

Gompers' 'Peace Pact' Its Lessons For Labor

SEE PAGE 5

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THE MILITANT

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Miners Display Fighting Spirit In Strike Vote

Demonstrating their traditional fighting spirit and determination to win their just demands, the nation's soft coal miners on March 29 cast a thunderous eight-to-one majority vote empowering the United Mine Workers leaders to call a strike if the mine operators fail to sign a contract acceptable to the union.

The miners who went on strike four times in 1943 once more ignored the howls of the big business press, government agents and mine owners. They marched calmly to the NLRB voting booths in 90 mining areas throughout the country and rolled up 208,718 "yes" votes against 25,156 "noes" to put into effect their "no contract, no work" slogan if necessary.

This decisive expression of the militant will of the miners, as the boss press has mournfully conceded, has tremendously strengthened the hand of the UMW bargaining committee which had previously received a flat rejection of the union's 18 demands from the operators. The mine owners are gorged with the juiciest profits they have ever squeezed from the sweat and blood of the men who face death daily in the dark, wet, gas-filled coal pits.

In the face of the overwhelming strike vote, the Roosevelt administration hastily intervened in the dispute to forestall a strike at the termination of the soft-coal contract on March 31. Roosevelt's War Labor Board ordered the extension of the old contract for another 30 days retroactive for any wage increases subsequently granted.

OPERATORS STALL

The operators, who had previously balked at the retroactive pay provision, were compelled to yield. The mine union officials at first demanded that the owners be required to post a \$15,000,000 bond to cover retroactive pay, because the coal barons had cheated the miners out of some of the retroactive pay the union had won in the 1943-45 contract. This demand was finally withdrawn.

From the start the operators have deliberately tried to stall and delay. Their first counteroffer — promptly brushed aside by the UMW committee — was a brazen insult to the miners. It was for a 28 cents a day increase after the union had asked for various "fringe" demands estim-

ated at \$1.60 to over \$2 per day.

As the contract termination deadline approached, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins last Friday submitted to the negotiations conference a compromise proposal which even she admitted "takes a great deal out of the union's cherished demands." This proposal would have provided, according to her estimate, increases of \$1.15 to \$1.20 a day through various "fringe" concessions, but not the 10-cents per ton payment to the union welfare fund the union sought as a key demand.

ATTITUDE OF MINERS

The operators turned down even this extremely modest proposal after the union committee had indicated its readiness to accept it in order to avoid a strike. It became crystal clear, even to the most biased observers, that the greedy operators are intent on preventing the miners from getting even a tiny portion of their demands. Secretary Perkins then certified the dispute to the WLB, which was compelled to agree to consider it promptly without the usual "preliminary special panel hearings."

An extension of the negotiations for another 30 days will strengthen the bargaining position of the miners, because the 60,000 hard coal miners, whose contract expires April 30, have also filed for an NLRB strike vote. The results of this vote undoubtedly will parallel that of the soft-coal miners, as the operators have already conceded.

Major William W. Inglis, chairman of the anthracite operators committee, even called the vote "foolish" because he admitted such a vote "would show that an overwhelming majority of the hard coal miners are willing to call a strike."

But the miners don't think it "foolish." They are eager to demonstrate the militant and united support they are giving their negotiations committee and their readiness for battle.

Indian Trotskyist Leader Dying In Colonial Prison

Philip Gunawardene, one of the most courageous Trotskyist leaders in India, is critically ill and dying of starvation in a Ceylonese prison, according to a report in the March 1945 English *Socialist Appeal*. Many a revolutionary has been physically broken in the torture-houses called "prisons" in India and Ceylon.

Gunawardene has been languishing in prison since Feb. 8, 1944, after he and N. M. Perera, two outstanding Trotskyist fighters in the struggle for freedom of the Indian masses, were betrayed to the British police in India by a Stalinist agent. They were arrested and brought to trial on charges arising from their escape from a British concentration camp, in which they had been interned for almost two years. The uncompromising defense of their revolutionary ideas and defiant challenge to British imperialism they uttered in the magistrate's court at Kandy, Ceylon on Feb. 8, 1944 was published in *The Militant*, Oct. 14.

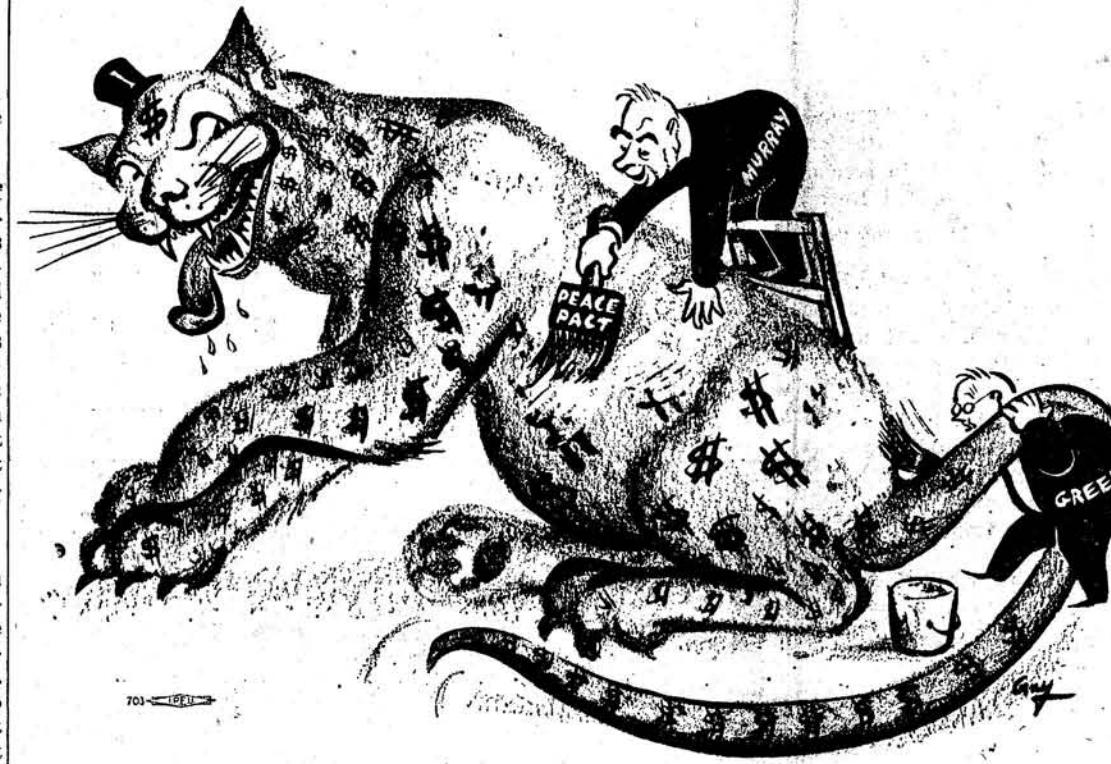
Gunawardene is one of the leaders of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, formed in 1935 on the island of Ceylon. The party engaged in the struggles of the railway workers, plantation laborers and peasants and published its literature in three languages. It made rapid headway among the six million Ceylonese slaves of British imperialism and became recognized as the only true fighter for their interests. In 1938 the masses expressed their confidence in the Trotskyist Party and its program by electing Gunawardene and Perera to the Ceylon State Council.

BRITISH TERROR

The British overlords, increasingly alarmed by the growth and popularity of the Trotskyist movement, utilized the outbreak of war as a pretext to arrest the Trotskyist leaders in Sept. 1939. Together with other members of

Big Business Hails 'Peace Charter' Signed By CIO And AFL Leaders

Changing the Leopard's Spots



IN THE NEWS

Can It Be War Profits?

On January 5 the New York Sun said in its stock market column: "Strength in rails and airplanes reflected the current optimism that the war will continue long enough to maintain existing revenues." On March 27, speaking before the House, Rep. Maranto expressed puzzlement over the stock market decline with "victory over Germany in sight."

No Aid to Their Morale!

Nine soldiers in the European theater wrote their Congressman a letter, read in the House on March 24. "Honorable Congressman: Just read a short item on your stand against the so-called work-or-jail bill in Stars and Stripes. . . If this bill passes, it will mean another link forged in the chain of regimentation that is bringing the neck of the American people."

Nazis' 1000-Year Rule

The March 28 *Volkischer Beobachter*, Goebbel's newspaper, complains: "It is very difficult to be openly declared courageous Nazi today and express one's faith freely. We have no illusions now."

Bad News for Bilbo

Negro-baiter Senator Bilbo of the Mississippi legislature asked Lieut. Van T. Barfoot, Medal Of Honor winner from Carthage, Miss., "Did you have much trouble with the Negroes?"

Lieut. Barfoot drawled: "I found the colored boys fight as good as the white boys. I changed my ideas a lot about them and so have other Southerners. Coming up on the train, I found the diner full. I was told to wait, but I could see behind a little curtain, a colored captain at a table by himself. I said, 'What's wrong with that table?' The steward said he didn't think I'd want to sit there. I said: 'Why not? I've fought with colored men—why shouldn't I eat with them?' I sat there and we had a fine chat."

Mercy—for Big Thieves

Eighteen leading steel concerns and six of their top officers were recently tried in federal court for a 10-year monopoly price-fixing conspiracy in stainless steel netting them tens of millions of dollars profits. Their attorney pleaded no defense for all of them "in order to avoid a long trial." Trial Judge Foreman at the suggestion of Attorney General Biddle's representative fined the defendants each \$10,000, imposed no jail sentences.

This Easter in Rome

"Another change brought about by the war was the absence of pigeons from St. Peter's piazza... They disappeared, so the story goes, into the stews pots of starving Romans months ago," states an Easter Sunday dispatch.

Fight Censorship!

An Editorial

A scheduled radio address by Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, was subjected to vicious censorship by Station KHJ. Only in mutilated form was the speech finally delivered on March 26 over another station, KNX.

As we go to press, a telegram from Los Angeles informs us that another radio address by the Trotskyist mayoralty candidate—on behalf of Charlotte Bass, independent Negro candidate for city council—was censored by Station KFAC. The American Civil Liberties Union has responded by initiating a protest against these blows at freedom of speech.

MILITANT' PUBLISHED TEXT

The full, uncensored text of Comrade Weiss' first censored speech was published in last week's *Militant* so that our readers might note the portions of the address which the radio censors did not permit the workers to hear.

One sentence the reactionary censors didn't consider "fit" for the public's ears expressed opposition to "the Roosevelt-sponsored National Service Act and all other freedom-destroying legislation." Another arbitrary excision was a reference to the system of capitalist exploitation and wars as a "cancerous growth on human society."

Particularly vicious was the deletion of a statement correctly linking the terrorist racial attacks on Japanese-Americans in California with the campaign of the open-shoppers to mobilize assaults on the labor movement.

This case is a significant example of the constant censorship and suppression of facts favoring the workers exercised by the corporation-owned radio stations. As the March 17 *Militant* reported, a CIO survey has shown that five out of every six references to labor on the radio are hostile and lying. The controlled radio, like the daily press, is used almost exclusively in the interests of the rich and privileged.

A THREAT TO DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Such cases as the one cited are a threat to the democratic rights of all labor and make a mockery of free speech. The labor movement is duty-bound to protest vigorously against every instance of such censorship and to support the Socialist Workers Party and the American Civil Liberties Union in the fight against these violations of free speech.

At the same time, such cases underline the vital function of *The Militant* in printing the truths and facts which the capitalist press and radio seek to conceal. Our columns are open to the workers to present the true picture of conditions under capitalism which the owning class tries to falsify and bury.

Struggles Of Belgian Miners Supported By Trotskyist Party

THE MINERS WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE COAL IS GOING

The miners of Limbourg, the Centre and Charleroi have gone on strike. They are demanding an increase in wages, clothing priority, an increase in pension, the reemployment of union delegates who have been arbitrarily sacked.

