct and indirect taxes which cut into the workers' paychecks. The cost of living is rising faster in Los Angeles than anywhere in the country. Such taxes place the burden

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## Released Trotskyists Send Thanks To CRDC For Aid

In letters to the Civil Rights Defense Committee this week, Oscar Coover and Emil Hansen, two of the 12 defendants in the Minneapolis Labor Case who were released from Sandstone Penitentiary on January 24, expressed their appreciation for the work of the Committee in defending them and in providing relief for their families while they were in prison.

"The Civil Rights Defense Committee has done a wonderful job in the past years in handling the defense of myself and my comrades," wrote Oscar Coover. "It was appreciated by all of us before we were imprisoned but the knowledge that we had such a dependable organization to rely upon in case our families needed help made the prison sentences much easier to do. The funds sent regularly to us in prison also made the sentences much more endurable. Please convey to all our friends who helped so loyally our heartfelt thanks and say to them that I am proud to be in a position to take my place in the workers' struggle again and that we must not rest until the Smith Act is repealed and we have a free world to live in."

Emil Hansen wrote: "I want to extend to your Committee my sincerest thanks for your tireless work in behalf of myself and my



Farrell Dobbs, editor of The Militant and one of the 12 Minneapolis Labor Case prisoners, speaking at the CRDC mass meeting in New York on Feb. 2.

comrades while we were serving our prison sentences. Your work in our behalf made the time in prison go faster and eased our minds a great deal to know that our families were not suffering. And thank you also for your cash donation to us on our release, which will help tide us over until

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# THE MILITANT

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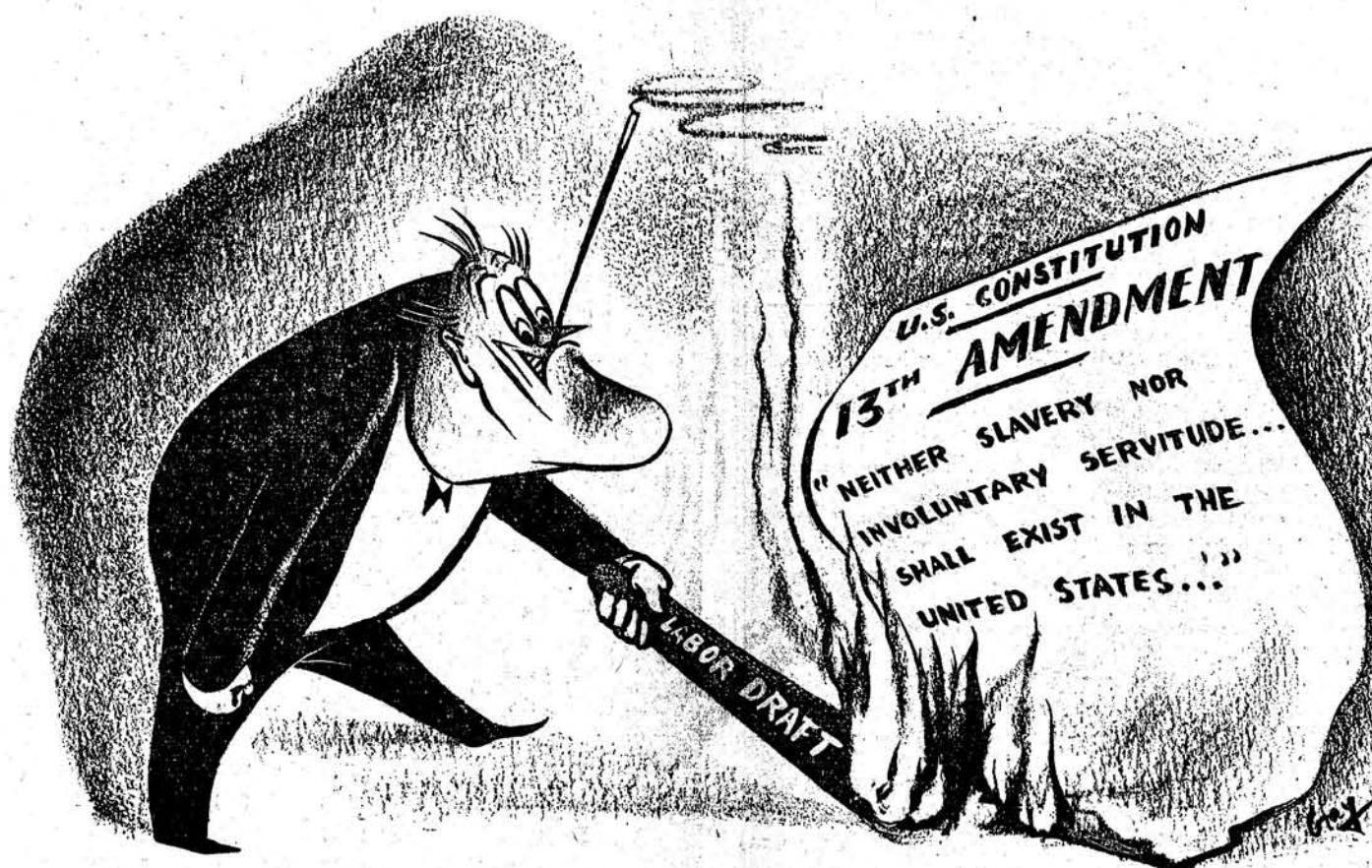
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## Secret Allied Conference At Yalta Designs Plans To Dominate Europe

### One More Scrap of Paper



## Brass Hats Raise Fake 'Morale' Issue In Drive To Put Over Slave Labor Law

By C. Thomas

As the war in Europe approaches a climax, the campaign for additional instruments of labor repression is intensified. The Roosevelt administration is using all the pressure tactics at its command to jam a slave labor law through Congress before the military collapse of Germany. All the tricks of "psychological warfare" are being employed to whip up sentiment for a National Service Act and batter down the opposition. The brass hats are conducting an all-out drive to regiment labor under control of a military caste. They look upon the war as a heaven-sent opportunity to straitjacket the unions and are fearful lest "V-E Day" arrives before they can succeed in fastening the American working class in the totalitarian fetters of forced labor.

Spearheaded by the brass hats, a number of administration spokesmen have appeared before closed hearings of the Senate Military Affairs Committee to urge the immediate enactment of the May-Bailey labor conscription bill. This bill provides fines and imprisonment for workers who leave their jobs "without permission," and who refuse to take jobs when directed by their draft boards to do so. It places the entire male working population between the ages of 18-45 under full control of the Selective Service system. As Selective Service is an auxiliary of the military service, the bill would actually place labor under direct control of the brass hats.

Strong opposition has developed to placing civilian labor under direct military control. A substantial section of the employers fear that the concentration of too much power in the hands of a military caste would threaten their prerogatives. This fear was voiced in an editorial by David Lawrence in the United States News on Feb. 9.

"It is difficult to see," said Lawrence, "how the Congress, if it enacts the pending manpower bill, can hesitate to remove all profit from any enterprise where there is forced labor. If forced labor is to be construed as service to one's country, let it be clearly for that purpose alone, and then, logically, management and ownership must be conscripted, too. It will be a surprise if the AFL and the CIO, who are opposed to the 'forced labor' bill, do not insist on such legislation to cover management and ownership. There would be widespread sympathy for such a proposal."

### EMPLOYER OBJECTIONS

The employer opposition exemplified by Lawrence does not object to the principle of compulsory labor for private profit. But they favor the extension of the existing "work-or-fight" and "work-or-starve" decrees, administered through the War Manpower Commission and Selective Service, as the means for hogtied labor. In essence their opposition boils down to the demand that the WMC be granted statutory authority to enforce the executive orders issued by Roosevelt chaining workers to their jobs at frozen wages. These decrees have already imposed a "limited" form of compulsory labor on a substantial section of the working class. This attitude was summed up by Ira Mosher,

head of the National Association of Manufacturers in a letter to the N. Y. Times.

"The NAM program," wrote Mosher, "requires more effective functioning of the existing WMC machinery and regulations. It requires adequate statutory authority for the WMC respecting the establishment of employment ceilings in all industries, the use of controlled referrals and compulsory releases. It calls for immediate application of the work-or-fight principle, within the present framework of the Selective Service authority and machinery."

The brass hats are resisting any change in the May bill which would deprive them of direct control over the administration of the proposed slave labor act. Having already concentrated tremendous power in their hands, they are reaching out for full control of the economic and political life of the country. They hope to crush all opposition to the imperialist aims of Wall Street's war under a military dictatorship. They are prepared to use any means to accomplish their purpose. Having been reduced to the argument that the immediate enactment of the May

News on Feb. 9.

"My overall pessimism that you have probably detected in my letters is not about the military termination of the war, and soon. No, I feel that the situation that will arise immediately after Germany is brought to a cessation of armed resistance will be but the signal for the beginning of the real terror that seems inevitable on this accursed continent. A terrific bloodletting German against German—will be the spark that will set off the social revolution in the recently liberated countries. And that is going to be what we call hell to pay."

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## Angry Packinghouse Workers Strike, Protest Wage Stall

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 2—The CIO Packinghouse Workers ranks are at hair-trigger temper in this area after over 17 months of government stallion on their wage case. Resentment boiled over two days ago when 1,200 workers at the Cudahy packing plant in Newport, near here, went on strike following what they termed an "unwarranted" discharge of 3 fellow-workers.

According to Day Smith, president of the South St. Paul Packinghouse Workers Council, representing over 10,000 members, "the company fired the three employees without just cause, in violation of contract and told the employees that any who were not in sympathy with the firings could go home also. A considerable number left their jobs and

went home in protest against the unwarranted firings."

The prompt action against the company's provocation brought a quick showdown. The strike was called off yesterday after the company agreed, according to the report, to reinstate the fired men. The workers are so fed up with the runaround they have been receiving on their wage demands from the WLB, followed by Economic Stabilization Director Vinson's order last month further holding up the WLB decision, that they are starting to demand real action.

Prior to the Cudahy strike, the St. Paul Packinghouse Council had addressed a letter to Vinson threatening to withdraw the no-strike pledge unless he permitted the release of a WLB order granting increases through adjustments and reclassifications.

Delegates from the Council will

press for a similar decision from a national meeting of the union convening next week in Chicago. Negotiations with the Big Four—Armour, Swift, Cudahy and Wilson—began in July 1943. The case was certified to the WLB in December 1943, but the board stalled the case through elaborate hearings of sub-panels, etc., for over a year. Vinson's ruling has held up a decision since.

The packinghouse workers are particularly bitter because they have had no raise since August 1941 and present wages for over two-thirds of the workers range between 54 cents and 81 cents an hour for work which has been correctly described as "unpleasant, hazardous and difficult." War time gross profits of the meat trust total over \$150,000,000.

(Continued on page 5)

## Conceal Reactionary Aims Behind Deceitful Promises

Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin Scheme to Crush Popular Revolutions Against Capitalist Rule

By William F. Warde

Meeting in conspiratorial secrecy at Yalta on the Black Sea, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin further elaborated their plans outlined at Teheran to carve up Europe, reduce its segments to semi-colonial status, subjugate its peoples, and crush the popular revolutions against capitalist rule which are maturing throughout the war-torn continent.

