

Did Roosevelt Curb American Monopolies

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VOL. IX—No. 18

THE MILITANT

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HUGE UPRISING SWEEPS NORTH ITALY

More Cutbacks, Layoffs Speeded By Government

With the virtual end of the war in Europe, the spreading war production cutbacks and mass unemployment will take on major scope and speed.

An intimation of what the workers face in the immediate future came last week with the ominous announcement of the impending shutdown of the huge Ford Willow Run bomber plant by August. This one layoff, spreading through numerous feeder plants, will ultimately affect several hundred thousands.

Within a few days of the first announcement, Edward L. Cushman, Michigan director of the War Manpower Commission, declared on April 23 that Willow Run production might end by June 1 instead of August. At the same time, Brig. Gen. Frederick Hopkins told union officials that there was only a "remote possibility" that "something would turn up" to save scores of thousands from unemployment.

WPB ANNOUNCEMENT

Behind a curtain of silence, big layoffs are proceeding in the other large plants of the automotive and aircraft industries. As of the latest announcement two weeks ago, there will be a general one-third reduction in working forces at the large Hudson, Murray Body and Briggs plants in Detroit. These figures will undoubtedly have to be revised sharply upward with the latest developments in the European war.

Last week, officials of the War Production Board and War Departments gave little-publicized announcements of large reductions in war contracts and extensive cutbacks.

On April 25 WPB Director J. A. Krug told a House committee

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IN THE NEWS

Their "Post-War Plan"

Speaking on April 18 before a meeting of the Commerce and Industry Association of New York, Inc., War Surplus Property Board Chairman Guy M. Gillette stated that certain big industry groups have urged his board to take "surplus" government goods "into the middle of the ocean and dump them" to maintain scarcity and high prices.

Hurrah! — We're Unemployed

Commenting on a previously published United Press dispatch about the closing of the Ford Willow Run bomber plant, the New York Daily, PM, April 21, explains: "Stories of the 'happiness' of the bomber workers over the projected closing of the plant were the result of interviews rigged, it appears, by the Ford Co. news bureau. Not realizing this, PM on Wednesday ran the United Press story of the interviews."

Toos Hot to Handle

An NLRB collective bargaining election at Famous-Bar, biggest department store in St. Louis and fourth largest in the world, was set aside because of company interference, reports Midwest Labor World, April 11. "The NLRB found in the election case that the company ACTUALLY TOOK OVER AN NLRB ELECTION AND RAN IT, DESPITE PROTESTS FROM THE BOARD ITSELF." The union paper adds that this "first-rate news story" was not even reported in the St. Louis papers. "The biggest advertiser was the culprit, and so the story was too hot to handle."

Health Note

Multi-millionaire Gerard Swope, former president of the General Electric trust, issued a statement the other day against making public the huge salaries received by the heads of the big business concerns. Publishing such information, said Swope, "only produces envy and heartburn."

Italian Masses Settle Accounts With Mussolini



A grim warning to all fascist murderers and enemies of the workers—the bodies of Mussolini, his mistress Clara Petacci and 12 other fascists, tried and executed by Italian Partisans, lie in the dirt in the Piazza Loretto at Milan, the industrial center where the fascists committed their worst atrocities against the Italian working class.

Conference At San Francisco Will Not Ensure Future Peace For The People

By Li Fu-jen

At the San Francisco conference of the "United Nations" which opened last week with pious speeches on the need for world peace, the statesmen of the imperialist powers, together with the representatives of the Kremlin, are carrying a stage further their plans for division of the world and domination of its peoples. San Francisco continues the work begun last year at the Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods conferences.

With unbounded hypocrisy and cynicism, scribblers of every political hue are busy "selling" the conference to the war-weary people as a bright hope of future peace. Neither the delegates nor the reporters believe this.

Reporter Jonathan Stout, writing in the April 28 Social-Democratic New Leader, stated that "on three occasions within the first two days after we arrived, I heard with amazement delegates make the most optimistic statements about the future of the conference, and then, in private, and off the record, have had them tell me that they were hoping against hope the conference would not lay an egg."

Stout then told this revealing story: "A writer of a nationally known syndicated column was more plain-spoken. He said he had not yet seen anything to lighten, but a great deal to deepen, his pessimism as to any really effective postwar peace organization. 'Is that the story you've written?' I asked. 'Oh no,' he replied, 'I don't dare write that story. Why not?' 'Because,' he answered, 'the people don't want to hear that story. The people so desperately want to hear that the San Francisco conference has succeeded that I cannot tell them how badly things have begun.'"

AIM TO DECEIVE

The columnist would have been accurate had he stated that he was writing as he did BECAUSE THE IMPERIALIST MANAGERS OF THE CONFERENCE WANT TO DECEIVE THE PEOPLES INTO BELIEVING THAT THEY ARE REALLY WORKING FOR PEACE AND THAT PEACE IS POSSIBLE UNDER CAPITALISM. Also, that he was writing as he did because the big-business controlled press, which

deceives the people day in and day out, demands it.

The world security organization which is expected to result from the San Francisco conference can be nothing more than a revamped League of Nations.

The Dumbarton Oaks proposals

which the conference is expected to adopt envisage the creation, not of an organization to pre-

serve peace, but of a political instrument of the Big Powers.

Its purpose, like that of the League of Nations, will be to

confirm the victorious powers in the spoils of war and to impose

"peace by force" (Roosevelt's formula) on the rest of the world.

The unspoken slogan of the

statesmen dominating the San Francisco conference is not

"Peace on Earth" but "Woe to

the Conquered!" They are bent

on dismembering Germany, de-

stroying its economic life, enslav-

ing its people. They intend to

Balkanize Europe and fasten the

chains of servitude on the teem-

ing multitudes of Asia. They plan

to wage bloody war on any peo-

ple who like the Greeks rise

against capitalist oppression and

exploitation.

As two terrible world wars have

by now amply demonstrated,

peace is impossible in a world of imperialist rivalries. At best, it is an uneasy interlude between wars, an interlude marked by a series of little wars.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The League of Nations did every-

thing but preserve peace. During

the 31 years between the close

of World War I and the outbreak

of World War II, more than a dozen

wars were fought. In each in-

stance the imperialist powers

were the prime movers. The

Turko-Greek war was instigated

by Britain after the close of World

War I, to further British policy

in the Near East. The "peace-

loving" British imperialists

while warred on the people

of Iraq and the tribes of India's

northwest frontier.

More wars followed in quick

succession. Britain, France and

the United States carried on un-

declared war against the Bolsh-

evik regime in Russia. France

and Spain fought the Riffs in

North Africa. Japan invaded

Manchuria. The Italian imperi-

alist conquered Abyssinia. Japan

against capitalist oppression and

exploitation.

This was the "peace" that ex-

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The British Government Discovers Atrocities

— See Page 5 —

are exploiting the horror revelations of the concentration camps in a frenzied campaign to whip up popular hatred, not just against the Nazis, but against the German people as a whole. If the people of the "democratic" countries can be made to believe that the Germans are a nation of

sadistic beasts, they may ac-

quiesce in the robber peace, the

super-Versailles, planned for

Germany. So calculate the Allied leaders.

