

The Coming Cut-Backs And Unemployment

— SEE PAGE 5 —

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

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ADMINISTRATION AIDS MEAT PROFITEERS

Documents Show British Bribe Greek Royalists

In his column of March 22, Drew Pearson published the sensational revelation that a British Intelligence Officer wearing an American uniform had given bribes to Greek leaders of Royalist and right-wing organizations who served Churchill in the massacre of Greek workers.

"Governor Lehman's UNRRA is doing its best to hush it up, but a very strange thing has happened in Greece," Pearson wrote. "A British UNRRA worker was killed, and in his possession were found receipts for money paid by the British to Greek factions, to encourage them to fight against each other...

"Here are the so far suppressed facts as to what happened. The UNRRA worker who was killed was L. F. R. Shepherd, chief of the UNRRA's Greek Mission Intelligence Division. On the rolls he was listed as 'Mister' Shepherd but actually he was a colonel in the British Army and had been in MO-4 and Force 133.

"Colonel Shepherd joined UNRRA right after the liberation of Athens, but during the whole time up until his death he was acting for British Intelligence, though using the American flag on his car.

EVIDENCE OF BRIBES
"After he was killed, UNRRA officials who took an inventory of property in the Colonel's hotel room found receipts for huge amounts of gold sovereigns. The receipts were dated Oct. 22 to Nov. 29, four days before the trouble broke in Athens.

The receipts said: 'I have received from Mr. L. F. R. Shepherd a sealed bag said to contain 1,000 gold sovereigns.' These receipts were signed by Greek leaders of various royalist and right-wing organizations. The amounts mentioned in the receipts varied from 100 sovereigns to 2,000.

"In other words, all during the period when Greek political factions were trying to work out their own problems, a British Colonel, disguised as an UNRRA worker, was paying Greek Royalist factions to fight the EAM-ELAS group which had done most of the guerrilla fighting against the Germans.

"After the fighting started, Colonel Shepherd kept on stirring up trouble. As an UNRRA officer, supposedly on a mission of mercy, he could travel freely between the British zone and the ELAS zone. And he did. Furthermore, he did so, in a car draped with the American flag. Under cover of the American flag he went into ELAS territory ostensibly to talk about food distribution, but actually to get military information.

"When Colonel Shepherd's car hit an ELAS mine during the last days of the battle, it was still proudly bearing the Stars and Stripes, symbol of the land in which the Greek people have so much faith."

Drew Pearson further revealed that the chief loans which the Greek government owes abroad are to the Hambro Bank of London. At one time Churchill was helped out financially by the Hambro family."

Wacs Protesting Jim-Crow Given Hard Labor Terms

FORT DEVENS, Mass., Mar. 21.—Four Negro Wacs who struck at Lovell General Hospital in protest against Jim Crow restriction to menial jobs, were today sentenced to one year at hard labor and dishonorable discharge.

The court martial imposed sentence after only twenty minutes "deliberation" by nine officers, including two Wac officers and two Negro officers. Col. Crandall, commanding officer of the hospital, who told some of the defendants that he did not want "black Wacs" in the motor pool or as medical technicians, did not appear at the proceedings. He is on thirty-day leave, granted just prior to the opening of the court martial.

The four girls, Pvts. Anna C. Morrison, 20; Johnnie Murphy, 20; Mary E. Green, 21; and Alice Young, 23, had struck with 56 other Negro Wacs on March 7. They charged that they were forced to scrub floors and windows because of their color, while white Wacs with similar education and training did not do menial work.

Ordered back to work on March 10 by Gen. Miles, 54 complied. Two others later returned to duty.

Pvt. Morrison, who told her white Wac commanding officer that she could not continue doing heavy work, said before the trial, "If it will help my people I will take a court martial." She told the court that she would have "preferred to die" rather than continue doing work which white Wacs were not compelled to do.

All defendants testified that the Negro Wacs were assigned different duties than white Wacs.

Taking the stand against the defendants, Lt. Virginia Lawson of Tulsa, Oklahoma was compelled to admit that of 178 white Wacs, only 15 are classified as orderlies, while 60 of the 99 Negro Wacs, college-trained medical technicians, are so classified.

There are no Negroes classified as technicians at the hospital, Lt. Lawson testified, and only six Negro clerks, all of whom are restricted to work on the Negro company's affairs.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has announced it is placing attorneys at the service of the convicted girls.

"Equality of Sacrifice"



Anti-Stalinist Militants Gain Strength In Ford Local 600

By Roy Weston

DETROIT, March 17.—A significant development in the CIO United Automobile Workers is the weakening of the Stalinist influence on the huge Ford Local 600 as evidenced in the elections now in progress.

The most powerful blow yet delivered to the Stalinist-controlled Grant-Tappes machine was struck by J. B. Jones, a leader in the huge Press Steel Unit, when he announced his candidacy for the presidency of his unit in opposition to the Stalinist machine.

Jones, an old-timer in the Stalinist ranks and the man who played the outstanding role in organizing and leading the 1941 historic strike, shook the local union to its foundations when he openly proclaimed his break with the Stalinists and organized a caucus on a militant program to fight their reactionary, bureaucratic rule.

FLAYS STALINISTS Because of the high regard in which the Ford workers hold him and the fact that his conduct in the strike won him the Press Steel Unit presidency in 1941, Jones shared largely in enabling the Stalinists to gain control of the local. During the past two years of Stalinist sell-outs, he had temporarily retired to the background. His statement, made at a recent caucus meeting, brought cheers from the workers and flabbergasted the Stalinist leadership.

"Most of you know," he stated, "that I was one of the chief organizers and leaders of the strike

of 1941. Most of you also know that after all the workers had left the plant on the night of the strike, I re-entered the Production Foundry with the Reverend Horace White and we asked the Negro brothers to leave the plant with us and to join the union. During the balance of that evening and the following day I signed up more than 700 of these workers into our union."

"Many of our so-called leaders today are men I had to beg to join the union when they were afraid to do so for fear Mr. Ford would fire them. It is not easy for me to make a complete break with men whom I have known for many years. However, I am telling you today that I am breaking with these people forever because they no longer serve the best interests of the American workers."

"They stand for a No-Strike Pledge at a time when the employers are using the pledge to destroy our union. They are opposed to an Independent Labor Party at a time when an Independent Labor Party is a crying

(Continued on page 4)

IN THE NEWS

Taking No Chances!

At National Labor Relations Board hearings on CIO charges of unfair practices by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Corporation, Leo Grooms, a labor spy who joined the union to secure a blacklist for the company, testified, according to *The Shipyard Worker*, that "stooges were watching stoges and supervisors were watching supervisors."

** * * **Labor, Gas Shortages?**

Lord Halifax, British Ambassador to the United States, rode in a coyote hunt last week near Elk City, Oklahoma. Three coyotes were bagged. Over 60 persons rode in the hunt and 11 airplanes acted as spotters. His Lordship said it was "all very jolly."

** * * **Army of Democracy**

The Mediterranean Stars and Stripes, Army newspaper, recently curtailed its "Mail Call" column devoted to soldiers' letters to the editor. This followed an order that "gripe" letters could be published only with an "official Army answer."

The paper's staff condemned the order as an infringement on soldier's press freedom. One critic said that if a soldier wrote in saying, "I don't like Spam," then "we are supposed to tell him the stuff is full of vitamins and all that."

** * * **Labor 'Friend' Pays Off**

The New York State Senate last week adopted a resolution for a federal constitutional convention to pass the "Millionaires Amendment" to free the rich from paying income taxes higher than 25 per cent. Republican Senator Costanzo, elected with American Labor Party and CIO-PAC support, voted for the resolution. Asked why, he said: "There is no reason. I just thought about it. There is really no reason."

** * * **The Real Communism**

London correspondent Godfrey Blunden reported in the Sydney, Australia, Sunday Tribune that: "I have seen it suggested in very high quarters that there is another underground movement, which will follow in the wake of the Nazis, and that is a German Leftist movement, which will sponsor 'Trotskyism.' This word 'Trotskyism' appears to have been deprived of all its original meaning by Allied spokesmen and now connotes Communism, but a Communism which they infer has not the approval of Stalin and is greatly abhorred by him."

Yields To "Famine" Threat By Granting Price Subsidy

Roosevelt Tells People to "Tighten Belts" While Packers Divert Meat to Black Market

By Art Preis

Two weeks ago before the Senate hearings on the price control act lobbyists of the Meat Trust threatened to impose a "meat famine" upon the country unless OPA "inconsistencies," meaning price ceilings, were promptly removed. They issued this ultimatum even though the packers have boosted their profits almost eight times during the war and their spokesmen admitted that "the country has the raw beef."