These demands are completely justified, except in the eyes of the conservative and reformist papers, which are already blaming the miners and their union leaders as being responsible for the lack of coal. Yet the Belgian miners have worked hard since "liberation." In spite of the absence of several thousands of their comrades, their production has exceeded that of their French comrades by 50 percent.

In reality, it is not the lack of coal which is disturbing the reactionaries and reformists, but the fact that the miners are thinking of intervening in the control of production.

The miners want to know what scandalous profits the coal barons are accumulating in the midst of the general poverty!

Workers in industry, in the yards and offices! Transport workers! Housewives! Small shopkeepers! The miners' struggle is that of the whole population against the incapacity of the bosses.

If the miners call on you for aid, be ready to support them by all the appropriate means! Together with them you will establish a serious control over production and the distribution of coal.

Management fired 10 unionists, suspended five and threatened more victimizations, but the strikers felt they were victors. They had gained inspiration, experience and self-confidence. At least they proved "it could be done." They are willing to try it again if necessary.

The rest of Flint's 50,000 UAW-CIO members mainly in Buick, Chevrolet and Fisher Body, were just as pleased. AC had always been more conservative under the corporation's war-time reign of terror, AC militancy rose. As departmental stoppages were letting up in other plants they were just beginning in AC.

In the UAW elections only six weeks ago, AC Local was the only one in Flint to have a slate of candidates campaigning against the no-strike pledge. That slate was red-baited by Stalinists and others, but made a clean sweep. It inherited a mountain of unsettled grievances.

Immediately the speedup increased and bargaining breakdown worse than ever. A hundred unsettled grievances quickly piled up. A committeeeman was fired last week and 40 girls were reprimanded for demonstrating in support of him. That provoked the strike. The frantic UAW regional office could not head it off as long as management refused to bargain.

New, temporary local leadership came to the fore in the strike, inexperienced but willing. Under the no-strike pledge and the UAW International Executive Board's policy of complete subservience to the war profiteers, the recently elected local

(Continued on page 3)

Wall Street Plans Union-Busting Drive Under Cover Of Its 'Truce' With Labor

By C. Thomas

The signing of a "Peace Charter" by representatives of organized labor and industry is being widely acclaimed by the kept press, Wall Street bankers and industrialists, administration wage-freeze and forced labor advocates. For this "charter" contains a "code of principles" lifted out of the bible of Big Business. It affirms the "right" of capital to exploit labor and renounces labor's resistance to such exploitation.

Specifically, it proposes to extend into the "post-war" period the wartime policy of unconditional surrender to the employing class. Small wonder

that the dollar patriots and their political agents hail the "statesmanship" of labor leaders William Green and Philip Murray, who joined with the head of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Eric Johnston, in formulating the "peace pact for post-war prosperity."

The pact proclaims that: "The rights of private property and free choice of action, under a system of private competitive capitalism, must continue to be the foundation of our nation's peaceful and prosperous expanding economy."

To this basic capitalist principle the capitalist "charter" adds: "The inherent right and responsibility of management to direct the operations of an enterprise shall be recognized and preserved. So that enterprise may develop and expand and earn a reasonable profit, management must be free as well from unnecessary governmental interference or burdensome restrictions."

AID WALL STREET

This sweeping declaration of the "rights of private property" constitutes a blanket endorsement of Wall Street's "postwar" plans to plunder the wealth of the country.

These plans have already been embodied in legislative form. They provide for the "free enterprise" disposal to the monopolists of billions-worth of government-owned plants, equipment, land

(Continued on page 5)

Flint AC Plant Auto Workers Strike Against Provocations

By Jeff Thorne

FLINT, Mich., March 30.—The 13,000 members of AC Local 651, United Automobile Workers, CIO, are holding their heads higher as the result of a two-day demonstration strike last Tuesday and Wednesday at the AC Spark Plug Division of General Motors. It was the first strike in the history of AC and first tie-up of a whole war plant in this General Motors

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TRADE UNION NOTES

by JOSEPH KELLER

Addes and Thomas

In a personal interview in the *Stalinist Daily Worker*, March 28, George Addes, secretary-treasurer of the CIO United Automobile Workers, indicates the UAW leaders intend to use the majority vote for the no-strike pledge in the recent referendum as a further pretext for bureaucratic reprisals against the auto militants.

The fact that an unholy alliance of UAW and CIO leaders, the government and the corporations succeeded in pressuring a majority vote for the pledge "strengthens the hands of those union officers who believe in the CIO no-strike policy," Addes is quoted. "This outcome," he adds ominously, "ought to serve as a warning to all disruptive forces" — including, presumably, the 36 percent of the UAW voters who opposed the pledge and the 60,000 who have gone on strike in the past six weeks in Detroit.

However, states the *Daily Worker*, Addes "spoke bitterly of 'demagogues' who will continue to stir up trouble . . . and let it be known that he has no illusions that the fight is over."

UAW President R. J. Thomas also tries to make the most of the referendum results, which he terms a "mandate to me, as president." After trying to squeeze some personal satisfaction out of this "victory" in his column in the *United Automobile Worker*, April 1, Thomas concludes:

"There are definite signs that the period ahead is to be marked by a vicious public onslaught against our union and against labor. The Automobile Manufacturers' Association and its stooge, the 'Automotive Council for War Production' are filling the columns of the press with malicious falsehoods aimed at undermining labor . . ."

The way to "silence these dishonest attacks," Thomas opines, is to enforce the no-strike pledge. This is just what the auto barons want since they can continue their unionbusting drive by firing local union leaders wholesale without fear of strikes. Tens of thousands of Detroit auto workers have demonstrated since the referendum that they have an opposite and more effective method than Thomas for "silencing these dishonest attacks."

Recognize Foremen

Under pressure of the labor movement and recurrent foremen's strikes, the NLRB last week ruled that supervisory employees are entitled to belong to independent unions of their own choosing and to engage in collective bargaining under the Wagner Act.

The corporation owners, who fear the organized collaboration of supervisory workers with the rest of labor, have tried to contend that foremen are "part of management." However, the NLRB majority was forced to admit that the foreman "now is an executor carrying out orders, plans, and policies determined above; he is more managed than managing . . ."

This NLRB ruling, reversing its decision of two years ago, grew out of the Packard Motor case where the foremen, organized in the Foremen's Assn. of America, went on strike in Detroit last May. The decision will have considerable bearing, it is believed, on the United Mine Workers'

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1800 New 'Militant' Readers In One Week Sets Record For Subscription Campaign

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

demand for contract coverage of most of the mine foremen and supervisors.

More Stalinist Finkery

The Stalinists, operating through various local CIO Councils which they control, are continuing their vicious campaign against the coal miners now negotiating for a new contract.

Last week, the Cleveland CIO, long under Stalinist domination, passed an "appeal" to the miners "not to strike." Previously, similar finky resolutions were passed by the Greater New York City CIO and the Detroit CIO, in which they called on Roosevelt to "seize the mines" to forestall an alleged "strike plot."

The *Daily Worker*, March 30, runs a big scarehead editorial, "Not an Hour's Stoppage! The Mines Must Be Seized," advising the capitalist government and mine owners that "no matter what Lewis thinks or would like the miners to do, he knows and the country knows that the coal miners will not strike against the government."

The miners, who have voted eight to one in favor of strike in an NLRB poll, showed two years ago in their four strikes that they were unaffected by similar anti-labor bleats from the Stalinists.

Telephone Strike Poll

Some 18,000 local and long distance telephone operators in New York City will take an NLRB strike vote on April 16, after filing notice on March 17 of intention to strike.

They are continuing to demand a \$5 raise over their present \$20 weekly minimum. The WLB rejected the recommendation of its own special panel endorsing the \$5 increase sought by the 12,000 members of the New York Telephone Co. Workers' Union and the 6,000 members of the Federation of Long Lines Operators, New York local. The national WLB instead awarded a \$3 raise, \$1 less than the multi-billion dollar telephone trust itself finally agreed to pay.

The WLB has been giving the exploited women telephone operators a runaround for over two years. These women workers are now in a thoroughly fighting mood. And they are strategically situated in the very hub of the country's communications system.

Prisoner-of-War Labor

Aiding the campaign to undermine wages and working conditions of the American workers, the government is extending the use of German and Italian prisoners of war by private employers in both industry and agriculture.

Both AFL and CIO unions, according to a report buried in a leading government war agency, have been objecting bitterly to "the use of war prisoners in foundries, canneries and for maintenance work on railroads."

There are now some 400,000 POWs in the United States. Another 100,000 are being transferred here by the War Department. The unions charge that employers in low-wage industries—logging and lumbering, farming and canneries—are refusing to raise wages "in the hope the prisoners may be brought in to replace civilian labor at the existing wage scale."

The report, whose existence was disclosed by the New York Post labor correspondent, Victor Ries, states that "the Int'l. Woodworkers (CIO), the chiefs of the Standard Railroad Labor Organization, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union are among the unions which have passed resolutions opposing the use of prisoners of war under private employers."

During the fifth week of the *Militant* Subscription Campaign we reached the peak in weekly sales. This week the branches of the Socialist Workers Party sold 1,800 new subscriptions, which raises our total to 7,437. This is 74 percent of our goal to obtain 10,000 new readers before the end of May. With eight weeks remaining, we feel assured not only of reaching but of far surpassing our goal.

FROM THE BRANCHES

K. Karl, Philadelphia: "Philadelphia Branch wishes to challenge Bayonne in the campaign. The few we are ahead at present is not a big factor. The two branches are similar in size, in obstacles and in quota. Comrade Alma is Philadelphia's Pace-Setter with 17 subs up to last Sunday night."

Phil Burns, Bayonne: "The Bayonne Branch needs very little provocation to prove its ability to be amongst the outstanding branches in the party. We, naturally, accept the challenge of the Philadelphia comrades. The Philadelphia Branch will find that their slight margin ahead of ours is merely a reflection of the fact that we are still in second gear. Our Pace-Setters are Phil Burns with 26 subs and Arlene Williams with 15 subs."

Frieda Kahl, Brooklyn Branch, New York Local: "Marion Winters, top scorer of the Brooklyn Branch, rolled up 48 subs in five hours of sub-getting. This is the highest one-day total secured by any single New York comrade. Marion is fourth among the national Pace-Setters and has been boasting her sub sales by going to a college campus on her lunch hour. She usually obtains eight to ten subs each time."

K. Zellon, Milwaukee: "This Sunday we were out in the Italian neighborhood. We received an excellent response. In one instance we sold seven subs in a half block. A brewery worker, who has given up the Socialist Call in favor of The *Militant*, says The *Militant* is a worker's paper and that the Call 'goes too easy on the capitalists.' He has already sold four trial subs to fellow-workers and three copies of the pamphlet, 'American Workers Need a Labor Party.'"

Bill Plain, San Diego: "We are sending air-mail 24 trial subs. Our Pace-Setter is Walter Cowan with 30 subs. We're rushing 182 percent and we just started. We intend to top the list."

Jerry Kirk, Detroit: "In thirty days of the campaign we hit our quota of 1,000 and are still in full swing to obtain 1,000 more. Of these 465 came directly from our trade union fractions. We are proud of the job they have done. Our efforts to involve friends in the campaign have been more than successful. Over 200 cards have been sold by friends and we expect many more from them."

D. Hilson, Akron: "Please! Hurry with the sub cards. There are none at all in the office. Comrade O'Kenney feels discriminated against. He has put in his bid for 100 of the cards when they arrive."

John Russo, Reading: "Elmer Oakie is Reading's Pace-Setter with 46 subs. All subs were obtained in the shop he works in."

B. Kingsley, Cleveland: "Enclosed are 25 introductory subs. P. S. Flash! Twelve new subs just came in. No sooner do I write a letter on the campaign than it's obsolete!"

M. McGowan, Toledo: "Now that we have finished our quota once, we are setting out to do it again. We have a scoreboard with numbers up to 500 and we feel that we will be able to make it."

