

What The Coal Miners Are Fighting To Win

SEE PAGE 5

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War Profiteers Seek To Smash Price Controls

By Henry Jordan

A big parade of war profiteers from all consumers industries and trades last week stormed the Price Control Bill hearings of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee to batter huge holes in the feeble defense lines of OPA price control.

For the first time since the beginning of the hearings, there was a full turnout of Senate committee men. They listened with bated breath and open sympathy to the tales of woe poured forth by representatives of the meat packing trust, dairy trust, tobacco trust, real estate interests, textile manufacturers, department stores, etc.

All told the same mournful story. Despite the greatest profits in their history—ranging as much as 1,000 per cent above the pre-war period—they were on their



"One Meat Ball"

last legs. They could not "survive" unless the government gave them a free hand to boost prices skyward and milk the consumers dry.

At the end of the hearings, Sen. Butler, reflecting the views of his colleagues, opined that "the Price Administrator is trying to limit profits—we heard the same complaint from everybody."

What the OPA officials had attempted in previous sessions—which most of the Senators did not bother to attend—was to

TROTSEYIST CANDIDATE BEGINS RADIO CAMPAIGN

We reprint below sections of the radio address made by Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, Sunday, March 11. This was the first of her four weekly campaign speeches scheduled for 8:45 P. M. over Station KFAC.

Everyone, the soldiers at the front, the workers and their families at home, is thinking and worrying about what will happen in the period after the war. Will the tremendously swollen population of Los Angeles, plus those who return from the war, be able to find jobs?

It has been estimated that nationally there will be an unemployed army of between twenty and thirty millions. The California State Reemployment Commission estimates as many as 300,000 unemployed in this state alone even under "the most favorable business conditions." It is generally recognized that we shall return to an economic crisis as devastating as the depression of the 30's, if not worse. The soldiers as well as the workers at home, and their families, face once more the terrible prospect of unemployment and insecurity.

We have been told that we are fighting for the Four Freedoms, enshrined in the Atlantic Charter. One of these freedoms is Freedom From Want. Yet the American workers are already being told that they must again face the most terrible want of all—the want of a job and livelihood.

President Roosevelt talks about creating 60 million jobs after the war, but Big Business, which controls the stock market, knows that the end of the war will mean production cutbacks, contract cancellations—in other words, idle plants and unemployment. That is why the stock market drops each time the end of the war seems to be in sight. The bosses know what is in store. The workers must not be deceived either.

The Shadow of Post-War Unemployment

The shadow of post-war unemployment falls even more darkly over the large Negro working-class population. The Negroes are always the last to be hired and the first to be fired. Even in the midst of a war production boom they are given the most menial, poorly paid jobs. In general, they are discriminated against because of their color. Even in the armed forces they are Jim Crowed. The Negro people most of all must join in the struggle for Socialism.

Hand in hand with economic distress, capitalism also holds in prospect a political tyranny which it needs to secure itself from the



MYRA TANNER WEISS
Trotskyist Candidate for
Mayor of Los Angeles

Mass Resistance To Hitler Regime Reported Growing Inside Germany

Detroit Strikers Fight Mass Firing Of Union Leaders

By Jerry Kirk

DETROIT, March 17.—A five-day strike at the Thompson Products plant here this week ended after the company agreed to rehire 20 of 26 fired union leaders and lift the suspensions of 126 other members of CIO United Automobile Workers Local 247, whose victimization provoked the strike.

The company further agreed to arbitrate the cases of the six not rehired, who include the union president, the financial secretary and four leading committeemen and shop stewards. These, however, were the main targets of the company's union-busting attack. It is obvious that the wholesale firings and suspensions were a deliberate device for securing a "compromise" that would still enable the company to behead the union's leadership.

The two main demands of the price-gouging lobbyists were for the limitation of the Price Control Bill to one year and the establishment of "product standards" in fixing price ceilings.

The profiteers want to end all price control as quickly as possible. They aim at a grand inflationary profits-steal with the approach of the end of military hostilities.

Right now, they want prices fixed not on the basis of total profits, but on a guaranteed "nominal" profit on every individual item sold, regardless of how enormous their total profits are. This is the "product standards" principle, which the OPA has already largely adopted.

Roosevelt has enforced the wage freeze. And now comes the price-squeeze. It's a swell war for the money bags.

UNION WRECKERS

The developments at Thompson Products are further evidence of the organized and concerted union-busting campaign of the auto corporations. The bosses are looking ahead to the termination of the war and huge production cutbacks and unemployment. Their strategy is to undermine the local leaderships now, intimidate the membership, and prepare for a final crushing open shop blow when the unions are sufficiently weakened by preliminary softening up and unemployment.

Following closely on the heels of the Thompson Products strike, the NLRB has come to the aid of the company by announcing a collective bargaining election, although the UAW already has a signed contract with the company. This maneuver was first employed by Montgomery Ward's Sewell Avery as a pretext for refusing to bargain with the genuine union of the workers.

The UAW's 200-man policy committee promptly instructed the union's negotiating committee to reject outright the operators' counter-offers and to continue negotiations on the basis of the original 18 demands made by the miners at the opening of the new contract parley. The UMW's wage increase demands, carefully designed to avoid conflict with the formal restrictions of the Little Steel Formula, are estimated to total over \$1.60 a day.

STRIKE VOTE

If the present contract terminates within two weeks, on March 31, without an extension of the old contract or a new agreement being reached, the over 425,000 soft coal miners may resort to their traditional policy of "no contract, no work." The NLRB,

The Open-Shopper's Lament



Powerful Minority Vote Cast Against UAW No-Strike Policy

By Art Preis

The militant auto workers have run up a smashing 35 per cent for scrapping the No-Strike Pledge in the CIO United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement workers referendum held during January and February, according to the first unofficial returns announced by Ben Garrison, referendum committee chairman.

Approximately 300,000 votes were sent in by mail, according to Garrison, out of 1,200,000 ballots distributed. Over 105,000 were for rescinding the pledge, while 185,000 voted for it, and some 6,000 ballots were voided.

Neither the corporation daily press nor the top CIO and UAW officials take the formal majority for the pledge as a victory for the no-strike policy. On the contrary they correctly view the tremendous minority vote rolled up for scrapping the pledge as the true indication of the trend of the ranks.

As *Business Week*, a leading mouthpiece for the corporations, commented, the UAW leaders are "embarrassed in making the results public. The vote was counted while more men were on strike in Detroit's auto plants than at

(Continued on page 4)

IN THE NEWS

No Silk Shirts

According to claims of a "labor shortage" by pointing to large shipyard layoffs in the Gulf area, Rep. Keefe offered as one "amusing proof" the following want-ad in the Mobile, Ala., Press Register: "Terminated—for sale, one pair of shoes. Going back to Mississippi just like I came, 7-8821."

All News Fit to Print?

Of the millions of words printed in the country's daily press about Sergeant Alex Drabnik, first American soldier to cross the Rhine, none reported as did the Toledo Union Journal that "he worked in a Toledo packing house before the war and was one of the founders and original members of the CIO in his plant, a loyal and conscientious worker in his union."

The Vultures Hover

"A well-founded report making the Washington rounds," states *The Progressive*, "is that United States policy in occupied Germany will be made by a Big Business group now in Paris, including Paul Mellon and David Bruce, son and son-in-law of the late Andrew J. Mellon; Junius and Henry Morgan, of the House of Morgan; Lester Armour, of the Chicago meat trust; Alfred du Pont, of the du Pont munitions and chemical trust."

Heil Harvard!

Harvard University was accused of anti-Jewish discrimination by Albert S. Coolidge, of its faculty, who testified before the Massachusetts state legislature that in selecting students for scholarships, "we know perfectly well that names ending in 'berg' or 'stein' have to be skipped over."

A gentlemen's agreement between the university and the employer sponsoring a scholarship has resulted in such discrimination."

Italy's "New Order"

The Chief of Public Security in Naples, Italy, explained to a PM correspondent that there are now four police forces there. They are "his own, who work as plain-clothesmen, the Carabinieri, who are the royal or state police, the Guardia di Finanza, who supposedly were formed to protect public property but in reality were little more than Fascist gangsters, and the Allied military police."

Strikes, Demonstrations Flare Up In Large Cities

Revolutionary Moods Spread As the German, Foreign Workers Unite in Common Struggle

By Harry Martell

The independent actions of the insurgent masses against the Hitler regime are beginning to multiply throughout Germany, according to reports which have managed to seep through the double wall of Nazi and Allied censorship. This would indicate that the German workers revolution—the great hope of the toiling masses and all the poor peoples of Europe—has started to raise its head in the bomb-blasted cities of the Reich.

CIO Leaders Vote To Continue Their Policy of Retreat

By C. Thomas

The recent meeting of the national executive board of the CIO took place at a time when unfolding events pose the most critical problems for the labor movement. The war against Germany is entering its final stages. The employers are girding for a showdown assault on the unions. The political agents of Big Business are pressing for additional repressive labor legislation. Wages remain frozen while the cost of living continues to soar. Reconversion to civilian production raises the specter of mass unemployment.