Their latest deliberations, like their previous conclaves, were shrouded in secrecy because these leaders do not dare to divulge the real character of their predatory aims and oppressive schemes. The people will learn the true nature of the decisions at Yalta, as they learned about the Teheran agreements, only as they are revealed in the brutal actions of the Allies. Thus, the world found out about the agreement to have British troops occupy Greece and restore the monarchy, as part of the deal to divide Europe into spheres of influence, only after men, women and children were massacred in Athens.

The "Big Three" conspirators have issued a statement from Yalta which consists of the same hollow generalities as the declarations of Cairo and Teheran. They reaffirmed the Atlantic Charter which Roosevelt himself recently characterized as nothing but "a pretty good thing to shoot for." Their pronouncement is further embellished with noble promises to "assist the peoples... to solve by democratic means their pressing political and economic problems... rebuilding of national economic life... relief of distressed peoples." The peoples are guaranteed in words, "free elections of governments responsive to the will of the people... the right to choose the form of government under which they will live... self-government."

How glaring is the contradiction between these deliberately deceitful phrases, these false promises and the actual deeds of the Allies. In Western Europe, against the manifest will of the people and without bothering even to consult them, the Anglo-American imperialists have set up dictatorial puppet regimes, as in Italy and Greece, composed of militarists, monarchists and ex-fascists together with the traitorous Stalinists and Social-Democrats. The masses starve, while the Allied armies loot the scant resources of the occupied countries. The scum of the ruling classes who collaborated with the Nazis are not only protected from the just wrath of the people, but kept in positions of authority and power.

In Eastern Europe, the Kremlin has followed a similar pattern. In Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, Stalin has established regimes staffed by the most reactionary capitalist and landlord oppressors of the people and by his servile native agents.

These are the hideous living realities which expose the utterly reactionary content concealed within the glittering phrases of the Yalta declarations.

The Anglo-American imperialists aim, with Stalin's aid and convenience, to divide and exploit Europe for the benefit of Wall Street and the London bankers. They want to eliminate Europe as a rival

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## Strikes, Mass Actions Topple Pierlot Rule

By Frank Lawrence

The Pierlot puppet government in Brussels was forced to hand down its resignation on Feb. 7 to the King's brother, Regent Prince Charles of Belgium, following a series of political crises touched off by mass demonstrations and strikes. In his two and a half hour speech of resignation before a silent and hostile Chamber of Deputies, Pierlot blamed the inability of his regime to cope with the dissatisfaction of the hungry people upon the failure of the Allies to deliver the food they had promised.

But it is clear from the events preceding and precipitating Pierlot's fall that the Belgian people hold him also responsible for their suffering. There was no applause during his farewell speech. Many deputies left the Senate Chamber before the speech ended. Derisive shouts came from the crowd outside in the narrow streets.

**Charleroi area has opened a vigorous drive to maintain and spread strikes.** This means that the Trotskyists are again active in the region and supporting the mine workers in their struggles. The Charleroi area has been for years the chief center of revolutionary Socialism in Belgium. These strikes of the miners and dockers are not only economic but political in character. It is obvious that the miners would not go on strike when there is so little coal in the country unless their living and working conditions have become intolerable. Conditions have grown steadily worse since the Allied occupation and the imposition of the Pierlot government. At present suffering is greater than it was under the Nazis. Determined to maintain industry in capitalist hands, the Pierlot government has proved utterly unable to revive the shattered economy. When Pierlot appealed to his British and American masters for consumers goods and foodstuffs, Major General G.W.E.Y. Erskine, chief of the SHAFF mission in Belgium cynically replied: "When our armies came into Belgium, they did not bring any

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The same dispatch also reports that "the Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist Party in the

# TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

## Wage "Rollback"

A two-hour work stoppage last Friday of over 8,000 members of the Pocketbook Workers Union (independent) in New York City served to emphasize the fact that Roosevelt's War Labor Board is not merely a wage-freezing but also a wage-cutting agency.

The stoppage occurred when the union called a huge mass meeting to protest a WLB order eliminating bonuses, "merit" raises and other recent wage increases in this notoriously low-pay industry. For a large part of the workers, this would represent a payout of approximately 15 percent, reducing basic wages to between 55 cents and 65 cents an hour. The manufacturers had to grant the increases in order to prevent labor from being attracted away to higher-pay jobs.

Back a couple of years ago, the CIO and AFL officials sought to quiet the workers' demands for pay increases to offset price rises by a campaign for price "rollbacks." The price "rollbacks" never materialized; in fact the cost-of-living soared higher than ever. The only "rollback" the administration has enforced is a "rollback" of wages like this one.

\* \* \*

## Paid Holidays

CIO representatives at a WLB hearing in Washington last week charged a "gang-up" by employers to eliminate standard contractual pay for holidays not worked. The hearings were called on appeals of more than 30 corporations against a New York WLB Regional Board ruling that the established paid-holiday practice be continued in pending new contracts.

Typical of employer arguments was the contention by a United States Rubber Company official that paid holidays "unstabilized" industry. He contended that "absenteeism mounts and production lags where workers receive a full day's pay for not working when those who are asked to work receive only half-time in addition."

This "big-hearted" employer doesn't want to "discriminate"—so he's all for cutting out paid holidays. The additional profits — of course — are no consideration. He's just solely concerned about "production."

We didn't hear any of these employers squawking about "absenteeism" and "production lags" when Roosevelt in 1942 ordered elimination of all premium pay for Sundays, Saturdays and holidays as such. And we haven't heard any subsequent clamor about the widespread reduction of double-time pay to time-and-a-half for work on Sundays and holidays that fall on the seventh day of the scheduled work-week. But if the bosses are so worried about "production lags" because they pay only an additional half-time pay for holiday work, there's a very simple way for them to ease their minds. Restore double-time pay for work on all Sundays and holidays!

\* \* \*

## Forced Work Transfers

The New Jersey CIO, through its president, Irving Abramson, last week announced that it planned to resist a War Manpower Commission scheme to institute a forced transfer of 18,000 workers in the Newark area to "more essential" jobs. The WMC has refused to guarantee that transferred workers' pay will not be reduced and that they will not lose their seniority in their present jobs. That is what happened in Allentown, Pa., to several hundred workers, the first victims of this scheme to force workers into the low-pay industries from better jobs.

A committee from the state

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# SWP \$18,000 Expansion Fund Campaign Near Goal With 92 p.c. Of Quota Fulfilled

## \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund

A Fitting Welcome to Our 18 Class-War Prisoners

By Rose Karsner, Campaign Director

The campaign for the \$18,000 Fund which the Socialist Workers Party is concluding on March 1st is only a means to an end—to enable the party to carry out its Program of Expansion and thereby take further important steps on the road to becoming a mass party. With this thought in mind, every member and sympathizer who contributed so generously to the Fund has done so in the deep conviction that their efforts represent the means with which to make this end a reality.

The people are seeking a way out of the jungle of wars and lies and poverty. They will soon discover that the Trotskyist party is the only party that has been telling the truth; the only one that points the sure road to a new world—a world of peace and plenty for all. They will find their way to our banner and we will become the mass party of the workers and exploited farmers. Of that we are certain.

## FROM THE BRANCHES

Two weeks left in which to register 100% on the Scoreboard! Those branches which have not as yet completed their quotas expect to do so without delay. Every member will make a special effort to fulfill his pledge so we can end this campaign in true Trotskyist manner. Thoroughly, resolutely, wholeheartedly.

Upon completion of their quotas, every branch, member-at-large or group is entitled to an original drawing of a Gray cartoon which has appeared in The Militant. The following have made their choice, and the drawings have been mailed to them.

Youngstown—"Beggars at the Gate" and "The Only Road." Youngstown has been the leading branch in this campaign, fulfilling its quota only a few weeks after it started. For this reason we awarded them both cartoons they asked for.

Milwaukee—received its second choice, "The Octopus" as "The Only Road" had already been sent to Youngstown.

Pittsburgh—got "It Takes Guts to Run this Country," from the January 13, 1945 issue of The Militant.

Toledo—its second choice of "Roosevelt's Coolies" from the November 18, 1944 issue.

Dayton—asked for "Capitalism in War and Peace" which appeared in the center of the Labor Party pamphlet. Boston requested the same drawing but will have to make a second choice as Dayton hit 100% ahead of them.

Allentown, Leona: "Enclosed you will find the final payment on our Expansion Fund quota. If at all possible we will send more, but what I'm anxious to know, does this entitle us to an original Gray cartoon?" Yes, it does.

Newark: "We have completed our quota and the branch is now thumbing the back issues of The Militant to make its choice of a cartoon for our headquarters."

Dayton: "Please tell Rose Karsner I am still in the running in the fund campaign and that she can expect to hear from me shortly."

Chicago: Although this branch received a rather stiff quota, considering the local circumstances, they are confident that they will fulfill it. Comrade Radiow sends in a check for \$185 and says "more later."

Buffalo: "Working hard to fulfill our quota. Enclosed find a small check toward it."

San Francisco, Ruth Haddon: "One of the regular renewals to The Militant enclosed herein was secured through the subscriber coming up to our headquarters, and at the same time contributing \$4 to the \$18,000 Fund Campaign!"

We know that many of the branches have had similar experiences, which indicates the kind of new readers we are getting. They are really sympathizers of the party and it won't be long before they will be joining our ranks.

Detroit: Millie Gordon sends a check of over \$200 to the national office. A good portion of it is for the regular monthly Sustaining Fund and part of it is for the Expansion Fund. The gratifying aspect of the \$18,000 Party Expansion Fund Campaign is that with very few exceptions, the branches have kept up to date with their Sustaining Fund pledges. This is extremely important in our special fund campaigns, as the party functions on a planned budget system. A drop in the regular monthly Sustaining Fund dislocates the national office budget and therefore negates the purpose of the special fund.

## Fur Workers Fund

The international executive board of the Stalinist-dominated CIO Fur and Leather Workers Union voted at a recent meeting to establish a Million Dollar Defense Fund to defeat a recalcitrant employer of 8,000 workers in New York City.

It seems that the Associated Fur Coat and Trimming Manufacturers, Inc., has refused to comply with a WLB directive covering arbitration of discharge and paid vacations which was issued last December.

The million dollars for "defense" will be devoted, we may be sure, not to strike action—Tehran forbid! — but to keep the Stalinist officials travelling back and forth in style while "fighting" on the Washington WLB front.

Letters from our agents accepting quotas for the Militant Subscription Campaign to be launched February 25 with a national (Red Sunday) mobilization express confident anticipation and enthusiasm.

Jerry Kirk of Detroit writes: "We want to start pouring them from the first day of the campaign and keep the drive rolling straight through. The branch exudes confidence in its ability to make the best showing that it has ever made in all the campaigns of the party. Watch our smoke!"

A. West of Toledo: "We believe we can complete and do better than our quota of 250 subscriptions. Perhaps not to the extent we did in the last campaign, but we will try."

D. Hilsen of Akron: "We accept the quota of 85 subscriptions assigned to us for the Militant Subscription Campaign. Included in our sub campaign plans is a final attempt to clean up our subscriptions obtained in the first campaign — weeding out those few who don't want to continue getting the paper, getting renewals from others and trial subs for their friends."

Jeff Thorne of Flint: "Please increase our Militant bundle order 50 copies a week until further notice. We will need more for distributions in preparation for the subscription campaign. It helps us a great deal to leave two or three issues at every house in a neighborhood before beginning a canvass for subs. Then the follow-up is much easier than cold-turkey canvassing. With such preparation the final reception is very enthusiastic."