Last week the Roosevelt administration promptly yielded to the profit-greedy meat barons' brazen threat of enforced scarcity.

OPA Director Chester Bowles announced to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee that the government is granting an additional subsidy of 50c a hundred pounds to the cattle slaughterers. He further revealed that previously the government had quietly granted a subsidy of 75 cents a hundredweight on hogs.

ROOSEVELT'S PRETEXT At the same time, Roosevelt himself provided a cover for the existing scarcity, in part deliberately created by the food profiteers to force up prices. He declared that the American people must "tighten their belts" because, he falsely claimed, the "humanitarian" capitalist government intends to "feed" starving Europe. Actually, during 1944, only 6.8 percent of all the nation's meat, and but seven-tenths of one percent of the beef, was shipped in Lend-Lease to all the "United Nations," according to official government figures.

The government's generous treatment of the meat profiteers, who openly admitted that 90 percent of the civilian meat supplies have been diverted into black market channels, is in striking contrast to the Roosevelt administration's ferocity against workers forced to strike for a few cents more wages to meet the in-

WEST COAST STALINISTS SEEK TO SUPPRESS SWP

The majority campaign conducted by the Socialist Workers Party of Los Angeles, California, has aroused great interest among the workers of that city. Myra Tanner Weiss, the Trotskyist candidate, is running on a working class program that cuts through the fraud of "national unity" and exposes the reactionary aims of America's Sixty Ruling Families and their political agents.

The Trotskyist program champions the cause of the poor against the rich; of the exploited against their exploiters. It calls for an end to race discrimination, political and social equality for all persecuted minorities. It condemns the wage and job freeze and flays the forced labor schemes of the Roosevelt administration. It raises high the banner of "Socialism in a World of Peace and Plenty!"

CALL THE COPS

To the advanced workers of Los Angeles and to all persecuted race and minority groups, the Trotskyist campaign platform comes like a breath of fresh air penetrating the miasma of wartime reaction. They have hailed the courageous candidate and party who threw the challenge of working class solidarity and struggle into the teeth of the bosses. This warm response alarmed the agents of capitalist reaction—especially the Stalinist traitors whose record of betrayal is a stench in the nostrils of every honest worker.

"This should not be tolerated," screamed the March 1 Peoples World. "The FBI and the United States District Attorney should act at once to clamp down" on the Trotskyists. Stop the mouths of all working class fighters who tell the truth: this is the chief "argument" in the arsenal of Stalinism. But their hysteria is proof that the Trotskyist program is gaining an ever-wider circle of support among the working masses. The workers of Los Angeles will long remember that when the Trotskyists were out in front fighting their battle, the Stalinists proposed to "call the cops" to deprive our honest working-class party of its democratic rights.

Why Roosevelt Promises "Study" Of Annual Wage

By C. Thomas

A few days after the Advisory Board of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion made public a resolution commanding that they were not being called upon for "advice," Roosevelt announced he had ordered the board to "study" the question of a guaranteed annual wage. The demand for a guaranteed annual wage was part of the steel wage case before the War Labor Board and has become part of the CIO program.

The WLB rejected the demand, but recommended a "study" of the question to determine whether industry could "afford" to give such a guarantee. In a letter to Roosevelt, the chairman of the WLB disclosed that the fear of unemployment which has led to the demand for a guaranteed annual wage, "is contributing also to the pressure for a change in the national wage stabilization policy."

By shunting the demand for a guaranteed wage to the WMR advisory board, Roosevelt aims to kill three birds with one stone. (1) To divert the attention of the workers from the struggle against the administration's wage-freezing "stabilization policy." (2) To aid the "labor statesmen" in lulling their own membership with the illusion that something is being done about the problem of "post-war" security. (3) To quiet the clamor of the WMR "advisory board," which has been completely ignorant of director James F. Byrnes, whose anti-labor decisions have been made without benefit of their advice.

The popular demand for a

still ten million unemployed during the war boom year of 1940. It was not until war production and the draft absorbed the available labor force that unemployment was reduced to a minimum.

During the ten years in which Roosevelt claims he "talked" about a guaranteed wage, one-third of the people, by his own admission, were ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed. Millions of men and women were on the dole while factories stood idle. Under the planned sabotage of the "New Deal," cotton, corn and live stock were plowed under in order to create an economy of artificial scarcity. These measures "guaranteed" only poverty and insecurity for the masses. But while all this was going on, Roosevelt, according to his latest revelation, kept "talking about a guaranteed annual wage." How consoling!

Roosevelt's demagogic gesture in burying the demand in the WMR advisory board is intended to head off the independent action of the workers in the fight for economic security. The fight for a guaranteed annual wage is essentially a political struggle. If meant seriously, it requires first of all that labor break with the political parties and agents of the employing class and take the road of fighting for its own program under its own political banner.

And what ten years! The economic crisis raged during his whole period of office. There were

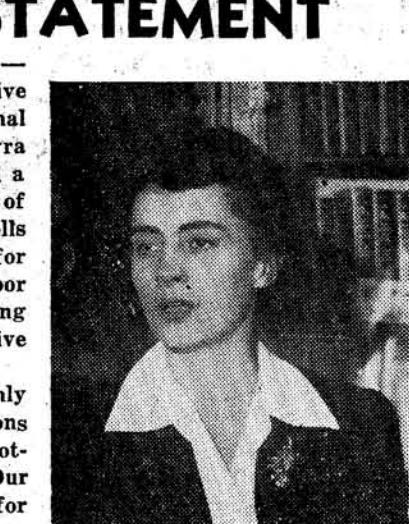
MYRA WEISS ISSUES ELECTION STATEMENT

LOS ANGELES, March 22.—

With the election campaign drive for mayor about to enter the final week before the primaries, Myra Tanner Weiss last night issued a stirring call to the workers of Los Angeles to go to the polls April 3 and record their votes for the fighting program of labor which she has presented during almost two months of intensive campaigning.

"We have advanced the only solutions to the burning questions facing the workers," the Trotskyist candidate declared. "Our task is now to make the vote for our program powerful demonstration of the workers' determination to fight for their rights. In this period when the bosses are attempting to ride roughshod over the labor movement, when the union bureaucrats have suppressed any independent expression of labor's political stand, and seek to rally workers' votes for boss politicians, we must see to it that the true voice of labor is heard."

"We must now make sure that every vote for labor is cast. You, your neighbor, your shopmate, your family must act together on April 3. Don't waste your votes on boss politicians. Vote Trotskyist! Vote Socialist!"



MYRA TANNER WEISS

TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

UAW Convention

The CIO United Automobile Workers, whose annual conventions always make labor history, faces difficulty in holding a convention this year because of the government ban on conventions not "in the interest of the war effort."

George Addes, UAW-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, has filed a request with the War Committee on Conventions for authorization of the union's convention next September 10 at Grand Rapids, Michigan.

His petition stated: "Only through such a convention can there be achieved the unity and cohesion necessary for sound planning, discipline and the establishment of peaceful labor relations making for continuity of production and full participation by the workers in the war effort."

At the 1942 and 1943 UAW conventions, however, Addes and the other top leaders tried to push over resolutions to suspend the annual conventions "for the duration" because they claimed conventions "interfered with full participation by the workers in the war effort." The real motive, of course, was to prevent the rank and file conventions from "interfering" with the bureaucratic designs of the leadership.

So the UAW ranks had better be on the alert for a fast move to block their convention — with the government carrying the ball for the UAW leaders, who took a terrific shellacking at the last convention when the rank-and-file delegates almost defeated the no-strike policy.

some of his New York associates on his own lifelong fellow-unionists."

Avery Carries On

Roosevelt's army "seizure" of a tiny fraction of Montgomery Ward's vast mercantile network didn't interfere with the company's profits, although the CIO unions are still without a contract after the "seizure" broke their strikes.

Sewell Avery, chairman of the company's board and leading open-shopper, announced last week that "all divisions of the business operated profitably for the year." He reported \$21,285,839 net profits for the year ending January 31, 1945, as compared to \$20,677,098 for the previous year.

After the army "seizure" last December 27 — an action since ruled illegal by the Chicago Federal Court — "the Army by Jan. 31 had paid from its own funds \$2,306,474.36 more than it had appropriated" from cash on hand and sales according to Avery. The army had a tough time operating, due to the refusal of the Ward officials to cooperate. But the brass hats made sure that the company didn't go into the "red," even to the extent of making up losses with government funds.

The Army however has not enforced the WLB decisions whose rejection by the company led to the strikes and the "seizure."