IMPERIALIST DESIGNS

These self-styled champions of democracy have openly proclaimed their intention to dismember Germany to upset, and perhaps frustrate, their plans. The campaign around the atrocity revelations is intended to still any public protest and provide moral justification for the criminal "peace" planned by Washington and London and endorsed by the counter-revolutionary Stalinist gang in Moscow.

ULTERIOR PURPOSES

The systematic, streamlined character of the campaign, the determination of the propagandists to take its destiny into its

(Continued on page 6)

Partisans Drive Out Nazis, Execute Dictator Mussolini

Committees of National Liberation Hand Power to Allied Puppet Government in Rome

By Harry Martell

In a mighty demonstration of power the masses of northern Italy last week rose in insurrection and wiped out the remnants of the Fascist regime in its last stronghold. With Partisan fighters as the shock troops, the workers seized control of the great industrial cities in the Lombardy plain. Mussolini and his Fascist aides met the end deserved by all hated tyrants. After a summary trial they were put to death by a firing squad.

Strong Protest Wins Release of Negro Officers

The 162 Negro flying officers arrested at Freeman Field, Ind., early in April for protesting against Army segregation policies were freed on April 26, according to Leslie Perry, Washington representative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mass arrests of Negro officers of the 477th Bombardment Group followed upon their refusals to sign an endorsement of the Jim Crow plan for separate clubs for white and colored officers at Freeman Field.

Demands that charges be dropped against three Negro officers who were arrested at this same field for "jostling" a provost marshal are also being pressed by the NAACP. The charges were made after the Negro officers attempted to enter an officers' club, which had been "reserved" for white officers.

Further demands of the NAACP are that the War Department remove Major General Frank Hunter and Colonel Robert Selway from their posts and that a thorough investigation—"not a white wash" be made of the Jim Crow set-up at Freeman Field.

According to the April 28 Pittsburgh Courier, Major General Hunter was expected this week to reveal the status of the War Department's investigations into the arrests of the Negro flying officers. Because of the vigorous nation-wide protests against this Jim Crow outrage, "it was generally felt that Colonel Selway would be relieved entirely of command of the 477th."

From here on events followed a familiar pattern. The Committee of National Liberation, consisting of Stalinists, "Socialists" and Liberals, received the power which the insurgent masses had wrench- ed from the hands of the Fascists and Nazis—and promptly handed it over to the bankrupt Bonomi government which rules in Rome by the grace of Allied bayonets. Allied troops immediately rushed in to "restore order" in the liberated cities.

The new governmental power in the north, in its first official statement, pledged itself "to continue the war" at the side of the United Nations, thus flouting the will of the people who, above all, want peace. This treacherous coalition, like their associates in the south, are already trying to disarm the insurrectionists whose struggles liberated North Italy.

In Turin, a general strike was called. Immediately the insurgents occupied the squares and streets of the city, seized public buildings, freed political prisoners, and forced the German and Italian Fascist forces to surrender en masse.

The great port of Genoa fell

when the German commander, realizing the hopelessness of his position, surrendered his garrison of 7,000 soldiers to the Partisans.

In Venice, the German commander yielded the harbor, with all ships intact, to Partisan leaders.

In other cities armed working-class Partisans stormed and over-

(Continued on page 6)

BIG AIRCRAFT LAYOFFS HIT BUFFALO WORKERS

By Bill Gray

BUFFALO, April 23.—This city which for several years has been one of the most critical labor shortage areas in the country is likely to become in the very near future one of the most critical job shortage areas.

If anyone thinks this prediction is too pessimistic or just the product of a point of view that has no faith in the ability of the capitalist system to provide post-war jobs for all, let him ponder over these hard facts.

Buffalo employment has been declining steadily since June 1943 which marked the peak of wartime jobs in this area. Workers laid off have either left town or through the controlled Referral Plan forced to take undesirable jobs at lower wages.

The aircraft industry, the principal industry in this city, has already dismissed thousands of its employees and this is only the beginning. Bell Aircraft which in in the summer of 1943 employed 30,000 now has less than half that number on the payroll. This corporation which in 1939 employed only a couple of thousand workers is strictly a wartime industry. Bell is now planning to close its Buffalo Plants and confine its production to the smaller Niagara Falls plant. It is not unlikely that this corporation will cease production entirely when Germany falls.

The Curtiss-Wright Corpora-

tion, the larger of the two airplane manufacturers in this area, has had mass layoffs running up to several thousand workers in the past few months. Louis J. Mayer, President of the I.A.M. District 585-AFL, recently stated that Curtiss-Wright executives had informed him that a one-third reduction in production resulting in discharge of many additional thousands of workers would go into effect any time now. The company has refused to reveal the extent of the contemplated reduction!

Numerous smaller plants making airplane parts, engines and other war products have already

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Result Of Elections In UAW-CIO Locals Reveal Sharp Discontent Of Auto Workers

By E. Kennedy

DETROIT, April 23.—The increasing discontent of the auto workers that finds expression in the continuing strike wave here has also been revealed in the results of the recent local union elections of the CIO United Automobile Workers.

This year, as was the case a year ago, the officers of scores of UAW locals have paid for their inability to win any real gains for the workers by being voted out of union office.

An outstanding example of the trend was the results of the primary elections at the huge Ford Local 600. The Stalinist machine which dominated the local for several years suffered an outright defeat for the posts of recording-secretary and secretary-treasurer. The opposition, as reported in *The Militant*, April 28, won pluralities for the other posts and is in a favorable position to win the run-offs.

ELECTION CHANGES

Among other leading locals which have witnessed the defeat of the old administrations are the following: Ford Willow Run Bomber Local 50; Briggs Aircraft 742; Chrysler Tank Arsenal Local 833; Plymouth Local 51; Ford Highland Park Local 400; Murray Local 2; Continental Motors Local 280; Flint Chevrolet Local 659; Flint Fisher Local 581; Flint AC Local 651. In Briggs Local 212, the old administration's slate lost out for the two top posts. This list could be greatly extended.

Naturally, all locals did not elect new leaderships, although most elections were very close. Chrysler Local 7 retained its incumbent president, Cunningham, a Stalinist. Frank Donley was victor again at Motor Products Local 203. Mike Novak continues as Dodge Local 3 president by a narrow vote margin. Hammond of Detroit West Side Tool and Die Local 157 was also reelected.

A Stalinist-Reuther-Addes combination in Flint Buick Local 599 was strong enough to reelect Ben Woodward against Geiger, who

Auto Profiteers' Spokesman Calls Unions 'Vultures'

Here's a sample of the kind of "peace charter" the auto barons look forward to imposing on labor—and it's not the one recently signed by Philip Murray and William Green.

John W. Scoville, economist for the Chrysler Corporation, spoke on August 1, 1944 before the Detroit Kiwanis Club, on "The Moral and Economic Evils of Collective Bargaining." His remarks were just reported in the May 1 *United Automobile Worker*, organ of the UAW-CIO.