Libby Jones, Buffalo: "Our total this week is 104, making the complete total 359, nine over our quota. They will follow tonight. Will you send us 150 more sub cards. Our branch slogan is 'On to 200 percent!'

Radlow, Chicago: "Of the 70 subs enclosed, 51 were obtained in two days by Paul Kujac. . . . One of our plant fractions was given a quota of 100. They raised it to 200 at the beginning of the campaign. They have obtained 242 already and now they are going to make it 400."

FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS

J. L. V. of Los Angeles sent us 21 trial subs with the following letter: "I've been a reader of *The Militant* for over three months. The subs that are listed here are fellow-workers who have taken a real interest in the socialist movement. I have been a reader of the *Weekly People*, Socialist Labor Party paper, for a number of years. Socialism therefore is not new to me, but *The Militant* certainly is different from anything I have ever read. My interest has been aroused to a new high in socialism. I am a brewery worker."

Do YOU give *The Militant* to your fellow-workers and ask them to subscribe?

SCOREBOARD

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party	Quotas	Subs	Percent
Allentown	50	126	252
Akron	85	164	193
San Diego	50	91	182
Toledo	250	316	126
Flint	50	60	120
Milwaukee	100	113	113
Detroit	1000	1020	102
Youngstown	300	270	90
Reading	75	64	85
Buffalo	350	296	85
Chicago	1000	832	83
Boston	200	151	76
Philadelphia	150	107	71
Minneapolis	300	210	70
New York	2500	1637	65
Cleveland	200	118	59
San Francisco	350	188	54
Newark	350	183	52
St. Paul	100	51	51
Bayonne	150	62	41
Los Angeles	2000	827	41
Seattle	400	158	40
Rochester	50	0	0
Groups, Members-at-Large and Friends	140	92	66
Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes (Trail-Blazers)		801	
TOTAL	10,200	7437	74

'TRAILBLAZERS' OBTAIN 301 NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

With 301 subscriptions already sent in, *The Militant Trail-Blazers*, Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes, continue to meet with eager responses from the workers and their wives in the eastern Pennsylvania area. They report: "We called on 18 steel workers' households—and of these 15 are now *Militant* subscribers! Our new friends were so absorbed and interested in our ideas and program that in one home after another both they and we were reluctant to terminate the discussion."

"The conception of a labor party for workers that will be led by workers and can express their needs politically catches on like wild-fire. We gave away several household copies of our Labor Party pamphlets. We continue to encounter the same powerful sentiment that we have noted before here — the conviction that the SWOC leaders are beating a retreat before the onslaught of the Bethlehem Corp., and a feeling of disgust and disillusionment with the do-nothing policy of the union officials."

WANT TO FIGHT

"Articles in *The Militant* that bring these workers the information that other sections of the labor movement are reassembling their forces and preparing for a fight serve to revive their confidence and arouse fresh hopes."

Often they subscribe to *The Militant* only after we have proved that the rank and file of the unions, armed with a correct program of struggle against the bosses, can turn the anti-labor campaign of the corporations into a rout. By and large these men want to fight. You should have seen the eyes of one man sparkle as we described how a Labor Party could counteract the campaigning of the bosses — particularly when we pointed out that what we need is not a slick lawyer or a university man to speak for us, but a tough, uncompromising working stiff who could stand up in the sacred halls of Congress and really blast thephony politicians and their masters!

"Working at a job which allows him free intervals throughout the day he began to pick up *The Militant* and other radical papers on the newsstands. After a short while he saw the difference and came up to our office to speak to us. At this time he also wanted to know something about a sectarian organization called the Socialist Labor Party. After a few weeks of discussion he became fully convinced of the correctness of our program and joined our Party. He is, besides being very active, an intensive student of revolutionary literature, and has great possibilities for development."

R. S. H., a subscriber in Fort Wayne, Indiana, tells us what he thinks of *The Militant*:

"Do not happen to agree with your position, but I surely appreciate having your paper, as it gives a view we miss in the bought press, and especially in that part of the bought press which we can label Stalinist, which has about as much principle as a jelly-fish!"

Howard Mason reports a method the Detroit Branch has found successful in selling subscriptions to *The Militant*.

"We hit on what we consider a fine idea. We found that almost every other house has a service flag in the window, so we pointed out the second point in our transitional demands listed on the back page of *The Militant*—Trade union wages for all workers drafted into the army. The reception to this was very good."

Another method the Detroit Branch has found successful in getting subscriptions is reported by Jerry Kirk.

"The auto workers before entering the plant line up to buy tobacco, candy, etc. Two comrades distributed *The Militant* to these workers and then proceeded to sign up seven new subscribers. We intend to repeat this weekly."

The following report was sent

by Al Lynn, Los Angeles, concerning a recruit to the ideas of *The Militant*.

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The following report was sent

Spanish Trotskyist Group Issues Ringing Call To Action

Spain is once more becoming a focal point in European politics. In order to head off the growing revolt against Franco, the royalists are maneuvering to restore the monarchy while the Republicans, Stalinists and Socialists are aiming to revive the pro-capitalist Popular Front which paved the way for fascism in Spain.

The Spanish Trotskyists alone call upon the workers and peasants to organize their forces for the revolutionary overthrow of Franco as a step towards the conquest of power and the establishment of socialism. Herewith is a translation of the "Manifesto to the Spanish Proletariat" issued in September 1944 by the Internationalist Communist Group (Spanish Section of the 4th International) and published in the Jan. 15th, 1945 issue of its paper "Lucha de Clases" (The Class Struggle).

Under the weight of the contradictions inherent in the bourgeois regime; under the growing pressure of the revolutionary upsurge of the proletariat and under military defeats, the Hitler apparatus—which through terror managed to maintain the capitalist system in Europe—is inexorably going down!

Germany's imperialist rivals are multiplying their efforts to eliminate this competitor in annexations and robberies against the peoples, while at the same time they are getting ready to take decisive positions with an eye to their coming attack on the Soviet Union. But the fall of Hitler on the other hand inspires the world bourgeoisie with terror and constitutes the main preoccupation of Anglo-Saxon imperialism.

The governments of Washington and London and, along with them, the industrial and banking magnates, know that the collapse of Hitler will give impetus to the revolution in Germany and through all Europe.

Imbued with this preoccupation, the so-called democracies are today at the Quebec conferences drawing up the most detailed plans to stem the offensive of the working class and to replace, without grave consequences to themselves, the man whom in 1933 these "democracies" aided in taking power with the mission to crush the revolution in Germany and abroad.

Counter-revolutionary Aims of Allies

To divert everywhere the action of the workers through "democratic," patriotic or "anti-fascist" channels—according to the situation in each country—so that the violent convulsions of the present revolutionary cycle should not attack the foundations of the capitalist regime, such is the obsession of the bourgeoisie. This is the topic of discussion in chancelleries, at the Quebec conferences and in the cabinets, already the sources of fulminations against soldiers and workers who try to fraternize with the revolutionary workers and the working masses of Germany.

The "Allied" bourgeoisie and its lackeys in the working class are straining with redoubled force to prevent the international proletariat from undertaking an independent struggle for its class aims, for its emancipation as a class; for the conquest of power with the aim of establishing socialism: the only way out for humanity is not to fall into barbarism.

Which way this historical dilemma—barbarism or socialism—will be decided; whether the crisis will be resolved within the framework of profiteering capitalism, or will end with the destruction of this system and the founding of the Workers State, this will depend solely on the struggle of the international proletariat, and, in the last analysis, on its most conscious wing: its vanguard.

As an integral part of the revolutionary vanguard we now call upon all other elements who pronounce themselves to be of the vanguard and we urge them wherever they are to enlist actively in the INDEPENDENT class struggle. We urge them to shake off that kind of skepticism which is the product of a failure to understand the attitude of so-called labor-leaders who beat the drums for National Unity and thus tie the class interests and class aims of the workers to the cause of the bourgeoisie.

This Time the Workers Must Win

The struggle is not lost by the mere fact that the lackeys of the "democratic" or patriotic bourgeoisie persistently continue on the road of class collaboration and are making an effort to castrate the revolutionary will of the workers. The struggle, already begun, must be pursued and this time we must win it. This skepticism—which is also due to the fact that certain illusions have recently been shattered—this skepticism which undermines the revolutionary energies of a large section of the Spanish vanguard, must therefore be replaced by fighting energy and the determination to destroy the bridges—be they "democratic," "national" or any other kind, which the bourgeoisie and its servants are building.

The rich experiences of the workers' struggles in Spain cannot be forgotten by anyone. Everyone knows the white terror that reigned during the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera: the starvation wages, the shootings by the Civil Guard, the immense power of the Church, the unemployment, the misery, the jails.

If during the republic reforms were made (in any case achieved by the struggle of the proletariat) the economic basis of the State, of the bourgeois system, remained intact. The big land-

First Issue of Spanish Trotskyist Paper



Reproduced above is the first issue of "Lucha de Clases" (The Class Struggle), organ of the Internationalist Communist Group, Spanish section of the 4th International. This paper, dated Jan. 15, 1945, is published in Lyons, France, where many thousands of Spanish working class refugees are located. Its headline reads "Neither the Liberation Front (Social-Democratic) nor the Spanish National Union (Stalinist): For Workers' Alliance!" We salute our Spanish comrades who under great difficulties are pointing out to their fellow-workers the road to the overthrow of Franco and the capitalist system which produced and sustains the bloody Fascist dictator.

Flint AC Plant Strike Answers Provocations

(Continued from page 1)

Officers dared not openly assume leadership of the strike. They did issue a press statement blaming the company, but they were high-pressed by the International and Regional office into giving lip-service to the back-to-work chorus of the bosses, the press, the government, the Regional Office and the Stalinists. The Stalinists dared not violate picket lines, but they tried to lead the back-to-work movement.

A few of the local officers flatly refused to make back-to-work speeches. Even for this they ran the risk not only of victimization by the corporation but removal by the International. The company quickly fired all the pickets they could identify in pictures.

BOO OFFICIALS

At mass meetings the ranks roundly boozed UAW International and Regional spokesmen, and any local officers who did their bidding, although many of the ranks understood the extreme pressure on their recently-elected officers. Stalinists "patriots" received the loudest boozing and hissing.

Most of the pickets were wives, mothers, daughters or sweethearts of overseas service men, along with some young men classified 1-A and expecting to be cannon-fodder soon. Flag-waving only infuriated them. To every reference to "our boys in the foxholes" they thundered back, "We all have them!"

UAW Regional Director Carl A. Swanson tried a tear-jerker, telling of seeing two girls "crying out there (near the picket lines) because of their men overseas." A couple of thousand girls in the audience burst into a roar of laughter and hooting at this cheap demagogic.

A few wanted to prolong the strike indefinitely, but the majority understood all day Wednesday that because of the tremendous forces against them they were not tactfully situated to continue the strike any longer. UAW International Vice President Walter Reuther, whose assistant had been roundly boozed the night previously, addressed the final meeting of 4,500 workers Wednesday night. Although Reuther himself received some boozes, the meeting voted almost unanimously to return to work Thursday.

RANKS ARE MILITANT

Reuther talked very "radical" for the distant future. "After the war" — then they would "really" deal with General Motors!

Reference to what the UAW International Executive Board is "giving" the members aroused mingled amusement and indignation. One girl shouted, "All we get is the damn receipt!"

Even as they voted to end the demonstration, the ranks and some of the local officers indicated they are ready for another strike if necessary. However, they were not allowed to vote on a motion to resume the strike in 30 days if negotiations are not satisfactory. The motion was ruled out of order.

Some local officers declared that if the corporation continues its arrogant provocations they will initiate "legal" strike procedure after 15 days, under the Smith-Connally Act. However, it is the UAW's no-strike pledge, rather than the Smith-Connally

act, which has bound the hands of the auto workers.