Terror At Weirton

A long string of former employees of the Weirton Steel Company, which has successfully resisted unionization by the CIO Steelworkers since 1936, last week testified to the ruthless physical terrorism, intimidation and illegal firings for union membership that has prevailed at the company's plants.

The hearings were being held before a special master of the Third Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in contempt proceedings against the company filed by the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB charges the company with refusal to abide by the board's orders not to interfere with the union, and specifically accuses Weirton with maintaining a company union in violation of a federal court order of 1943.

Actually, the case goes back to 1936! Through slick legal maneuvering, delaying tactics and the assistance of hair-splitting judges, the company stalled off a decision for seven years until October 1943. The company then filed a lengthy and complicated "bill of exceptions." The present hearings were petitioned last August.

By these means, it will be possible for the company to string the case out for another seven years. This is a further illustration of the futility of the workers relying on the capitalist courts for justice. The workers have only one reliable weapon — their own independent organized strength in action.

Shipyard Layoffs

Henry J. Kaiser, shipyard tycoon who is proclaimed an industrial "genius" for his capacity to get tremendous government handouts, recently admitted to a press conference that the government's shipbuilding program may wind up within a year. Over a million shipyard workers face mass unemployment.

Since November 1943, when private shipyard employment hit a peak of 1,293,000, the number of shipyard workers has declined to 1,035,000 in January 1945. The rate of decline has increased since the first of the year with a steady decrease in production schedules.

Quislings in Labor

The March 15 Justice, organ of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union, publishes a slashing denunciation of the Stalinist leaders of the Greater New York CIO Council for their resolution which attacked the United Mine Workers Union in the current UMWA contract negotiations. The Stalinists called for government "seizure" of the mines to prevent a "strike plot."

Entitled "Quislings in Labor," the editorial points out that the miners' demands, viewed in their entirety, are quite moderate. It states that both the ILGWU and the CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers have long enjoyed contract provisions for a "royalty" on pay rolls to provide a union welfare fund similar to what the miners are now demanding. It further concedes that "any other union under similar circumstances, doubtless, would have performed the same gesture" of filing a formal 30-day strike notice under the Smith-Connally Act provisions.

It is against this background that the Stalinists made their anti-miners attack, described by Justice as "dastardly a piece of sabotage as has disgraced the American labor scene within recent memory." Justice charges the resolution of the Stalinists spoke "in the language even a Girdler or a Weir would have hesitated to use" and provides "generous moral support to the mine operators."

"We are just wondering," concludes the editorial, "how Philip Murray, himself a coal miner and for thirty years intimately linked with the woes and struggles of the coal miners, feels about this latest quisling job perpetrated by

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Over 5,600 New Subscriptions Obtained In First Month Of 'Militant' Campaign

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

Subscriptions sold by members of the Socialist Workers Party through the fourth week of our Militant Subscription Campaign total 5,637. With nine weeks to go, six of the Socialist Workers Party branches have already gone over 100 percent: Akron, Allentown, Flint, San Diego, and Toledo. Nationally we have fulfilled over 56 percent of our quota for 10,000 new readers to *The Militant*.

FROM THE BRANCHES

Mike Warren, New York Pace-Setter: "I welcome Jerry Kirk's challenge. Judging from the New York Local's spirit and results, I would say that we intend to have our share among the top scorers in the country."

Bob Kingsley, Cleveland: "The Youngstown challenge has accomplished its purpose, i.e., urged the comrades into greater activity. Remind me to thank them when the campaign is over and when we have received our winning reward of the Little Lenin Library."

A. Field, Minneapolis: "Twenty of the subs I am enclosing were sold by Comrade Knute at one time. He is our highest scorer up to this time although there are others who are working hard and expect to catch up with him in a short time."

H. Newell, Allentown: "We have just returned from Tamaqua. We were joined by some Quakertown comrades and the Trail-Blazers. The total was 46 subs. Approximately one-half were to miners and the others to railroad workers, At-las Powder and miscellaneous trades."

N. Collins, San Diego: "We have a successful idea that might go well elsewhere. Whenever we hit a house where the paper is particularly welcomed, we ask if they would like to take out a 'gift subscription' for friends or relatives. We have gotten several in this manner. San Diego's Pace-Setter is Nadine Collins with 29 subs. We have gone over the top and will continue to top our own record."

D. Hilsen, Akron: "We're forging ahead in the sub campaign. The 19 subs I am sending in today brings our total to 112."

Al Lynn, Los Angeles Local: "Our branch scores are as follows: Southside 51 percent with 153 subs, East Side 47 percent with 212 subs, San Pedro 37 percent with 163 subs, West Side 23 percent with 69 subs, and Central 18 percent with 91 subs. One of the most interesting incidents is that two comrades went out one night and secured five subs from seven houses visited in twenty minutes."

P. Davison, Boston: "Four crews went out in a Negro neighborhood in Cambridge. In one hour they obtained 35 subs. Comrade Nina with 31 subs leads in Boston."

Kathryn Zellon, Milwaukee: "Six comrades covered an industrial suburb of Milwaukee this Sunday. We weren't too well acquainted with the district and we soon found that we had made a mistake in beginning the door-to-door canvassing too close to the business section. We found that such people as beauty shop managers, a government guard, etc., were unsympathetic to what The Militant has to say but further on down in the next block or two we came across real proletarians. We sold 17 subs. Jack O'Connell is still Milwaukee's Pace-Setter with 20 subs."

Harriet Collins, Chicago: "More subs—all 25c introductory subscriptions sold on Red Sunday. The branch got 106 in all Sunday."

R. Haddon, San Francisco: "We are planning a Sub Campaign Party for March 25. The committee is getting publicity underway. What we will try to do will be to involve all our subscribers actively in the campaign—get them all out selling subs. Tori and I went out on Monday night for an hour, between seven and eight, and got six subs. We think it an excellent way to spend a spare hour."

J. Miller, Philadelphia: "Enclosed find 12 new subs. This boosts our total for the drive to 78 subs. Philadelphia's Pace-Setter is Comrade Seton with 21 subs."

M. McGowan, Toledo: "Enclosed are 85 new trial subs. Most of these were obtained in our mobilization yesterday going house-to-house. About 20 of them were sold by friends. We have only begun to sell Militant subs in Toledo."

FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS

We have been informed that E. D., a Detroit subscriber, has sold 71 subscriptions to *The Militant*.

Many of our readers feel that enthusiastic about *The Militant*. Help spread the truth about the workers' struggle for a better world. Follow the example of this Detroit subscriber and sell *The Militant* to your friends.

SCOREBOARD

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party	Quotas	Subs	Percent
Allentown	50	121	242
San Diego	50	67	134
Akron	85	112	132
Toledo	250	275	110
Flint	50	53	106
Milwaukee	100	90	90
Reading	75	64	85
Buffalo	350	255	73
Youngstown	300	218	73
Chicago	1000	664	66
New York	2500	1891	56
Minneapolis	300	168	54
Detroit	1000	523	52
Philadelphia	150	78	52
Boston	200	96	48
St. Paul	100	41	41
Newark	350	143	40
Cleveland	200	79	40
Los Angeles	2000	671	34
Bayonne	150	51	34
San Francisco	350	113	32
Seattle	400	98	25
Rochester	50	0	0
Groups, Members-at-Large and Friends	140	58	41
Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes (Trail-Blazers)		213	
TOTAL	10,200	5637	56

"TRAILBLAZERS" VISIT MINERS, STEEL WORKERS

Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes, *The Militant* Trail-Blazers who are touring Pennsylvania to secure subscriptions in this campaign, send inspiring reports of the reception given them by the workers in the Allentown and Bethlehem area. They write about their activities of last week. "The area we've covered the past three days has been peopled to a large extent with textile and garment workers, besides some from the smaller mixed plants around Allentown.

"The textile workers are not

all organized here and we run into contrasts of militancy and backwardness continually. The older working women who have been through the mill, even those who are housewives at present, are militant and angry. One fine older woman whose husband works in textiles told us yesterday that the local meat packing company is laying off dozens of union women currently in preparation for an attack against the union whose contract is expiring. She jumped into our argument that the bosses are now engaged in a concerted drive to bust the labor movement and her eyes sparkled when we outlined our program to combat the attack. Of course she subscribed!

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Belgian Trotskyists Call For Workers Government

The following article is translated from the Jan. 28-Feb. 4 issue of "La Voie de Lénine" (The Road of Lenin), weekly organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Belgian section of the Fourth International. Under the heading: "Break the Truce," the Belgian Trotskyists call upon the Belgian Labor Party and the Communist Party to break with the capitalist parties and form a Workers' Government upon a program of independent working class action. Following the collapse of the bated Pierlot government on Feb. 7, however, these two parties once again saved capitalist rule by entering another coalition cabinet headed by the Social-Democrat Van Acker.