These are but a few of the problems that call for a bold and aggressive policy to defend the workers' standard of living against employer-government attack. Faced with these problems, the top leadership of the CIO proceeded to reaffirm its policy of unconditional surrender to the corporations and their political henchmen.

The CIO union heads voted to

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Packinghouse Units Call For "Holiday"

By Barbara Bruce

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 12—Six hundred packinghouse workers meeting in St. Paul last Sunday authorized their union officials to call a holiday in the packing plants if packers do not comply with union demands to live up to the 48-hour week and pay workers at the established union rates. If this is refused, packers will be asked to issue temporary releases to all packinghouse workers not employed full time or at the union scale for work in other industries without loss of seniority rights. In the event packers do not comply with these demands, the joint board is authorized to call a holiday in the plants with a mass demonstration at the offices of the War Manpower Commission.

Pointing out that the aim of the packing companies is to smash the unions and beat down the labor movement, speakers at the mass meeting declared that workers can no longer take a passive attitude, that rank and file unionists must fight in their own interests and not leave everything to union officials to negotiate.

One speaker recalled how employers made profits from both sides in World War I and declared that American packers are doing the same thing in this war in the case of Argentina. United States packers are selling their products to the Allied armies, while Argentine companies, owned and controlled by U. S. packing interests, sell their products to the Axis powers.

A committee of two representatives from each local union was set up to meet with the WMC this week to present the demands of the unions.

British Accused Of Assisting Fascist Roatta's Escape; Masses Indignant At Close Of Collaborationists' Trials

By Larissa Reed

With the chief criminal, General Mario Roatta, still at large, the trial of 15 fascist leaders in Rome was brought to an end on March 12. Roatta was sentenced to life imprisonment in his absence. Of the seven fascists in the courtroom three were found guilty and four were acquitted. Fulvio Suvich, ex-ambassador to the U. S. and Lieut. Gen. Francesco Giacconi, former viceroy of Albania, each got 24 year terms. Giacconi sought to escape judgment by the court on the plea that he had acted as representative of the House of Savoy in Albania. The only death penalty, was meted out to Filippo Anfuso, Mussolini's ambassador to Berlin, but he was not present in the courtroom and remains safe in the north.

The N. Y. Times correspondent points out that the few severe sentences were handed down largely because of the public indignation aroused by Roatta's "escape." These fascist leaders were not tried for their crimes against the Italian people as fascists but solely on the basis of acting against the interests of Italy's new foreign policy. The way has been left open for their sentences to be remanded once public indignation dies down.

The real attitude of the court toward the crimes of these fascists was shown by the verdict in the damage suit brought by the families of the Roselli brothers against Roatta and four others. These officials of Mussolini's regime had helped organize the murder of the two anti-fascist leaders of the Action Party. The court awarded only nominal damages of two lire — two cents — against each of the five accomplices in the assassination of the Rosellis. "The conclusion of the costly and tortuous trial is sure to disappoint many Italians," observes the N. Y. Times.

The anger of the Roman people against these farcical "purge" trials and especially over the flight of Roatta which flared up in the colossal mass demonstrations at the Quirinal Palace last week was again expressed the day after the trials closed. An attempt was made to assassinate Berliner, high commissioner for punishment of fascist crimes.

The Bonomi authorities have made no serious efforts to find and apprehend Roatta. Accusing the British of arranging the escape of Roatta from Rome, col-

If British officials can openly patronize so intimate an associate of Mussolini, it is not at all unlikely that they could also help arrange the escape and provide sanctuary for the fascist butcher Roatta.

Demonstration in Rome



Dramatic photograph of the huge working class demonstration at the Colosseum in Rome on March 6 in protest against the "escape" of the fascist General Roatta.

'MILITANT'S' TRAILBLAZERS SEND FIRST REPORT ON WORK

Eager to open up fresh fields in *The Militant* subscription campaign, two women campaigners have gone out into new territories to acquaint workers with our paper. The first stop of these *Militant* trail-blazers is in the Allentown and Bethlehem districts of Pennsylvania. We are publishing parts of their first reports to the Campaign Director. They have already obtained 108 subscriptions. In subsequent issues we will publish further

accounts of their experiences.

March 18 — "We have had the best results with steel workers partly due to the fact that nine out of ten of the men here are in steel, but also largely because of the appeal of Kovalevsky's column and V. Grey's Shop Talks on Socialism. The article on the Little Steel formula and the elections in steel in the March 3 *Militant* likewise has attracted and interested these steel workers.

"We ran into an obstacle at first when we presented *The Militant* simply as a paper for labor. Every household here already receives the union local paper—the press of the local labor council, etc. When we began to present *The Militant* as a fighting workers' paper with a class struggle program our score began to rise. Now by and large we are selling our paper for what it is—a class paper with a class line.

SCRUTINIZE PAPER

"The working men prick up their ears when we explain that *The Militant* characterized the WLB as a graveyard for union grievances from the start and that we opposed the No-Strike Pledge from the very beginning as a disarming of the working class. Many, while non-committal, scrutinize *The Militant* thoroughly and then—buy. Often we really have first to convince them that it is more than an information paper. Since most of the men have been in the mills for years—some for decades—they know their industry and their problems. They seem to want an answer to the general problems of labor.

"Last night we talked to a former UMW man—one of the few we've run into who are recently from the coal fields. He resisted until we'd convinced him that *The Militant* really talked out against the bosses. When we left he told us that what he wanted was a fighting paper for workers, and that he'd feel pretty soon if he'd been fooled again. You can imagine how satisfied this worker will be with *The Militant*. A few days ago two women whose men had likewise come in from the mines took *The Militant* as soon as we told them about its program. We have sold every former mine worker we've encountered.

"In Bethlehem three of our subscriptions went to colored workers. These three were the only Negroes we have met, and all of them are in steel. Several of the Bethlehem subs were taken by very young workers—likewise mainly in steel."

March 14—"From the results from the former UMW men we've come across here they'll surely

OPPOSITION TO NAZI RULE SPREADING IN GERMANY

(Continued from page 1)

tried to force the strikers back to work.

The most militant action occurred in the Atlas Aircraft motor factory in the North Berlin suburb of Reinickendorf. Shaw reports that the workers there had long been dissatisfied with the food provided at the factory canteen and their disillusionment over the scorching of the peace rumors goaded them into action. Members of the workers' delegation that complained to the plant management about the food were arrested by the Gestapo just as a new shift was going to work. The workers of the new shift stoned the Gestapo agents and then refused to work.

Opposition to Hitler has grown so strong in Munich that the local gauleiter has warned Nazi officers to avoid circulating in the workers sections of the city because the police are no longer able to guarantee their safety. Munich was the birthplace of the Nazi movement.

The Dachau concentration camp, one of the largest prisons for revolutionary and communist workers, has become a center of struggle against the Nazi regime.

Huge anti-war strikes have broken out in Bremen. Beginning in the munitions industry on the outskirts of the city, the strikes quickly spread to the shipyards and other industries in the city proper. These were militant, revolutionary demonstrations where the strikers paraded up and down Bremen's streets shouting "Down with the war! Down with Hitler! Down with the Nazis!"

When SS men attempted to arrest the woman her husband attacked them with a crowbar. An angry crowd, shouting curses at the Nazis, accompanied the man and his wife to SS headquarters.

A Swiss paper estimates that 80-90 percent of the Germans are against the war and openly denounce the Nazi leaders. The recurrent threat is heard:

"When the time comes we alone know who we have to shoot."

GESTAPO TERROR

Himmler must employ the most naked, most brutal methods of repression to keep the Nazi regime from crumbling completely. Howard K. Smith, broadcasting from conquered German territory over the Columbia network, said:

"Gestapo headquarters and prisons plus their inmates have fallen into our hands. In the past year the inmates tell us these prisons have been overflowing with German traitors. Cells made for two prisoners have been packed with up to 21 prisoners."

The Swedish reporter says the striking demonstrators "were shouting in I don't know how many different languages. It was all one roar."

In Brunswick — where 1,000,000 foreign workers of 32 different nationalities are employed — the workers of the giant Hermann Goering works refused to

Reaction of Soldiers To Hate-Propaganda

American soldiers, bombarded with hate-propaganda picturing all Germans as inhuman beasts, are subject to a \$65 fine for "fraternizing" with civilians. An American sergeant, in one of the first units to enter Cologne, describes the true reaction of most servicemen to this campaign of hate.

"They (the civilians) were mostly children and old people — just sort of helpless and glad they were not being killed. It's hard to keep that icy front when people act friendly; also we Americans used to have some respect for old folks."

"We are supposed to hate people — be very tough customers. But as soon as the fighting is over it works just the other way — we begin to feel sorry for them. Non-fraternization works if somebody is there with a club, but right at the front where a soldier is risking death you cannot scare him with a \$65 fine."

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"Buy *The Militant*. What gems they are. We can sell them subs but we have to prove it's no sissy paper first! They want to fight, these boys — and their wives are right along side with their fists clenched. They do have a warm smile for us, though, and it is heartening."