The union ranks were ranked frequently by leadership branding the strike as illegal and in violation of the contract. They demanded to know "What about management's violations?" The only answer was, "We haven't exhausted the regular procedure or taken the legal steps for a strike." But the ranks were "exhausted" by the corporation's reign of terror to the point of taking strike action — a fact the leaders ignored.

The AC rank and file, with inexperienced local leadership, and opposed by top leadership, conducted their demonstration without any help from other local unions. It was over before many other workers knew about it. There had been little preparatory planning. There was no provision for gaining support or city-wide sympathy; no campaign to inform even the AC Local membership of the real issues. The only handbill was issued the last night, after everybody knew the action was all over.

Picket signs carried practically the only information about the strike issues: "Management Is Trying to Smash Our Union;" "Management Will Not Bargain in Good Faith;" "Stand By the Girls in '78;" "No More Buck Passing, This Is It."

THE REAL ISSUES

Nevertheless, practically all Flint workers understood the real issue: substandard pay, speedup, rearing of terror, victimizations, bargaining breakdown. These are everyday experiences. But the issues were not crystallized for and around the strike. The local union leadership, not daring to actually lead the strike, satisfied neither the union membership nor the corporation officials. The workers wanted their leaders on the picket lines with them. And the corporation accused them of "responsibility" for the strike anyway.

This AC strike was the first real union action for most of the membership. The strike meetings were the first union meetings many of the members had ever attended. The largest of these rallied an attendance of 4,500. Regular local meetings used to have as few as 15 in attendance; lately up to 200. This improvement must continue. The ranks must attend their meetings to discover and develop the right kind of leadership.

AC took a step in the right direction in electing officers opposed to the no-strike pledge. These officers and the progressive elements of the local should line up with militants in the other Flint locals to form a city-wide section of the UAW Rank and File Caucus. This progressive Caucus is organizing nationally to wipe out the no-strike pledge, remove the labor members from the WLB, and build an independent labor party. It aims to secure a new, fighting international leadership that will battle for this program.

Social-Democrats Back Imperialists In Greece

By M. Morrison

In the "New Leader" of March 10, 1945, Liston M. Oak who left the Stalinist party after his experience in the Spanish civil war and is now a staunch Social-Democrat (a right-wing one, if such a thing is possible) attempts to show that the Trotskyists talk "gibberish" when they explain and justify their support of the EAM-ELAS in the recent civil war in Greece. My explanation for our material support of the EAM-ELAS, which appeared in my article in *The Militant* of February 24, is to him utter nonsense.

There is no doubt whatever that he is unable to understand it. That simply means that he does not understand the language of revolutionary Marxism. The fact that he left the Stalinist movement some time after it had ceased to be a revolutionary force and then joined the decayed social-democratic movement is conclusive evidence that he never understood the language of Marxism.

Oak characterizes the struggle between EAM and the Papandreou Government backed by British imperialism as a war between "Russian and British imperialism." The victory of the former means totalitarianism; the victory of the latter means democracy. Hence we must support British imperialism.

For Marxists the term imperialism has a definite connotation. In general it means to us a stage of capitalist society where monopoly has displaced free competition, bringing with it the reactionary policies of finance capitalism. There is no law preventing one from using the term in any way he pleases; one can use it to designate the drive on the part of the Stalinist bureaucracy for prestige, power and wealth. But we insist on defining it in the Leninist manner. There is, however, no need to enter into a discussion on the nature of imperialism with Oak. It is really not relevant to the issue.

It is necessary in the first instance to examine what forces fought on each side of the Greek civil war, what were their aims and the probable consequences of their victory. On the side of the EAM was the overwhelming majority of the workers and peasants. Were it otherwise the Greek Government would not have had to depend upon the British armed forces. What were the workers and peasants fighting for?

They had no written program but it can be taken for granted that the masses fought for the right to determine their own fate, for the right to live without being exploited, for freedom, democracy and for their national liberation. Undoubtedly a large section of the working class hoped to establish a socialist regime in case of victory.

STALINISTS AND THE MASSES

In addition to analyzing what the masses fought for it is incumbent upon us to state what the organization which led the masses was fighting for. What program did the leadership of the EAM have? It is clear that the EAM was not fighting for a socialist government. The leader-

ship consisted of Stalinists, Social-Democrats (of the Greek and not of the New Leader variety) and liberals.

It is probably true that the Stalinists played the most important role in the leadership but that does not mean that they completely controlled the masses. All the information we have indicates that the Stalinist leadership did its utmost to avoid the struggle and to compromise it after the conflict began. Mainly responsible for the compromise which left the Greek masses without arms and therefore helpless against the tyranny of the reactionaries are the Stalinists.

What would have been the result of a victory for the EAM? In all probability the establishment of nothing more than a bourgeois republic. But it would have meant also an advance in the power of the masses who would have gained greater class-consciousness and self-confidence by virtue of the victory. It would have meant a big stride forward in the establishment of a workers' republic.

It is perfectly true that an EAM victory would have meant an increase in the power of the Stalinists and therefore an increase in the danger of totalitarianism. But the masses, with arms in their hands, with the confidence that victory would have given them, would not have easily succumbed to any dictatorship by the Stalinists. The probability is that the masses would have fought the Stalinists to the bitter end. There can be no guarantee of victory in any struggle. We are sure that had the EAM been victorious the masses would have had a greater opportunity to go forward.

The reactionary forces did not win a complete victory. Because of the resistance of the Greek masses and the British workers, Churchill had to retreat. The wonderful struggle put up by the masses gives them an opportunity to struggle in the future. Had no resistance been offered the workers would have been crushed completely.

Oak calls the Trotskyists the most deadly enemies of Stalinism. Correct. But we do not adopt tactics by virtue of hatred of Stalinists. Our support of a movement depends upon the direction in which a movement is travelling. Under Stalinist leadership a movement may be caught in the dreadful coils of Stalinist totalitarianism. But the workers, while in motion, can wrench themselves loose from these coils. A victory of British imperialism against masses of workers and peasants can never help the masses.

WHAT OAK FEARS

In reality what Oak is afraid of is not only Stalinist totalitarianism but the Bolshevik revolution. For he expressly states that we would be better off now had the British, French and American imperialists helped Kerensky and the Mensheviks defeat the Bolsheviks. Now we know exactly where we stand. Oak prefers British imperialism to a workers' revolution. That is why he would have been shooting on the side of British imperialism, against the Greek masses had he had the chance, and we would have been in the forefront of the struggle urging the masses to defeat the British imperialists and then to settle scores with the Stalinists.

Oak blames the Bolshevik revolution for the existence of Stalinism. One might as well blame the mother who gave birth to the child for the disease that strikes the child. Stalinism came after the Bolshevik revolution but the basic cause of Stalinism lies in the betrayal of the German Social-Democrats. Had they not submitted to German and British capitalism the German workers would have taken power in 1918 and Stalinism would have never come into existence. The union of industrialized Germany with agricultural Russia would have assured the complete success of the Russian and German revolutions.

Living in backward country and unaided by the workers of Western Europe, the Russian workers permitted Stalinism to gain control of their destinies. The main responsibility for the victory of the Stalinist bureaucracy lies upon the leadership of the German Social-Democrats, the spiritual predecessors of Liston Oak.

THE MILITANT

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Speaker:

MARK BRADEN, Labor Secretary Newark Branch, SWP
Classes Begin at 8 p.m.

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America and Britain
Allies and Antagonists

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18th: Capitalist Rule in Germany
Socialism—The Coming World System
Concentration of Wealth and Control of Government

NEW YORK SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
116 University Place (Corner 13th St., bet. 5th and Broadway)

'The Story's True'

Confirming the story carried in last week's *Militant* in his March 30 column, Drew Pearson states that Reuters, British news service, phoned the UNRRA for comment on the revelation that a British colonel, posing as a UNRRA worker in Greece, was found with receipts showing secret British payments to Greek royalist leaders for their bloody work against ELAS-ELAM.

"You'll deny it, won't you?" said Reuters.

"No," replied UNRRA. "The story's true."

Ask Your Shopmate to
Subscribe to *The Militant*

Reference to what the UAW International Executive Board is "giving" the members aroused mingled amusement and indignation. One girl shouted, "All we get is the damn receipt!"

Even as they voted to end the demonstration, the ranks and some of the local officers indicated they are ready for another strike if necessary. However, they were not allowed to vote on a motion to resume the strike in 30 days if negotiations are not satisfactory. The motion was ruled out of order.

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Nigeria

Trade union organization has taken a huge spurt forward in Nigeria, largest and wealthiest of the British Crown colonies in

Austria. A Trade Union congress was held in August 1944 attended by representatives of 64 organizations with a combined membership of over 400,000.

This growth occurred in a brief six-year period. Up to 1938 unions were under an official ban by the British colonial office. After finally winning legal recognition after a protracted struggle, the unions were faced with wartime decree of the government outlawing strikes and "regulating" wages and working conditions.

Trade union organization is a response to the inhuman conditions of exploitation to which British imperialism subjects the Nigerian workers. Child labor is prevalent even in tin and coal mines. Children between nine and twelve are made to work up to 12 hours a day and to carry heavy loads weighing up to 65 lbs. Their pay is two shillings a day, approximately 50 cents. Colored bus drivers and conductors receive less than one-third the wages paid to European workers for similar work.

A militant note was sounded at the 1944 congress of the unions. Resolutions were adopted calling for the industrialization of the country and the nationalization of important industries. In addition after discussions over working and living conditions, proposals were accepted calling for the introduction of unemployment and health insurance and for the improvement of housing conditions and educational facilities.

A resolution was adopted demanding the liberation of the imprisoned President of the Railwaysmen's union.

SWP Candidate Exposes American Fascists

We publish below part of the third Sunday evening broadcast of the Trotskyist candidate, Myra Tanner Weiss, in her campaign for mayor of Los Angeles. This speech was delivered Sunday, March 25 over Station KFAC.

* * *

Last week I discussed with you the problem of the rising cost of living. We saw how the government froze wages while prices have continued to rise. I contrasted this with the profits of the cost-plus patriots. While labor's hands have been tied by the no-strike pledge, vast fortunes have been amassed by the bosses. The vast majority of the American people have only heavily-taxed paychecks, which they vainly try to stretch to meet increased prices. In the post-war period millions face the prospect of no paychecks at all.

The bosses know it will not be easy to reduce us to the status of starving paupers. As long as the workers are organized and free to fight for their rights, the capitalists cannot carry their program into action. That is why, in the middle of the second world war, we see developing a vicious anti-labor drive. They want to crush the labor movement so that there can be no organized threat to their ruinous rule of society.

"Divide and Rule" has been the method of reactionary ruling classes since the ancient days of Roman slavery. Here in America the government itself fosters race prejudice against the Negroes in the South by poll-tax laws which disfranchise millions. They have refused to pass a Federal anti-lynch law. They condone racial discrimination by Jim Crow practices in the army and navy, assigning Negro soldiers to the most menial tasks and services. For a country which is supposed to be fighting the race supremacy theories of the Nazis, these practices are a scandal and an outrage.

The capitalists do not begin their campaign against labor with frontal attacks against the trade-unions. They begin by diverting social unrest into channels of prejudice and hate directed against those sections of society which at the moment are weak and defenseless. In California it is the Japanese-Americans who are being terrorized by secret bands. These bands somehow always escape the police. The homes of Japanese-Americans are burned, shots are fired, the sheriff's office reports none were apprehended.

Suppose This Proposal Were Made in Japan

There seems to be no limit to the barbarity of this campaign of race hatred. I want to quote to you a statement made by a United States Congressman, a Democrat, Representative Johnson of Oklahoma. Now, mind you, I am not quoting Hitler, Goering, or even an ignorant, unknown American, but one who sits in the highest body of the nation. His statement was released by the House Appropriations Committee. Referring to the Japanese aliens held in United States segregation camps, he said "I will say for the record that we should make an appropriation to sterilize the whole outfit."