The young audience eagerly participated in the discussion following the speaker's presentation which continued informally over coffee and cake after the meeting.

The Socialist Youth Forum meets every Friday at 8 P. M. at the New York School of Social Science, 116 University Place. All young readers of The Militant are urged to attend.

The workers in Newark have appraised The Militant and rate it very high. Our agent, Harry, writes:

"I have just returned from a visit to the home of a worker who has been particularly receptive to



## SCOREBOARD

Branch	Quota	Paid	Percent
Milwaukee	\$100	120	120%
Boston	400	474	119
Buffalo	400	450	113
Pittsburgh	80	87	109
Toledo	300	323	108
Youngstown	300	316	106
Detroit	1250	1281	103
Maritime Club	3000	3060	102
Akron	300	300	100
Bayonne	300	300	100
Cleveland	250	250	100
Newark	450	450	100
Reading	75	75	100
San Diego	150	150	100
San Francisco	1000	1000	100
New York	3000	2699	90
Twin Cities	1000	757	76
Seattle	1500	1112	74
Philadelphia	200	146	73
Chicago	2000	1385	69
Los Angeles	2500	1544	62
Members-at-Large, Groups and friends	300	390	130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,671</b>		<b>92%</b>



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## GENARO GOMEZ

By Oscar Fisher

MEXICO CITY—On December 13, 1944, Comrade Genaro Gomez died in Mexico City after a long and serious illness. In him, the workers' movement of Mexico has lost one of its most devoted and loyal champions, and the Trotskyist movement one of its firmest friends.

Genaro Gomez embodied a chapter of the history of the Mexican trade union movement. In his youth he participated actively, as bakery worker, in the beginnings of the Mexican workers' movement; and in 1916, through his initiative and leadership, the Bakery Workers Union (Sindicato de Obrero Panaderos) was formed — one of the best led and most revolutionary trade unions in Mexico.

Comrade Genaro Gomez was not only a revolutionary trade unionist; he was, even more than that, a revolutionary socialist.

He was one of the first supporters of the October Russian Revolution among the workers in Mexico. Later he contributed to the bakery workers in the founding of the Communist Party of Mexico; and for many years the Mexican Communist Party had in this union one of its strongest supports. Internationally the union sympathized with the Red Trade Union International, and was represented by a delegate in the latter's international congress in Moscow.

But the transformation of the Soviet government into the Stalinist dictatorship cut a sharp line between Genaro Gomez and the Stalinist bureaucracy.

His sympathies belonged to the Left Opposition— to Trotskyism. And when finally Leon Trotsky found his last asylum in Mexico, it was again the Casa del Pueblo which

— among other organizations — came forward to offer him their services and to defend, against the Stalinists and the CTM, his right of asylum.

The Trotskyist movement in Mexico has lost in Genaro Gomez one of its firmest friends; and his death is a deep loss also to the whole Fourth International.

## Pioneer Notes

Some of the most eloquent letters asking for Trotskyist literature come to Pioneer Publishers from abroad; like this one recently received from a city in England.

The object of this letter is to ask for assistance which you alone can give. A group of young Trotskyists formed a local in this district some time ago. Against great difficulties we have been trying to struggle on with our own education and that of our contacts; and it is impossible to fully explain how tremendously handicapped we are by the lack of Trotsky's works.

The situation in Britain becomes daily more promising. Workers who hitherto showed little interest in politics today discuss major issues. They are somewhat confused and cannot clearly see the correct road. Nevertheless, a definite left turn is clearly evident and we have every reason to be hopeful of a rich harvest in the coming period.

It therefore behoves every member of the new Trotskyist party, 'The Revolutionary Communist Party of Great Britain' to gather in as much fruit as possible in the political orchard. To do this our members must educate themselves to the greatest possible extent.

"We depend on you to assist us in this direction. We know you will not fail us if we can possibly be prevented."

From another district in England: "My friends ask me for other socialist literature which they see advertised in the Fourth International and The Militant and I am sorry to disappoint them, but I am not in possession of any of the Socialist Workers Party books and pamphlets and am unable to help them. If there are any of these books or pamphlets you can let us have, we should be very grateful."

# Few Gains In Steel Wage 'Victory'

By Ed Conti

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Jan. 25.—Philip Murray made a public statement last week that the steel workers' wage increase is still being considered by Roosevelt. The workers in the plants no longer take such statements seriously. The 1% wage increase is not talked about.

When the War Labor Board directive on the steel case was handed down Murray shouted "Great Victory!" His field representatives took up the chant. They were able to do this the first few days because union members were not yet sure exactly what they got. It is evident to all now that the steelworkers won no real benefits. Murray's field representatives and international stooges are quiet today.

A good example of a "great victory" which turned out worthless is Section 10 of the WLB directive, which provides for a commission to standardize wages within each of the basic steel plants. At first the international representatives painted a rosy picture. Everyone was told to process the grievances through the regular grievance machinery and have everything ready for this commission which would grant everywhere a 5¢ department wage adjustment, but not more inasmuch as the commission had no authority to grant a higher increase.

## ALL RATES FROZEN

Thereupon the grievancemen proceeded to take a few department inequality cases before the management. The company flatly refused to hear the cases. Only then did the grievancemen learn that under Section 10 all rates were frozen as of November 25, 1944. No wage inequality cases can be processed any longer by grievance committees.

Prior to Murray's "great victory," a few obvious inequality cases had been won, and this despite the Little Steel formula. Now even the most glaring cases are frozen, too. The WLB directive accomplishes this by setting up another complex procedure. The basic steel companies and the union are to meet and set up some magic formula to measure all wages. If no agreement is reached the matter must next be referred back to a WLB commission which is studying the problem. The WLB will then set up the standard formula for wage evaluations.

Judging by the WLB's past performances, it is a certainty that these standards will be the bare minimums now paid in the steel industry. Once these standards are fixed, another commission will be set up after the model of the first panel. It will consist of

## U. S. STEEL SALTS AWAY HUGE HIDDEN PROFITS

Some sensitive person reading the propaganda handed out by U. S. Steel, America's greatest steel corporation, might be moved to pity at the dismal plight pictured in its publicity releases. Putting on the saddest face possible, U. S. Steel's directors recently announced in their preliminary 1944 annual report to its stockholders that net profits were "only" \$60,293,000, a drop of \$2,300,000 from 1943. This, the directors glumly observed, was "just enough" for a \$4 common stock dividend, lowest since 1940.

Nevertheless, no prominent stockholder seemed disturbed by the sad news. There was no outcry for an investigation of the conduct of U. S. Steel's management. The Board of Directors received the customary vote of confidence. There were good reasons

And there are other rays of sunshine. The company in 1944 added \$33,000,000 to its working capital, now more than \$552,000,000. This does not include \$100,000,000 in one 1944-45 "special" reserve fund put on ice for a future melon feast for the stockholders. Nor another \$100,000,000 reserve, including \$40,000,000 "sequestered" in 1944, set aside to "cover capital expenditures." Moreover, while investing over \$37,545,000 for plant additions and improvements during 1944, U. S. Steel reduced its long-term debt "to the lowest point since the company's birth exactly 44 years ago."

That air of quiet resignation and noble sacrifice worn by the steel barons these days isn't all put on. No, indeed! It's quite a strain on them having to wait another year or two before putting their hooks into those hundreds of millions of hidden profits soaked away in "reserves" invested in government securities. Isn't corporation book-keeping a wonderful science? Especially in wartime!

### Who Was It That Won the Elections?

A cartoon in CIO News, Jan. 29, shows a worker wryly tasting a pot of stew prepared by the "New Congress" chef. Is there a worker who isn't gagging at what Congress is now ramming down the throats of the American people?

However, what the cartoon does not show is the Chef-in-Chief, Roosevelt—the master cook in the White House and his congressional assistants—whom the CIO-PAC boasted about and elected. To do what? To prepare the vilest of stews for the workers and the richest of banquets for Big Business.

members from labor, management and the "impartial public." Its job will be to evaluate each of the thousands of rates within a steel plant. Every rate may be raised or lowered 5¢—in accordance with the "magic formula." Once the WLB commission has fixed the rates, they will be written into the existing contracts and cannot be changed until the contracts are re-opened.

## ANOTHER SELLOUT

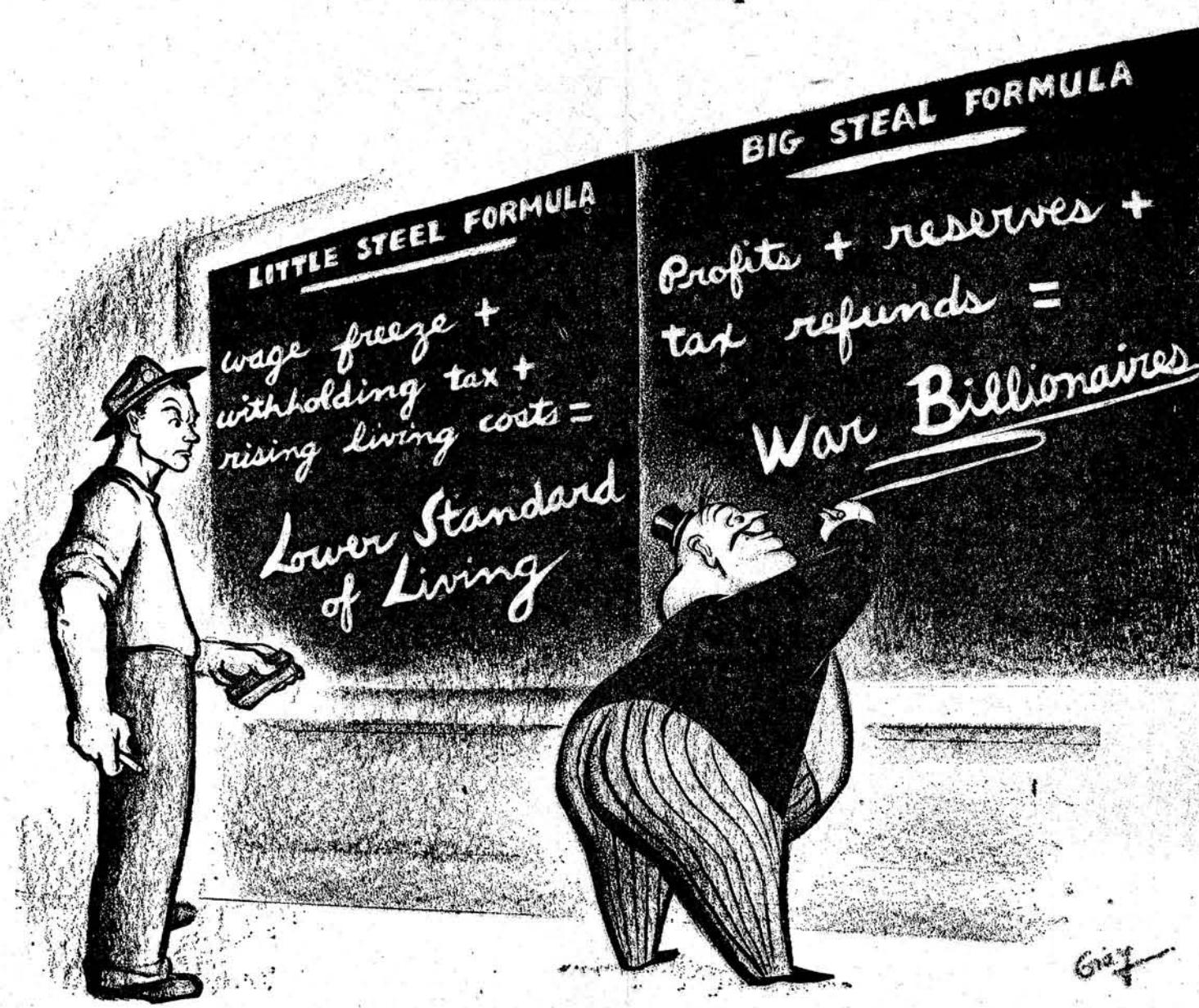
All conscious stewards and grievancemen realize that it will be a good year or more before the commission ever gets set to review the rates. Meanwhile grievancemen have the unpleasant task of keeping departments in line. This is causing many grievancemen to see Mr. Murray as a barrier to further gains and not as the "great invincible leader."