"One of our new friends on whom we called back because she was so darned nice, sent us to her neighbor — also a former miner — for a sub. We got it and were agreeably surprised to find a well-read worker acquainted with Trotsky's history — and wise to the role of the Stalinists!"

"Another Greek woman who'd asked us to come back and with whom we'd left a sample *Militant*, subscribed and complained that her husband and kids had monopolized the paper and she hadn't had a single chance to see it."

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE OF POLAND

By M. Morrison

Many people write and speak as if they were taken by surprise by the decision of the Big Three, at the Yalta conference, with reference to Poland. For many months previous to the Yalta verdict all indications were that Churchill and Roosevelt had decided to yield to Stalin. The three lords sitting in state at the seaside resort situated on the shores of the Black Sea found no difficulty in granting that part of the earth known as Poland to one of them. The people of Poland were transferred to a new master.

Nominally Stalin was made a gift only of that part of Poland east of the Curzon line. In reality, however, he also gets all of Poland west of that line plus whatever German territory the three rulers will decide later to attach to Poland. Only naive people or those who have an axe to grind will accept as good coin the promise that "free and unfettered elections" will be held in that part of Poland which, according to Stalin's assurance, will be permitted to exist in freedom and independence.

The Provisional Government created by Stalin will be enlarged to include "democratic leaders" from within Poland and from abroad but it can be taken for granted that only leaders willing to play ball with Stalin will be acceptable to him. At any rate a majority of the contemplated Provisional Government of National Unity will be under Kremelin control and with such a government in power only the fatuous will expect a free election.

THE GREAT LIQUIDATOR

Charges have been made by the Polish Government-in-Exile with the help of Stalin's GPU that the Polish puppets are liquidating all political opponents of the Stalinist regime. Through deportations, transfer of populations, and confinement in concentration camps, Stalin is making certain that any elections held will give his puppets a safe majority. We need not have too much confidence in the veracity of the Polish Government-in-Exile to believe that Stalin will not hesitate to use all measures of chicanery and violence to rid himself of political opponents, especially of revolutionary Marxists. His activities in the last twenty years testify to the truth of such a charge.

Several factors explain the important concessions made to Stalin by the representatives of the imperialist democracies. It may be argued that there was nothing else that they could do. They surely would not go to war against the Soviet Union for the purpose of retaining the prewar Polish frontiers. The English and American masses could not easily be cajoled into supporting such a war. The issue is too remote; they have already suffered too much. Stalin's prestige as a result of the victories of the Red Army is too great. And it is difficult to sell the masses the idea that the Polish Government-in-Exile represents justice, truth, freedom and democracy.

All this is true but it does not explain why Churchill and Roosevelt have given in so easily and in addition go out of their way to defend their action as just. The important factor is the conviction on the part of the representatives of imperialism that Stalin's help is essential to suppress any revolutionary outbreaks on the part of the masses in the different countries of Europe. The Stalinist parties constitute a very important part of the working-class movement all over Europe. Their role as a brake upon the revolutionary activity of the masses is clearly understood by the imperialists.

One can say that in Greece the Stalinists led the EAM in its struggle against Papandreou and the British masters. But just because of that fact and just because the Stalinists betrayed that struggle, Churchill and Roosevelt know what a valuable support they can be for keeping the rule of the imperialists in Europe safe from the masses.

And not only do the imperialists depend upon Stalin's control of the Communist parties but

HEAR THE RADIO TALKS OF

MYRA TANNER WEISS

Trottsky candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles in a series of four broadcasts discussing the issues in the municipal election campaign.

Sunday night, 8:45 P. M.

Station

KFAC

March 25

April 1

1330 kc.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Belgium The Social-Democratic Premier of Belgium, Achille van Acker, has run into a stone wall of capitalist opposition in his attempt to solve the country's critical food situation. A bill to give the Premier special powers to padlock black market establishments was blocked by the reactionary Roman Catholic Party in the Senate. Besides storming and raging van Acker can conceive of no other move than to return to Parliament with another bill.

The Roman Catholic Party, in the words of a correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, "represents the thinking of Belgium's leading industrialists and these are evidently fearful that the country's economic system will be altered to their detriment by collective or socializing measures."

To protect their profits and rights of exploitation the capitalists are ready to bring even greater famine to the country. "With unrest persisting," says the Monitor reporter, "signs point to some degree of showdown between the Roman Catholics and Left elements on how to restore order."

Ecuador

The stormy movement to oust the dictators in many South American countries found expression in Ecuador when on March 10th an angry crowd besieged a session of the National Assembly in Quito.

When the Assembly decided to postpone action on a political amnesty bill it had been debating, the crowd in the galleries started a demonstration. The galleries were cleared but the crowd waited outside for the legislators to emerge. Only by a ruse did the members of the Assembly finally sneak out of the building unharmed.

Egypt

The race for oil quickens its pace in the Middle East. As a result of Roosevelt's post-Yalta "prospecting" in the company of the kings of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, American imperialism is staking its claims in territory formerly reserved for England.

Representatives of Standard Oil now sit on the Board of Directors of the new "Mine and Petroleum Association of Egypt," created under the supervision of the government. Subsidiaries of Standard Oil are drilling for oil in Egyptian territory in competition with British firms. An American Vice-President of the Mine and Petroleum Association, Bernard Holman, is professor of Mineralogy and Metallurgy in the newly created Mining Department of the Fuad El Awal University in Cairo.

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Questions

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Discussion

Refreshments

Free Admission

Friday, March 30, 8 p. m.

"PROBLEMS OF THE RETURNING VETERANS"
What Will Be the Future of American Youth?
Speaker: ABBEY MARTIN

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Trotskyist Candidate Begins Radio Talks

(Continued from page 1)

angry indignation of a people determined not to be ground into poverty.

Congress is discussing the so-called National Service Act, more correctly termed slave labor legislation, in the attempt to freeze workers to jobs, and force them into jobs, regardless of the conditions of work and rates of pay. Supposedly, this freedom-destroying legislation is needed because of a shortage of labor. Yet many workers in Los Angeles can testify to continuing lay-offs in local war industries. Already war contracts are being cut to prepare for reconversion.

No, the proposed slave-labor law is an attempt to gain greater control over the workers and force them into jobs... Take note: They want to conscript labor for private enterprise which is run for the profits of individual bosses. They do not even talk of conscripting capital. All repressive measures are designed for the workers.

You understand all this. The question remains: "what is to be done?"

Labor Must Create Its Own Party

In order to defend itself, labor must break from the two boss parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and organize an independent labor party based on the trade unions. Organized labor is about 14 million strong. Allied with the 13 million Negroes in America who have suffered the worst kind of persecution, discrimination

BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES, March 18. — The election rally held at Watts tonight rose to its feet as the broadcast of Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party Candidate for Mayor, opened with the playing of the "Internationale." Comrade Weiss joined the rally at the conclusion of her broadcast. Two Negro members of the campaign committed condemned capitalist politicians and called for the election of a Trotskyist mayor as the only solution to the problems facing the minorities. J. Hall discussed the "Zoot Suit Riots" and R. Jones the questions of segregation, housing and zoning laws for the colored people. Other speakers attacked the anti-working class program of Roosevelt and called upon the workers to build an Independent Labor Party. The campaign collection totaled \$60.

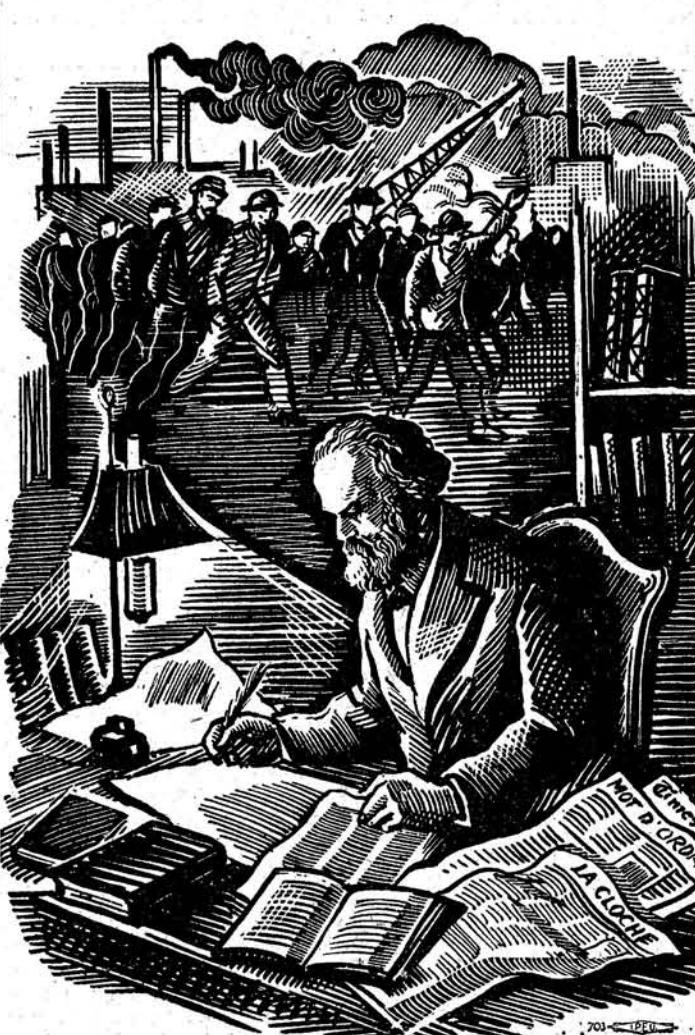
even being practiced by the federal government—and other racial and national minorities, and defending the interests of the poor farmers and agricultural workers, labor can rally the vast majority of the American people and form a Workers' and Farmers' Government, and organize production on a planned scientific basis.