At the same time the American press carried reports that the Belgian Trotskyists had "opened a vigorous drive" in defense of the striking mine workers in the Charleroi area.

Since the von Rundstedt offensive the governmental crisis has given way to a truce, under the sign of the "Sacred Union." In this sense, von Rundstedt has been a sort of godsend for Pierlot and his gang.

But now that the territory has been liberated once more, and now that the Hitler menace may collapse any day under the blows of the Red Army, it is inevitable that the mortal crisis in which the Belgian bourgeoisie is floundering once again takes on an acute character, and shakes the government. And evidently because he foresees the revival of opposition M. De Schryver, Minister of the Interior, is thinking of instituting the censorship.

How well one understands M. De Schryver! How well one understands that our ministers wish to stifle the voices of critics in order to hear only the voice of the British Foreign Office.

Whichever way one turns, one sees mounting chaos and anarchy. In every sphere the impotence of the Government is evident.

The Bankruptcy of the Government's Policies

How bankrupt is the financial policy of M. Gutt! Prices continue to rise despite the clamping down on the currency. The gulf between prices and wages does not cease to widen. No one has any confidence in the Belgian money. The price of gold has doubled in two months. The race towards inflation and bankruptcy is speeding up again worse than ever.

How bankrupt is the purge! The big collaborators remain, and will remain, unpunished. Because how can they make M. Empain, De Launoit, Deville and Company disgorge, when the administrators of the Prayon-Trooz firm, great industrial collaborators, are seated in the government? How is one to punish the propagandists of the "New Order" when it is known that M. Pierlot himself would have encouraged a Robert Poulet?

How bankrupt is the organization of food provisioning! The miserable butter ration, twice as low as the lowest ration during the time of the German occupation, wasn't even delivered for November! The children, pregnant women and the old people do not have any milk! The sugar ration is diminishing. The 25 grams of coffee, promised for a month, remain bottled up, no one knows where.

The coal scandal cries out for vengeance. Thousands of firesides have not received a kilo on the legal market since the "liberation." Even in the coal mining areas they do not receive any. More than half of the quota set aside for domestic use has passed on to the black market, and the Government has shown itself incapable up to now of curbing this scandalous traffic. How can one be surprised, when the ministers themselves get their provisions on the black market, when it is true that M. Gutt has gotten 10 tons of coal!

Here is the height of impotence and anarchy! The Food minister avows that he is not certain of his ability to print ration stamps for lack of gas, electricity and paper! It is said that the Government itself must go to the black market in order to get the necessary paper to print the ration stamps!

Bankruptcy and impotence in every sphere! And it is clear that we are not faced with a simple governmental crisis, but with a crisis of the whole regime. A change of ministry will change absolutely nothing in this case. The Communist Party seems to have realized this at last, when it abandoned its campaign for a government of "democratic concentration."

What, then, is keeping the great working class parties from breaking the truce and the coalition, sweeping out this Parliament-Croupion that the deputies themselves no longer take seriously (which does not keep them from pocketing 160,000 francs in back pay!), demanding elections, opening up a campaign for a workers' government? Such a government could seriously devote itself to the task of reconstructing the economy with the aid of the unions and the factory committees; it could expropriate the banks and trusts, and organize at last an equitable distribution of products and break the black market by appealing to the housewives' and neighborhoods' committees.

The longshoremen of Antwerp and the miners of Charleroi have begun the fight to defend their right to live, to protest against the impotence of the government. The miners of the Borinage District have passed to action in the coal fields by creating their own control committees to break the bosses' sabotage.

It is on these workers' movements, on this desire for action on the part of the working class which only awaits a signal to manifest itself that the working class parties must rely in order to form a Workers' Government.

Enough empty words! Let us see some action!

Belgian Trotskyist Paper



Reproduction of "La Voie de Lénine" (The Road of Lenin), weekly organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Belgian section of the Fourth International. "Are the New Soviet Victories a Preparation for the German Revolution?" is the headline over the main story.

March F. I. Analyzes Role Of Stalinism

Today, as the military danger to the Soviet Union has receded and the masses of Europe are rising in revolt against their oppressors, Stalinism emerges as the greatest internal danger to the world working class. A detailed discussion of the Stalinist menace to world revolution is featured in the March issue of *Fourth International*, now on sale.

The role of the Kremlin bureaucracy, allied with Anglo-American imperialism in the plot to stifle all struggles of the masses, is analyzed in three articles. These are "The Fight Against Stalinism," by the editors of *Fourth International*; a discussion article by G. Munis; and "Twenty Years of Stalinism," written by Leon Trotsky in 1938.

The program and tactics of the European Trotskyists were hammered out of the living experiences of the masses in their struggles against fascism and war. The magazine presents two extensive sections of the theses adopted by the European Trotskyists after a six-day conference held under the heel of the Gestapo in February 1944. "The Transformation of the Imperialist war into Civil War" surveys the changes in the situation of the working class in the final phases of the war. It discusses the moods of the masses, "Alied" strategy, and how the Trotskyists can best educate and organize the masses to reach their goal of peace and security through socialism.

In "The Proletarian Revolution and Tasks of the 4th International," the program and composition of the various "national liberation" and "Partisan" movements are examined and many seeming contradictions explained. These documents offer valuable aids to every American worker who seeks to understand the complex problems of the revolutionary crises in Europe.

NOTES OF THE MONTH*

The first section of a pamphlet by the Indian Trotskyist Lily Roy, "Socialism Reaffirmed," exposes the conception of the "managerial revolution" as a theoretical justification for capitalism.

It is a brilliant and annihilating reply to the mayor of Bombay, an Indian renegade from socialism whose views mirror those of the American James Burnham.

After much ado about punishing "war criminals," the government officially announced in a statement by Lucretiu Patrascanu, the Stalinist Minister of Justice, that the native class enemies of the Rumanian masses

are the degenerate monarchy of King Carol, in. King Michael who succeeded his father, sent invasion troops against the Soviet Union and ruled as a puppet of Hitler until Red Army victories made him change horses. He quickly gave his blessings to the new government.

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'Vote For Socialism!' Says SWP Candidate

Following is the text of a speech by Myra Tanner Weiss, Trotskyist candidate for mayor, to the voters of Los Angeles delivered March 26, over station KNX. Station KHF, to which the script was originally submitted, censored out the passages which we have put in parentheses in this text and the speech was not given over that station. Minus the censored passages, it was delivered over station KNX.

* * *

For the past three years I have been the Los Angeles organizer of the Socialist Workers' Party, popularly known as the Trotskyists. For ten years I have been active in the labor movement—as a shop steward in the canneries of San Pedro, on picket lines, on union negotiating committees, and as a delegate to AFL conventions.

I tell you my record, and what my affiliations are, in order to make clear the character of my campaign for the office of Mayor of Los Angeles. I stand for the working-class. My program, the program of my party, is the program of socialism. I hate the evil, decaying system of capitalism with its wars, its race hatreds, the perpetual privation and insecurity which it represents for millions of people.

I speak for a party which challenges the capitalist system and proposes to remove it, (as if it were a cancerous growth on human society.) Socialism means a society of peace and plenty, instead of a society of war and hunger. Only the working-class, which has nothing to gain and everything to lose under capitalism, can create a socialist world.

Meanwhile, the working-class is under attack. The lords of Big Business, here in California as throughout the nation, are eternally seeking ways and means to undermine and destroy the workers' own organizations, the trade unions. They want to convert the workers into helpless serfs, unable to defend their hard-won rights and living standards.

The Workers Must Open Their Counter-Offensive

Here in California, the notorious open-shoppers vie with the capitalist politicians in Washington in devising new blows at organized labor. Proposition 12, defeated by the California voters last November, was to sanctify the open-shop in law. (It was of a piece with the Roosevelt-sponsored National Service Act and all other freedom-destroying legislation.)

The labor movement can survive only by militant struggle against all the forces of reaction. Against the offensive of the bosses and the boss politicians, the workers must open their own counter-offensive. Labor must withdraw from the War Labor Board, that graveyard of workers' grievances. The No-Strike Pledge, a straitjacket for labor, must be rescinded. The Little Steel formula, which holds wages down while profits and prices soar ever higher, must be thrown overboard.

But even more than this is needed. To defend itself with its united power in every field where it is attacked, labor must break for all time with the capitalist political parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and every type of boss politician. The workers must build their own party, an independent labor party, based on the trade unions, with a program dedicated to the interests of labor. Through this party they can achieve a fighting alliance with the agricultural workers and small farmers who are exploited and oppressed by the selfsame enemies of labor.