The grievanceman's right to negotiate department wage adjustments has been forfeited to a government agency. When rates are set it is inevitable that those militant departments who have won higher rates through a consistent fight will have their rates brought down to the average.

Moreover rates will not be compared on an industry-wide basis or even within an area, but only within a plant. Thus the lower wages in Southern plants—recently approved by the Board—will remain as a threat to the wage standards in the North.

All militants within the plants now see more clearly the results of the no-strike policy. The logical conclusion of this policy is to have all union demands sold out to government agencies. Workers in the plants are talking about the necessity to scrap the no-strike policy and have a real showdown. This is the real step in a real fight for equalization of rates in the steel industry, on an industry-wide basis.

### How It All Adds Up



## Brass Hats Raise Fake "Morale" Issue In Slave Labor Bill Drive

(Continued from page 1)

bill is now necessary to "boost the morale" of the soldiers, they deliberately set about manufacturing "evidence" to support their spurious contention.

## EVIDENCE ON ORDER

In the midst of the Senate hearings on the May bill, an editorial appeared in the Paris edition of an army newspaper, *The Stars and Stripes*, endorsing the May bill. According to one of its writers, this "marked the first time any service publication had taken sides on an American political issue." The N. Y. Times reported: "Some members of the staff of the paper were so incensed at the publication of the editorial that they proposed to call a meeting tomorrow to protest the use of the soldiers' publication for political purposes. They contended that the paper should be edited only for soldiers and not on behalf of any project which might interest high-ranking officers of the War Department."

The editor of the publication admitted he was "asked in messages from a War Department officer and from Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson whether 'Stars and Stripes' had commented on the May bill." "The text of the editorial," he added, "had been cabled to Mr. Patterson's request to Washington so it would be in his hands for Senate hearings on the May-Bailey bill." In a footnote to this incident the N. Y. Times reveals that: "The editorial was written by the editor, Lieut. Col. Arthur Goodfriend, formerly an advertising writer, who received his

promotion from major yesterday." This is how Patterson got his "evidence" that the soldiers are clamoring for the May bill and also how the "editor" got his promotion.

This whole incident is typical of the fabricated evidence used to support the demand for labor conscription. The inspired "Stars and Stripes" editorial was picked up by the N. Y. Times and ballyhooed as conclusive proof that the "fighting men themselves" are demanding the immediate enactment of the May bill. "This factor of morale," editorialized the Times, "is a consideration which we cannot afford to overlook. It is a factor about which we are entitled to believe that Mr. Patterson and General Marshall and Admirals King and Secretary Stimson and Secretary Forrestal, all of whom support this (May) bill, are better informed than are those manufacturers and trade unionists who are opposing it." Indeed, they are not only "better informed" after the fact, but before!

"This factor of morale" is as fraudulent as the "manpower" and "munitions" shortage which was used as the main pretext a few weeks ago for demanding a forced labor law. The advocates of labor conscription dare not reveal the true aims of such legislation. It is a strike-breaking, union-smashing device, designed to regiment labor under Prussianized military caste. The May bill is still before the Senate Military Affairs Committee. Labor must voice its uncompromising opposition through resolutions, mass meetings and demonstrations, to halt this attack on labor's rights and labor's freedom.

And there are other rays of sunshine. The company in 1944 added \$33,000,000 to its working capital, now more than \$552,000,000. This does not include \$100,000,000 in one 1944-45 "special" reserve fund put on ice for a future melon feast for the stockholders. Nor another \$100,000,000 reserve, including \$40,000,000 "sequestered" in 1944, set aside to "cover capital expenditures." Moreover, while investing over \$37,545,000 for plant additions and improvements during 1944, U. S. Steel reduced its long-term debt "to the lowest point since the company's birth exactly 44 years ago."

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### SWP Candidate Gives Platform

(Continued from page 1)

on those least able to bear it, the workers. Real wages fall each time prices rise. We are for a rising scale of wages to meet the increasing cost of living."

On collective bargaining for city employees, municipal ownership of public utilities, and consultation with organized labor on municipal appointments: "I go a lot farther on that than you do. In my platform you'll find the slogan, 'Make Los Angeles a 100% Union Town.' We believe not only in municipal ownership, but in nationalization of all large industries.

"As for 'consulting with organized labor' on appointments, you ask too little. I believe labor should organize its own political party based on the trade unions. Then with the support we could really, labor would not have to ask to be consulted."

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### What Forced Labor Means For the Negro People

The February issue of *The Crisis*, published by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, vigorously condemns Roosevelt's forced labor proposals.

"Negroes cannot support this type of legislation. It means not only forced labor for all Americans, but it means with certainty discrimination against Negroes. So-called 'work-or-fight' laws in the first World War operated viciously against the race. Local and state administrators interpreted the law as they saw fit with respect to colored people, and will do so again."

"Under such a law Negroes could be placed in certain types of work and barred from others. For example, they could be jammed into low-paying jobs. They could be concentrated in agriculture. They could be barred from white collar work. They could be moved from place to place without their consent. They could be shifted from Chicago to Tennessee, or from Pittsburgh to Georgia. They could be used to weaken and render ineffectual the unions which have made new gains since 1933."

"The legislation must be defeated and every Negro voter must make himself heard in Washington. If he does not do so, the race may be returned to something very much akin to slavery."

## Released Trotskyists Send Thanks To CRDC For Aid

(Continued from page 1)

YOUNGSTOWN, O.—A rank and file caucus, organized to elect Carl E. Beck, District Director of the Steelworkers Union in District 26 and to defeat the Murray machine man now in that office, is putting on a strenuous campaign. The campaign is centered upon the slogan of union democracy.

Steel workers are dissatisfied and in general seem to believe that a change in persons representing them in the District will get some of their grievances settled. For this reason the election campaign of the rank and file caucus has been favorably received.

### NO REAL PROGRAM

The caucus has issued a statement of its program of action which has several progressive features that would help to bring results for the union if actually put into practice. But these features are mainly organizational and do not fill the needs of the steelworkers. They do not hit at the root of the difficulties of the union. Thus the rank and file caucus as yet has no real program. Union democracy is good, but insufficient by itself. To break the stranglehold of the International Union bureaucracy it is necessary to fight the no-strike policy of the top officials. Also a genuine progressive caucus must break with the policy of Murray and Hillman that makes workers "second class" citizens in politics.

Enthusiastic meetings and homecoming banquets have already been held by local CRDC Committees in Chicago, Akron, Youngstown and New York and also by the Twin Cities Branch of the Workers Defense League.

In recent weeks new unions have been added to the more than 600 labor bodies which have supported the case of the 18. Among these contributors to the CRDC are UAW-CIO locals 174, 227, 235, 681, 817 of Detroit, 263 Cleveland, 526 Bay City, Mich., as well as United Steel Workers; CIO locals 1874, Buffalo, 2058 Maywood, Calif., and United Rubber Workers-CIO locals 133 Hawthorne, N. J., and 195 Erie, Pa.

Other contributors include ILGWU-AFL locals 76 Chicago, 60 and 102 New York City, 67 Toledo, O.; Brewers locals 60 and 257 Toledo, O.; United Construction Workers local 1244 Portland, Ore., and three branches of the Workmen's Circle; 111 and 460-E of Detroit and 182, Women's Club, of New York.

The San Francisco Civil Rights Defense Committee will hold a Meeting and Social on February 18 at 305 Grant Avenue to celebrate the release of all 18 from prison and to prepare for the further fight against the Smith "Gag" Act. Speakers will include Joseph Murphy, Business Agent, AFL Hodcarriers Local 38, Ernest Besig, Secretary of American Civil Liberties Union, Joseph James, President, San Francisco branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Gordon Haskell, John McKeithen, IWW, and AFL Machinists Lodge 68, Della Pedroncelli, CRDC Secretary, and R. Chester, Socialist Workers Party.

Enthusiastic meetings and homecoming banquets have already been held by local CRDC Committees in Chicago, Akron, Youngstown and New York and also by the Twin Cities Branch of the Workers Defense League.

### THE URGENT NEED

The Steelworkers Union needs a new leadership—a leadership

that will scrap the no-strike policy, call for a labor party. This is the kind of leadership that will consider and fight against discrimination in the industry now and in the future, and that will be able to fight for full employment in the future as the only means of preventing a division of the working class.

## Textile Barons Laud OPA Heads

The Roosevelt administration and textile manufacturers conspiracy to block textile wage increases and slip over price and profits boosts was further exposed last week with the publication of the full text of the secret "confidential report" sent out to the textile firms by William P. Jacobs, Executive Director of the Print Cloth Group of Cotton Manufacturers.

A portion of Jacobs' revealing document, reported in the February 3 *Militant*, laid bare the direct dealings between the textile profiteers and Roosevelt's leading lieutenants, Vinson and Byrnes, which led to Vinson's ruling blocking the release of a WLB decision granting "sub-standard" wage increases to the textile workers.

The full text of this "confidential report" now throws a glaring light on the "understanding" between the Office of Price Administration officials and the manufacturers to hold up "unfavorable" price ceiling decisions in order to pave the way for price increases.

This previously unpublished portion of the report directly links OPA Administrator Bowles with the efforts of the textile manufacturers to push up price ceilings. Jacobs writes: "We have succeeded in inducing OPA to hold off final textile ceilings until the wage matter is determined." The "inducement" was effected at a conference between Jacobs and Bowles.

### BOWLES INTERVIEW

"As suggested by Judge Vinson, I conferred with Mr. Bowles. It was a fine, uninterrupted conference of nearly two hours. I found that he speaks the same language that we do." Since the only language the textile bosses speak is profits, that is precisely what Bowles spoke about.

"He said OPA only needs profit information from industry to protect the manufacturer from hardships. He is opposed to the discouragements of quantity production and, of course, anxious to encourage increased war production. **HE DEFINITELY HAS NO DESIRE TO REGULATE PROFITS.**"

With Bowles so solicitous about the "hardships" of the manufacturers, who have been raking in the biggest profits of their history, Jacobs seems unduly cautious in concluding that "the interview was satisfactory and indicated some hope of reasonable and fair treatment." Jacobs advises the manufacturers to "work

on the Black Sea," declared Grace Carlson, speaking to an overflow meeting of the Twin City Forum last Sunday in Minneapolis and St. Paul. In the eight years of its history, last year was the first that she was not one of the regular speakers during the forum season.