Only such a program can possibly remove the recurring horror of war, fascism, and economic depressions. Only Socialism will bring peace and plenty to humanity and employ science and technology for the preservation of life rather than its destruction.

Now some of you might ask—what has all this to do with a mayoralty campaign? Let me explain, Los Angeles cannot solve its problems alone. No one city can do that. Local problems are simply local manifestations of much larger national and international problems. The same struggle we conduct here is being fought throughout the nation and throughout the world.

Most of my opponents say that jobs must be provided for the millions of prospective unemployed in the period of reconversion. But how do they propose to do this? Some expect to guard against a new economic catastrophe by attracting the rich with their money to Los Angeles. Another, a little more serious, proposal: public works, another WPA. But none can see how even the present production facilities can be utilized, for these are owned by private business and will be shut down when profits can no longer be made.

Marx Hailed Paris Commune



This drawing of the Paris Commune symbolizes the deep interest which Karl Marx had in this great struggle of the working class. Pictured at his desk, he sent advice and aid from London to the Parisian workers "storming the heavens"—building the first workers' state.

They do not dare propose to open these idle factories and run them under workers' control. So they begin with the premise that these great factories must be locked up while millions are left to starve.

Let Us Fight for a Socialist Program

Against the dark and threatening prospects held out by capitalism, my party, the Socialist Workers Party, offers the broad promise of socialism—a real solution to the gangrenous social ills that beset mankind.

I invite you, the workers of Los Angeles, to join with me and my party in the fight for a better world. If elected mayor, I shall strive to advance every one of your most vital interests. Let us fight together to preserve our democratic rights against the forces of reaction! Let us fight for a Socialist program which will keep the factories open so that we and our families, the returning veterans, and the generation that comes after us, may live as human beings are entitled to live. Abolish poverty and war! Fight for a Socialist world! Don't waste your votes on capitalist politicians! Vote Socialist!

PARIS COMMUNE: FIRST WORKERS GOVERNMENT

By Ruth Johnson

Seventy-four years ago, on March 18, 1871, the people of Paris established the first workers' state in history—the immortal Paris Commune. After seventy-one days of magnificent achievement, the Commune lay in ruins, crushed by the armies of the capitalist counter-revolution, and on its bones was built the Third Republic of France.

But the Commune did not die.

Its revolutionary traditions continue to inspire the French workers to this very day.

In 1871 the victorious armies of Bismarck were routing the armies of French capitalism. The French government, the terrified capitalists and their followers fled from Paris to the safety of Versailles. Only the brave Parisian masses stood their ground. Without armed troops, without tested political parties, they proclaimed their own government, the Paris Commune—against both the regime at Versailles and the mighty Prussian enemy.

Hastily a new government was formed at Versailles with Thiers at its head. He signed a truce with Bismarck. Both capitalist governments—French and German—united by their common fear of the insurgent working class, cooperated to crush the Commune. Bismarck released thousands of prisoners of war to swell the ranks of the French army besieging the workers' government in Paris.

Then a new government was formed at Versailles with Thiers at its head. He signed a truce with Bismarck. Both capitalist governments—French and German—united by their common fear of the insurgent working class, cooperated to crush the Commune. Bismarck released thousands of prisoners of war to swell the ranks of the French army besieging the workers' government in Paris.

COMMUNE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Surrounded by enemies, the Commune, fighting for its very existence, nevertheless set a record of achievements which has become a treasured heritage of the working class. Its councils, elected by each of the arrondissements (districts) of Paris, showed in every action their proletarian character. One of their first decrees, for instance, abolished night work in bakeries; a second abolished the system of fines by which workers had been penalized by the bosses.

The Commune replaced the standing professional army, which had always been used as a weapon of capitalist oppression, by the universal arming of the people. The Communards in arms undertook the defense of revolutionary Paris. In the tumultuous events of Europe today, the insurgent masses, following the lessons of 1871, are also demanding the right to possess and retain their arms in the fight against all the enemies of the people.

The Commune issued a decree turning over to the control of the workers all factories abandoned or closed by their owners. In the Paris insurrection of August 1848, the French workers, inspired by the slogans of the Trotskyists, demanded and in some places carried out the expropriation of the factories owned by collaborationists who fled with the Nazi armies, and started to operate them under the control of workers' councils.

HERALDS NEW SOCIETY

But most important of all, the Commune established a new kind of governing body which combined both executive and legislative functions. The members of the Commune were elected by universal suffrage and served at working men's wages. This was the pattern upon which the Soviets were built during the Russian Revolution of 1905 and perfected during the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. This was the greatest gift of the Commune to the working class.

Karl Marx, who followed with passionate interest every development of the Commune, sent advice and aid through the Parisian members of the First International. "Working men's Paris, with its Commune," he wrote, "will be forever celebrated as the glorious harbinger of a new society." He described the Commune as "the political form at last discovered under which to work out the economic emancipation of labor."

The Commune, however, proved to be historically premature. In 1871 the French working class, still engaged in handicraft or working in small factories, lacked the means, the forces and the leadership to extend and fortify their revolution and build a socialist society. The Commune

went down in a massacre which forever exposed the brutality of capitalism toward the workers who strive for their liberation.

30,000 Parisian men and women workers were butchered and 45,000 imprisoned or exiled in the bloodthirsty revenge taken by the counter-revolutionary forces of Thiers.

The Commune will yet be reborn through the coming struggles of the French workers who today are seeking the revolutionary road to freedom and peace. In the triumph of the Soviet power and the creation of a Socialist France and a Socialist Europe, the Commune will find its historic vindication.

Billionaires Club Membership Up With War Profits

Forty-one giant corporations are now in the billion dollar class and the biggest of them take in more money each year and employ more workers than the largest states. These facts on the growing concentration of wealth in the hands of a few colossal aggregations of finance capital were inserted in the Congressional Record of Feb.

BILLIONAIRES' CLUB

12 by Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, head of the Senate Monopoly Committee.

The war-boom and lush government contracts have swollen the resources of these Big Business companies and extended their hold upon the aggregate wealth of the nation. "During the war the Federal Government, through the Defense Plant Corporation, through the RFC and otherwise, has expended billions of dollars in the construction of plants which are operated by some of these great companies," remarks O'Mahoney.

But these same Capitalists lock and bolt the factory door when wars are over. And long, long lines of working people form every day trying their best to get in the dirty place and do the work they hate. That's the kind of work that's done under Capitalism. That's the kind of production. But that's the CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

Under OUR system, things are going to be different. We're going to be working for ourselves then, not for Park Avenue poodles. We'll want to work, and like to work. Not as sweat slaves for a few lousy bucks, but as people working for other working people instead of for profits. Making the things our wives and children want—and making them in far greater amounts than the fattest capitalists ever dreamed of.

The capitalists, and the capitalist-minded scissorbills, may think we'll get dopey and lazy with so much prosperity. They may think that when we can eat as much as we want, we'll just keep on eating like pigs. And that without any owners over us, we'll bust—that we'll lose all sense of responsibility and forget about making the food that we so hoggishly eat. In other words, they judge US by THEMSELVES.

I don't know how it is with other workers. But I think I'll take my chances of possibly busting under Socialism against sure starvation under Capitalism.



By V. Grey

Scissorbills Sam (the bosses' man) has the bright idea that Socialism won't work because the workingman and woman will have too much money. They won't come to work half the time, he says.

Well, in the first place, I don't see why that will be the acid test for the success of Socialism anyhow. If a fellow can look out the window some fine spring day, see the sun come up real bright for the first time in months, and decide to go fishing instead of going to work—why I think that's swell!

Especially if he can afford it, and under Socialism he CAN afford it.

But Scissorbills Sam and every other company man in the world over hold up their hands in horror when you say a thing like that. "What would become of production?" they say. "Suppose everybody did that? It would be a fine state of affairs, wouldn't it?"—and so on. You know, just like the foreman talks when he sees you eating sandwich at your machine.

They think production will go to hell under Socialism. They think everybody will take it so easy nothing will get done. They think we'll all wind up combing the beach or sitting on a park bench starving until we keel over and come back to our senses.

Naturally, the capitalist, the foreman, and their scissorbills stooges believe that people won't work if they are FREE. All the bosses can see is a society where everyone—except themselves—is a slave. Take the chains off a slave, they figure, and he'll run away.