One would think this vile proposal, taken from the Nazi book, would provoke a cry of indignant protest throughout the nation. Were this proposal made in Japan as treatment for Americans held there, it would have become the atrocity story of the war.

I have written to both the CIO and the AFL, calling upon them to protest the vicious lynch attacks against the Japanese-Americans. If these attacks are not met by the united opposition of all labor, these secret gangs, successful in their first attempts, encouraged by their first victories, will tomorrow strike against other minorities and finally against the labor movement itself.

I have heard many say: "But these forces are small and isolated. They are not important." How familiar are these words! Was not that said of the Nazis before 1933, before they took power and crushed a labor movement proportionately far stronger than ours? These gangs are the first recruits of the American fascist party of tomorrow.

Here in Los Angeles we can observe all the symptoms of an incipient fascism. Race discrimination is one of those symptoms. More than a year ago there were riots in Los Angeles against the so-called Zoot-suiters. In actuality this was mob terrorization of the Mexican and Negro youth. It was prepared long in advance by city conditions and laws which drive Mexicans and Negroes into the poorest districts, into over-crowded slums, by discriminatory practices which sentenced them to the most menial jobs. To prevent race riots we must fight against every law and usage which makes second-class citizens of any section of the American people.

Anti-semitism, persecution of the Jews, is not limited to Nazi Germany. I have been shocked to witness in the last year at least three instances of attack against the Jews, despite the fact that officially we're supposed to be fighting against such prejudice in Europe. One frequently hears that the Jews control everything. Therefore we should kick out the Jews. When I have proved to such people that the overwhelming majority of the big capitalists, the real controlling powers in this country, are Christians, somehow,

Children Suffer From "Hidden Hunger" Because Workers Can't Buy Decent Food

By Grace Carlson

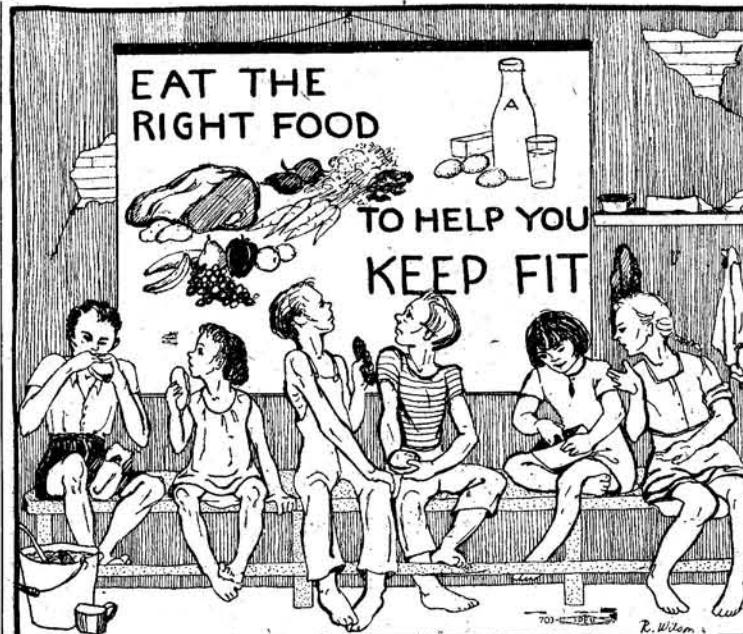
It's a very odd thing—
As odd as can be—
That whatever Miss T eats
Turns into Miss T.

In his "Advancing Front of Medicine," George Gray uses this nursery rhyme by Walter De La Mare very cleverly to introduce the subject of vitamins and their importance to health. What Gray does not emphasize sufficiently, however, is the fact that whatever Miss T does not eat also "turns into Miss T." This is true of Mr. and Mrs. T, as well, and of all the little T's, too. What people *do not eat* is a very important subject!

What working-class children do NOT eat—what they are deprived of eating because of the poverty in their homes is the most important subject of all—and the most tragic.

Ill-fed children by the thousands have weak bodies, stunted growth and twisted limbs as a result of dietary deficiency diseases like rickets, scurvy and pelagra. These severe cases of malnutrition occur chiefly in the South. But East, West, North and South, there are today millions of children who have milder forms of nutritional deficiency. What these children do NOT get from the rich, nourishing foods they need may make them dull, listless, cross and irritable. What the children of the poor DO NOT EAT can twist their minds and spirits as well as their bodies!

Illustrations of the devastating effect of malnutrition upon



the mental and physical health of young children are given in "Case Studies of Nutrition" compiled from the records of Child Health Clinics and published in a 1943 issue of "The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science." Here are one or two examples.

"Case 1. One of Boston's Problem Children—Teen-aged, sandwhich and pickle type..."

"An American girl, fourteen years old, referred to the Nutrition Department because of a rapid and widespread disintegration of the teeth... A series of conferences first with Mildred alone and later with Mrs. D., disclosed the following symptoms which are frequently associated with early nutritive failure:

chronic fatigue (especially noticeable when climbing stairs); inability to concentrate in school; restless sleep; lack of appetite; persistent worry; irritability; gradual loss of weight over a period of six months.

"Analysis of a week's record of her intake indicated an extreme deficiency of milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables and whole grain or enriched cereals. A day's eating consisted of bacon, toast and coffee for breakfast; a crabmeat salad sandwich, potato chips and a dill pickle for lunch; a small salad, bread and butter and a brownie for supper."

"Case 2—From Chicago Italian-American—poverty's child."

"A ten-year-old girl of Italian parentage, suffering from

rheumatic heart disease and dental caries (decay). Conversation with the mother disclosed the fact that the family was having serious financial difficulties due to the father's illness and consequent unemployment for the preceding five months.

"A record of the patient's intake showed that her daily diet consisted of several large servings of spaghetti with oil, homemade white bread, usually eaten dry but occasionally with oil, one serving of either cabbage or dried beans, a potato, and coffee with a small amount of evaporated milk. Thus the diet consisted largely of refined carbohydrates and was low in proteins, minerals and vitamins."

What good does it do these poverty-stricken children that a t earnest scientists on the National Research Council have arranged to place in schoolrooms huge posters, saying: "Eat the Right Food to Help You Keep Fit?" What use can their discouraged mothers make of the health leaflets, which the children bring home to them—leaflets warning of the dangers of "hidden hunger" and urging them to give their children more milk, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat and eggs?

Working-class mothers, like all others, want and try to give their children the right kind of food—food that will build strong, active, healthy young bodies. But this is a period of food shortages, rising prices and "frozen wages." What prevents women of the working class from taking proper care of their children is lack of money—time—energy—and ration points.

Trotskyist Campaigner

Issued by the Committee for Myra Tanner Weiss for Mayor

232 South Hill St. LOS ANGELES, CALIF., MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1945 Phone: VAnkyke 7936

Myra Tanner Weiss For Mayor!

Candidate Drives Home Basic Truths

Myra Tanner Weiss, Socialist candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, bases her campaign upon fundamental socialist principles.

The capitalist rulers of society have demonstrated their inability to serve the public welfare of mankind. They have shown that they are no longer able to provide peace and freedom, democracy and cultural well-being. Their rule has become synonymous with the growth of dire economic depressions and fascist dictatorships.

The workers, united with the rank and file laborers, the section of the population alone can put an end to the poverty, unemployment, and economic chaos which have become permanent features of the capitalist system. Only they, by taking control of society and abolishing the private ownership of the means of production, can bring about a society of plenty and unlimited opportunity.

Where the Trotskyist Candidate Stands

1. For Post-War Job Security

2. Against Robber Taxes on Workers' Income

3. Against Incomes Tax



MYRA TANNER WEISS
Trotskyist Candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles

SWP OFFERS PLAN ON POSTWAR JOBS

Workers in shipyards, aircraft and other war production industries are fully aware that sizable layoffs are taking

In addition to radio broadcasts, rallies and meetings, the Socialist Workers Party has used the printed word to publicize its candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, its name and program on a wide scale during the two months' campaign. 10,000 copies of this special paper, the "Trotskyist Campaigner," reproduced above, were issued. In all, more than 56,500 pieces of literature were distributed, including 20,000 copies of the election platform, 10,000 cards advertising the radio speeches, and 16,500 leaflets advertising election rallies. A new medium for Trotskyist publicity was bus

they never switch their argument to say that the Christians should be kicked out.

No! Jew, Christian, or Moslem—it is not any race or religion that rules society. It is a class—a profiteering class which owns the means of production. It is this class which must be kicked out. If they like, we can let them have some distant island where they can exploit each other, have their monopolies, their depressions, and their wars. And then we shall harness our vast technical resources to the service of man instead of to his destruction.

Labor Alone Can Stop the March of Reaction

The only force which can stop the march of reaction is the labor movement, united firmly by the bonds of exploitation and oppression. The Trotskyists will lead this struggle. We have proven our ability to act as well as to speak. In February 1939 when the Nazi Bund, the Ku Klux Klan, the Silver Shirts and the Coughlinites held a fascist demonstration in Madison Square Garden, it was the Trotskyists who called the workers to picket and protest. More than 50,000 people answered the Trotskyist call. In Los Angeles, in that same period, again it was the Trotskyists who led an anti-fascist campaign when a similar meeting was held here.

My opponents in this election have had little to say on the many manifestations of fascist reaction. Supervisor Roger Jessup, a candidate for mayor of Los Angeles, according to a report published in the Municipal League Bulletin predicted "increased need for firearms in the post-war period, which might result from economic disturbances." This pointed prediction of repressions from a capitalist politician should serve to warn and alert all workers.

There are two roads ahead, for America as for Europe: The fascist road or the socialist road. There will be no other choices. Either the capitalists will finally crush the labor movement, or the workers must take power, nationalize the means of production and plan economy for use instead of profit. In this municipal election you have the opportunity to indicate your choice. Shall we be slaves or shall we be free men and equal? WE MUST make this choice. Begin now by voting socialist on April 3rd. Join with the Trotskyists in the fight against race discrimination! Join with us in the task of creating a new and better world—a socialist world—in which all men and women will truly be free and equal!

Youngstown branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today demanded that Mayor O'Neill remove Police Chief Thomas; who on February 22 instigated the beating of four innocent Negroes. Without provocation or excuse, Thomas ordered the four colored men

J. PIERPONT MONEYBAGS Says: "WAGE RAISES MEAN INFLATION. WHAT WE NEED IS HIGHER PRICES"



hauled out of a quiet beer tavern and had them frisked and beaten by two police officers.

The NAACP was brought into the case immediately and after two weeks arranged an appointment between its grievance committee and Mayor Ralph O'Neill, who was elected with CIO support.

At this hearing the mayor was forced to admit the truth of the charges made against Thomas by witnesses. But he refused to fire Thomas with the excuse that it was the police chief's first offense against Negroes. (Thomas had been suspended from the police force several years ago for beating up white prisoners). The NAACP strenuously attacked the mayor's position, but without immediate results beyond the promise of an answer in ten days.

SEEK LABOR'S AID

Extensive discussions took place among the delegates to the mayor's office, with the attorneys weighing legal action against the police chief. But a majority of the delegates gave little support to this suggestion, realizing by long experience how slim would be chances of succeeding in such a contest against the power and prestige of the capitalist police and courts. However, the committee responded immediately and with enthusiasm to the idea of enlisting the support of the labor movement, knowing well that only the organized working class can help the minorities win this fight.

The NAACP expects to take the case to the CIO Council requesting assistance in this fight which is so vital to the colored workers and to all of labor. The thuggery of Chief Thomas can be the forerunner of other vigilante attacks on minorities in Youngstown. With the weight of organized labor behind the NAACP, notice will be served on anyone who attempts to assault minorities that he will have to fight a united labor movement.

The NAACP expects to take the

Hoodlums Assault Jewish Children In Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS, March 28.