There are no "friends of labor" in the capitalist parties. Labor's only true friend is its own strong right arm. By casting your vote for me, you will be voting in favor of independent working-class political action—the crying need of the hour.

Cast Your Vote for Socialism!

A real fighting program is a life and death question for the workers. Already, in the midst of the great war production boom, its shadow of post-war unemployment falls across the workers' lives. Capitalism offers breadlines, soup kitchens, apple-selling. The bosses know this. That is why they are so intent on crushing the organized labor movement. They want no resistance from their victims.

(Attacks on the labor movement go hand in hand with armed assaults on Japanese-American citizens, some of whose homes have been shot up and burned by undercover terrorists.) Reactionary organizations are inciting race hatred against Japanese-Americans, Negroes, Mexicans and other minorities. Anti-Semitism is rife. In all these activities we can easily recognize an incipient fascism whose ultimate aim is the destruction of the labor movement.

In asking you to vote for me, I am asking you to vote against all these manifestations of black reaction, (and against the capitalist system which nourishes them.) Make YOUR vote a vote for Socialism.

Flint Chevrolet Paper Publishes Reply Of SWP Organizer To Clayton Fountain

The following letter is reprinted from the March 15 issue of *The Searchlight*, official publication of Chevrolet Local 659, UAW-CIO, Flint, Michigan. It was written by Arthur Burch, Michigan organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, in reply to an attack on Trotskyism which appeared in an earlier issue of *The Searchlight*.

* * *

George Carroll,
Editor of *Searchlight*

In an article by Clayton W. Fountain which appeared in the February 15th issue of *The Searchlight*, he acknowledges his previous lack of foresight in maturity.

NEW YORK

During the Month of April

The New York School of Social Science Presents
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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4th: Economic Reasons for World War II

"Fight for Freedom" or Struggle for Profits

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11th: America and Britain Allies and Antagonists

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116 University Place (Corner 13th St., bet. 5th and Broadway)



Poorly-Housed Workers Long For 'Dream Home'

By Grace Carlson

"Do you dream about 'that place in the country?'" begins an article in the March issue of "Good Housekeeping" magazine. Then the author goes on to answer her own question: "We do. We like to think of the room pictured above in the farmhouse of Mr. and Mrs. William Rieheimer in Woodstock, Illinois."

You may be very, very sure that the room pictured there was not the unlighted, shabbily-furnished one room of a sharecropper's cabin. No, indeed not! No body "dreams" of that kind of a "place in the country"! Neither the gushy writer of the "Good Housekeeping" article, nor her millionaire boss, William Randolph Hearst nor the magazine's readers. As for the sharecropper himself, his "place in the country" is much more of a nightmare than a "dream."

CASUAL LIVING

Photographs of the interior and exterior of this real "dream house" are shown in the article with details to appeal to the housewife-reader, weary of the cramped living-quarters and the dirt of city life. "The sun streaming through the crisp organdie curtains filled the rooms with warmth and friendliness." And more delectable details— "The entire attic was covered with pine paneling" ... "Storage and closet space was cleverly tucked under the sloping roof" ... "There were three built-in beds with deep drawer space underneath."

This all adds up to what the "Good Housekeeping" writer calls a "design for casual country

living." No sharecropper or "dirt farmer" is Mr. Rieheimer for we learn from the article that he "commutes to his business in the city." His wife and daughter putter around in the garden of their 30-acre farmyard and raise fresh vegetables for the family dinners, but they wear gloves while working to keep from getting "farmyard hands." Casual country living is very different from the life of backbreaking toil and grinding poverty which is the daily experience of millions of agricultural workers and "dirt farmers!"

furnished, adapted to the needs of growing children.

If the average reader of "Good Housekeeping" were told of life in Hearst's Enchanted Hill Castle on his 75,000 acre estate in San Simeon, California or on one of his luxurious "ranches" in Texas or in Mexico, it would seem so unreal that it would have little meaning. Such remote, lofty and obviously unattainable luxury can never form the basis of the poor housewife's dream.

But a cottage in the country, with plenty of "storage and closet space," "crisp organdie curtains" at the windows, "built-in beds with deep drawer space underneath" — this is a dream that even a worker may have!

But under this social system, it will remain only a dream. According to the latest government figures on housing conditions, half of the homes in the United States — nearly 17 million — had no private bath. Eight million homes had neither gas nor electricity; 11 million had no refrigeration equipment; 4½ million had no central heating or stoves. Houses in rural communities were said to be in even worse condition than those in the cities. Farmhouses were the worst of all.

Housing conditions have grown still worse since 1940. The war has stopped the building of new houses almost entirely. The virtual absence of vacancies in lower-priced houses and apartments makes it impossible for workers to force their landlords to make necessary repairs on the old buildings.

And so, working-class women continue to dream of "that place in the country," while they go through the dreary round of daily housekeeping tasks in crowded, uncomfortable, run-down city homes!

Imperialists Compete In Cynical Phrases

The capitalist powers seek to outdo each other not merely in bloody imperialist grabs, but in the cynical "humanitarian" pretenses with which they cloak their greedy aims. Harold Calleld, Paris correspondent, writing in the March 25 N. Y. Times about the efforts of French imperialism to save its colonial empire from its Allied "friends," states:

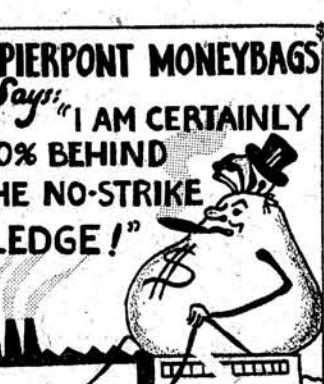
"Meanwhile, if the great powers are going to pretend that they conquered empires with motives of Christian charity and to vow they intend to apply the doctrines of Thomas Jefferson to the Malays and Hottentots, then France will give them a run for their money along that path. The French Empire, like others, can take a new and gentler name and profess to have become an eleemosynary (charitable) institution."

Rather than that moralizing 'Anglo-Saxons' should hint that French colonies and bases should be looked after by others than Frenchmen."

The Trotskyists are concerned with Fountain's red-baiting not only because it harms our tendency but because it injures the labor movement as a whole. All workers irrespective of their political beliefs must learn to recognize this fact. My letter is written so that this chronic red-baiter may be exposed at the very scene of his crime. I hope, therefore, that you will be kind enough to print this letter.

Fraternally yours,

ARTHUR BURCH
Michigan Organizer, Socialist
Workers Party (Trotskyists)



Meat Profiteers Get Price Subsidy From Government

(Continued from page 1)

satisfiable demands of the price-gougers.

Instead of throwing the criminal meat profiteers into prison for withholding supplies and diverting a major food necessity into the black market to force up prices, the government gives them another fat subsidy out of the public treasury.

Instead of answering the meat profiteers' vicious meat "famine" threats — already half fulfilled — with government seizure of all meat supplies and meat packing facilities, Roosevelt actually conceals their role in the meat shortages. Moreover he appeals to the people to accept them without protest and offers a hypocritical justification for the greater profiteer-created food scarcity to come.

Of course she noticed. Everybody in the shop had noticed. Pile-it-high had put them right where you couldn't help but notice them when you rang in on a job. And we were all making wisecracks about them. "First sign of spring" and all that. But Marge wanted to string him along some—so she let on she didn't happen to see them.

Any ordinary guy wouldn't have kept trying to impress a girl when she didn't want to be impressed. But Pile-it-high was not ordinary. He was made of different stuff.

"I bet you can't guess who I have the golf engagement with Marge."

"With Rita Hayworth and Donald Duck, huh?"

"Ha, ha, ha," he laughed a little weakly. "As a matter of fact—" he cleared his throat, and rustled his sheaf of important papers—"I'm going out with the Superintendent to the Park Crest Club."

Marge didn't fall into a faint at this exciting news. So Pile-it-high added his biggest bombshell. "I'm going to give his daughter a little golf lesson."

"No kidding?" said Marge without enthusiasm.

"Oh yes, you see I've been at it quite while. Had a chance to be a professional at the Happy Valley when the war came. But I ah-felt my career was here."

"Say, how old is this daughter of old sourpuss?" Marge asked suddenly.

Patterson's face got red and he tried to be a little nonchalant when he said, "Oh I don't know. About twenty."

MAKING A PLAY FOR THE BOSSSES' DAUGHTER

"Teaching her golf, huh? Giving all the girls around here the brush-off while you make a play for one bosses' daughter." (Pile-it-high figures he's quite a ladies' man, and Marge was rubbing it in.) "You're not going to go and marry the girl are you?"