They understand so well how hateful it is to work under their system that they see it takes heavy chains indeed to keep their wage-slaves humble. Why, if the worker had a little independence, they reason—a little extra dough, and reasonable freedom from worry about future unemployment, he'd take off every day in the week!

So keep him poor! Keep him down! And you'll squeeze the work out of him. And they're partly right, too, because a slave isn't the same as a free man. A slave works because he has to—because the master has the upper hand.

But they are only partly right. The funny part of it is that even under this wage-slave system, people don't always behave according to slave etiquette. (There is more than one way to act when you get whipped.)

For instance the people who take off the most are the sweepers. Their work is the lowest paid and the most miserable. A couple of the old boys go off on a tool for two days after payday, regular as clock work. They work the other four days counting the hours until they get their twenty odd dollars, and spend half of it for forgetfulness.

The people that are by far the steadiest are the tool-room workers. Their work is the highest paid and the most interesting. For one thing they hate to lose twelve dollars—or rather eighteen with time and a half—by taking off. And not only that. You can see when they fold up the blueprint for the day that some of them are still thinking of the thing they are making. In that sense, they even work overtime for nothing.

Even when the work is not so interesting, men are much more cheerful doing it if they are decently paid. Bricklayers, for instance, riveters and iron workers, put in a tough day, but they don't look at it as a grind nearly as much as they would at lower pay.

HOW IT WILL BE UNDER SOCIALISM

Under Socialism EVERY job will be decently paid. And jobs will be interesting, even aside from the pay. Hours will be shorter. Instead of taking you at least 48 hours a week to make a living, you'll do it in 30, 24 and less. You'll plan things, turn wheels, and push buttons instead of getting ruptured. And you'll look forward after your regular three or four days off, to your turn at the wheel—just like you look forward to a day's fishing now.

There won't be any question about production falling down because of people not working. That only happens in Capitalist depressions when millions are begging for work, and can't get it. Today when there is supposed to be so much "absenteeism" the workers have outstripped all production records. The system of the Capitalists works pretty well—between depressions. The Capitalists "give" everybody work for a little while making guns to kill everybody else.

But these same Capitalists lock and bolt the factory door when wars are over. And long, long lines of working people form every day trying their best to get in the dirty place and do the work they hate. That's the kind of work that's done under Capitalism. That's the kind of production. But that's the CAPITALIST SYSTEM.

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NEW YORK

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Prizes for 5 Most Original Costumes

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 8 p. m. to Midnight

Costume Parade - Entertainment - Dancing

Refreshments

Judges:

GRACE CARLSON OSCAR SHOENFELD
FARRELL DOBBS MORRIS STEIN
LAURA GRAY RAY ADAMS
116 University Place - (Cor. 13th St. bet. 5th & B'way)

Admission: 75¢ in costume—\$1 without costume

Auspices: Socialist Workers Party, Local N. Y.

First on the list of the railroads and tenth in general standing was Pennsylvania Railroad Co. with \$2,811,694,778. Standard Oil Co. (N. J.) led the industrialists and was twelfth on the list with resources of \$2,237,808,847. General Motors Corporation ran thirteenth on \$2,236,372,067, and National City Bank of New York ranked fifth with \$4,410,418,000.

"First on the list of the railroads and tenth in general standing was Pennsylvania Railroad Co. with \$2,811,694,778. Standard Oil Co. (N. J.) led the industrialists and was twelfth on the list with resources of \$2,237,808,847. General Motors Corporation ran thirteenth on \$2,236,372,067, and United States Steel ranked fourteenth on \$2,106,062,460."

The three new members who joined the "Billion-Dollar Club" during 1943 were Aetna Life Affiliated Companies, Socony-Vacuum Oil Co., and the Ford Motor Co.

Speaker: C. THOMAS, Associate Editor of 'The Militant'

"FIGHT AGAINST FORCED LABOR"

Admission 25 Cents

Full Discussion Refreshments

Progressive Workers School 423 Springfield Ave.

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The NEGRO STRUGGLE

by CHARLES JACKSON

Browder Shows His Colors

The fact that the American "Communists" have forsaken the struggle for Negro equality since degenerating into the mere agents of the Stalin bureaucracy in Russia is daily becoming more clear to the advanced Negro militants in this country. Although the Trotskyists have been pointing to this fact for some time, the real job of exposing the present role of these so-called "Communists" is being done by the Stalinists themselves.

Not only the leading Negro "communists" such as Councilman Ben Davis and former professor Doxey Wilkerson have made it clear that they are discouraging any militant struggle for Negro rights but now also the official spokesman, Earl Browder, has publicly stated in the March 4th issue of the Sunday Worker that "It has been the studied policy of American Communists to refrain from public discussion" of the issue of Jimcrowism in the Army.

In his article discussing the new policy of the Army to commission "Communists" he deals with the Negro question and makes it clear that the "Communists" intend to ignore the reactionary Army policy of Jim Crow in the Negro soldiers.

He states (believe it or not) that they are "convinced" that the Army leadership is "soundly democratic" and that "it would move to modify and finally abolish... Jimcrowism" without any "organized pressure." He further says that the Stalinists "are today happy indeed" that "progress is being recorded." According to Browder, his "judgement, (on the value of the silent policy) has been confirmed." In other words, by not fighting back against the reactionary policy of the Army brass hats — wonder of wonders — a great victory has been gained.

JIM CROW REMAINS

Now since every Negro knows that during four years of this imperialist war the repulsive Jim Crow policy of the Army has been neither "modified" nor "abolished," it is obvious from Browder's statement that he is either entirely ignorant of the facts or else is making a traitorous attempt to fool the Negro masses and lull them into submission to the Army's official segregation policy.

Since the hell which the Negro inductees has experienced both in Southern training camps and abroad is common knowledge, we can only assume that the Stalinists are making an official attempt to betray the Negro people. They aim to discourage them from fighting for their rights in order to prevent any interference with the plans of the imperialist war lords to conquer and exploit the peoples of Europe, Africa and Asia.

Although a few more openings were made as political gestures previous to the national elections,

the general condition of the Negro in the armed forces has not become better but worse. The Jim Crow policy in the Army was made public in the case of the 73 soldiers sentenced for mutiny in Oahu, in the Navy by the 50 Negro sailors sentenced from the West Coast, and in the Seabees by the recent hunger strike of 1000 Negroes in protest against the open policy of discrimination and oppression.

Furthermore, every Negro who has trained in the South knows at first hand of the intolerable conditions. Get a load of this recent letter to the editor of the Michigan Chronicle.

JUST ONE CASE

"On Saturday evening, Feb. 3, 1945, a Detroit soldier, Pvt. Norman Taylor of 6390 30th St., was on his way home on pass. At Attalla, Ala., where he boarded the train, there was a surplus of whites also traveling so that they overflowed into the Jim Crow coach. The Negroes and the above soldier were ordered to move back. There was no place to go except the over-crowded Negro smoker and the mens' rest room.

"The soldier... refused to move. Military police were called who ordered the soldier out with their guns. Seven soldiers, including Private Taylor, and two civilian women rode to Chattanooga, Tenn. in the mens' rest room.

"Must we wait and let our soldiers return home... from fighting for 'democracy' to encounter again the cruel and vicious practice of Jim Crow travel?"

Signed: Mrs. Mayola Taylor.

No, the facts are against Browder's perfidious claim that a "policy of silence" will gain concessions from the Army brass hats.

Their anti-Negro acts must be fought against NOW by the Negro people as well as by the trade union movement which is the basic target of these armed bodyguards of the American capitalist attempt to betray the Negro people.

They aim to discourage them from fighting for their rights in order to prevent any interference with the plans of the imperialist war lords to conquer and exploit the peoples of Europe, Africa and Asia.

Although a few more openings were made as political gestures previous to the national elections,

they are getting "hep" to the bureaucratic maneuvers of Browder and his gang. They are lining up in ever increasing numbers behind the banner of Trotskyism and the program of the Socialist Workers Party — the real communism of today.

Pioneer Paragraphs

FATE OF THE SOVIET UNION LINKED TO WORLD REVOLUTION

The program of Bolshevism started with the point of view that the fate of the October Revolution is inseparable from the fate of the international proletarian revolution with a program of Soviet national reforms. Disorienting and enfeebling the world proletariat by its policies, which are a mixture of opportunism and adventurism, the Communist International thereby likewise undermines the fundamental interests of the USSR. We are for the USSR, but against the usurping bureaucracy and its blind instrument, the Communist International.

(From "Whither France," by Leon Trotsky, pp. 105-106. Pioneer Publishers, 1936; 160 pp., cloth \$1, paper 75 cents. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.)

The program of the Communist International means in practice: the interests of the proletarian revolution in France can and ought to be sacrificed to the interests of the USSR (more strictly, to the interests of the diplomatic deals of the Soviet bureaucracy). The program of Lenin warns: Soviet bureaucracy is the worst enemy of socialism; bureaucracy, which reflects the pressure of bourgeois forces and tendencies, can lead to a revival of the bourgeoisie; the success of the struggle against the scourge of bureaucracy can be assured only by the victory of the European and the world proletariat.