"Whi! I condemn collective bargaining as an assault on liberty, as an evil thing which is against the public interest, as something that will increase poverty," said this spokesman of the auto companies, "I realize that collective bargaining is only one chick in the foul brood of vultures that seek to pick the meat from the bones of honest men." The "honest men" being the war profiteers on auto firms.

"As industrial turmoil increases," he said further, "more and more people will see the evils of collective bargaining, and we should look forward to the time when ALL FEDERAL LABOR LAWS WILL BE REPEALED." (Our emphasis).

In Detroit, Mich.

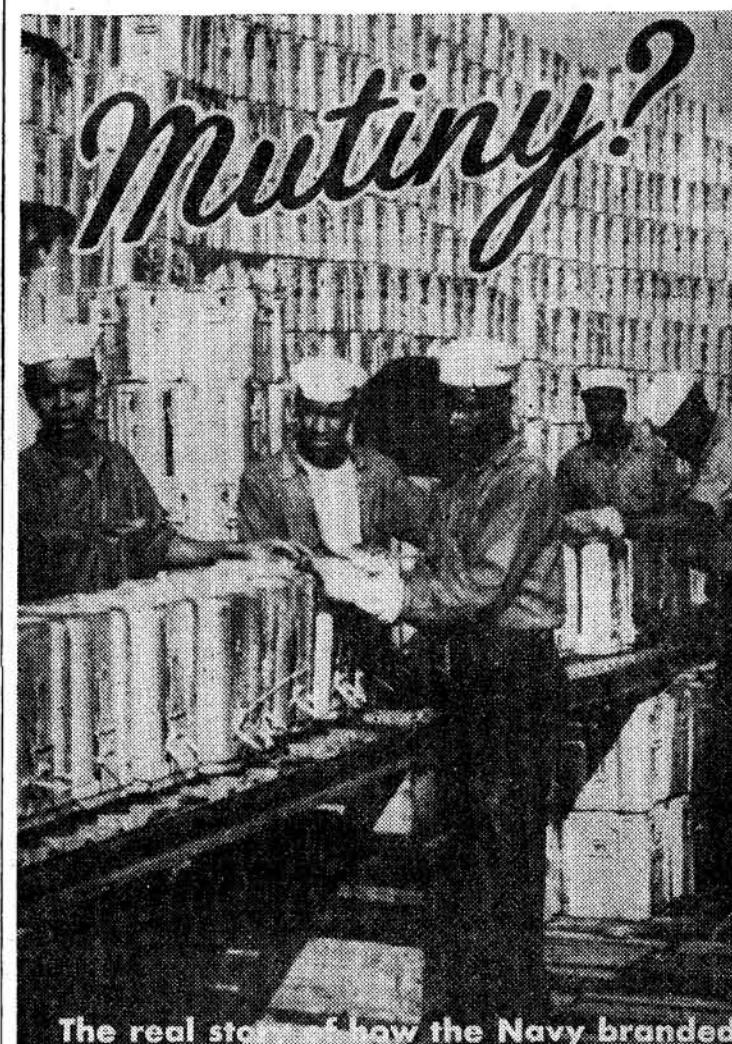
You can get

THE MILITANT

at the

FAMILY THEATRE NEWSSTAND opposite the theatre

New NAACP Pamphlet



The real story of how the Navy branded 50 fear-stricken sailors as mutineers

Reproduction of the front cover of the pamphlet "Mutiny?", showing Negro navy ammunition loaders like the men who were blown to bits in the Port Chicago disaster. This pamphlet, published by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, is reviewed in this issue of *The Militant*.

Negro Workers Give Evidence On Jim Crow In Boilermakers

LOS ANGELES, April 27—Garner V. Grayson, Jr., formerly acting secretary-treasurer of the Boilermakers Local No. A-35, Negro local, was one of the key witnesses during the past week for the six Negro workers who are attempting, through court action here, to force the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers, AFL, to admit Negroes into the union as full members without discrimination and without segregation.

Their testimony revealed that they have been compelled to pay initiation fees and dues into San Pedro Local 92 of the Boilermakers, as a condition of employment in the shipyards, although they have never been admitted into that local and instead were eventually shunted off into a Negro auxiliary.

This Negro auxiliary does not have control over its own affairs. It is controlled instead by Local 92 in which the Negro workers have no representation. Due to discrimination against them on the part of Local 93, they have been barred from many of the better paid jobs, and in general have relegated to an inferior status.

GRAYSON'S TESTIMONY

Grayson testified that he had been appointed acting secretary-treasurer of the auxiliary Local A-35, at the time this segregated local was set up in the spring of 1943, by E. V. Blackwell, secretary-treasurer of Local 92, and later confirmed by the international offices of the Boilermakers. Appointments of all other officers of the auxiliary were made by Grayson after prior consultation with Blackwell. None of these appointments were confirmed by the membership.

Although Grayson retained his position as an officer for more than a year, no election of officers was held during that time. He asserted that in April, 1944,

JIM-CROW AUXILIARY

In previous hearings before the court, Eric Jacobs, one of the plaintiffs, stated that he had paid initiation fee and dues to Local 92, and had been notified to appear for initiation. When he appeared, he said, he was told that the notification had been sent him in error and that the scheduled initiation was for white boilermakers only. He was never initiated in Local 92.

Another plaintiff, A. Williams, said that when he refused to pay dues to the Jim-Crow auxiliary he was fired from his job for failure to maintain his membership in good standing.

The case now before the Superior Court of Los Angeles was brought by six Negro boilermakers on their own behalf and on behalf of other workers similarly situated against the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and its Local 92. The six Negroes, through their lawyer, have made it plain that they do not oppose the closed shop contracts held by the union. Their lawyer stated that if they would be admitted to full membership in Local 92, he would stipulate for a dismissal of the case immediately.

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PAMPHLET BARES NAVY FRAME-UP OF NEGROES

By Grace Carlson

"Mutiny?", a 16-page pamphlet just published by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, is a powerful indictment of the Jim Crow system of the United States Navy. The cover of this pamphlet is a reproduction of an official Navy photograph, showing Negro sailors loading ammunition. Against this background, the title of the pamphlet takes on added meaning— "Mutiny? The Real Story of How the Navy Branded 50 Fear-Shocked Sailors As Mutineers."

"Remember Port Chicago?" the pamphlet begins, and goes on to give a dramatic recitation of the tragic events of the Port Chicago case. On July 17, 1944 in this little town on San Francisco Bay, over 320 American sailors were blown to tiny fragments . . . in less time than it takes to say 'Jim Crow'."

Every one of the 320 casualties was a Negro sailor, who had been loading ammunition. Every one of the commissioned officers who had been charged with the lives and welfare of these men was white.