Patterson laughed his smooth, self-conscious laugh, and pulled in his pot belly a little. "Oh, no. Of course it's nothing like that," he said with a sort of pooh-pooh in his voice. After all, he was only trying to give the girls in the shop an insight into his true charm. He didn't want to give them the impression he was going to be taken out of circulation for good.

"Seriously, though, Marge, it isn't a laughing matter. You know Taylor C. Wilkins' himself got to be vice-president that way. He married the president's daughter. You'd be surprised at the number of the big executives who got their start that way. And even if they don't get a big position, it's a life-time job, you know." There was real awe in his voice.

"Is that so?" Marge exclaimed. "Well say I better finish spotting these brackets." And she said to herself, "Can you imagine that? That little four-flushing pipsqueak thinks he's going to marry Miss Millionbucks and be a big time four-flusher for the rest of his life. Well, it takes all kinds of people to make a world, I guess."

But Pile-it-high is a pathetic sort of four-flusher, though. Running around shining the shoes of the higher-ups like he does, always keeping his eye on the main chance.

He doesn't realize he lacks sophistication, poise, polish, "education" to marry Miss Millionbucks. He hasn't guzzled enough cocktails or seen enough dog-races to make the grade, poor fellow.

It is done sometimes, you know. Richer girls do occasionally marry up-and-coming young executives like Pile-it-high. Yes, if you're a smooth, smart young fellow, who's been to the "right" college and knows the "right" people, maybe you can marry a bosses' daughter and be set for life as a big-time "Yes-Man." Quite a future before you under the capitalist system.

But what a future ... for a MAN!

Ford Local Anti-Stalinist Militants Gain In Strength

(Continued from page 1)

issues. His sole apparent reason for entering the race is to replace the Stalinists with "deserving" Reutherites. This slate suffers, moreover, from the lack of any record of militant action on behalf of the 20,000 Negro workers at the Ford Rouge plant. It is running no Negro for office and is putting forward as a vice-presidential candidate a notorious red-baiter.

This lack of a general slate with a genuine fighting program in principled opposition to the Stalinists weakens the anti-Stalinist forces.

MILITANT PROGRAM

Jones is running for the unit presidency on a 10-point program, including revocation of the No-Strike Pledge, removal of all labor members from the WLB, and formation of an Independent Labor Party. His campaign is being conducted by the newly-organized Press Steel Rank and File Committee. For the first time, the powerful Stalinist machine in the great Press Steel Unit is being challenged by an organized, militant opposition.

The Local 600 Stalinist leadership is being opposed for posts by a Reutherite slate led by Joe McCusker, a member of the Tool and Die Unit and a vice-president of the Michigan CIO Council.

Reuther is the UAW vice-president who plays "militant" while always going along with the rest of the top leadership on all basic issues, such as the no-strike policy, etc.

McCusker's program, differing in no essential from that of Grant, present Local 600 president and notorious Stalinist stooge, is in virtual agreement with the Stalinists on all key issues.

Sheffield, one of the most militant and capable Negro leaders in Ford local, is running on a program similar to that of Jones in Press Steel Unit. Despite an unprecedented slander campaign against him by the Stalinists, their fink activities have discredited them with so many Negro militants that Sheffield stands a good chance of winning the election.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."
—KARL MARX
by CHARLES JACKSON

Powell, the Political Contortionist

The feeble capacity of those political leaders who attempt to straddle the fence of reality by calling for racial equality and, at the same time, giving full support to the very system of capitalism which makes Negro oppression profitable is further exemplified by the antics of Harlem's fair-haired faker Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

This formerly outspoken champion of Negro rights whom the voters of Harlem sent to Congress with confidence in his integrity, is now playing the role of a slick betrayer of the Negro masses. In his corrupt attempt to make further personal, opportunistic gains he is whitewashing the role of American imperialism and its present political agent, the Roosevelt administration.

In a recent debate on the slave labor bill Powell was so anxious to honey up to the Roosevelt administration that he, the ostensible Negro spokesman, spoke against the incorporation into that reactionary measure of a non-discrimination amendment.

Here is his excuse: "I opposed it because there was an order by our Commander-in-Chief, Executive Order No. 8802, which assured that in war industries there would be no discrimination."

He claims that he is opposed to "too much protection" against anti-Negroism — as if such could be possible in present-day America! Such is the flimsy excuse offered by this faker for lining up with Rankin, the Negroes' most open and outspoken enemy.

FALSE CLAIM

Powell further stated in the House of Representatives on March 6 that Executive Order 8802 (FEPC), "has been obeyed (now watch the wording) more or less in increasing numbers in our war plants."

By such weasel-worded phrasology he tries to substantiate the lie that the FEPC has brought Negroes equality in hiring and in upgrading in industry. A claim as obviously false as this one needs no rebuttal as far as Negro factory workers are concerned.

The fact that this political contortionist is no longer interested in liberating the Negro masses but only in advancing his own prestige among the ruling class is further borne out by the type of "fight" he is advocating in his public speeches.

The March 17 issue of his own paper, *People's Voice* (right under the corner you can clip out a coupon and send for a pin-up picture) carries a report of his recent address in Detroit where he condemned Negro "nationalism." "The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," said Powell, "should now change its name to the National Association for the Advancement of Common People."

We certainly have nothing to grant our democratic demands.

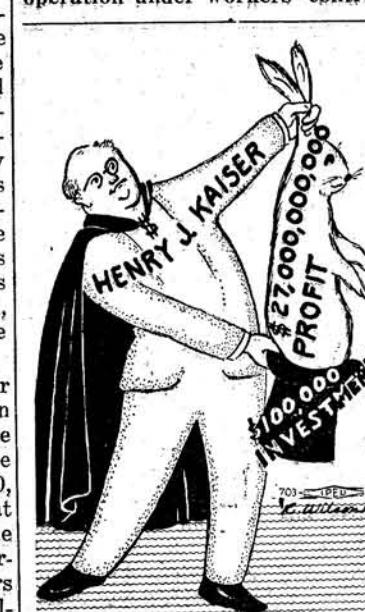
Pioneer Paragraphs

FOOD SHORTAGE MADE WORSE BY RUTHLESS PROFITEERING

The food shortage, we are told by the capitalists, their newspapermen and their politicians, is caused by the war. This is true — to a certain extent. But it is not the whole truth, and a part truth is the worst kind of lie.

The truth is that the shortage of food available for workers is being deliberately made worse by certain capitalists in order to get extra profits.

Profits, not the needs of the masses, determine the allocation of food. The food capitalists sell the food at the highest prices they can get. The wealthy can pay higher prices than the workers, thus get the food they need. Only what is left, if any, reaches the workers.



Cost-Plus Magic

Congressman Woodruff, quoting figures supplied by the U. S. Comptroller General, disclosed that the shipbuilding capitalist, Henry Kaiser, had realized a profit "after renegotiation" of \$27,274,487.24 on an original investment of \$100,000. These figures covered only two of the Kaiser shipyards.

"What's Happening to It?" by C. Charles, pp. 18-19. Pioneer Publishers, 1943. 32 pp., 15¢. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

48 pages, paper 15¢
Pioneer Publishers
116 UNIVERSITY PLACE
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

Why Miners Should Get A "Royalty"

By Larissa Reed

The demand of the United Mine Workers Union for 10 cents on every ton of coal to be set aside for a Union Welfare Fund deserves full support. However, it is misleading to call this fund a "royalty." The term "royalty," as its name indicates, was originally used to designate the tribute demanded by kings.

In more recent times the word is used to designate the percentage of profits or "royalty" guaranteed to the author of a book or the owner of a new invention. In general "royalty" means a share of the profits for the owner of a property, process or product. For example, the owner of a mine who leases it to others for operation can exact a share of the profits as "royalty."

But the mine worker does not own anything except his own labor power — two strong arms and a sturdy back that can stand up under the grinding toil in the mine pits. Unlike the idle and rapacious bosses whose only work is to rake in their profits, rents, royalties and other tribute, the miners are wage-slaves. Like all workers, they are compelled to engage in the bitterest struggle, not only to gain a decent life for themselves and their families, but also to protect their lives and limbs from the destructive greed of the mine operators.

The most simplest fool or the most deceptive liar, however, will today contend that there is no further need to struggle for Negro equality as such. The most naive country bumpkin knows that throughout the greater part of America a black man can neither go to the same places, engage in the same political activity, nor hold the same jobs as a white man.

DOUBLY OPPRESSED

We cannot ignore the fact that the Negro is doubly oppressed — as a worker and as a Negro — and therefore he must put up a special struggle for basic democratic rights which is not necessary for the white worker. Down with the government and civilian Jim Crow that unjustly condemns us to second-class citizenship!