An increasing number of attacks on Jewish boys and girls in the vicinity of Minneapolis North Side was climaxized by a large mass meeting Monday night. Two thousand harassed and near hysterical parents overflowed the Lincoln Junior High School auditorium and in the presence of the Mayor, the acting chief of police, and several high ranking police officials denounced the indifference and negligence of the police department.

Police officials who had come to "explain" the technical difficulties of making arrests were met with unmistakable scorn by the audience who were well aware of the fact that police refusal to act immediately on complaints had contributed materially to the audacity of the attackers. Several times Captain Helm of the North Side station was interrupted by shouts and denunciations from people in the audience until there was so much confusion that he was unable to go on speaking.

Rabbi Aaronson, one of the committee that had organized the mass meeting, was able to obtain order only after he promised that all written questions directed at the police would be answered by them.

Rabbi Aaronson set the tone for the whole meeting by his declaration: "I want to make it clear that these incidents are neither the product of the imagination, nor of nervous children, nor of nervous parents. If the city of Minneapolis does not do its duty by providing adequate police protection, North Side citizens are prepared to offer their assistance to the police department."

It is well-known that these anti-Semitic attacks have been inspired by native fascist "shirt" groups which have started to lift their heads once more and are spreading anti-Semitism along with their anti-labor propaganda.

The attitude of the audience was intensely militant. The police who spoke were interrupted by shouted questions from individuals in the audience, challenging their statements and denying their allegations. A mother whose boy had been brutally beaten rose from her seat and accused the police captain and the North Side station of negligence. Striving to prevent herself from breaking into tears, she said: "I'm not speaking as a Jew. I am an American citizen. I simply ask as a citizen and a taxpayer that my children have the right to walk the streets in safety."

Many young boys who had come to testify were unable to do so, but a few put before the microphone gave details of the beatings they had received. It was a common practice of their attackers to search for identification cards in their wallets if they refused information or denied that they were Jews. These practices had been going on for a long time, but apparently were now getting more frequent.

Here was the upshot of the meeting. The Mayor promised more adequate police protection; the policeman formerly on Plymouth Avenue (Jewish shopping district) was to be replaced; a squad car is to periodically cruise the neighborhood; and educators will get together to see what they can do to correct this tendency of anti-Semitism through education in the schools.

Among those on the committee who organized the mass meeting were members of the Jewish Council whose traditional method of fighting anti-Semitism is a studied public silence involving the suppression of news directly relating to anti-Semitic acts. A protest meeting of a mass character has never before been sanctioned by them. Pulling strings and seeing someone influence plus education against intolerance is their solution. However, it is certain that the pressure of distraught parents and a growing "do or die" attitude among the children finally compelled their inclusion on the committee. They did their share to soft-pedal criticism against the police. When the meeting finally ended, the audience, still unsatisfied, milled around their leaders, plying them with questions demanding effective action.

The NAACP expects to take the

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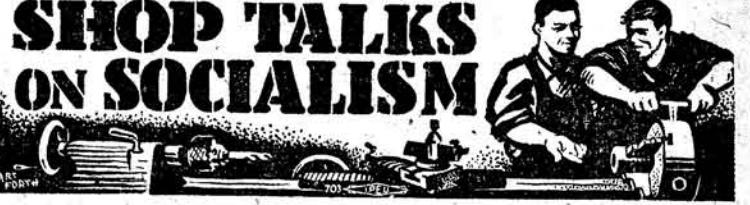
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By V. Grey

"Pop, you goose-greased son of a sea serpent," said Breezy, who had come in a little high. "Don't you recognize your old friends any more?"

"The last time I recognized you on a Saturday afternoon I had to buy you two drinks," Pop growled.

"So you admit it! What do you fellows think about that?" he said tragically, slapping his side like Schnozzle Durante. "But I'm big-hearted. When I see you in this condition, Pop, I'll come right over to your side of the road and buy you three more drinks. How do you like that?"

"You don't have to buy me no drinks, Breezy. You save your money for you old age. You can't work when you're old," Pop said.

"Play young and work old. That's the only way," Breezy insisted. "How I gonna play when I'm old and dried up like you?—Anyway I gonna live on the interest when I'm sixty-five."

"What interest?" asked one of the first-shift boys who was

washing up.

"Why my old-age benefit fund. What do you think? I been paying in it for nine years now. Look at Pop there. He's a two income man. Forty bucks a week from the company, and a pension from the government to boot."

"I got eight years to go, sweeping and hooking for guys like you before I get that royal pension, Mister Breezy." Pop was sort of huffy.

"Eight years

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

by CHARLES JACKSON

"Black Boy" Packs a Wallop

If you don't want to be jolted out of the self-satisfied enjoyment of a quiet evening at home, if you have abundant confidence in American "democracy" and the brave, new world that is gradually a-comin' under capitalism, if you think that the people of "good-will" are going to be able to effect economic security and racial equality in the South through a "bloodless revolution"—then don't sit down and read Richard Wright's latest book, "Black Boy."

"Black Boy" is an unusual book, written in an unusual style but dealing with a far too usual subject. It paints a picture. That is all it does but it does that well. This picture is not a pretty one but it is a true one.

It is true because it is the picture of the author's own life. And not only his but in general that of millions of other dark-skinned Americans who have been born and raised in the South.

It is not pretty because the real-life picture of America's South, indoctrinated with the myth of white supremacy and pumped full of the poison of racial prejudice, is not a pretty one.

The author, banging away in a style of point-blank range, relates incident after incident of frustration which he experienced as a result of the South's firm policy of dividing the races and pitting them against each other. He gives matter-of-fact, detailed descriptions of the intimidation, the brutalizing and the terroristic violence which is visited on the Negro in order to keep him "in his place." He expresses in this story of his own life the bitter resentment of the Negro people against racial subjection and their instinctive determination to fight to the death to eradicate the forces of Jim Crowism at the first promising opportunity.

INSTINCTIVE REVOLT

Hearing of lynch violence against Negroes on every side, Wright says: "I resolved that if I were ever faced with a white mob, I would conceal a weapon and just when they thought I had accepted their cruelty as the law of my life, I would let go with my gun and kill as many of them as possible before they killed me."

Not only racially but also economically oppressed, Wright can remember the actual pangs of hunger which stayed with him the greatest part of his underfed boyhood. He instinctively rebelled against the panacea of religion which was relentlessly hoisted onto him by his fanatical family and their preacher. He told a boy from across the street who was sent to talk him into joining church: "If laying down my life could stop the suffering in the world, I'd gladly do it. But I don't believe anything can stop it."

He tells how he and some other boys were finally pressured into joining the church. "The preacher, draped in white robes, dipped a small branch of a tree in a huge bowl of water" and shook the wet branch over the head of each candidate for baptism. "I wanted to yell for him to stop; I wanted to tell him that this was so much merriment in the human family."

Pioneer Paragraphs

PROFITEERING FOOD TRUSTS CAUSE FOOD PRICE INFLATION

There are two ways in which price rises take place: legally and illegally (the "black market"). We will first take up the legal increase in the prices of necessities, primarily food, which is the main item in the workers' cost of living.

The government, through the Office of Price Administration (OPA), has followed the general policy of surrendering to the capitalists, whenever the latter demand increased prices.

This is how it works. The price of raw material rises. The food manufacturer has to pay higher prices for farm products. His selling price for the finished article is fixed by law. If he sold the article at the legal price and paid more for the farm products, his profits would suffer.

But the capitalist considers his profit a holy of holies. And this point of view is completely shared by the government. The manufacturer, claiming his profits are being "squeezed," demands and receives from the government permission to charge higher prices to the wholesaler. He passes the

In Detroit, Mich.

You can get
THE MILITANT
at the
FAMILY THEATRE
NEWSSTAND
opposite the theatre

"Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a black skin is branded."

—KARL MARX

Wall Street Hails "Peace Charter"

(Continued from page 1) and surplus commodities at a fraction of their value. They provide generous cash payments for war contractors upon the termination (cutback) of their war contracts. They protect the "property rights" of the corporations during the "reconversion" period by guaranteeing a "reasonable profit" while the plants are shut down.

Under the "peace pact" signed by Murray and Green, the corporations have the "right" to operate the plants — constructed and paid for out of the public treasury — at a "reasonable profit," or shut them down. This is the "free choice of action" which the capitalist claims as his sacred right and which the misleaders of labor endorse in their "charter." Such endorsement of the "principle" that property rights take precedence over human rights is a gross betrayal of everything the labor movement stands for.

What did the "labor statesmen" get in exchange for putting their seal of approval on the holy "rights" of private property? The labor commentator for the N. Y. Post observes that the "peace charter" contains no mention of 60,000,000 jobs or "full employment." "Nor," he adds, "does it give labor any concessions beyond recognizing the right to collective bargaining — which, incidentally, now is protected by a federal law."

In short, the labor leaders got exactly nothing! As far as labor is concerned it was all give and no take. Moreover, the recognition of the right "to organize and to engage in collective bargaining," granted under the National Labor Relations Act, is meaningless without the right to strike.

THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

And the revolutionary vindication for 11 million oppressed Southern Negroes which is sure to come is indicated by Wright's perfectly normal inability to make "subservience an automatic part" of his behavior. He puts it this way: "The white South said it knew 'niggers,' and I was what the white South called a 'nigger.' Well, the white South had never known me — never known what I thought, what I felt." The white South said that I had a 'place' in life. Well, I had never felt my 'place' or, rather, my deepest instincts had always made me reject the 'place' to which the white South had assigned me. It had never occurred to me that I was in any way an inferior being."

The right to organize and bargain collectively implies the right to strike, since strike action is frequently the only way organized workers have of enforcing collective bargaining. Though collective bargaining is guaranteed by the National Labor Relations Act, employers often refuse to obey the laws of the U. S. Strike action is then the only way by which they can be forced to recognize unions and bargain with them in good faith."

The events since 1940 have confirmed the correctness of this position. The alternative is to pursue the course followed by the union heads since Pearl Harbor of compulsory arbitration of union demands and grievances by an "impartial" employer-dominated Board. It is this latter course which Green and Murray have written into their "peace pact" with the bosses.

The union officials' endorsement of the "rights of private property" and compulsory arbitration elicited warm statements of approval from the camp of Big Business. Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman of the board of the Chase National Bank, declared: "I heartily approve of what has been done." It is a "great step forward." Chase National, a Rockefeller financial institution, is one of the two largest private banks in the world.

Charles E. Wilson, president of General Electric Company, said:

D. Rockefeller Jr., Charles Schwab of Bethlehem Steel, Mark Hanna, boss of the Republican party, and such "impartial" representatives as ex-president Grover Cleveland and Archbishop Ireland, Gompers signed the following statement of the aims of the National Civic Federation. "To do what may seem the best to promote industrial peace and prosperity; to be helpful in establishing right relations between employers and workers . . . to obviate and prevent strikes and lock-outs." Similar phrases now stud the "new charter for labor and management."