Recalling the conferences of Cairo, Quebec, and Teheran, Comrade Carlson stated that all of the conferences of the big capitalist rulers have centered around the question of keeping the peoples of the world, and particularly those in revolutionary movements, in check. This, the chief purpose of the diplomatic conversations, is cloaked in fine phrases about the "four freedoms." Citing Greece as an example of this program in action, she pointed out that the answer to workers who try to get for themselves some of the freedom which Churchill and Roosevelt are supposedly defending, is the machine-guns bullets of Anglo-British imperialism.

"The documents of the Socialist Workers Party and of the parties of the Fourth International represent the Communist Manifesto of today," Comrade Carlson stated. Quoting from the Resolution of the Socialist Workers Party on the European Revolution, adopted at the 11th Convention of the party last November, she said:

"But more decisive than their schemes and plots and grandiose plans is the disintegration of capitalism, the melting away of its reserves. Once the inexhaustible power of the proletariat is unleashed, once the Bolshevik leadership, it will prove mightier than all the foul conspiracies, than all the military prowess of the imperialists, and it will emerge triumphant in the end."

She concluded, "which will teach the workers how to strike off their chains and to create a world in which people can be really free."

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# Flint Unionists Urge Creation Of Labor Party

By Jeff Thorne

FLINT, Mich., Feb. 4.—Such a wave of disillusionment with Roosevelt is sweeping the auto workers here that even some of his former staunchest supporters and apologists are changing their tune about the "Friend of Labor" in the White House.

A striking example of this growing awareness of the anti-labor role of Roosevelt is contained in the January 31 issue of *Headlight*, official organ of the powerful Buick Local 599, CIO United Automobile Workers.

In an editorial entitled, "Is Labor Taking A Licking?", the editor, Ed Geiger, and his staff, list a number of the reactionary acts of Roosevelt since the elections and conclude with a call for a "true labor party under the control of labor."

This is a significant about-face for Geiger and other local UAW leaders who supported the reelection of Roosevelt, and reflects the sentiments of a large section of the ranks. Geiger only three months ago played a prominent part in the Flint CIO campaign for Roosevelt and opposed CIO endorsement of the Michigan Commonwealth Federation's labor candidate for the legislature.

"WAKE UP, LABOR!"

The editorial cites various examples of Roosevelt's anti-labor policies, including his turning over of the State Department to the direct agents of Wall Street, and his campaign for forced labor. "If labor is not getting a black eye out of their battle for Mr. Roosevelt, then things must change darn soon!" The editorial states.

It concludes: "It is time for labor to wake up, and fight their own battles, and not depend on either the democratic or republican parties to fight for them. A true labor party under the control of labor, and not under the control of minority groups, is what we need. Wake up, labor, and fight for your rights and the rights of the returning veterans."

It is not yet clear what specific actions will follow from this editorial statement, how seriously the movement for a labor party will be pushed, and what program will be advocated for such a party.

What is of great importance, however, is the indication this editorial gives of the shift of sentiment among the auto militants from support of Roosevelt and capitalist politics toward class-conscious independent labor politics.

STALINIST FINKS

Certainly, the Stalinist finks are greatly concerned about this development. Although they exercise little influence in Buick, they are already hastening to call a caucus meeting of all reactionary and backward elements they can muster. The purpose, as their letter states, is to institute an "active" campaign against Geiger and others, who are already being labeled "Trotskyites disrupters and pro-Hitler Fascists," etc., in the typical vein of Stalinist slander.

## Let Them Eat Cake"

The Italian people, already starving under Allied rule, will soon get another example of "Freedom from Want." The price of bread, already doubled by the Allies (it was sold for two and a half lire, a kilogram under German occupation and now costs five lire), will again be doubled on March 1. This will make the official cost four times as high as it was under nazism!

This new price, reports PM, Feb. 9, "will permit bakers to make a small profit. Presently the Italian government has been paying bakers a subsidy to permit them to sell bread below cost in the interests of the hungry population."

But the interests of the hungry do not count compared to the need for profit.

## Soldier Receives Life Sentence for Socialist Views

(Continued from page 1)

ported for induction he told the officers there about it."

According to his wife, the induction officer told Weber there was nothing he could do about it, but "that when he encountered any item he objected to, he should object to it at that time. This is the course he followed." In fact, Weber was inducted into the army in violation of the War Department's own regulations, which instruct officers to assign men who object to bearing arms to non-combatant work without punishing them.

This is the second time Weber has been court-martialed. Last August he was sentenced to serve six months in jail for the same offense. He was released four months later on Dec. 29. In neither instance did Weber commit any act of violence. In early February he again refused to shoulder a gun and drill when so ordered by his Captain. The Captain talked with Weber for 45 minutes trying to persuade him to change his mind. Weber is supposed to have replied that he "would rather take the consequences." Whereupon he was court-martialed and sentenced to death.

Although indignant outcries against this verdict have forced the Commanding Officer at Camp Roberts to revoke the death penalty, the sentence now imposed of life imprisonment at hard labor, is monstrously harsh.

The Northern California branch of the American Civil Liberties Union has offered to aid Weber and secure for him the same consideration as any conscientious objector. Every progressive organization should come to the defense of this worker who has been punished so viciously because of his Socialist political views.

## Masses Demonstrate Against Pierlot



The resignation of Pierlot was forced by mass demonstrations like this one held in Brussels three months ago on Nov. 19, 1944. Thousands of men and women marched through the streets carrying banners which read "For the Punishment of Traitors!" After police and British troops acting under orders of the Allied commanders fired upon the unarmed demonstrators, the cry changed to "Down With Assassin Pierlot!"

## Citrine Slanders ELAS, Whitewashes Churchill

Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the British Trades Unions Congress, who headed the Congress delegation sent to Greece after nation-wide labor protests against the shooting of Greek workers, returned last week with a report that completely whitewashed the Churchill government and viciously slandered the fighters in the ELAS movement.

Citrine's report and recommendations constitute a brazen attempt to cover up Churchill's bloodstained role in Greece and to rehabilitate his reputation in the eyes of the British working class. Upon his return to England, Citrine said on Feb. 8 that the newspaper men in Athens "didn't present the story." It is true that the Allied press censorship prevented the full facts about the Greek events from being published. But this much has already been established. The Allies first sought to suppress the insurgent workers and peasants by arming the monarchist-fascist EDES and protecting the "Security Battalions" which had served the Nazis.

When these moves failed, Churchill dispatched General Scobie's troops to wage warfare against the ELAS after they had driven out the Germans. These troops were used to enforce the restoration of the hated Glucksburg monarchy and to establish the puppet regency of Archbishop Damaskinos.

Citrine, however, says nothing about the intervention and provocations of the British imperialists. Instead he concocts a totally different "story" which he claims to be based upon a "great and universal sentiment among the British troops at what they considered the inadequate and unfair manner in which recent events in Greece had been presented to the British public through the newspapers and by certain Members of Parliament."

Citrine's attempt to bring forward this alleged "sentiment among the British troops" is as ludicrous as Churchill's earlier effort to rig up some fake "labor" endorsement of his actions from unknown henchmen in Greece. Moreover the British sent hand-picked troops into Greece. According to the January issue of the British Trotskyist paper, the Socialist Appeal, "The British capitalists thought they could rely on reactionary Polish forces, colonial troops and 'especially trained' paratroopers for this dirty job." Despite these precautions, "a

section of the Gurkhas, reputedly the most backward of Indian troops, have deserted to ELAS."

These selected soldiers, says Citrine, were outraged by the "unfair manner" of the ELAS fighters. It is well known, of course, from their conduct in India and elsewhere, that the forces of British imperialism slaughter people according to Marquis of Queensbury rules. Indeed, in Greece they had only tanks, heavy guns and bombers to use against the poorly armed guerrilla fighters.

In 1932 Citrine submitted to the Imperial Conference at Ottawa a memorandum jointly prepared with the Federation of British Industries, the English equivalent of the U. S. National Association of Manufacturers. In justification of his policy of collaboration with Big Business, he said, "The Federation of British Industries cracks the whip and the Government obeys. Surely if there is something the General Council of the Trades Union Congress desires to get done, it cannot be a bad thing to get the support of people who crack the whip."

Citrine himself has always been quick to obey whenever the British ruling class has cracked the whip. In 1936 when the British workers were aroused at the non-intervention policy of the British government, he stepped forward as the leading apologist for that policy, which aided Franco and helped strangle the Spanish revolution and the republic.

What better emissary could English imperialism have found to send to Greece for the fifthly chore of exonerating the Allies from their crimes against the Greek people?

Buy THE MILITANT and FOURTH INTERNATIONAL in NEWARK at the Progressive Workers School 423 Springfield Avenue Open Daily: 10:30 A. M. - 5:30 P. M. 7:30 - 10:30 P. M.

HIS MAJESTY'S SERVANT  
Citrine's whitewash of Allied policy in Greece is the latest of the many services this trade union flunkie has rendered to the British ruling class. It was not

## Pierlot Cabinet Falls As Strikes In Belgium Spread

(Continued from page 1)

material benefits in their wake. One thing, however, they did bring, and that was your freedom from the Nazis."

Here is what this "freedom" has meant to the Belgian workers. Of the 100,000 Fascist collaborators arrested, only 2,000 have received sentences, and 10 executed. Almost all have kept their properties. Dockworkers on strike have been driven from the wharves and replaced with Allied soldiers who were forced to serve as strikebreakers.

Electric lights are cut off from dawn to dusk to save power. "It is the fortunate household that can get gas for half an hour out of each 24 hours," says the PM correspondent. Few houses are heated. "It is common in the streets of Brussels to see both adults and children chasing coal trucks with pails."

Factories are closed and there is mass unemployment. There is little production of consumers goods. Although food supplies are nearly exhausted, the black market flourishes. "Some butchers put up 'no meat' signs in their shop windows and cut off their customers who have ration coupons, only to sell their regular quota of beef, mutton and lamb on the black market."

### PIERLOT'S REGIME

The Pierlot government was solely concerned with protecting the bankers and industrialists who thrived under the Nazi occupation. At the time of the German invasion, Pierlot and his associates were packed up and sent to London to represent the interests of the Belgian capitalist class in the Allied camp. Before leaving, they set up a five-man committee of bankers and big business men "to counsel the nation and maintain production" under the Nazis. When the Allied armies in turn occupied Belgium, Pierlot was brought along and put back into office against the will of the people.

His government would not have lasted a week without the military backing of the Allies and the political support of the Stalinist and Socialist parties, whose representatives sat in his Cabinet. Pierlot and the Allies at once tried to disarm the fighters of the resistance movement, to disband the workers' militias and factory committees, and to provide protection for the hated capitalist collaborationists. The growing indignation of the masses against the reactionary policies of the Pierlot regime and the terrible chaos engendered by the war culminated in strikes and mass demonstrations against the government as early as last November.

On Nov. 25 a throng of demonstrators in Brussels who demanded Pierlot's resignation was fired upon by the police, supported by tanks and heavy guns of the Allied forces of occupation. Four of the demonstrators were killed and 38 wounded. The brutality of the Pierlot government and its Allied backers traced out the same pattern that has since been etched even more sharply by the Greek events.