Eight or nine hundred Negro sailors survived the Port Chicago tragedy—dazed, bewildered, nervous, shocked by the sights, sounds and smells of "the worst home front disaster of the war." When attempts were made to return them to loading ammunition, hundreds of them

UNJUSTLY PUNISHED

Negro sailors were learning "that civilian longshoremen in the Bay Area had, on a number of occasions refused to work on the same ship where Navy personnel were loading . . . ; that the Longshoremen's union wouldn't permit a winch driver to work on ammunition unless he had had years of experience on other loads . . . ; that the Navy had ignored an offer by these same unions to send experienced longshoremen to train them in the safe handling of explosives."

Hundreds of these Negro sailors, protesting against the vicious Navy discrimination which consigned only Negroes to the dangerous, dirty work of loading ammunition, were shipped to the South Pacific. Two hundred and fifty seven others were arrested. 50 of these were tried "for con-

spiration to mutiny" at the largest mass trial in Naval history. In the record of the six-week trial, as the NAACP pamphlet points out very correctly, there is "not one word of the most important issues of the case . . . not one hint that while these 50 bewildered youngsters sat for six weeks in a courtroom as the 'accused,' the real offender was the 'accuser'—the Navy."

Long prison terms was the "justice" meted out to these Negro sailors—half of them under 21 years of age. Ten of the men were sentenced to 15 years in prison; 11 to 10 years; 24 to 12 years; and 5 to 8 years. Through Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel for the NAACP, a brief was filed for all 50 sailors with Judge Advocate General of the U. S. Navy. This was done at the written request of the sailors themselves.

"The pointless, meaningless deaths of 320 Americans must be given a point, must be given a meaning—for the living" says the NAACP writer in conclusion.

"Meaning for the living" lies in militant support of the campaign to free these 50 Negro sailors—victims of Navy Jim Crow—a key case in the fight to end discrimination and segregation in the armed forces.

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A Review Of The UAW Referendum

Characterizing the recent UAW referendum on the no-strike pledge as a "mess" in which "less than one-sixth of the membership voted to support the International," an editorial in the April issue of "Hi-Flyer," official publication of UAW-CIO Local 6, Melrose Park, Ill., goes on to explain what the pledge has done to hamstring the auto workers. We reprint the editorial below.

LOOKING OVER THE REFERENDUM

The recent referendum on the no-strike pledge, conducted by the UAW-CIO, was one glorious mess. Final "official" figures were 63.4 per cent for retention, 35.3 per cent against and 1.3 per cent of the ballots were void.

How many thousands of those ballots were phoney, no one knows. The ballots were sent out to people on the subscription list of the United Automobile Worker, the International paper, rather than to the lists of the membership. As a result quite a few people got two, three and even five ballots, while many others got none. People who had left the UAW-CIO a year or two ago were still sent ballots. Many employers, who regularly get the paper, had ballots mailed to them, like the head of the Olds Company in Lansing, Mich. The no-strike pledge never was given a "for or against" wording, either at the convention last summer or on the ballot. The referendum committee was divided according to the Auto Worker, into three positions on the question. What three positions? If there were three positions, why wasn't the ballot so worded?

Less than one-sixth of the membership—even if you concede everything was on the up-and-up, which is conceding a lot, voted to support the International policy of collective begging! Most of the other million members just showed their disgust. They're disgusted with the long run-arounds on grievances through the present government set-up; disgusted waiting for the War Labor Board to do something about raises.

Everyone knows what the attitude of the membership is on the no-strike pledge. A lot of members couldn't reconcile their feelings about the war by voting against the pledge, but at the same time they refused to vote for the no-strike pledge either. Look at the thousands of "quiekie strikes" taking place throughout the country! The membership in the older locals know that you can't beg anything from General Motors, Ford or Chrysler. They've had too much experience with these babies—back in 1936, 1937 and 1939—to forget that. They knew too that the WLB is stacked 100 per cent against us. It's O.K. for instance, to bounce a guy out of a plant without asking the WLB for permission, but if a worker is fired and he wants to appeal the case he has to hold his breath for two years while the WLB or the umpire "investigates."

The UAW Membership Want Action

If Thomas and Reuther really wanted to know what the membership thinks, the referendum proved it to the hilt. The membership is sick of the WLB, sick of the lies about "equality of sacrifice." It wants action. It needs action. Thousands of people are already being laid off in the shipyards and elsewhere. Hours are being shortened and will be shortened considerably when VE day comes around. Around here pay is bound to fall.

And once there are a large number of unemployed, the employers, and the WLB will just sit back and thumb their noses at us. "Quit if you want to," they will say, "there's plenty more where you came from, Buddy."

That's where the no-strike policy has led us. Even the WLB admits that we've taken a licking. They claim that there's been a rise in the cost of living of some 30 per cent, but a rise in wages of only 20 per cent. Doesn't that mean we've taken a 10 per cent wage cut? Why should we have taken such a cut when the profits of the big corporations are four times as large as they were four years ago? Where's that "equality of sacrifice?" Everyone knows, of course, that the cost of living has gone up more than 30 per cent. Try to wear a pair of \$10 shoes one-half the time you used to wear one of those old Tom McAn's. Try that quality on all merchandise. And remember the black market and much higher taxes. The cost of living has probably doubled. But wages have gone up only 20 per cent. That's where the no-strike pledge took us. We took a CUT IN PAY.

The no-strike pledge is responsible for such fascist measures as "work or jail"; it is responsible for the dictatorial freeze of jobs and all the other monkeyshines we've been given under the lying excuse of "war emergency."

We'll never get anywhere on the policy of begging—except possibly begging on the breadline or selling apples in the street. The rank and file of our local and all other locals must work together to see that we go back to some good old-fashioned union militancy and union collective BARGAINING (not begging).

No-strike means no wages and no decent conditions. Let's rescind the no-strike pledge at the next convention, or better yet, this coming year—that's still the best advice we workers can take.

Workers Answer Provocations By Five Strikes In Allentown

ALLENTEW, Pa., April 27.—Five strikes in the last four days is the answer of the union workers here to the stalling and chiselling tactics of some of the leading Allentown employers.