Contrary to this, the present program of the Communist International States: socialism can be built independently of the successes or defeats of the world proletarian movement, under the guidance of the infallible and all-powerful Soviet bureaucracy; anything directed against the infallibility of the bureaucracy is counter-revolutionary and should be exterminated.

In practice, indeed, the Stalin-

What Miners Are Fighting To Win

By Evelyn Atwood

Half a million coal miners are compelled again to renew their battle against the greedy mine owners. The miners toil in grime and sweat for long hours in the dark, dangerous caverns below the earth's surface, but their wages constantly lag behind the cost of living as the profiteering company stores bleed them white. They are denied safety equipment and measures against needless mine disasters which every year kill over a thousand of them and cripple thousands more. They require a sufficient breathing spell—a vacation—so their exhausted bodies can recuperate from backbreaking, unhealthy toil.

These mine workers in 1944 dug out of the pits six hundred and eighty five million tons of coal, an all-time record. Their sweat and blood, their limbs and lives are in every lump of coal which has helped turn the wheels of American industry and made millionaires into billionaires during this war. But these miners, these producers of wealth for others, are self-respecting, fighting union men — and they are demanding the right for themselves and their families to live in decency, comfort and health.

The mine bosses bask in Florida sunshine and listen to the tinkling music of mounting profits. But when those whose labor keeps the mine owners in useless luxury demand a tiny share more of the enormous wealth they are creating, what bellows of rage are let loose by the profit-swollen parasites!

With the aid of their political agents, the operators move ruthlessly to crush the workers whom they consider nothing but "aggressive" slaves.

SERVE MINE OWNERS

The mine owners, who regard profits as everything and workers as nothing, once more have summoned their flunkies and set all their well-oiled machinery into motion against the mine workers. They have, first of all, their capitalist government and all of its agencies of deceit and force. Thus, even before the present mine contract negotiations began, Secretary of Interior Ickes threatened to indict all the officials of the United Mine Workers Union under the vicious Smith-Connally anti-strike law.

Backing up the boss government is the boss press, pouring out a stream of lies and slanders to poison the minds of the people against the miners. The New York Times, mouthpiece of the same House of Morgan which controls many coal mines, rages that the miners are bringing about an "acute coal shortage... in wartime." It does not mention that the miners dug more coal than ever before in history or that the mine owners made more profits than ever before.

The Times demands even more stringent laws than the Smith-Connally Act to throttle and crush the miners. It approves the cynical statement of the coal operators that through their demands the miners are "encroaching directly upon the function of government by usurping the problems of social welfare." Who else but the miners can safeguard their own social welfare? The coal owners and their government can bring them only greater poverty and despair.

Even the movies have been pressed into service to give the public false impressions about the miners' living conditions. Power Unlimited, an RKO "educational" film, has just been released to 8,000 theaters, throughout the country. The United Mine Workers Journal criticizes "the impression it gives that all is lovely and picturesque in a great number of mining communities owned by coal operators. Shots of a modern beauty parlor, a well-stocked and well-kept company store and a slightly ultra swimming pool, along with the narrator's explanation that these are the means by which solicitous operators endeavor to keep their



HE: "Imagine those miners asking for more money while WE'RE fighting this war!"

CIO Leaders Vote To Continue Their Policy of Retreat

(Continued from page 1)

smashed the system of chattel slavery.

After the Civil War, fighting men like the miners struggled for decades against the bosses to keep what gains they made and to win more gains for the working class. Many were jailed and many were killed before the workers won the right to organize into unions; before they won first the 10-hour day and then the 8-hour day — and the 7-hour day in the mines.

WINCHELL'S DIRTY WORK

The radio, that powerful instrument for shaping public opinion, keeps blasting away at the miners. Foremost among the hired commentators is Walter Winchell, who turns for a moment from his scandal-mongering to spit his venom upon the miners. This professional key-hole peeper earns \$5,000 a week now and has just been offered a \$10,000 a week contract by the Ever-sharp Pencil Co. He can well afford to sneer at the miners who ask for a few cents more a day.

The capitalists coined millions of dollars of profit out of the labor of children before men like the fighting miners forced the enactment of laws to make child labor illegal.

POWERFUL FORCES ARE LINED UP AGAINST THE MINERS

against the miners. But half a million united men are a mighty force too. The miners have the power of their numbers, they have a just cause, they have the will to struggle. Given the support of the whole labor movement, they can break the stranglehold of the bloodsucking profiteers and win their right to a decent life.

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Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalesky

"Pete," I said, "come on home."

It was late at night. The workers on the graveyard shift were sweating on the furnaces and straining in the mills. Some laggards from the shift before were still under the showers or crouched in a circle in the locker room intently watching the spinning of a pair of large transparent green dice. Others were already at home sprawled wearily on kitchen chairs getting a snack before climbing into bed. I had stopped at Emil's place for a couple of beers with some of the gang. And that's where I found Pete Nolan.

Pete was leaning heavily on the bar, doing his best to become drunk. There were circles under his eyes, and his hand was a little unsteady, for Pete had been doing this all week long. He was drinking double shots.

"Pete," I repeated.

Nolan turned to look at me. He turned ponderously and deliberately as though he were aiming a large gun, swinging it into place to fire. There was a glint of meanness in his eyes, but underneath it there was a look of hurt, of pain and bewilderment, that threw up a dyke of meanness so that the hurt wouldn't flow out into the world and tell everyone that Pete Nolan had troubles that he couldn't take.

Pete glared. "What the hell you talking about. I haven't got any home."

"I know, Pete, but come on out anyhow."

Maybe he was sick of drinking, or maybe he really wanted to talk. Anyhow, he finally came along, telling me his troubles as we walked down the street.

It was an old story that Pete told me. It's been told before in all languages, and it will be told and re-told many more times, I'm afraid.

Pete told me what a swell little wife Lois was. He told me with whiskey tears in his eyes how crazy he was about her.

"Before we were married," he said, "we used to plan how it would be. We were going to save up and maybe get a little place of our own. I wasn't going to work in that damn steel mill all the rest of my life. Some day we thought we could get away from here, maybe I'd open up a little garage, or we thought maybe we'd get a little farm or something. You know, some place where we could have something of our own and a little security."

But that was all finished. Pete was now blubbering quite openly from the double shots he had been drinking before I got him out of Emil's place.

"It's all over now," Pete caught his breath. The night air, a chilly breeze sweeping over the lake had begun to clear his head. His voice became more normal once again.

"Yeah," he repeated, "it's all over now. She's finally gone and left me, and, hell, I don't blame her. I never wanted to go out anywhere or do anything. I'd come home grouchy as hell, and she wouldn't want to take it, so she'd say her piece. Cripes, she couldn't just sit there and take it all the time without talking back."

"Besides, she had plenty to gripe about too. A girl can't stay young and pretty all her life. She wants to have some fun when she is young, not just scrub floors and wash a bunch of dirty work clothes and do the cooking. It wasn't the way we used to talk about it."

"I Didn't Want It To Happen To Me"

I didn't say anything. There was really nothing to say; besides, Pete wanted to talk, not to listen.

He grinned cynically. "I knew what it was like. My old man and my old lady used to hate each other most of the time. He'd get out of the house every chance he had, and they were always scrapping like cats and dogs."

"But, cripes," Pete turned to me pathetically, "I knew about that, and I didn't want it to happen to me, and it went and happened all the same. I'd come home tired. You know how it is. And we never had enough money... you know. I never meant it to happen."

"What the hell," Pete said resignedly, "I don't blame her."

We walked silently down the darkened streets past shadowed houses where workers slept, where bedrooms and kitchens reeked with the hatred that comes all too often with hard times, with drudgery, and with fatigue. In the distance an engine hooted dimly as it tugged a load of ingots past a crossing. It was a lonely sound.

"Dammit, I miss her," Pete said.

We passed more dark houses. Sometimes there would be light in those houses, and laughter. Sometimes there would be love and comradeship; but sometimes also there would be bitterness, sharp outbursts of anger that seemed to come from trivial things but really came from too many hours of back-breaking toil on the furnaces or in the mills and from paychecks that were never quite enough.

Pete muttered, "If I could have only made a little more money...," and he turned the corner of his street.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

MARCH 23, 1935

NEW YORK—Richard Whitney, President of the New York Stock Exchange, warned that "Excessive relief presents the gravest threat to the fiscal integrity of the government." (Whitney later displayed his own "fiscal integrity" by embezzling funds entrusted to his control and was sent to Sing Sing Penitentiary).

While this capitalist spokesman and "moralist" strove to reduce the miserable relief handouts, The Militant revealed the true conditions of the American workers caught in the most devastating depression in history.

"A widow and two small children were found living in the railroad station at Allentown, Pa.," said The Militant. "J. E. Gibson of Paris, Texas was given \$2 to buy fishing tackle, and removed from the relief rolls. 'The catfish are biting,' he was told. Mike Naggis, unemployed steel worker, was found dead in his unheated home near Coatesville, Pa. 'Starvation,' said the coroner."