### MASS PROTEST

But the November bloodshed and repression failed to subdue the Belgian working class, nor have they sufficed to keep Pierlot in office more than two months. Just as the strikes and demonstrations of last November forced the Stalinist ministers to withdraw from Pierlot's cabinet, so the current protest movements of the masses have compelled the Socialist Party to withdraw its five ministers. The resignations of the Socialist Party ministers was the immediate cause of the collapse of the Pierlot regime. This demonstrates how much the puppet governments set up by the Allies in "liberated" Europe depend upon the support of the "Socialist" and Stalinist parties. Instead of organizing the workers for independent struggle against the capitalist class which is responsible for their misery, these perfidious parties help to prop up the most reactionary capitalist regimes.

Now Achille van Acker, Social Democrat and Minister of Labor in the fallen Pierlot cabinet, has pasted together a new four-party ministerial combination, including the Catholic Conservative Party and the Stalinists. But Van Acker's program and methods are not basically different from those which led to the crumbling of Pierlot's regime and will be no more capable of coping with the problems afflicting Belgium.

Indeed, Pierlot himself pronounced the sentence of doom on his successor. In his speech of resignation, after recounting the insoluble difficulties that brought down his government he predicted: "It will be the same thing for the Government of tomorrow."

## SHOP TALKS ON SOCIALISM

By V. Grey

"I don't care what you say," Scissorbill Sam (the bosses' man) was very positive. "You can't take all the factories away from the owners. The factories BELONG to the owners. It would be RIGHT for us to take them."

"Sure they belong to the owners," Slim commented, as he reached into his locker for his gloves. "So do you. But that's no reason you ALWAYS have to be slave."

"If I'm a slave you're a slave, too. You do the same work I do, and you get the same pay."

To this indisputable logic Slim replied, "Yep. We're all slaves. Wage slaves. Only difference between you and the rest of us is that you LIKE it."

"Whaddaya mean—we're slaves?" Breezy said, as he looked up from a list of teams for the big hockey pool. "I ain't no slave."

"Anyway we're not slaves until they pass that slave labor law," Shorty said, with his mouth full of a baloney sandwich.

"What I was getting at," Slim began again, "is that this plant and all the machinery in it don't do the capitalists a bit of good unless they have us to work it for them. We have to be their slaves when you stop to think of it. And the only way we can stop being their slaves, and work for ourselves, is to kick them out."

"Listen!" Scissorbill Sam said belligerently, "Don't you know that widows and orphans own stock in this company? What do you want to do? Kick them out in the streets?"

"Now, wait a minute, Slim," Pop Phylliber set his thermos jug down real quick. "Don't you fly off the handle at Sam. Anyway that's a real good argument he's got there."

The fellows looked at Scissorbill Sam. He was pleased. But he looked a little bit self-conscious, because everybody could see that Pop was getting wound up with an argument, too.

"Slim here says that if you take the factories away from the rich, you take their slaves away at the same time. But as Scissorbill points out, you also take the slave away from some poor widow that never done you any harm—," Pop lit his pipe while he let the molar sink in.

Scissorbill tried to make out he wasn't paying much attention. But we could all see he was.

### SCISSORBILL AND HIS LADY SLAVEOWNER

"You see," continued Pop as he squinted into his thermos bottle at nothing in particular, "this here is what you call a problem in ethics. It might be all right for all the rest of us to kick our owners out, on account of their being mean and no-account crooks that get real fat off'n us. But you take the sweet old lady slaveowner that lives off Scissorbill. Why he just keeps her in crinkly dresses, a nice little cottage with a board wall and roses, maybe a buck in the collection plate at church now and then."

"Maybe she's got a couple of pet cats and dogs, too," Shorty added.

"Mebbe."

"I ain't supportin' no pet cats and dogs!" Scissorbill shouted. He was getting a little mad.

"Well if you're gonna be a slave for a nice old widow you got to work for her pets, too," Pop said with an air of finality. "I guess you just got to take the bad with the good, that's all."

"Anyhow," the old boy went on, "if the majority of the boys figure this poor woman hadn't ought to lose her slave, just on account of a little Socialism or something, well you can let Scissorbill go right on being her slave. That's fair enough, ain't it, Sam?"

But the bosses' man walked out in a huff, while everybody laughed.

"Now that I think of it," Shorty said, "My old lady was a widow. She never had time for rose gardens and stuff like that, though. She worked ten and twelve hours a day at the laundry to keep us kids in school."

"Of course if you was to get technical, now," Pop said with a little sigh, "you might say there's quite a few poor widows in this country that don't have any ten or fifteen thousand dollars worth of stock in this company."

Scissorbill clenched his teeth. And without opening them very much he said, "For every widow who gets a cut on the profits, they mail the lousy five hundred dollar insurance to twenty new widows right in this town. And they're making thousands and thousands of widows in this war that they'll kick out on the streets when it's all over. It's THEM that's robbing widows and orphans. And it's US that's going to put a stop to it."

### NEW YORK

## Socialist Youth Forum

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

By Charles Jackson

**Jackson Meeting In Buffalo**

BUFFALO, Feb. 11—Braving unfavorable weather and icy streets, an audience of fifty people assembled here this afternoon in the Dining Car Porters hall to hear a lecture by Charles Jackson, noted writer of the Column "The Negro Struggle" which appears weekly in *The Militant*.

Speaking on the "Struggle for Negro Equality," Comrade Jackson presented a well-rounded explanation of the origin of racial prejudice and its role in capitalist society today. He demonstrated that Jim Crow conditions existing in every walk of life, civilian and military, is the application by the bosses in the United States of the old device used by all ruling classes to maintain their positions of privilege—the device of "divide and rule." The part the government plays as an agent of the capitalists, the role of the church, the press, and the system of education in maintaining discrimination was clearly revealed.

The nature of the present war was explained and the speaker showed that the struggle of the imperialist powers for re-division of the world could only result in increased exploitation and discrimination.

**Attention Chicago Readers**  
Charles Jackson will speak on "The Struggle for Negro Equality" in Chicago on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 8 p. m., at Dwight Building, 306 E. 43rd Street.

Attention

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Charles Jackson will speak on "The Struggle for Negro Equality" in Chicago on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 8 p. m., at Dwight Building, 306 E. 43rd Street.

**ROOSEVELT'S RECORD**  
The record of Roosevelt and the Democratic Party on the Negro question was next examined. Jackson thoroughly exposed the President's hypocritical claims that he is the Negro's friend and showed how Roosevelt upholds Jim Crow in the armed forces and in industry. He pointed out that workers everywhere, colored and white, were becoming increasingly uneasy over the many open reactionary moves of the President since he started his fourth term, and are beginning to wonder who won the elections.

In developing the need for an Independent Labor Party Jackson castigated the "Uncle Toms" among the leaders of the Negro people who attempt to keep them tied to the two boss-controlled parties. "The Labor Party," asserted Jackson, "based on the trade unions and progressive organizations, Negro and white, will, through independent political activity, protect labor's interests and be a particularly effective weapon in the fight against discrimination."

"The Negro organizations, if

**"What's to Become of Me?"**

By Bill Horton and Louise Jordan

When I've toiled and slaved in the bosses' hire,  
Working for victory, making the tools for a bloody war  
Supposed to make ALL free. When the fray is done  
And the last big gun is silenced on land and sea  
And the "victors" dig in to stolen gains,  
Then, what's to become of me?

Of what use, then, these toil-worn hands  
That have worked many hours to feed  
A family, when there's no demand  
That they serve their master's need?

What's to become of our fighting sons  
Who have answered the war drum's beat?  
Will they return to a victory won  
Or encounter ignoble defeat?

From the hearts of the millions who think  
Like me... Who know the power of Unity...  
Who've glimpsed the splendour  
Of worlds to be,  
The answer comes.

Together, together down Freedom Road  
A will of united steel  
We'll pit the Right 'gainst the Monster's might  
For the Freedom that's lasting and real.

That Freedom, which knows the debt it owes  
To the men who gave it birth,  
Whose broad wings span over all the land  
To the utmost ends of the earth.

**NEW YORK**  
**Sunday Night Forum****"THE LABOR DRAFT BILL"**

Why Wall Street Wants to Impose Nazi Labor Laws on America

How the Unions Can Win the Struggle Against Labor Conscription

Speaker:  
C. THOMAS, Associate Editor, THE MILITANT

Sunday, February 18, at 8 P. M.

Questions Refreshments  
NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE  
116 University Place  
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# Allied Rulers In Secret Conference At Yalta Design Plans For Joint Domination Of Europe

(Continued from page 1)

in their drive to master and plunder the whole world.

These designs are most clearly indicated in their expressed plans for Germany. Germany, whose capitalist rulers have twice in a quarter century challenged the Anglo-American imperialists, is to be ruthlessly dismembered and subjugated. The country is to be occupied indefinitely by American, English, Soviet and possibly French forces, and divided up into separate spheres of military and economic control.

All industry for "military production"—that is, all basic industries—are to be "eliminated or controlled." "Reparation in kind"—unrestricted confiscation of goods, machinery, raw materials—is to be exacted. Stripped of all means of livelihood, the impoverished German people will also be saddled with the costs of occupation. They are to be herded into slave labor battalions at the service of their conquerors. Thus, Hitler's slave labor battalions of foreign workers are to be succeeded by Allied slave labor gangs.

The fate of the "liberated" peoples, including nominal "allies," will be little better. The evil three at Yalta arrogantly disposed of the territories and destinies of entire nations. Poland was partitioned and a government hand-picked and thrust upon its people. A similar governmental arrangement was imposed on the Yugoslavs. As for the remaining millions in the Balkans, they were dealt with in one ominous sentence. . . . "There was also a general review of other Balkan questions."

CYNICAL TYRANTS

Thus with a cynical disregard of their own phrases about "self-determination, etc., the conspirators at Yalta remade the map of Europe in line with their diplomatic needs and reactionary aims.

What contempt they display for the hundreds of millions of starved and tortured people who have poured out their blood in this "war for democracy"! Outside of the USSR, there was not even a single representative of any European country at the conference!

What mockery is their talk about the "rebuilding of national economic life" in Europe while they threaten to despoil Germany. Germany is the very heart of European economy. The dismantling of its industrial system and the plunder of its resources would spell economic ruin for all Europe. It would prohibit any possibility of economic recovery for the war-devastated continent and drive it down to Asiatic levels.

But Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin understand that the peoples of Europe will not submit to such prospects but are determined to resist them fiercely. The workers and peasants have already demonstrated their will to struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe under the banner of the Trotskyist Fourth International.

Remarks made by members of the audience testified to the growing popularity of Charles Jackson's column. Judging from the approval with which his speech was received, it is certain that a return visit to Buffalo in the near future will be heartily welcomed by all.

**Secret Diplomacy**

## Rep. Cellar Exposes Stalinist Secret Lobby For Forced Labor

(Continued from page 1)

ty and the CIO Council of New York City. (All are dominated by the Stalinist machine.)

Celler further told PM that he was "astounded" by this treacherous lobbying in view of the CIO's official declaration of "unalterable opposition" to the May-Bailey bill. He declined, however, to reveal the names of those who had visited him in secret.