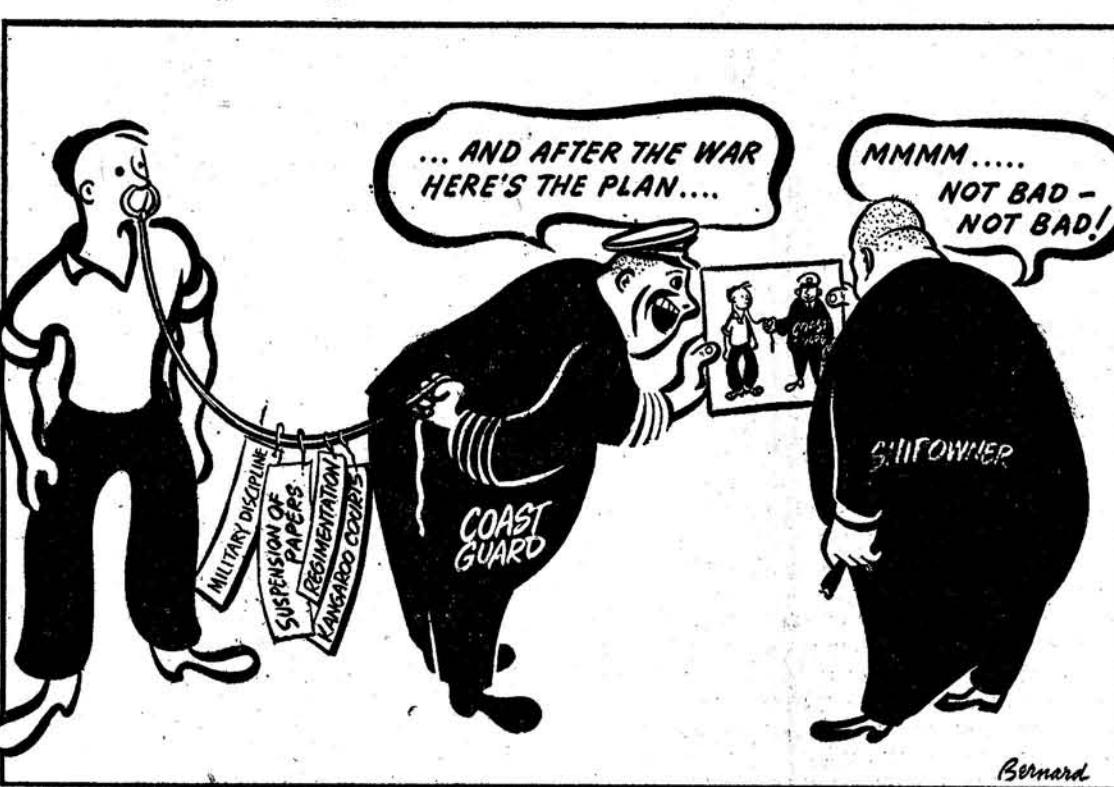
On Monday, April 23, the entire No. 4 assembly plant of the Mack Truck Manufacturing Corporation went on strike when the company refused to settle a seven-week old grievance. The next day some 3,000 members of Local 677, CIO United Automobile Workers, at eight Mack plants, three warehouses and two maintenance shops were out in solidarity and in protest against the WLB-company delays on classification grievances and contracts.

Members of Local 2306, CIO United Steel Workers, went on strike at the J. F. Grammes & Sons plant against payment of substantial wages. Protesting a contract sent to the WLB con-

J. PIERPONT MONEYBAGS
Says: "JOBS FOR
EVERYONE?—WHY,
THAT'S SOCIALISTIC!"



Preparing 'Post-War Plan' for Seamen



Reprinted by courtesy of "Seafarers' Log".

Chicago Buick Local 6 Votes For Strike Poll

By Mike Bartell

CHICAGO, April 17.—At a huge protest mass meeting at the Lion's hall here yesterday noon, 5,000 members of Buick Local 6, CIO United Automobile Workers, voted overwhelmingly by secret ballot to petition for an NLRB strike vote under the Smith-Connally Act. Over 87 per cent of the ballots favored

strike action.

The plant management expressed "surprise" in a press statement about the "unusual" amount of "absenteeism" on the day of the mass meeting — when 5,000 of the 6,000 workers on the day shift failed to report for work. But the workers—and the company—knew why they were "absent."

They were at the greatest labor protest demonstration in this city since Pearl Harbor. Buick workers were jammed into every square inch of space at the meeting hall to prepare a program of militant action against the company's repeated deliberate provocations. These provocations were climaxized by the firing of a union district committeeman. This finally touched off the explosive protest.

COMPANY MOVES

At Buick, as throughout the automotive industry, the company in the past months has adopted a "tough" policy designed to beat down and undermine the union. The management contemptuously refused to settle the grievances pouring into the union's shop committee at an unprecedented rate. Only two out of 100 grievances were settled satisfactorily.

To all intents and purposes the contractual seniority and upgrading provisions have been voided. The company finally "bargained" with the shop committee by sending in only "office boys" without authority except to say "no" to all the committee's demands.

The company then made its next move—the firing of a committteeman on the pretext that he had refused to accept an arbitrary transfer into another plant district at pay below the scale for the job. He accepted the transfer the first day. But as the elected representative of the workers in his district, he justifiably refused on the second day to leave his own district. He was laid off a day, and then fired on the third day. The whole company action was clearly premeditated.

But the workers didn't just fold up under this blow. At the protest meeting yesterday, the aisles were jammed from the platform to the back walls. Workers were hanging in through the windows and thousands listened to the speeches over the sound truck outside. So aroused and defiant were the rank and file, that not even the finky Stalinists dared voice opposition to a strike vote. No one mentioned the no-strike pledge. No one waved the flag. The representatives of the International union were very conspicuous by their absence—this potato was a bit too hot for them to handle.

The solidarity between the Negro and white workers was inspiring.

It was demonstrated when a report came in that a restaurant in the building was discriminating against the colored brothers. A roar of protest greeted this and a motion to boycott the restaurant was passed unanimously.

Only one sour note crept into this militant demonstration. The local leaders weakened under company pressure, despite their profession of a progressive program at the union's last elections. They posted bulletins throughout the plant at the last moment, late Saturday afternoon, which gave the impression that the workers were not to meet in a body at Monday noon as already announced, but would dribble into the meeting hall all afternoon and evening after their shifts. This caused considerable confusion, but the demonstration was a tremendous success in spite of it.

Events at Chicago Buick follow the pattern of the offensive against the auto locals everywhere. It is part of a conspiracy to smash the giant UAW. But Local 6 has a militant and progressive tradition. This was most recently shown when it unanimously rejected the new General Motors contract which contained no basic gains.

It passed a resolution calling

DETROIT

SUNDAY NIGHT FORUMS

May 6

"The Negroes' Stake in the Revolutionary Party"

Speaker: B. HORTON

May 13

"The San Francisco Conference"

Speaker: KAY O'BRIEN

3513 WOODWARD AVENUE

Room 211-8 p.m.

Shipowners Plan Post-War Military Control of Seamen

By Art Sharon

Brass hats of the United States Coast Guard are determined to extend their domination over the merchant seamen. Given jurisdiction for the duration through an executive order, they and their shipowner sponsors have now begun a campaign to maintain their military stranglehold in the "post-war" period.

Last week the Coast Guard called a public hearing on their proposal to transfer all functions of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation from the Department of Commerce to the U. S. Coast Guard. Present at this hearing were "Blackie" Meyers and Joe Stack, Stalinist spokesman for the National Maritime Union, Winocur of the Radio Operators, John Hawk of the Seafarers International Union and several shipowners' representatives.

As expected, the Stalinist finks and shipowners went into raptures over the Coast Guard proposals. Only Hawk, representative of the SIU, fulfilled the elementary obligation of a union representative to oppose this ominous plan. The SIU served notice on the Coast Guard and the shipowners that if they went ahead with this plan and attempted to get Congress to make it law the SIU would call upon the entire labor movement for support in "smashing a military plot."