WASHINGTON—Talk of rearmament for the Second World War had torn up the Versailles Treaty. "It came as no surprise," said The Militant, "despite public protestations of righteous indignation."

"That Germany has been arming ever since Hitler came to power has been an open secret for many months... Just so long as capitalism exists there will be wars. This is the fact that workers and the peoples of the world must learn."

NEW YORK

Sunday Night Forum

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

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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.

German Workers

This issue of *The Militant* carries detailed reports of strikes, demonstrations, and armed clashes occurring in the principal industrial centers of Germany. These facts show that the German workers are seizing the opportunity provided by the mortal military and political crisis of German imperialism—under the most terrible conditions and adverse circumstances—to mobilize their forces against the Nazi regime.

What then becomes of the hideous lie that the German workers, the first victims of Hitler, were behind his regime and still support it? The German workers were dragged into this war against their will and their interests by the Nazi agents of German imperialism just as the American workers were plunged into the war by the servants of Wall Street. They are no more responsible for Hitler's atrocities than the British workers are responsible for Churchill's massacre of the Greek people.

If the German workers backed Hitler, there would be bitter hatred and hostility between them and the millions of foreign workers deported into the Reich as slave labor. Instead reports from Bremen indicate that they have cemented solidarity in struggle against the Nazis. "The demonstrators were shouting in I don't know how many languages," says the reporter, "it was all one roar."

What a crushing answer is this stirring unity in action to the Allied trade union officials who met last month in an International Trade Union Conference in London! Taking the cue from their masters, these labor flunkies passed a resolution saddling the German workers with responsibility for the crimes of Hitler and German capitalism. This slander has been concocted to justify the savage plans of the Big Three to partition Germany, demolish its industries, and convert its inhabitants into paupers and slaves as Hitler did to the peoples he conquered.

To further these reactionary designs the Allied spokesmen are peddling another fraudulent story which is directly aimed against the maturing German revolution. They say that after military defeat the Nazis will continue to fight indefinitely underground and guerrilla activity.

The prerequisite for sustained and successful

guerrilla warfare is popular sympathy and support. Where will the discredited and defeated Nazis get such support? Not from the middle classes described by Howard Smith as disillusioned with Hitler and in a "revolutionary" mood. Certainly not from the German workers who, like the Italian workers, won't need any Allied War Crimes Commission to ferret out the fascist rats and shoot them on sight.

In fact, the Allied leaders are preparing to stigmatize these and other revolutionary actions of the German workers as "Nazi guerrilla warfare." Using this type of frameup as a smoke-screen, they plan to use occupation troops to repress the masses, as they have already done in Greece. One of Stalin's generals has declared that he would deal with a demonstration greeting the Red Army with revolutionary banners and red flags as "a Nazi conspiracy."

The American workers must be on guard against such lies and frameups. They must rally to the defense of the German worker's revolution in the same spirit of class solidarity displayed by the foreign workers inside the Reich.

Smith-Connally Act

On February 26 the United Mine Workers filed with the Department of Labor, the National War Labor Board and the National Labor Relations Board a formal notice of the existence of a labor dispute in the coal industry. They took this step in defense of their interests in strict conformance with the legal requirements imposed upon the unions by the Smith-Connally Bill (War Labor Disputes Act).

Despite this scrupulous observance of the harsh provisions of this anti-labor statute by the miners, the big business press at once set up a howl against them for preparing to "strike in wartime." That Wall Street mouthpiece, the *N. Y. Times*, raved in an editorial on Feb. 28 that "a national coal strike at this time would disrupt our entire war production. It could give both the Nazis and Japanese the breathing spell they so urgently need and desire."

The *Times* had to acknowledge that the miners acted legally in taking advantage of the strike-poll machinery established under the Smith-Connally Act. But it complained that "this is the result of one of the stupidest pieces of legislation ever passed by Congress."

What cynical hypocrisy! This infamous measure, passed by Congress on June 25, 1943 was deliberately designed as a weapon against the trade union movement, and especially against the United Mine Workers which had just conducted three magnificent general strikes against the avaricious mine owners. It contains many vicious civil and criminal penalties which have already been invoked to convict mine union officials.

But even this "slave statute" is not vicious enough for the labor-hating employers, their press, and government representatives. They do not propose to permit the miners to operate even within the restrictive framework of the Smith-Connally Act. Demands for more stringent anti-labor legislation are already being raised in Wall Street and Washington. By fair means or foul, the bosses are out to smash the miners' union.

The Main Task

The Wall Street plunderbund is openly preparing a nation-wide union-smashing drive in anticipation of an early end to the war against Germany. The bloated war-profiteers aim to crush all organized resistance to their "post-war" wage-slashing, open-shop "reconversion" schemes.

The recent strike-wave in Detroit was deliberately provoked by the auto corporations with this end in view. Their plans are being facilitated by the weak-kneed policies of surrender imposed upon the unions by the official leadership. While the bosses fill their war-chests, gather their forces, and go ahead with their union-busting conspiracies, the top union officials act as a brake upon the militancy of the ranks.

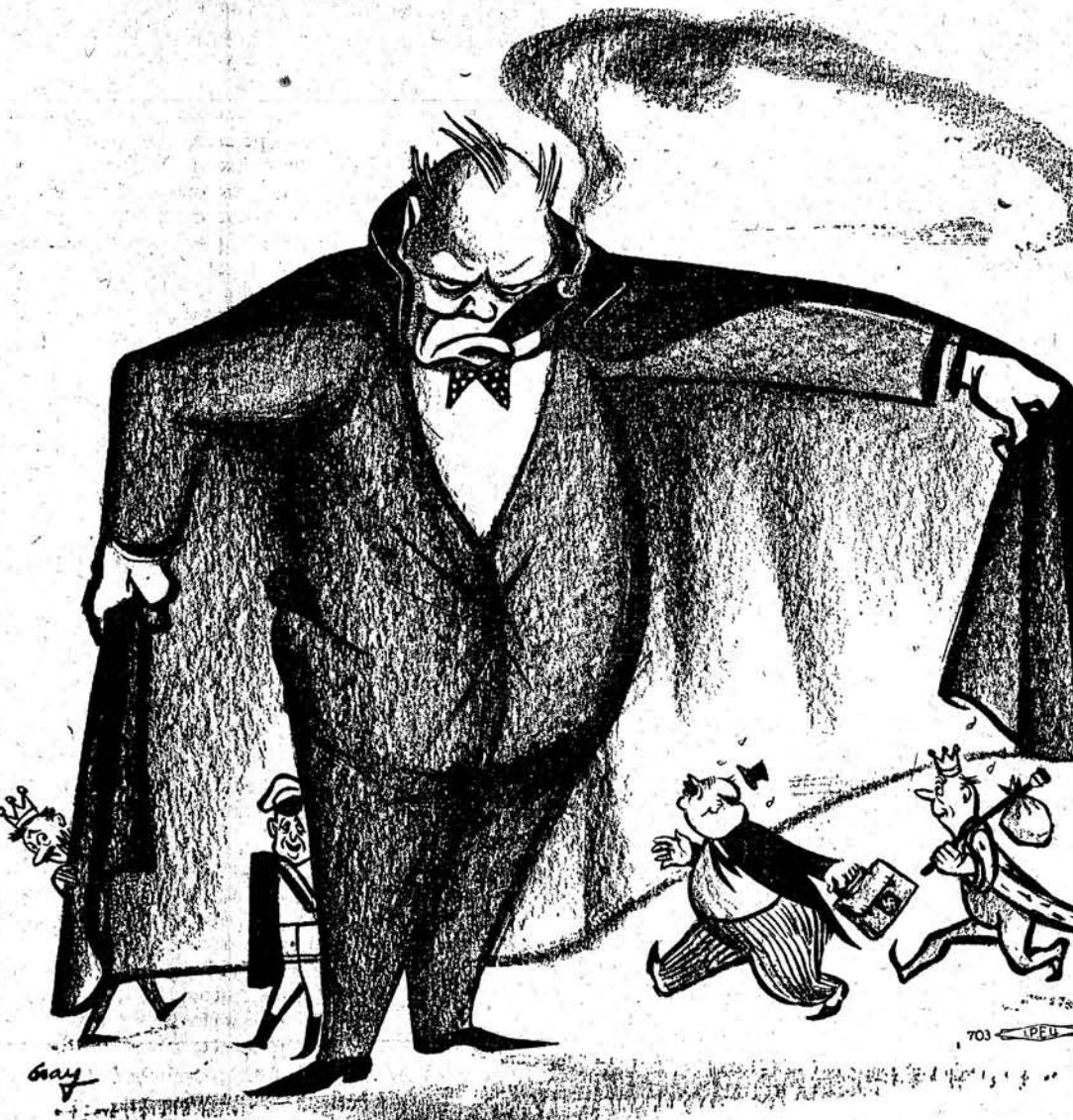
The preliminary skirmishes in Detroit have amply proved that the workers are ready and eager to meet and beat back the offensive of the union-wreckers. They have confidence that the fighting capacities which built their powerful organizations are fully adequate to defend them.