One thousand Seabees are forced to go on a hunger strike to call attention to the rotten discrimination in upgrading practiced against them. And Powell says: Forget that you are a Negro! Four colored girls are sentenced to a year at hard labor by an Army court-martial for having guts enough to refuse to perform the dirty work at Fort Devens, Mass. which was not required of the white WACS. And Powell says: Forget that you are a Negro! He who says to the black people "Forget that you are a Negro," has already forgotten that he is their elected spokesman.

Instead of diluting or disbanding the NAACP, Mr. Powell, we need to build it bigger and stronger. We also need to transfer its strategy into the stream of militant mass action along with the progressive labor movement so that we can force the Big Business government to

the miners are not demanding something for nothing. Only the bosses demand and get something for nothing. They get millions of dollars worth of profits every year, wrung out of the sweat and blood of the mine workers. The miners have every right to protect themselves and to make sure that their families are protected in case of illness, disaster or death.

In reality this demand of the miners is far too modest and inadequate to meet the needs of half a million underpaid and overworked men with families to care for. The demand for their own Welfare Fund is good. But the miners will never gain real security until they have thrown the parasitic mine owners off their backs once and for all. They can achieve this only by putting an end to private ownership and profiteering through the nationalization of the mines and their operation under workers' control.

Generally the stores in the sections of town where the rich live charged higher prices during the bad periods than were charged in the stores which sell to workers. The manufacturer and wholesaler can make more profits by selling to the higher price stores than by selling to stores patronized by workers. Therefore, the stores in the wealthier sections and the luxurious eating places get as much food as they need, with only the leavings to trickle down to the workers.

This is true from one corner of the country to the other. In San Francisco, the conservative Butchers' Union of the three West Coast states met on Jan. 10, 1943, to discuss the acute meat situation. At this meeting the delegate from Southern California "accused these packers (Swift, Cudahy, Armour and Wilson, the largest meat packers in the nation) of ignoring retail butchers and selling their produce to the hotels and restaurants who are willing to buy meat at any price." (San Francisco Chronicle, Jan. 11, 1943).

(From "Your Standard of Living — What's Happening to It?" by C. Charles, pp. 18-19. Pioneer Publishers, 1943. 32 pp., 15¢. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.)



"Give workers an annual wage and they'll never do an honest day's work."

Bosses' Reconversion Plans Are Cutbacks, Unemployment

By R. Bell

Predictions of an early termination of the war in Europe are again pushing to the fore the problem of reconversion to civilian production. This problem concerns the welfare of millions of workers now directly or indirectly engaged in war production.

The mine worker wants to protect his wife and children against the ever-present tragedy of sudden death in a mine disaster. Who will then take care of his widow and orphans? Certainly not the operators. To them a dead miner is nothing but a worn-out profit-making machine. The proposed Union Welfare Fund will prevent his grieved and destitute family from being thrown out on the streets.

The mine worker often gets sick from overwork and the many diseases that lurk in the unhealthy pits. Lung diseases are common and require a lengthy cure. Thousands of miners are maimed and crippled every year; some of them are permanently disabled. With their wages cut off, who will provide food and medical care? Who will see that his family does not suffer cold, hunger and distress? Certainly not the mine owners, for an incapacitated miner can no longer turn out profits. The Union Welfare Fund will not only give the miners at least a measure of security now but will give him aid in the days of unemployment ahead.

Workers were discharged by the thousands. They were thrown onto the streets with no provision made for their welfare or security. The outstanding incident of that period was the sudden shutdown of the Brewster Aircraft plant which became a national issue by the forecasts made by high ranking military officials of the impending collapse of Germany.

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These measures constitute the "reconversion" program of the Roosevelt administration as embodied in legislative form. With these "relief" measures enacted, the brass hats clamped down on all further reconversion "planning." As part of their "psychological warfare" they broad-

cast reports that there would be little or no change in production and employment after the defeat of Germany. They deliberately set out to disarm the workers by distorting and suppressing official figures of the extent which cutbacks will reduce employment in the "reconversion" period.

In a speech made last December, Leo Cherne, executive director of the Research Institute of America, declared that one of the most "tautizing" problems of the year, "is the determination of the extent of post V-E day cutbacks." Estimates have ranged as high as 75 percent, he said. The War Production Board, he added, began with a "cautious" estimate of 32 percent in August, raised it to 40 in September, and finally to 50 percent in November.

"Toward the end of November a strange reversal in estimates took place. They went from 50 percent down to 32 percent. Then high Army procurement officials unofficially let it be known that the cutback would be less than 25 percent, and a few days later a 15 percent figure made its appearance." On the basis of a conservative estimate, Cherne advised his business audience, the "wisest" policy would be to bank on the 35 to 45 percent estimate.

The magazine *Business Week* openly scoffs at the figure-juggling of the brass hats. "The Army and Navy, after carefully nursing the phony theory that one war will be as big as two, won't backtrack right away," it cynically observes. The magazine concludes that "cutbacks will reach or exceed 35% inside a year after victory in Europe."

These advisers of corporation executives and business men aren't fooled by the propaganda of the brass hats. Big Business is preparing for "reconversion" on the basis of realistic estimates and inside information received from their agents who occupy key positions in all government procurement and planning agencies.

DECEIVE WORKERS

It is only the laboring masses who are being lulled into a false sense of security by the distorted statistics of the administration spokesmen. The corporations are protected against losses incurred by shutting down for reconversion. The tax laws guarantee their profits even if they fail to produce a single commodity. The legislation on contract terminations and surplus disposal safeguards their property interests. They are well-cushioned against the "shock of reconversion."

The workers on the other hand, have nothing to fend off these shocks but Roosevelt's vague and unrealizable promise of 60 million jobs some time in the indefinite future. And to tide them over the "reconversion" period, they will have only meager unemployment doles as low as \$2 a week in some states.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

MARCH 30, 1935

NEW YORK—Warning American workers of impending war as imperialist rivalries sharpened, *The Militant* declared in a front-page editorial that "The imperialist rulers . . . are plunging headlong into a new world war, dragging the masses of the working people along with them as cannon fodder."

"How it will start is really a matter of little moment. . . The fact that Hitler asks re-armament rights in the name of a 'Holy War' against Bolshevism . . . that he really wants to begin Germany's imperialist re-expansion by exterminating the Workers' State—does not mean that (the war) would end that way."

"The conflicts in the camp of the imperialists make a war among themselves inevitable. . . American imperialism has interests in Europe and Asia far too vital to its preservation and expansion for it to allow them to be affected without America's active and direct intervention."

TOLEDO—Seething with discontent under near-starvation wages and widespread unemployment, the American workers were engaged in constant strike actions. In Toledo, five strikes were in progress. Milk drivers, Federal Emergency Relief Workers, metal workers, and grocery employees simultaneously fought for better conditions.

First to be settled was the milk drivers' strike, with an agreement on March 25 providing wage-increases of 14 to 24 percent for lower paid men. Increases in other categories were to be determined by further negotiations.

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Socialist Workers Party

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



Only the world revolution can save the USSR for socialism. But the world revolution carries with it the inescapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchy.

— 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.

Role Of Stalinism

With this issue of *The Militant* we are replacing a citation from Leon Trotsky stressing the defense of the USSR against imperialist attack with another emphasizing that only through the world revolution and the overthrow of the Kremlin oligarchy by the workers can the Soviet Union be saved for socialism.

This change of citations flows from the changes which have occurred both in relationship of forces on the military arena and in the European situation. When the Soviet Union was invaded by Hitler, we Trotskyists made paramount the task of safeguarding against imperialist assault the nationalized property and planned economy—conquests of the October Revolution which constituted the foundations of the Soviet state. We never for a moment renounced our irreconcilable opposition to the Stalinist bureaucracy whose reactionary policies menaced and undermined these precious conquests of the world working class. As soon as the external threat to the USSR was eliminated, we stated at that time, the revolutionary vanguard would be obliged to push to the fore the struggle for the revolutionary removal of the Stalinist ruling caste.

That is precisely the situation which prevails at this stage of the war. Instead of the Nazi armies besieging Moscow, the Red Army now stands before Berlin. But although the attack of German imperialism has been beaten off, this purely military victory by no means ensures the definitive salvation of the USSR, as the Kremlin would have the workers believe.

As Leon Trotsky explained time and again, the preservation of the conquests made by the world working class in the Soviet Union depend upon the extension of the anti-capitalist revolution beyond the boundaries of the present Soviet Union. Penned up within the USSR under the domination of the Stalinist bureaucracy these conquests are directly threatened with decay and destruction. The continued rule of the Kremlin oligarchy entails direct encroachments upon the nationalized economy and thus facilitates the restoration of capitalist property forms.