COAST GUARD "GESTAPO"

The shipowners want military control as one more weapon in their hands against militant unionism. The Stalinist support it for essentially the same reason. Rank and file seamen of all unions have had a bellyful of military control during the war, of "kangaroo courts," arbitrary suspension of their seamen's papers, and other "Gestapo" methods.

The Coast Guard has waged a continuous campaign to break down the elementary solidarity existing between shipmates. Coming aboard ship when it docks, they pass quietly around picking up all loose gossip of possible "friction" between departments or between men and their officers. They induce young and inexperienced seamen to relate all that takes place on the trip in an effort to carry out their snooping function.

Needless to add they put their weight behind many a bucko mate or labor-hating skipper. The Coast Guard "Gestapo" has earned the hatred of union seamen everywhere.

It Pays to Advertise

General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, the Big Three of the automotive industry, have fought against giving so much as a penny wage increase to their workers.

But last year although they had no consumer's goods to sell the combined advertising outlay of these three corporations was \$20,000,000. In 1942 it was only \$8,000,000.

These advertising sums are charged off against business expenses and are deductible from federal taxes. That's like spending \$20,000,000 to propagandize monopoly "free enterprise" out of the pockets of the tax-paying consumers.

Among the most recent advertising expenditures of General Motors were full page ads in all the leading newspapers attacking the WLB decision granting collective bargaining rights to foremen.

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Did Roosevelt Curb Monopolists?

By Felix Morrow

The most important single question to answer, in analyzing Roosevelt's domestic role, is: what was the end-result of his denunciations of "the malefactors of great wealth," the "gold-plated anarchists," the "economic royalists?" Did America's Sixty Families lose ground during the twelve years of Roosevelt's administration? Or did they strengthen still further their grip on the American economy?

None of the mourning eulogists have dealt with this question. Yet, whatever may be claimed for the New Deal in the way of reforms aiding the "forgotten man," if the clans of Big Business have meanwhile still further swallowed up the economy, then the net resultant is a situation in which the Sixty Families wield more economic and political power than ever.

"Equality of opportunity as we have known it no longer exists," said Roosevelt during his 1932 campaign, and promised to recreate equality of opportunity. The enemy of such opportunity was indicated by Secretary of the Interior, Harold L. Ickes, in a famous speech on December 30, 1937. America, he said, had been "controlled at least until 1933 by monopolies that in their turn are controlled by a negligible number of their stockholders."

Ferdinand Lundberg's book, "America's Sixty Families," published in 1938, showed that behind the abstraction Big Business was the very living reality of sixty families who controlled the monopolies. Ickes in his speech borrowed Lundberg's title, and declared that the fight is "between the New Deal and the Bourbons of the sixty families who have brought the rest of the business in the United States under the terror of their domination."

What Ickes did not borrow from author Lundberg was the latter's conclusion: "It is safe to predict that when the New Deal is over the poor will be no richer, the rich no poorer." (p. 449)

The NRA Aids the Trusts

"Practically all of our greatest historical figures," said Ickes in that same speech, "are famous because of their persistent and courageous fight to prevent and control the overconcentration of wealth and power in a few hands." But since he himself admits that the Sixty Families ruled "at least until 1933" it means that Theodore

Roosevelt, Wilson and Roosevelt's other "trust-busting" predecessors had failed in their "fight." Neither Ickes nor Roosevelt ever tried to explain what new methods they were using which their predecessors did not; and indeed there were none.

The end-result of decades of "trust-busting" was shown in the study of Berlin and Means: at the end of 1929. The 200 largest nonbanking corporations in the country controlled some 49 per cent of all corporate wealth. If the same relative rate of growth was maintained by the larger and smaller concerns, then the 200 largest corporations would have 70 per cent of the nation's corporate wealth by 1950.

That this rate of growth was at least continuing, if not speeding up, was shown in a study, "The Structure of American Economy," published in 1939 by the government's National Resources Committee. It showed that from 1929 to 1933, the 300 largest corporations had increased their hold of all corporate wealth from 49 per cent to 57 per cent! At this point the National Resources Committee study (published, note, in 1939) becomes silent, with the explanation (p. 107) that "with the small staff of technicians available" it had been unable to "carry the compilation and estimating beyond 1933."

How the Monopolies Thrived

But we will find convincing figures elsewhere. What was the result of "trust-busting" Roosevelt's famous NRA experiment?

After 1932 the main form of monopoly practice had become that of trade associations. Instead of bringing the main productive plant of an industry openly into a single corporate monopoly, obviously violating the anti-trust laws, Big Business got virtually the same results by banding the main plants together in a trade association.

The one weakness of the trade associations was the surreptitious means they had to employ to coerce some maverick corporation into line. Under Franklin Delano Roosevelt the NRA gave these trade associations the force of law, enabling them to use government enforcement to keep dissenters from violating the price-fixing and production-limitations decreed by the trade associations.

The two years of NRA ended when it was declared unconstitutional in 1935. But it had done its work. Never had the big corporations held so large a section of every industry.

Some graphic figures will illustrate this. The

figures are the government's own, for 1937, (TNEC Monograph No. 27), analyzing who controlled the output of 1,807 representative products:

The four largest concerns, in the case of more than three-quarters of these products, accounted for more than 50 per cent of the total output.

The four largest concerns, in the case of nearly half these products, accounted for more than 70 per cent of the total output.

The four largest concerns, in the case of more than a quarter of these products, accounted for over 85 per cent of the total output.

In the case of 291 products, the one leading manufacturer controlled between 50 and 75 per cent of the output.

Obviously, these figures show, Roosevelt had done nothing to bring equality of opportunity back for most of the 300,000 corporations, not to speak of the unincorporated small businessman, the worker and farmer.

Of the corporations reporting to the Bureau of Internal Revenue in 1935, less than 4 per cent of them received 84 per cent of all corporate net income. One-tenth of one per cent owned 52 per cent of the assets of all those reporting, and realized 50 per cent of all the profits.

Nor did the amount of these profits suffer at the hands of the New Deal. This is indicated by the fact that dividends in the boom year 1929 were \$16 billions and in the depression year 1938 were \$15 billions. Contrast this with the fall of wages from \$63 billions in 1929 to \$54 billions in 1938.

Monopolies During the War

What happened when war production began can be told in a few concise facts.

In his report for the fiscal year 1941, Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold reported that "three-fourths of all our vast war contracts have been let to 86 concerns."

On January 20, 1942 the Vinson (House Naval Affairs) Committee reported that 15 large companies received over 60 per cent of all navy contracts. On February 5, 1942 the Small Business Committee of the Senate reported that 56 corporations now have 75 per cent of all war contracts.

One indication of the effect on small business is the change in the metal-working industries, reported by C. F. Hughes in the August 6, 1944 N. Y. Times: "Plants employing 2500 workers or

more in 1939 produced approximately 23 per cent of the nation's shipments; in 1943 they ran well over 55 per cent."