What the militants lack is an organization which can unify and coordinate their struggles around a program which answers their needs. This was evident in the recent UAW referendum on the no-strike pledge. A powerful national coalition composed of the Stalinists, the employers and their government, the kept press and the union bureaucrats was arrayed against the UAW militants. This combination threw its full weight against a small rank-and-file group which had been organized to fight for the independence of the union by rescinding the no-strike pledge. Yet, even despite this unfavorable relationship of forces, over one-third of the votes cast in the referendum favored the revocation of the pledge.

There are similar rank-and-file groups in rubber, steel, and other unions. The task is to overcome their present weaknesses and isolation and to create a movement capable of meeting the nation-wide offensive of the employers.

The program for such a progressive movement is clearly indicated by the main issues which have already arisen out of the experiences of the workers themselves. The militants in the various unions are mobilizing around the following slogans: rescind the no-strike pledge, withdraw the union representatives from the WLB, build the independent labor party.

Guardian of Reaction



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.

Polish Readers

Editor:

The attitude of Polish workers was demonstrated by the reaction of one worker in the *Militant* subscription drive last Sunday morning. I told him when he opened the door that I represented *The Militant*, the only paper in the country which tells the truth about the conditions of the workers.

He invited me in and asked about the underlying ideas of the paper. I answered that it was a socialist paper. He then stated that he was opposed to Bolshevism. My reply was that the paper was a Bolshevik paper, and I asked why he was against Bolshevism. He then made it clear that he felt very strongly opposed to Stalin's entire line in Poland and identified Stalinism with revolutionary socialism.

As soon as he discovered that the paper was anti-Stalinist, that it followed the policies of Lenin and Trotsky, his attitude changed. I insisted that Bolshevism had nothing in common with Stalinism and presented our line on Poland, backed up by *The Militant* story on the Yalta conference.

The worker went on to state that he had no confidence in Churchill and Roosevelt—but felt that progress could only be made in Europe by the poor. To illustrate his disapproval of conditions here at home, with particular reference to the coal shortage, he went on to explain how simple it would be to produce heat more efficiently and cheaply if one were to do it on a cooperative socialist basis.

Our talk wound up by his taking two subscriptions, one for himself and one for a Polish friend. That, plus the three I had already sold, made five in one hour.

D. L. Cleveland, O.

Milwaukee Socialists

Editor:

Four Socialist Party candidates in the Milwaukee School Board Spring Primary elections will be opposed by a fifth Socialist Party member, Anthony King of the AFL Building Trades. White-haired party members were horror-stricken when Frank Zeidler, guiding light of the somewhat rusty SP municipal machine, suggested that King be expelled. It was pointed out that the AFL bureaucrat has "too many friends." Expulsion would also be suicidal for SP aspirants to AFL bureaucracy jobs.

Naturally this is not a matter for the attention of the Socialist Party National Executive. The ways of "democracy," "autonomy," "unity," are sacred. School Board posts in Milwaukee are traditional stepping-stones for

More 'Spicy' Articles

Editor:

Why not have more spicy articles on leading figures such as the one on Daniel Tobin? If I could only write, I'd turn a group out on each of the "Big Three," the "Bricklayer," "Rosy" and "Uncle Joe."

While I have some more room, I'd like to offer the suggestion that *The Militant* would be lots more attractive if it were smaller in size and had more pages. It is very difficult to read a large paper on the street cars and buses and this is the only time that many people do read.

J. M. Los Angeles

Negro Blood

Editor:

In our plant the other day, we had an interesting and striking example of how many Negro workers view the Red Cross. One of my buddies, a Negro, upon paying the \$1.00 that was forced from him through pressure of the company, said to the foreman: "Here's my dollar, only be-

QUESTION BOX

Q: In the March 17 *Militant* you reported that the cost of this war has "passed the trillion-dollar mark." How much is a trillion?

A: A trillion is a thousand billions—or a million millions. In figures, 1,000,000,000,000.

Q: Who were the Molly Maguires?

A: A secret organization of Pennsylvania miners, formed as an answer to the terrorism of the coal operators in the 1870's. The Molly Maguires attempted by individual acts of violence to win better wages and conditions for the miners. They were betrayed by a Pinkerton stool-pigeon and the organization destroyed by hanging ten and jailing the rest of its leaders.

Q: What was the first union in America?

A: The printers, who in New York organized a "turn-out"—a strike—in 1776. Other trade unions were organized in the same period by shoemakers, shipmasters, tailors and carpenters.

Q: What is the proletariat and how does it differ from the working class?

A: There is no difference. The term "proletariat" includes all those who must live by selling their labor power for wages to the capitalists.

Arthur Penn
San Francisco, Cal.

OPA Gives Profiteers Another Helping Hand

Roosevelt's Office of Price Administration last week extended to wholesalers and retailers of "all commodities" the privilege of using special price-padding practices already employed by the manufacturers with OPA approval.

This is the "product standard" principle of fixing prices, which netted the steel barons alone \$100,000,000 extra profits in 1944.

According to this slick method, manufacturers and merchants may demand and secure industry-wide price-ceiling increases for specific commodities on the basis of the costs of the smallest and least efficient firms in a given industry or trade.

All the merchants have to do is get a price boost on any item is to show that some individual seller's cost of operation does not permit a "reasonable" profit on that item. The price-ceiling is hiked for the entire trade, regardless of how large the profits of the big firms are.

This OPA-price gougers' scheme to clip the consumers for hundreds of millions in additional profits was announced just after Deputy OPA Administrator Brownlee had reported on the staggering profits of retail merchants to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. He explained that "the OPA never reduces prices merely because it considers profits are large." Brownlee admitted that 1943 profits had soared as much as ten times over those of the 1936-39 period. Here are the percentages of profit increases he revealed. Department and specialty stores, 1,046 percent; hardware retailers, 360; small furniture sellers, 170; variety chain stores, 250; men's clothing, 230; chain groceries, 76; independent groceries, 101; music stores, 210.

This latest OPA assistance to the profiteers was denounced by Donald Montgomery, chairman of the CIO Cost of Living Committee and a member of the OPA's Labor Policy Committee. He declared that unless such policies are halted "price control is going to give way" and an "explosive situation" will result. For the consumers, the "complicated formulas" of the OPA mean that it "continues to raise prices for establishments which already are making many times the profits which they made in pre-war years."

Thus, Roosevelt's OPA sanctions a new huge price steal just after his War Labor Board and Economic Stabilization Administration reendorse the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula.

NAM Advice On How To Win Friends Inside Congress

According to the tongue-in-cheek testimony of its representative before the House Campaign Expenditures Committee last year, the National Association of Manufacturers is strictly "non-political." NAM didn't have to account for political expenditures, because it didn't make any. So said the NAM.

The latest "non-political" venture of the NAM is a flossy little pamphlet, called "Know Your Congressman." This is being sent to all NAM members with a letter from Ira Mosher, new NAM president.

As one commentator observed, this educational brochure might well be titled "The Care and Feeding of Congressmen." It tells all the little charming ways a business man can use to "win friends and influence people" among the federal legislators.

Included in the pamphlet are ten rules for business men in getting Congress to give them what they want. It also advises the business lobbyists to remember that a Congressman is "human" and has personal problems—such as miserly \$10,000 annual salary which is "not enough to meet his demands."

Be useful to your Congressman and he'll be useful to you, is the NAM "non-political" slogan.

Grain Speculators Coin Millions From 'Leaks'

Speculators with inside information on the government's Commodity Credit Corporation operations have made "millions and millions of dollars" in the grain market, declared Rep. Taber before the House last week. He called for an investigation of a situation which he said "transcends Teapot Dome."

These charges were supported by Rep. Keefe, who stated that an examination of "certain brokerage houses here and in Chicago" would disclose "large purchases" of grain at below parity prices just a few days before the CCC announced it would support grain prices up to parity.

"People on the in," he said, "made themselves millions and millions of dollars on the transaction."

Taber recited grain price quotations at Chicago for September 26, 1944 prior to the market opening. "Before the grain market opened the Government announced that it would buy on May 1, 1945, at full parity price all wheat under loan that remained unredeemed. This came as a surprise and caused a five-cent advance in wheat that day."

"From September 9 to September 25 there was a steady rise in the price of wheat and the spread reached a height of 14 1/5 cents per bushel. There was a very large volume of purchases and those purchases were dropped on the market immediately after the announcement on the 25th at a very large profit."

He asked: "Is it possible to infer anything other than that there had been a leak in the operations of the Commodity Credit Corporation and that those with the tip-off made an enormous profit in getting rid of the wheat at high prices?" A similar "leakage and a profit on the part of speculators" in the egg, rye and raisin markets in connection with CCC operations were also charged.

At the moment these disclosures were being made, Frank Hancock, CCC head, sitting in the House gallery, hastily disclosed to reporters that three employees of the CCC had been "separated" from their jobs and an investigation was being started.

This, presumably, will uncover some minor scapegoats, while capitalist speculation in the necessities of life for the people will continue unabated. The speculators would merely use their government connections to uncover new sources of "inside" information.