A documented report of this "traitors' lobby" has been submitted to CIO President Philip Murray by Nathan Cowan, CIO legislative director and his assistant, Thomas Owen, PM reports.

Their report, the account states, discloses that CIO investigators were informed by other Congressmen that the Stalinists' action was exploited by House majority leader Rep. John W. Mac Cormack, who urged the legislators to "follow the Commander-in-Chief since labor is divided on the bill." Rep. Frank

Hook, Michigan Democrat, went to CIO headquarters to seek an explanation because of the confusion created by the Stalinists.

Stalinist officials of the New York CIO have been trying to weasel out of the charge by claiming that the original PM story, since confirmed by Rep. Cellar,

was a "complete fabrication." They assiduously avoid denying the specific facts of PM's revelations. The Daily Worker, trying to cover up for its stooges caught red-handed in their attempt to stab the labor movement in the back, has been yelling like a stuck pig, and screaming that exposure of this anti-labor treachery constitutes "disruption" of "labor unity."

**NEWSPAPER GUILD**  
The International Executive Board of the CIO Newspaper Guild, meeting in Washington on February 6, adopted a resolution in defense of Milton Murray, author of PM's exposure. Murray is International President of the Newspaper Guild and a member of the CIO national executive board. The resolution, passed by unanimous vote with only one member recorded as "not voting," declares:

"Whereas, certain CIO members, some of them connected with the New York Industrial Union Council, lobbied for the labor draft act in violation of CIO policy, and officers of that organization have since launched a vicious campaign against ANG

President Milton Murray exposing this treacherous activity, therefore be it resolved that:

"We condemn the flagrant lobbying of Congressmen by such individuals which seriously undercut the official position of the CIO in its unalterable opposition to enactment of such a labor draft law, and:

"We denounce the contemptible effort by those engaged in this lobbying to cover up their double-crossing activities by attacks on reputable newspapermen who expose them, and:

"We also protest the votes cast for this unfair and unconstitutional measure by such Congressmen as Rep. Vito Marcantonio of New York, who claim to be friendly to labor." (Marcantonio is a notorious Stalinist agent.)

**SECRET SABOTAGE**

A year ago Harry Bridges, Joseph Curran and other Stalinist hatchet-men inside the CIO sent telegrams to Roosevelt supporting his original forced labor demand. Roosevelt flaunted these wires in Philip Murray's face at that time when the latter went to protest the forced labor proposal. The issue came to a head when the Stalinists were compelled to crawl and publicly retract their stand after a heated session of the CIO national board.

It is evident that the Stalinists in the CIO now dare to help along Roosevelt's forced labor proposal only in the "dark of the night." Their sabotage of CIO opposition to the May-Bailey bill is being carried on in back-alley secrecy.

## Diary Of A Steel Worker

By Theodore Kovalesky



We called him "Shorty," but his real name was Haifa. He was a swarthy little man with great soft brown eyes like a spaniel, and he had a childishly friendly manner that was sort of like a little dog, too.

Shorty was a long way from home, here in the steel mill. Some years ago he had come from his sunny homeland on the other side of the earth down below the equator and had ended his journey in a run-down rooming house that looked up, as it seemed, fearfully at the open hearth stacks across the road.

But always before him he kept the hope of soon being able to send for his wife and children. We used to kid him about it, not unkindly, and I think he used to enjoy our banter.

I remember one day the furnace gang was sitting down after the cleanup, when Shorty walked in, smiling as usual.

"Here comes the money man," Jimmy said.

"Aw, what you mean?" Shorty beamed.

"You been working so many doubles I bet you got a whole sack full of money under your mattress."

"You crazy. I got no money."

"Shorty's saving up to send for his wife and ten kids," Pete Rossi said. Pete had come over from the disintegrator and was sitting with us.

"What you mean?" Shorty grinned.

"I only got two kids. I got two sons, big boys. Bigger than I am, I betcha. I bring them over here, they beat up your sons."

"You better watch out," Jimmy warned him. "Maybe they'll beat up their old man."

"Aw, no. They take care of the old man, work, bring home lotsa money."

"Bring home lotsa money!" Reuben said. "Where they going to work—blast furnace?"

"Aw, no. Money here. They get good job some place else."

**The End of the Road for Shorty**

Jimmy winked at me and turned to Shorty. "I know," he said, "Shorty don't want to bring his wife here at all. He don't want her to find out about all the other women he's got here."

"Is that right, Shorty?" I asked innocently.

"Aw, no. He's crazy. I got a wife. I no want other women."

"He's got ten wives," Pete said. "Over in Arabia he's got ten wives. You can have as many wives as you want in Arabia."

Reuben said, "Maybe I ought to go to Arabia. Want to come, Jimmy, and have ten wives like Shorty?"

"I got one wife," Shorty told us emphatically. "I no got ten wives. Poor man only got one wife anywhere. Pretty soon now I send her money and she come over here."

I could feel the loneliness of the friendly little man, and I hoped he could send for his wife very soon. "When do you think you'll be able to send for them, Shorty?" I asked.

Shorty coughed. He caught his breath and beamed again. "Oh, pretty soon now."

But last week I saw Shorty for the last time at the paymaster's window. The sweat and the bitter cold, the dust and gas had been too much for Haifa, the little man from warm, sunny Arabia. He was drawing his last pay before leaving for a state-subsidized tuberculosis sanitarium.

As we walked outside I spoke to him, wanting to say something kind, something helpful, but not knowing exactly how.

"I heard about your tough luck, Shorty," I said.

He looked up. "Yeah. I got to go away."

"I know, Shorty, but . . . look: don't lose heart. You'll be working again, and you'll send for your wife and kids."

"Oh . . . sure." He tried to smile. "Pretty soon now."

And he stumbled away through the snow toward the gate.

## 10 Years Ago In The Militant

FEBRUARY 16, 1935

PITTSBURGH—As 78 locals of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, AFL, faced expulsion, *The Militant* called for united action by progressive unionists to defend their rights. Expulsion orders had been issued after delegates of the 78 locals met on Feb. 3 in a special conference to call for organization of the unorganized steel workers and for a program of action to wrest wage increases from the steel barons.

"There is no doubt," said *The Militant*, "that the conference . . . expressed the dissatisfaction of the workers with the Tighe machine." The conference had drawn up a "detailed program of action (calling for) mass meetings, publicity, unemployed relief committees, ladies' auxiliaries, and a supporting committee of liberal and professional elements."

The Militant also pointed out that the confidence in the AFL bureaucracy expressed by the conference hampered the work of the militants, and "the job of building a real, national progressive movement in steel has just begun."

SACRAMENTO—In the "Criminal Syndicalism" frame-up trial of 18 Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union leaders, the State of California produced its second stool-pigeon in M. Harris, agent of the Associated Farmers, the Industrial Association of San Francisco, and the State Criminal Identification Board. He attempted to show that the defendants were aiming, not to organize the agricultural workers, but to "overthrow the government." Harris testified that he had been planted in the Communist Party and had managed to become section organizer with access to party records.

Conducting its own vicious slander campaign against defendant Norman Mini, who had resigned from the Communist Party and joined the Trotskyists, the Stalinists abetted the red-baiting persecution. Vigorous protests against the treacherous conduct of the Stalinists were made by some of the other defendants and by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense Committee.

WASHINGTON—As the Senate Appropriations Committee weighed a pending Work Relief Bill, *The Militant* pointed out the real meaning of this sop to the workers. The bill provided for only part-time employment at "prevailing wage rates." Under these provisions workers would be forced to "support" entire families on an average of \$50 a month, while living costs were soaring under Roosevelt's National Recovery Act. The NRA's avowed purpose was to increase retail prices for the benefit of business.

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# THE MILITANT

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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.

## CIO-PAC Policy

One of the principal questions in the minds of the organized workers is the future of the CIO Political Action Committee. What do the CIO leaders propose to do with the PAC in the light of events since the elections?

The PAC leaders claimed that the labor movement had won a "great victory" by re-electing Roosevelt and a "progressive Congress." They boasted that the PAC's policy had ensured enormous benefits to labor and would fend off the assaults of labor's enemies.

But in the forefront of the intensified anti-labor offensive launched since the elections are to be found the very candidates returned to office by means of PAC support. Heading the list is "labor's friend" in the White House.

Roosevelt's first act was to reinforce the wage-freeze through the WLB decision in the steel wage case. He followed through by appointing direct representatives of Wall Street to the State Department and other leading government agencies. He capped this by his drive to institute forced labor for private profit and impose military regimentation upon the workers.

Taking its cue from Roosevelt, this Congress controlled by a Democratic majority has hoisted the black flag of reaction. As its first act, it demonstratively set up a permanent Dies witch-hunt committee. The House, under the White House whip, has already speeded through the May-Bailey slave labor bill. Numerous other anti-labor measures are being cooked up in the congressional committees.

In the face of these facts, Sidney Hillman, PAC chairman, has published in a recent issue of *This Week* an article which shows that the PAC leaders are determined to continue along the road which has already led the labor movement into its present blind alley.

Despite the patent bankruptcy of the PAC's policies of subservience to Roosevelt and of captivity to the capitalist political parties, and in defiance of the workers' growing desire for genuine independent labor political action, Hillman pro-

claims that the recent developments "lead to one inevitable conclusion." This is it.

"PAC will have nothing to do with the creation or fostering of a third party on the national scene. During the recent campaign, we demonstrated that we are not encouraging such an idea. Instead we tried to liberalize both (the parties of Big Business). That we shall continue to do."

This is an open declaration that the labor bureaucrats of the CIO remain the sworn enemies of genuine independent labor political action.

But the union militants who have drawn a balance sheet of the past events understand that without an independent labor party the workers cannot stem the tide of reaction. They must demand a repudiation of Hillman's bankrupt policies and explain the urgent necessity for the building of a labor party. They must put forward this program day in and day out, in union meetings, in the shops, in the PAC.

Further developments are certain to convince ever greater numbers of their fellow-workers of the indispensable need for their own party. Once the ranks are convinced of this truth, the CIO leaders will no more be able to successfully obstruct the creation of the labor party than the AFL bureaucrats were able to halt the formation of the CIO industrial union movement.

## World Labor Parley

While Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin were meeting in Yalta, the labor leaders of their countries were staging a "World Trade Union Conference" in London. The London conference was organized by the heads of the trade unions of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the CIO.

These union leaders did not bother, before they attended the conference, to find out what views their members held on the vital problems discussed, or even to notify them what questions were to be on the agenda. Ever since the war began they have been telling the workers that they must sweat and shed their blood to defend democracy. Yet they do not permit their rank and file to have any say in the decisions they make or in the policies to which they commit their organizations. These bureaucrats show that they have no more regard for democratic rights than the masters they serve.

The conference delegates were unanimous, for example, in advocating a "harsh peace" for Germany. Fresh from whitewashing Churchill's crimes in Greece, Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, presented a "nine-point" program on how to deal with Germany. His approach, observed the N. Y. *Times*, "seemed to reflect the views of high personages in the British Government now conferring in the Black Sea area."

In fact, the decisions made at London actually anticipated by several days the identical views set forth in the Yalta declaration. That is how the labor lieutenants of the "Big Three" fulfilled their assignments of giving a labor cover to the Allied plans to enslave the German working class.