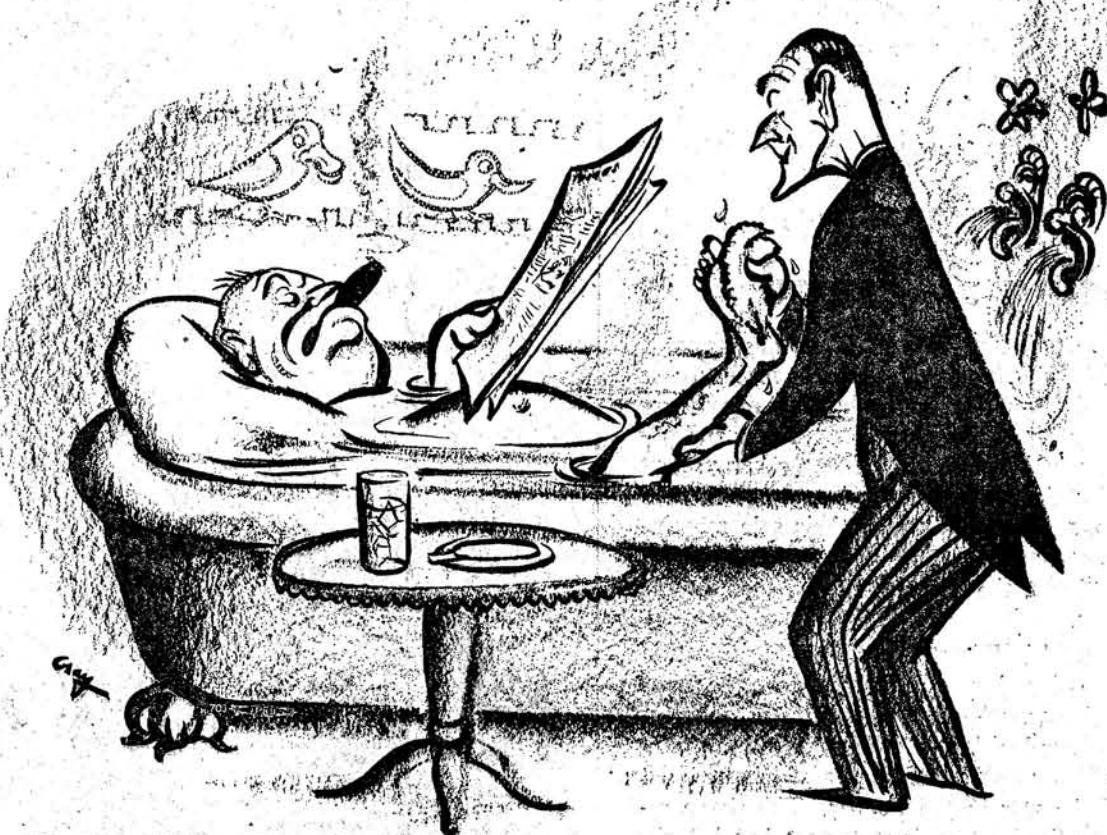
Wage War Against the Workers

Collaboration with the capitalists became the cornerstone of AFL policy. The National Civic Federation preached war on industrial unionism, labor participation in politics, and social insurance. Its main aim was to prevent the organization of the low-paid workers in the mass-production industries. It was really an open conspiracy against the industrial workers between the employers and the craft-union AFL officials. Big Business was willing and well able to throw a few crumbs to the craft-unions in payment for such services.

But while AFL "labor statesmen" were going up and down the land, spreading the doctrine of "peace" between Capital and Labor, the employer representatives in the National Civic Federation were waging a savage war against the workers.

In this period Charles Schwab, the open-shop head of Bethlehem Steel, fought off all attempts to organize his steelworkers, using every device known to labor-hating employers—the blacklist, lookout, union spies and stoolpigeons, armed guards, imported strikebreakers.

Another "union-busting" employer on the National Civic Federation's Board at this time, was John D. Rockefeller Jr. On Rockefeller's record of anti-union terror the blackest spot is the "Ludlow Massacre." In 1914 several thousand members of the United Mine Workers went on strike against the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, a Rockefeller corporation. They wanted an eight-hour day, recognition of the union, the right to trade in any store they pleased, and a ten percent wage increase. Other strikebreaking methods having failed, Rockefeller's agents unleashed a reign of terror in Ludlow. Women and children were shot down by machine guns, miners' homes were



"Roosevelt's right—we need a labor draft to put those loafers to work!"

Gompers' "Peace Pact" — Its Lessons For Labor

William Green, Philip Murray and R. J. Thomas claim that they made history when they signed a "peace pact" with Eric Johnston, representing the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Far from making history, these union officials are repeating it.

Over forty years ago the leaders of the AFL signed a similar agreement with the foremost capitalists which resulted in the organization in 1901 of the National Civic Federation. Green's predecessor as AFL president, Samuel Gompers,



How a contemporary cartoonist viewed the capitalist-labor "peace pact" of 1901.

was one of the founders of the National Civic Federation and served as its vice-president until his death in 1924.

Together with such big business men as John D. Rockefeller Jr., Charles Schwab of Bethlehem Steel, Mark Hanna, boss of the Republican party, and such "impartial" representatives as ex-president Grover Cleveland and Archbishop Ireland, Gompers signed the following statement of the aims of the National Civic Federation. "To do what may seem the best to promote industrial peace and prosperity; to be helpful in establishing right relations between employers and workers . . . to obviate and prevent strikes and lock-outs." Similar phrases now stud the "new charter for labor and management."

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Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalesky

The foreman says, "O.K., there's a mess up on Number Two, if you want to work labor."

One or two of the fellows walk out, because they don't want to put in sixteen hours at labor pay. The rest of us, who have already worked eight hours on our own jobs and have gone down to try and get another eight hours, say, "O. K., we'll take it. Sure, we'll work," and we get shovels and picks and start down the line to Number Two blast furnace.

The night is very black outside, and edged with a rusty glow here and there where some furnace is flushing cinder. Back down the line, Number Seven is casting and the light flares spasmodically, one moment throwing out long shadows clearly on the ground before us, and the next, letting them fade back into the half darkness again.

Tom says, "Damn, I didn't want to work tonight. We had a tough shift. Coke mess."

Pete Rossi from the disintegrator looks at him. "You didn't want to work?" he says with mocking incredulity. "Why, I wanted to, I hate to go home."

Tom says, "I believe you do." Tom turned to the rest of us. "Last time Pete went home, his dog chased him around the block. He didn't know him any more, because Pete's always out here."

As we approach Number Two, we hear the roar of the "wind." The furnace is shut down, so the blast is being shot out into the atmosphere with the steady, ear-crashing racket of a great tornado, the sound of a greatly amplified Niagara Falls.

We climb the stairs and set the mess. There is slag all over the floor where a cooler has burned, tuyere, blowpipe, and all. Part of the gang is at work doing their regular cleanup, but the blower, keeper, and stove man are trying to clear the cinder away from the cooler. We dig in with shovels and bars.

Jimmy says, "I knew I should have gone home at quitting time." I pick up a hammer and hit a bar the blower is holding. I hit it perhaps a dozen times, and he moves it to another spot. I hit it some more. We work quickly. It is said that the company loses a great deal of money for every minute a furnace is shut down, so the foremen are running around yelling and pitching in to keep this terrible cost down as far as possible.

We bang and dig for perhaps three quarters of an hour before we're ready to put in the new cooler. The whole furnace gang is working with us now, all of us sweating and grunting, but in spite of it all, laughing and joking. The night is young.

We get the cooler, tuyere, and blowpipe in. The stove tender runs down the stairs to "start up." When the blower gets its signal, he runs to the wheel and puts the blast back on. The great roar of the wind changes in key, slackens, and with one final squeak, dies out entirely, and all is quiet but for the hissing of the blowpipes and the muffled pounding of the blow-engines in the engine house across the way.

We'll Shovel For the Rest of the Night

Lunch time. We walk slowly over to the restaurant, shivering as the sweat begins to cool in the night breeze.

Somebody says, "That was a hell of a way to start a double!"

In the restaurant it is bright and we relax a bit over our meal. Bad as the food is, and dirty though the restaurant may be, we are grateful for it. It is good to sit there with our coffee.

When we get back, the foreman is waiting for us. There is a coke mess at Number Four stockhouse. We'll shovel there for the rest of the night.

At intervals we look up at the sky. But the dawn is a long time coming. The sky remains black, edged here and there with a rusty glow. The shovels become heavy. Our hands begin to burn. The usual indigestion, caused by the restaurant's inferior food and by our bodies' revolt at sixteen hours of work, rises up in our throats.

There is less and less joking. Pete scrapes his hand on a steel upright, scratching the flesh slightly. He swears, not with slight irritation, but with deep fury. The night wears on.

By morning we are all silent. Silently we trudge back with the shovels. Silently we start back to the locker room. But then, knowing we're finished, conversation starts up again.

Pete says, "Well, I've got to be back here in eight hours."

I'm glad I don't have to be. I'm changing shifts, so I get time for a little rest, but I'll be tired too.

Jimmy says, "What's the matter, Pete? Still sore about hitting your hand?"

Pete says, "I was thinking. After they take out the tax, all we get for working a double, including time-and-a-half, is about seven and a half bucks!"

We're still swearing about that as we walk into the locker room. We think about it under the showers, and we're still thinking about it as we walk out the gate. But we know we'll do it again.

10 Years Ago In The Militant

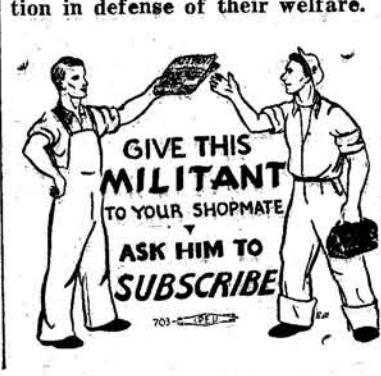
APRIL 6, 1935

SACRAMENTO—Eight leaders of the Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union were found guilty in the frame-up "Criminal Syndicalism" trial instigated by the California bosses. Sentences of from one to fourteen years were imposed by presiding Judge Lemmon, whose anti-labor prejudice has been evident throughout the trial.

Under the conviction, six other defendants were released and probation recommended for two of the prisoners.

AKRON—The stormy resistance of American workers to miserable wages, unemployment, and rising prices under Roosevelt's NRA (National Recovery Act) broke out in full fury in Akron, where workers of the three major tire companies simultaneously prepared to strike. Despite their lack of experienced leadership, the workers at Goodyear, Goodrich and Firestone voted walkouts in defiance of the "compromise" tactics of the national leadership of the AFL.

ST. LOUIS—The strike wave swept westward as St. Louis Gas House Workers of Federal Union No. 1879 (AFL) walked out in protest against company provocations. Taking a lesson from the great Minneapolis strike of 1934, the Gas House Workers immediately issued their own strike bulletin to win the support of other working class organizations. The Automobile Workers and the Filling Station Operators unions as well as two unemployed organizations responded with immediate aid on the picket line.



PHILADELPHIA

Civil Rights Defense Committee

"SPRING FESTIVAL"

Saturday, April 7

Featuring a variety of artistic dance groups

Refreshments

LABOR EDUCATIONAL CENTER

415 S. 19th Street

Contribution 50 Cents

8 p. m.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

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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.

Freedom From Want

Whether Italy or France—conquered or "liberated"—victor or vanquished—the promise of the Allied leaders that this war would bring "freedom from want" has become a grim mockery. As the result of the war, the people in every country of the world face ever-growing scarcity of food. Whole continents are gripped by hunger and mass starvation.

Even the closest friends and most favored allies among the "United Nations"—Belgium, France, Holland, etc.—beg in vain for food supplies merely to keep their people from dying outright or to prevent them from revolting against the capitalist system which condemns them to destitution and despair.

The utter economic chaos which prevails in all the war-torn countries is rapidly spreading into territories as yet untouched by military warfare. In Europe, for instance, the bulk of the food-producing areas are devastated or lie fallow. Much of the meager existing supplies cannot be distributed because of the breakdown and military diversion of transport.

Insofar as any food gets to the major population centers, it is beyond the reach of hundreds of millions of jobless, homeless, and destitute. Currency inflation and the all-pervasive black markets restrict the greater part of available commodities to the rich.

Despite the glowing promises made to the "liberated" peoples, American capitalism cannot and will not save them from continued starvation. It is sheer hypocrisy when Byrnes says "as a Christian, humane people, we gladly do our part to relieve suffering and distress in a war-torn world." In reality the Anglo-American imperialists intend to use food solely as a supplementary weapon in furthering their schemes of world conquest and domination. As events in Greece conclusively demonstrated, the Allied rulers send or withhold food shipments, not in accordance with the needs of humanity, but in order to prop up the most reactionary regimes or to starve into submission the masses rebelling against capitalist rule.