The general effect on small business in the postwar world was indicated by the Truman (Senate Investigating) Committee already in 1941: "It is clear that their [the big corporations] competitive position in the economy of the nation is being vastly improved by the war, and at a time, moreover, when tens of thousands of small businessmen are being forced to stop production while they watch the value of their plants destroyed and perhaps see their machinery seized and transplanted to the plants of large defense contract holders."

The Triumph of Monopoly

Wartime profits, after taxes, are double the 1936-39 average. But this is only part of the booty. Twenty billion dollars worth of new industrial plants have been built by government money for war production. Five billions of these is already privately-owned, by means of five-year tax-amortization certificates. For example, Bethlehem Steel ordinarily computes depreciation on a steel plant as 2.8 per cent annually; under the tax amortization certificates, however, it has been able to charge off 20 per cent annually! The other 15 billions of government financed plant, now "leased" to their operators, will be "bought" by them for a song, we can be sure, whenever it suits their purposes.

The magnitude of these figures will be realized if we recall that the entire industrial plant of this country before the war was valued at 26 billions.

In November 1940 the Truman Committee warned: "A large number of small businesses are already closing their shops. . . Great care must be taken to assure that we do not destroy the American way of life by adopting the wrong methods of defending them. . ."

But that "American way of life," the "free enterprise" so vaunted by Roosevelt, already admittedly non-existent in 1933, could not be brought back. The record shows that Roosevelt's twelve years in office were another stage in the triumph of monopoly.

(This is the second of a series of articles on Roosevelt. The third will appear next week.)

Big Bankroll Provides Best Immunity To The Dread Scourge Of Tuberculosis

By Grace Carlson

Some day in the future, I expect to have one of my grandchildren say to me, "Grandma, what is tuberculosis?"

Then I'll answer her, "Well, Dorothy, tuberculosis is a disease that used to kill lots of people in olden times, but under Socialism we have almost wiped it out. That's why you haven't heard very much about it."

But I don't suppose that Dorothy will be put off with an easy answer like that. "But Grandma, it says in this old pamphlet that I found in your trunk that people who died from tuberculosis were 'victims of social neglect.' What does 'social neglect' mean?"

"That's a pamphlet the National Tuberculosis Association put out way back in 1944. They tried to tell the people then that doctors knew how to cure tuberculosis, but that—"

SOCIAL NEGLECT

Dorothy will interrupt me. She'll be that kind! But Grandma, that's silly. It says here, 'In 1943, in the United States, tuberculosis killed 57,000 including 2,700 children under the age of fifteen years.' The doctors wouldn't have let all of those people die if they knew how to cure them!"

"What I was trying to tell you, Dorothy," (I'll have to be firm with her) "is that the doctors knew how to cure tuberculosis



ing cause of death in the United States; today, it is in seventh place. But it could be wiped out completely! No one should die of tuberculosis in 1945 when medical science has perfected so many ingenious techniques for treating tuberculosis patients.

But thousands of people will die from tuberculosis in the United States this year. The vast majority of them will be workers. The National Tuberculosis Association has gathered some interesting statistics on this point, which they present under the heading, "The Worker's Chances of Dying from Tuberculosis."

2 times as many farmers die of tuberculosis as do bankers
4 times as many bakers die of tuberculosis as do bankers
4 times as many plumbers die of tuberculosis as do bankers
5 times as many truck drivers die of tuberculosis as do bankers

7 times as many miners die of tuberculosis as do bankers
9 times as many waiters die of tuberculosis as do bankers
11 times as many laborers die of tuberculosis as do bankers

If a case of tuberculosis is discovered in an early stage, it is not difficult to cure the patient and restore him to productive life. But workers do not get the benefits of early treatment. Their general bodily resistance to disease is already weakened by their bad living conditions—crowded, poorly-heated homes, inadequate clothing, insufficient food. So they are an easy prey for tuberculosis germs.

HOW TO PREVENT IT

The great majority of workers continue at their jobs for weeks and months after they show signs of illness before they seek medical advice. Even where there is a union, little sick leave is granted by the employer. Long periods of illness for the breadwinner, cold and worry for the worker's wife and children. Small wonder, then, that workers struggle along at their heavy jobs for a long time with the burden of coughing, indigestion, pain in the chest and other symptoms of tuberculosis rather than risk un-

employment. By the time they get treatment, it is often too late.

Dr. H. E. Kleinschmidt, Education

Director of the National Tu-

berculosis Association, said two

years ago, "Tuberculosis is only

one of the evils growing out of

greed and social injustice but it

alone is enough to justify zeal-

ous crusading for the day when

every family will be assured a

decent standard of living."

But these doctors who know

so much about how to cure tu-

berculosis don't know how to prevent it, because they don't know how to "assure a decent standard of living" for every family. But in the Socialist Workers Party, we know how that must be done. And when my little grandchild says to me some day, "Grandma, what did YOU do in the war against tuberculosis? I won't have to turn MY head away!"

BIG FIVE CONTROL

The extent of the Big Five

domination of Hawaiian economy

is staggering. Banking, shipping,

communication, public utilities,

transportation, amusement are

all Big Five property.

90% of retail stores purchase their sup-

plies from Big Five wholesalers.

Due to the Big Five monopoly of

land, 85% of all foodstuffs has to

be imported on the Big Five Line

—Matson Shipping — at an in-

crease of 25% over mainland

(U. S.) prices. Hawaii is actually an enlarged company town.

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British Documents, Long Withheld From The Public, Show German People First Victims Of Atrocities

By Joseph Hansen

The propaganda campaign unleashed by the Allies over atrocities in the Nazi concentration camps is in strange contrast to their former official attitude. Although they were fully informed about these atrocities, they at first maintained a conspiracy of silence. They did not find it expedient to disclose the facts—because then the atrocities were committed almost exclusively against the German people. Later in the opening stage of the war they blamed the atrocities on the Nazi regime; not, as they do now, on the victims of that regime.

This is revealed by the Papers Concerning the Treatment of German Nationals in Germany, an official publication issued by the British Government in 1939.

In the introduction to these official documents, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs declares: "These documents were not written for publication, and, indeed, so long as there was the slightest prospect of reaching any settlement with the German Government it would have been wrong to do anything to embitter relations between the two countries. Even after the outbreak of war His Majesty's Government felt reluctant to take action which might have the effect of inspiring hatred." Here out of their own mouths the British imperialists admit that they had no serious objection to the savage regime of Hitler so long as it did not intrude on British prerogatives!

PREWAR REPORTS

The capitalist press is now filled with pictures showing the bodies of victims of Buchenwald. The British Consulate at Dresden, filed a report dated February 2, 1939, describing this camp according to eyewitness accounts. Here are some excerpts: "He was taken to concentration camp (Buchenwald, near Weimar) where there were about 10,000 Jews confined... There was not even enough water to drink, and there were only twenty latrines for 10,000 people... Herr V. said that to the people in charge of this camp there were two classes of people, alive or dead, and that no consideration was paid to people who were old or sick." These victims were Germans.