These labor leaders are following the same treacherous policy in the field of foreign affairs as they do on domestic issues involving the working class. They work to impose the program of the capitalist ruling class upon the labor movement without consulting the workers or caring about their welfare. They readily respond when their masters demand a no-strike pledge at home or the savage treatment of workers abroad, but they remain deaf to the voices of their own rank and file.

## U. S. Constitution

The spokesmen for the capitalist class portray the U. S. Constitution as a sacred document which binds the governors as well as the governed and which can never be violated. They are especially outraged whenever the slightest move is made to limit capitalist property rights. These, they claim, are guaranteed by the Constitution. The slaveowners used to talk in the same way about their inalienable right to hold slaves, a right which was also originally guaranteed by the Constitution.

But chattel slavery was abolished and the 13th Amendment was adopted at the end of the Civil War which specifically stated that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude... shall exist within the United States." Despite this clear prohibition, the President has demanded, and the House has already passed, a forced labor bill which would impose involuntary servitude for private profit upon the American working class and which, as the NAACP states, would mean a return to virtual slavery for the Negro people.

Moreover, the first article of the Bill of Rights declares in unmistakable terms: "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech or of the press." This did not prevent Congress from passing and Roosevelt from signing and applying the Smith "Gag" Act, which, by making the mere expression of opinion a crime, obviously nullifies the rights of free speech. Under this vicious law the administration railroaded 18 Trotskyist leaders to prison while the Supreme Court which is also sworn to uphold the Constitution simply refused to consider the convictions or to pass upon the legality of the statute.

Isn't it clear from these two instances that the capitalist rulers demand obedience to the Constitution only where it suits their own interests? And whenever they find it expedient to do so, they do not hesitate to set aside the specific provisions of their sacrosanct Constitution and to treat it like a worthless scrap of paper.

THE MILITANT

# 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.

## "Blame the CIO"

Editor:

I believe your readers will be interested in the following incident which is published in the current issue of *Collier's* magazine.

Arriving late at night in his New York hotel, Mr. Cord H. Thewie of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was about to enter the wrong room when a passing bellboy warned him, "Sorry sir, that's a conference room. Big meeting going on." Mr. Thewie wanted to know what sort of meeting could be in session so late. "I'm not sure, sir," said the young man. "Some kind of big shots in there finding out how to blame the German break-through in France on the CIO."

T. S.  
New York

## Wants Exposures In "The Militant"

Editor:

I am prompted to write this letter by two recent experiences of a comrade who works in the same shop as I do. He subscribed some time ago to Seldes' little paper, *In Fact*. You are no doubt familiar with it. Apparently authentic exposures constitute its sole stock-in-trade. I have not looked at it in some time, but my recollection is that its Stalinist policies are not terribly obvious.

Struck by a particularly surprising (!) exposure, this comrade showed the article to a fellow-worker in the shop. The man immediately copied down the address of the paper, announcing his intention to subscribe. The very next day, our comrade showed, this time, only the headline to a different fellow-worker. Seeing only the headline, the man copied the address of the publisher, and announced he would subscribe!

It seems to me that exposure

articles such as appear in *In Fact* should appear with greater frequency and receive more space in *The Militant*. As a matter of fact, I think such a one should appear on the front page every week. Perhaps I underestimate the difficulty of obtaining such information, but if Seldes can do it, so can we.

The two reasons for this are as follows. First, it is completely in accord with Lenin's dictum in "Where to Begin" that one task to be fulfilled by a national revolutionary paper is that of "political exposure." Second, our comrade's recent experience with *In Fact* indicated to me that workers are eager for this type of political exposure, and to get it we are willing to subscribe to a paper that will give it to them.

P. NORTH  
Detroit

## A Socialist Fighter For Over 40 Years

Editor:

I fully intended to be present at the open meeting celebrating the release of the 12 class-war victims from prison. I have really been a socialist for over 40 years, having been converted to that faith by reading a little mental science paper, "Riches," published at Rustin, Tenn., where the "Appeal to Reason" was founded. Later I became acquainted with the "Appeal" and read it regularly for a few years. I also secured some subscribers to the "Appeal" and helped to work up some interest in socialism in the little town where I lived.

It was in 1910, I believe, that we had a candidate for state representative who carried the town for socialism, but lost the office by reason of the large rural vote. Twice afterwards, however, the same "radical" was elected mayor, the last time without having his name on the ballot. Sixteen hun-

Time will prove I am right.

"On the second score, how is it that the President's directive to give our 300 grams of bread daily to the Italian people has not been carried out if the United States is doing all it can?"

Thus are the Allies and their political servants strangling the Italian masses to death in the noose of the armistice terms.

## Soviet Union

The first religious assembly of its kind since the 1917 Russian Revolution took place in the Soviet Union on Jan. 31. An AP report states that "bearded ecclesiastics from all over the world" assembled in the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow to "hear prayers for peace and victory and praise for Stalin" and to name a new Patriarch.

On Feb. 6, according to a UP dispatch, Soviet newspapers prominently displayed an appeal by the Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church to the world Christendom. "S. I. N."s newspaper *Izvestia* followed this up by printing "a pastoral message condemning the growth of anti-religious sentiment, neglect of the church ritual and the violation of certain priests." Such religious propaganda corroborates this dispatch, "had not been published in an official Russian organ since the Bolshevik revolution." The pastoral letter said "there had been a great religious revival" and unification of practically all nonconformist sects under the dominant Russian Orthodox Church.

For centuries the Russian Orthodox Church, Trotsky wrote, played the "role of spiritual servant" to the autocratic rule of the Czars. "Two hundred thousand priests and monks were in all essentials part of the bureaucracy, a sort of police of the gospel." In 1917 the Great Russian Revolution under Lenin and Trotsky not only swept away the Czarist empire but along with it these religious "deputies" of the Czar. Through the revolution the masses came to understand that in the titanic battles of the working class against their enslavers, the Church acts as an indispensable weapon in the hands of the oppressors to maintain their hold upon and subjugation of the masses.

Now the new autocrat, Stalin, helps to reestablish and to glorify this reactionary institution as another prop of his counter-revolutionary regime.

## How to Get to Congress -- According to An Authority

In a moment of boastful confession, Ex-Congressman Calvin D. Johnson of Illinois recently described the kind of legislators the capitalist political parties send to Congress.

Mr. Johnson was relieved of his seat in the House during the last election. But he's not sore. He's been set up handsomely as a representative in Washington for a dozen leading manufacturers to engineer profitable deals with the government. While he no longer holds a Congressional post, he admits his duties have not materially altered.

"The original idea was to get 25,000 people to put up \$1 each to send me back to Washington," he related. "But I vetoed that. I didn't think it looked right." Mr. Johnson was anxious to do what "looked right," "so now I am representing these businessmen, doing for them what I used to do when I was a Congressman." That is, helping the profiteers sop up government gravy.

The Congressman-without-portfolio also expatiated on the fine art of becoming a capitalist congressman. Before getting into Congress he had been a building contractor. He tells how he stole steel railroad tracks once for a war plant he was building in Granite City, Ill. "I trucked out those rails in the dead of night, and by the time the WPA caught up with me, I had most of 'em spiked down. The government man was said. He said I was in danger of going to jail. I said I had to have 'em to get this war plant going. I said, anyway, that people who stole bread went to jail, but people who stole railroads went to Congress."

He was right, and he did. The corporations couldn't miss up on a slick trick like Johnson. He's the kind of fellow they know will look after their interests. And his type is always within spitting distance on the floor of Congress.

## Company - Store Prices Boosted by OPA Order

Roosevelt's Office of Price Administration in Washington has given the mine operators a further chance to milk millions of dollars from the coal miners.

It reversed the findings—kept secret for more than a year—of its regional office in Cleveland and reclassified from Price Group 3 to Group 1 the company stores operated by two of the richest coal corporations, Koppers Company and Island Creek.

These company stores, which have rooked the miners endlessly, are now permitted to charge the highest prices and maintain the largest profit margin permitted under OPA regulations.

Most of the coal-company stores, where the miners are compelled to purchase their necessities, long ago instituted the change illegally. Now they are being "forgiven" these past offenses and permitted to continue them "legally."

As the February 1 United Mine Workers Journal pointed out: "It means higher prices at a time when coal company earnings are the largest of any period in the last 25 years, all at the expense of the coal miners and their families who are experiencing difficulty, after taxes and bond purchases, in making both ends meet, and who are forced to depend for practically all the necessities of life on coal-company stores... Millions of dollars yearly will be added to the food bills of coal-mining families by this one act of the OPA—the agency which is supposed to 'hold the line' on the cost of living."

Now just watch the howl that goes up from the government agencies and coal operators as the miners demand a raise in pay when the contract is up for negotiation!

## Senate Hearings Reveal War Surplus Speculation

The very first whiff of war "surpluses" honey has brought the scavengers swarming. Last week the Senate War Investigating Committee was beginning to uncover some illuminating facts about the war properties "disposal" racket, in hearings on the activities of Surplus Liquidators, Inc., a private company established with the aid and blessing of the government's Defense Plants Corporation.

Surplus Liquidators received a contract for the auction of \$6,000,000 worth of "surpluses" by using references to Bernard Baruch and Herbert Bayard Swope, two of Roosevelt's closest Wall Street advisors. Part of the surpluses, it was charged, were disposed of in private deals. Some auctioned goods were later resold to other government agencies at phenomenal profits.

The most startling disclosure was that while certain items, particularly medical supplies, were being sold as surplus, the factories producing these goods were continuing to turn them out 24 hours a day. The production of "surplus" commodities—despite alleged labor "shortages"—has been bonanza to the profit-seeking war contractors.

Representative Arthur L. Miller, Nebraska physician, testified before the Senate committee that there are vast stocks of declared surpluses while the factories that made them "are still working 24 hours a day turning out the same material for the military." The government has for sale, he stated, 531,000 test tubes, 5,400,000 stopper corks, 470,000 medicine bottles and 3,000 five-gallon drums of soap, etc.

"I might add that even while one arm of the government is trying to get rid of 31,000,000 sterilized surgical dressings, another arm is trying to buy 47,000,000 new dressings. The government now has for sale 12,272 bottles of adrenalin. That is enough for 2,000,000 doses of a drug that is very seldom used. It has 29,000 bottles of 1000 tablets each of sulfanilamide, which the public has found very hard to get."

One of the surplus items he mentioned was 34,498,000 cathartic pills, enough to ruin three times over the entire personnel of the armed forces. "What gets me is that one drug company has produced an 18-month supply of its particular pill, yet it is being urged to work night and day producing more."

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

### West Indies

The first elections ever held in the British colonial possession of Jamaica have resulted in a decisive victory for the Labour Party. Out of 32 seats in the new House of Representatives, about 22 were secured by the Labour Party. A good half of the remainder was won by the Peoples National Party, which is the reformist Socialist party of Jamaica. Every person over the age of 21 had the right to vote.

The Labour Party is led by Alexander Bustamante, who first became famous in 1936-1937 when he led the workers of Jamaica in tumultuous demonstrations against the Crown government. He was imprisoned for many months after the outbreak of the war but was released after proclaiming his friendship for the governor. The sweeping success of his Labour Party in the elections makes Bustamante the leading political figure in Jamaica.

In the neighboring island of Barbados, elections have likewise been held under a greatly extended franchise with similar results. There 15 of the 24 members of the new House of Representatives belong to working class parties. Their