Intolerable misery and want are not to be restricted to Europe and Asia. The capitalist rulers

plan to make the American masses pay for the costs and consequences of this trillion-dollar war through unemployment, wage-slashes, greater price-inflation and profiteering. Instead of bringing "freedom from want," this war is spreading and intensifying want not only in Europe and Asia but in this, the wealthiest of all capitalist countries.

There is but one solution for this greatest crisis in world history. Freedom from want can be achieved. But it can be secured only through the struggle for the abolition of the profit system and the creation of the planned economy of international socialism.

Exposing A Fraud

From the beginning *The Militant* has opposed and exposed the campaign to enact a forced labor law as a strike-breaking, union-busting conspiracy engineered by Big Business and its military and political agents in Washington. Every other pretext advanced by the slave labor advocates has been shot to pieces. In recent weeks their sole remaining argument has been that slave labor law is needed to "boost the morale" of the men in the armed forces.

But Roosevelt's Director of War Mobilization and Reconstruction, James F. Byrnes, gave the game away completely, when he reported to Congress that "manpower legislation" was required not only after the military collapse of Germany, but AFTER the end of the war in the Pacific. The sharp reaction in the Senate to this statement has led observers to conclude that the pending "compromise" manpower bill is doomed to defeat.

Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon last week disclosed that he had received "pressure" telephone calls from Administration officials expressing "fear" that unless they got a forced labor law for use "after hostilities cease they cannot meet the unemployment problem in this country."

This provides added confirmation to our editorial analysis in the March 31 issue of *The Militant* in which we stated:

"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 accomplished by 'peaceful' or 'voluntary' methods."

Food Profiteers

The food shortages, the devastation and waste of the necessities of life which are the inescapable consequences of the imperialist war inflict ever greater suffering upon the masses. But these worsening conditions come as a heaven-sent opportunity to the food trusts, speculators, black marketeers and all the other parasites who thrive at the expense of the people.

Food, like every other commodity under capitalism, is produced not to satisfy the needs of the people, but solely for profit. The production and distribution of food in this country is controlled by giant monopolies like the meat packers, milling interests, dairy trusts, packaged food corporations as well as by huge retail grocery monopoly-chains like the A & P.

The mad chaos of these monopolists after profits prevents any rational organization of the war-limited food supply and any approach to an equitable distribution of the scarce commodities.

On the contrary, they seek to exploit shortages by charging exorbitant prices, by black market operations, by withholding supplies to force up prices. In addition, through their governmental agents they extract huge subsidies from the public treasury and when they cannot secure all their voracious demands, they deliberately create further scarcities as a means of blackmail.

Thus P. O. Wilson, executive secretary of the Livestock Producers Association, brazenly declared: "When this nation makes up its mind that it wants meat it can rewrite the rules and regulations so that it will again be possible to produce the amount of meat we need." This is an admission that the people will be permitted to have meat only if the government surrenders unconditionally to the demands of the profiteers.

And this capitalist government, which is so adamant against the wage demands of the workers, hastens to comply with the price-gouging demands of the food profiteers. Just last week, after it had been revealed that the meat packers are making seven times their peace-time profits, an emergency court of appeals in Washington invalidated certain OPA meat price ceilings to permit sharp rises.

Capitalist war merely continues and aggravates the economy of scarcity and hunger for the masses that prevails at all times under the capitalist profit system. Roosevelt himself, who today calls on the American people to "tighten their belts," enforced the planned destruction of commodities such as cotton, corn and hogs during the period of the New Deal depression to bolster prices and profits while millions went ragged and hungry.

In wartime or in peace, the masses are compelled to go without adequate food and clothing to enrich a small gang of capitalist exploiters.

READ

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL'

Laying It On the Table!



WORKERS' FORUM

The Workers' Forum columns are open to the opinions of the readers of The Militant. Letters are welcome on any subject of interest to the workers. Keep them short and include your name and address. Indicate if you do not want your name printed.

Steel Workers Send Congressman Wire

Editor:

Here is a copy of a telegram that 121 Bethlehem Steel workers sent to Democratic Congressman Chet Hollifield, each contributing 10 cents to share the expense of sending it. The originator of this telegram had an idea that only a few workers would be interested in any action of this sort, but after he started passing it around it seemed like everyone wanted to sign.

"We, Bethlehem steel employees, know that the cost of living has gone up to the extent that warrants Congress voting itself some wage raises. Your demands are no more just than the workers of the districts which you represent. Therefore we believe that you should be restricted to 15 percent above the amount earned on January 1, 1941, which is the Little Steel Formula which you claim is heading off inflation. Employees of Uncle Sam and industry should keep in step with one another either by breaking the Little Steel Formula or by both abiding by it."

Steel Worker
Los Angeles, Calif.

A Real "Mac"

Editor:

One of the fellows in my shop who recently subscribed to *The Militant* was discussing with me the situation in our local union. He described to me in detail the career of the newly elected vice-president of our lodge; how this particular opportunist rose through various offices in the union during the war period; how before the war he had not taken part in the struggles of building the union; how he was a big talker, a bit patriotic, a windy politician; how he skirted around important grievances of the ranks with vague, patriotic talk.

This immediately called to my mind the portrait of Kovalesky's new character "Mac" introduced in *The Militant* of March 3. Since my shopmate had not yet received his first copy of *The Militant* in the mails, I brought him mine and showed him Kovalesky's column. He was so delighted with the description of Mac that he passed the paper around to the other unionists in our department, explaining the analogy with our local "Mac." The *Diary of a Steel Worker* now has several new enthusiastic followers.

B. L.
Burbank, Calif.

Anti-Semitic Poison

Editor:

Why doesn't *The Militant* do something to counteract all this propaganda identifying the Jews with the capitalists?

This in my opinion is a more dangerous poison than even the anti-Negro feeling.

I continually point out to my friends and fellow-workers that 60 families own this country and only 3 percent of them are Jews. But these people have no real understanding of the way the econ-

omic system works. Because they see many stores run by Jews and the movie producers and the clothing industry, without bothering to investigate further, they conclude that the entire Jewish people are Shylocks and money-makers. Thus much of the hatred directed against the capitalists is turned toward the Jewish people.

Jean Martin
Los Angeles

Cost-Plus Contract

Editor:

I would like to relate an incident that happened in my place of work last week. The company works on a cost-plus contract, turning out war equipment. One part of the shop had been working for the last five months on an order for split rings for motors. A report came through that this order, which was then half filled, had been cancelled.

But the company didn't want to stop just because the rings weren't needed! On the very same day of the cancellation a night shift was put on for production of these split rings, and the day shift continued to work on them, piling up a big supply that the government would have to pay for on cost-plus...

Then three days later came a report that the cancellation was rescinded, and the rings would be

Q: What is "Criminal Syndicalism?"

A: In the language of capitalist law "Criminal Syndicalism" is the organization of forces to overthrow the existing government by violence. Actually, it is a framework charge commonly used by the ruling class to victimize members of trade unions and working-class parties by prosecuting them for "radicalism."

Q: What states have not yet ratified the child labor amendment?

A: Twenty states: Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia.

Q: What was Debs' vote as the presidential candidate of the Socialist Party in 1920?

A: 919,799.

Q: Has there ever been a national Labor Party in the United States?

A: No, although one was recommended as early as 1866 by the National Labor Union. One sentence of its proposed platform was "The tools to those that have the ability and skill to use them, and the lands to those that have the will and heart to cultivate them."

Q: What was the purpose of the War Food Administration to cover up its responsibility for the drastic food scarcities which the nation now faces?

A: The UAW's Consumer Bureau contends that the War Food Administration, "frankly acting to protect the profit interest of U. S. food trades," has been talking about the "danger of a food surplus for a long time." Only last December Food Administrator Marvin Jones "told high officials at the White House that there was no need for rationing."

Jones promoted a policy of "getting rid of food as fast as it was available" without rationing. "Not only have plans not been made to conserve American food supplies against the present shortage, but actually much of the present shortage was planned by the War Food's production plans of two years ago, and the rest of it has resulted from its program, announced last May, to keep commercial and government food shelves down to minimum stocks," states the *United Automobile Worker*, CIO.

The UAW's Consumer Bureau contends that the War Food Administration, "frankly acting to protect the profit interest of U. S. food trades," has been talking about the "danger of a food surplus for a long time." Only last December Food Administrator Marvin Jones "told high officials at the White House that there was no need for rationing."

"It was a deliberate wartime application of the scarcity technique which any good food monopoly uses whenever it can," the statement further charges.

The new food export control committee was set up to "shift attention away from Jones' lack of foresight" by blaming the shortage on the export of food to starving Europe.

"Tip-off is in the praise voiced by Paul Willis, head of the big food manufacturers' combine, when the export limitation committee was announced," says the *United Automobile Worker*. "This step meant to him more profits from selling scarce food supplies to American consumers."

Reactionary Congressmen seized on the issue to divert blame from the administration and food profiteers on to "Europeans who want food from us when we can't have all we want."

The paper concludes: "There will be no congressional investigation by either political party (Democrats and Republicans). Both parties are in on the deal, and the scheme is to keep it hidden by persuading American plain people that they are at war with European plain people for a share of a limited supply of food."

Why Allied Bombs 'Miss' Some Plants in Germany

Amid the slaughter and devastation in the Rhine and Ruhr areas after three years' of merciless bombing, American troops were startled to discover huge war plants virtually unscathed. They are plants in which American and British capital is invested.

Writing from Krefeld-Uerdingen, Germany, Chicago Sun correspondent John M. Mehl reported last week in a delayed dispatch that American soldiers are asking "with ill-concealed sarcasm" how it happens that they found "several giant factories running full blast," including those of the Krupp steel, I. G. Farbenindustrie chemical and Wagonfabrik automobile trusts. All these companies have been associated in cartel deals with American and British monopolies.

"There is a rumor circulating that the reason the Allies did not bomb the Wagonfabrik plant is because six members of the company's board of directors are Englishmen . . . the rumor is important because the Yanks believe it," says Mehl.

In the New York daily PM, March 27, Max Lerner reporting on his tour in the Rhineland, stated that "it gave me a jolt to see American industrial plants in Neuss. It also gave me a jolt to find out that the Ford motor plant in the suburbs of Cologne was relatively unharmed." He added that there is "bitter suspicion" among the American troops. "They think that British and American air bombardment deliberately spared factories in which Anglo-American money had been invested."

When asked at a press conference why these particular vital war factories were skipped in bombings for over three years, Gen. Arnold, chief of the U. S. Army Air Forces, first asked, "What reason could there be for missing them?" Informed of the Anglo-American financial connections, he passed off the whole matter laughingly, saying "I could say something about that, but I won't."

One of the greatest scandals after the first imperialist World War was the revelation of the "gentlemen's agreement" between the contending powers not to shell or bomb plants from which capitalists on both sides of the lines were making blood profits. The second imperialist World War—in which the suffering of the masses has been incalculably worse than in 1914-18—also finds the capitalist rulers safeguarding their mutually profitable interests.

War Boosts Profiteering To New Record Heights

Despite all the flag-waving propaganda about the reasons for high prices and wage-freezing, the real explanation can be found in the latest figures on wartime profits.

"Last year (1944) was the most profitable of the war period for industry," reported Bernard T. Frevert, editor of Standard & Poor's Trade Service, last week.

Each year of the war has seen corporate profits reach new all-time record heights. But in 1944, "net income, after taxes, of the 625 companies that have reported to date, aggregated \$1,574 million, or 2.9 percent over the \$1,529 million of the previous year (1943)," Frevert reports.

An example of the monumental war profiteering is General Motors, the multi-billion dollar trust whose workers were recently denied a general wage raise by the WLB. On March 29, GM's head, Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., reported 1944 net profits of \$170,995,865 as compared with \$149,780,088 in 1943.