While shielding and stimulating the tendencies toward capitalist restoration within the USSR, the

Kremlin is working hand in hand with the Anglo-American imperialists to strangle the European revolution and to drown it in blood. Red Army troops in non-Soviet territories (Rumania, Bulgaria, Poland, East Prussia, and elsewhere) are today being used as the police and guardians of capitalist property and capitalist rule.

Reviewing the Russian question in the light of this new situation, the November 1944 Convention of the Socialist Workers Party adopted the change in tactics indicated by the change in the citations. Whereas in the preceding period we correctly subordinated the struggle for the overthrow of the Stalinist regime to the needs of military defense, it is now imperative to subordinate everything else to the defense of the advancing European revolution.

Genuine defense of the USSR today demands the overthrow of the profit system which breeds wars, insecurity and fascism. It requires implacable struggle against all the forces upholding capitalism, including Stalin's Bonapartist gang.

Forced Labor Drive

The approaching climax of the war in Europe has led Roosevelt and his brass hats to intensify their drive to enact a forced labor law. Under administration pressure, an "unexpected" agreement was reached by a Congress conference committee considering labor draft legislation adopted by the House and Senate. Preparations have been made to rush the measure through Congress before the military collapse of Germany. Members of Congress who had left on a scheduled Easter recess were called back to begin immediate consideration of the committee proposal.

Why are the forced labor advocates so insistent on pushing through a forced labor law now? The magazine, *Business Week*, discloses that: "The main purpose for which the Army wants a national service law is to give it a firm hold on workers after Germany goes under." The military agents of Big Business want this weapon to curb the resistance of the workers to the wage-slashing, union-busting "reconversion" plans of Wall Street. It is designed to prevent the workers from regaining their independence of action, to break strikes, and to victimize militants.

The drive for additional measures of labor repression to be applied AFTER Germany is defeated completely exposes the fraud of "peace, security and jobs-for-all" in the "post-war" period. If capitalism could guarantee a decent standard of living for the masses on the basis of "peacetime" production, it would have no need of strengthening its machinery of repression. On the contrary, it cannot maintain even the present low standard of living but must drive it still lower. This end cannot be attained by "peaceful" or "voluntary" methods.

Churchill's Speech

With victory over Germany almost in their grasp, Churchill and Roosevelt now feel free to drop their fine phrases about the "Four Freedoms," "the protection of small nations," "the rights of the common man." They needed these deceitful promises in the early years of World War II to win the support of the masses for the imperialist war. Now, however, they must bare their fangs of reaction to the workers who let themselves hope that the end of the war in Europe would bring some slight return on all the lavish promises made by the Allied leaders in the "Atlantic Charter" period.

Can the returning British soldiers expect financial help from a "grateful" government in order to re-establish themselves in civilian life? Prime Minister Churchill answered this question in the negative at the annual conference of his Conservative Party held on March 15. "It would be very easy," he said, "for us all to promise... presents, bonuses and gratuities in the most enthusiastic manner," but he went on to warn his fellow Conservatives against trying to win support "by promising what we cannot perform."

Do the members of the British Labor Party expect some social gains for the English workers in partial return for their bitter sacrifices during five and a half years of total warfare? England's Prime Tory took care to disillusion them. "At the head of our mainmast, we fly the flag of free enterprise," said this exponent of the capitalist system of wealth for the few and grinding poverty for the many.

Lashing out at "our Socialist friends" and their "program for nationalizing all the means of production, distribution and exchange," he delighted his Conservative Party colleagues with the assertion that this would imply "not only the destruction of life of the whole of our existing system of society and life and labor but the creation and enforcement of another system or systems borrowed from foreign lands and alien minds."

But the outstanding example of Churchill's contemptuous cynicism toward the "Atlantic Charter" promises came in his March 15 speech in the House of Commons. Replying to a question from a Laborite member of the House, Churchill characterized any program for protecting small nations from aggression as a "hopeless ideal." Under the "realistic" Yalta agreement, he remarked, there will be a "differentiation between the treatment of the greatest powers in these matters and of the smallest powers."

A return to pre-war poverty and unemployment under the decaying capitalist system, the rule of the many by the few and the tyranny of the powerful over the weak—by Churchill's own admissions, these are the rightful results of this terrible war.



The Same Old Racket



WORKERS' FORUM

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.

"Sick of Lies"

Editor:

I would like to have 100 copies of The Militant of March 10, 1945, or even more than 100 if you have them. I want to mail them out to my friends. I myself am so sick of reading lies in our daily papers and I believe my friends are too.

The March 10 issue has on page six your editorial "U. S. Role in Greece." I want my friends to read that, and some crazy news dealers I know, I want them to read it too.

R. O. Z.
St. Louis, Mo.

His Toughest Fights With Union Haters

Editor:

A union machinist who is a veteran of seven major battles recently gave his answer to the anti-union propaganda that brass hats are trying to spread in the army. In an interview with the Detroit News on March 12, Sgt. Caesar Garcia, home on furlough after two and a half years overseas, said that his toughest fights had been not with the Germans, but with "ill-informed union haters in the army."

He defended wartime strikes, saying that he and "about 18 coal miners from West Virginia and Pennsylvania" had an argument on their hands "every time news of a strike reached our group." As one of the workers at the Ford Motor Company during the 1937 Rouge Plant "Battle of the Overpass," he knows what strikes mean.

Garcia said "It's pretty hard trying to explain strikes in wartime to a bunch of cowboys and farmers, and some of the strikes I couldn't justify myself." (Probably because the only information he had about them were the lying and inadequate reports in the capitalist and army-edited press).

"But I started to work in factories when I was 17 years old. And I remember the speeches made by foremen who threatened to fire us if we joined a union. I remembered a lot of things that helped me win some of my arguments."

A. C.
Detroit

In the Fight For 45 Years

Editor:

Some months ago I requested that 12 subscription cards be sent to me. I received them but as I have been confined to the house ever since, I have been able to dispose of but two of them for which I remit 50 cents, and 50 cents for the renewal of my subscription.

I write a letter for the Terre Haute Advocate each week and mail the clippings to other papers. Am enclosing a few.

On account of my age, 71, I am unable to work for the cause except by my pen. I have been in the fight for 45 years. I have been active, not always in the sticks; Pittsburgh, Chicago, and 25 years in Terre Haute where I am or used to be well known.

So long as I am able I am going to fight against this damnable system.

Wishing success for The Militant and the movement, I am yours for socialism.

Robert H. Miller
Carbon, Ind.

P. S. Enclosed is one dollar. Would have renewed my sub sooner had I had the money. Am an old age pensioner.

(Ed. NOTE: We deeply appreciate the work you are doing and the sacrifices you are making for the movement. Selling subscriptions is a very important part of our fight for socialism. The Militant educates and recruits new workers to help replace the veterans. Comrade Miller's devotion certainly serves as an inspiration to the younger comrades.)

Tells the Story Of Her Husband

Editor:

This is the story of my husband. I hope you can print it.

It was on October 10, 1930, when Mr. Wood fell from the top of a Mobile Oil truck he was repairing at the Millard Fillmore Hospital and sent him home in three days.

His employer called for him to come back to work. He was in a maniacal state and tried to kill himself. They gave him work

Mr. Wood, my husband, lived eight years with a broken back, with no medical care and no compensation. Mr. Wood died Oct. 5, 1938 at General Hospital.

This is my story.

Mrs. W. H. Wood
Buffalo, N. Y.

Security Council and League of Nation

Editor:

There are two important things that I think The Militant should carry articles on. First, the so-called security council that is scheduled to meet in Frisco soon needs an analysis and discussion. I believe it is necessary to point out the similarity between the presently proposed deal and the defunct League of Nations, showing how the capitalist contradictions prevent us from having any protracted period of peace, and proving that the only road to world peace is the socialist program and method.

The sponsors of the present set-up are breaking themselves on the real mass desire for peace and security, and are perpetrating a gigantic hoax on the people who are sick and tired of capitalist wars.

Second, I would like to see an occasional article on the workers in the army and those already discharged. Something to prod the unions into a closer relation with them. I think that if the unions do not do something in this field, many veterans will be swept up both by the old and new veterans organizations who will exploit their desires for a break into reactionary channels.

I have heard men in the army express the idea that after the war the veterans should "run the country" and they plan to organize servicemen by themselves and not with any "civilian" organizations.

**

Q: Who are the current profits of the meat packers, who are trying to get prices raised again?

A: Meat packers are making about seven times their pre-war profits.

Last year the eight meat packing firms had a net profit of \$153,193,000, as against the 1935-36 average of \$22,382,000.

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