Another report filed February 18, 1939, declares: "In pre-World War Germany no word strikes greater terror in people's hearts than the name of Buchenwald... In Buchenwald the number of deaths, both of Jews and of Aryans, was far greater than in

any of the other camps." These victims were Germans.

The prisoners at Buchenwald "included first of all the 'politicals'... That is, the political opponents of the Nazi regime. Another important category were many poor devils at Buchenwald accused of having spoken abusively of the sacred person of the Führer."

In this official British government pamphlet, the blame for the savagery of the Nazi regime is not at all placed with the German people.

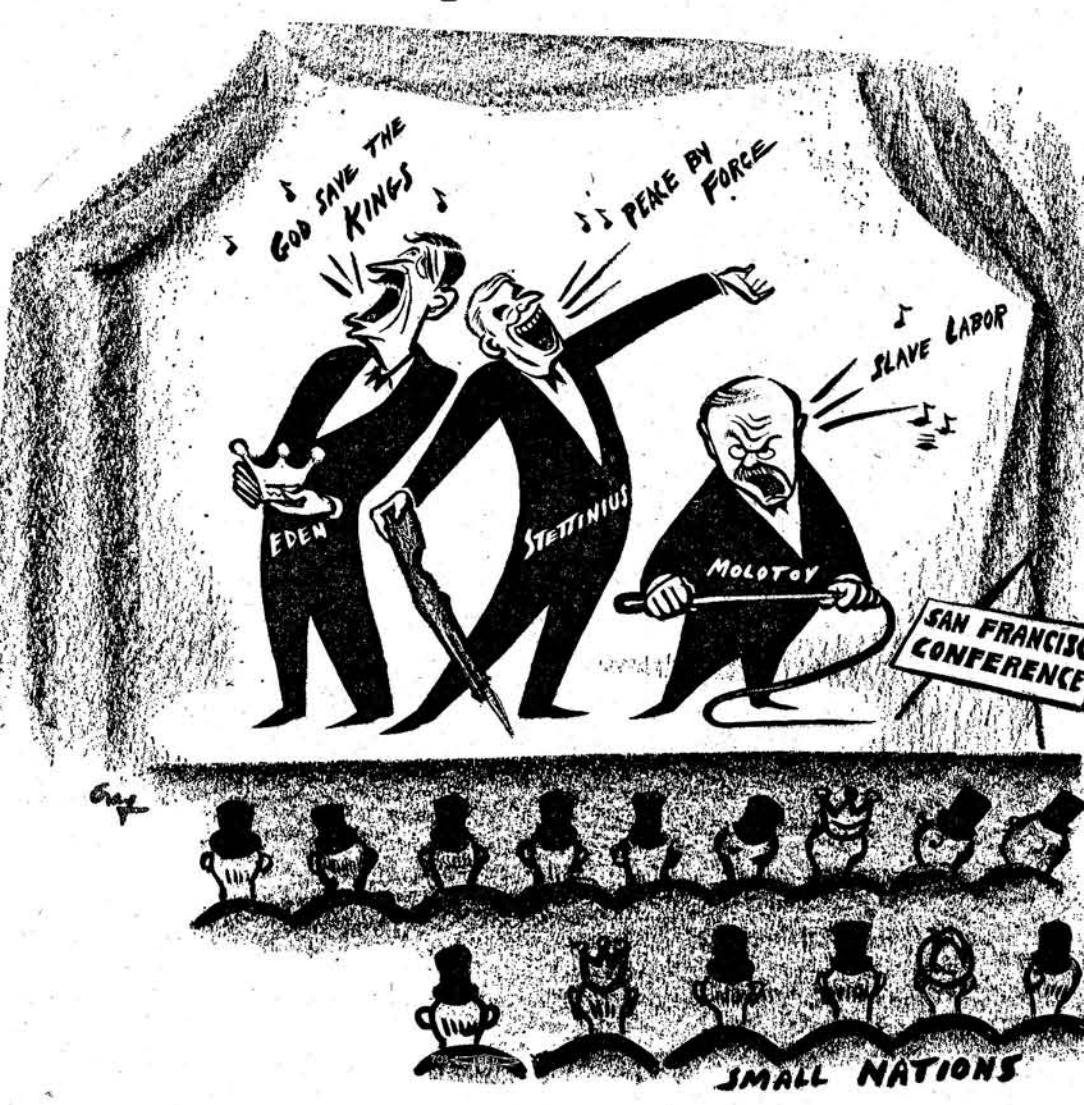
Bell, Consul-General at Cologne, on November 14, 1938, sent two anonymous letters to his superior in the belief that "the writers have so well stated the views of many Germans that I think them worth transmission."

"The German folk have had nothing whatever to do with these riots and incendiarism," declares the anonymous writer referring to a Nazi pogrom. "The population of Cologne had absolutely nothing to do with this murderous arson and condemns it, as does also the whole German nation. These actions were ordered by the Government in Berlin... Please take information amongst the Cologne people, and you will convince yourself that the German nation had nothing to do with these crimes and dissociates itself from this action of their Government."

The British Consul-General at Frankfurt-on-Main, Smallbones, reported December 14, 1938: "I am persuaded that, if the Government of Germany depended on the suffrage of the people, those in power and responsible for these outrages would be swept away by a storm of indignation if not put up against a wall and shot."

Thus as long ago as 1938 the British Government admitted that the German people were prepared to handle Hitler in the same way the Italian people handled Mussolini and his gang last week.

Putting On the Show



Revealing Sidelights On Golden Gate Parley

You can't organize world peace if you have to live in a dingy rooming house and eat in hash houses. Secretary of State Stettinius knows that. At San Francisco, columnist Drew Pearson reported, Stettinius "spared no detail in looking out for personal arrangements, asked for the penthouse on the Fairmount Hotel for his own quarters plus the 4th

and 5th floors as offices plus a yacht plus a private dining room at the Pacific Union Club every day."

Representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asked the U. S. delegation at San Francisco to demand an "equality for all races" declaration in the world organization charter before the United Nations conference. They want a bill of rights for all people of the world and abolition of the colonial system.

Walter White and Dr. W. Du Bois put forward this proposal for the Negro organization. Don't they know that Eden and Halifax, the British delegates, would be maddened by such a suggestion? Churchill has sworn to uphold Britain's colonial slave empire. Eden and Halifax do his bidding. Besides the U. S. delegation is kin of the southern poll-taxers who don't intend to grant equality to Negroes even in this country—if they can help it.

Political fireworks went off in San Francisco when the sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian Nationalist leader jailed by the British imperialists, denounced the Indian delegation to the peace parley as tools of Britain who don't speak for the Indian people. She pointed

attacked almost daily. They say that their members have been physically stabbed and assaulted. (Undoubtedly by revolutionary workers indignant at the Stalinist support of British imperialist policy in India—ED.) A poor effort to counteract such unpopularity is made by boasting about increases in party membership and sales of party newspapers. A little item appeared in the daily paper to say that a peasant union had decided to change its flag from red to Conservative.

They also report the death of Karl Radek, one of the most outstanding journalists of the Soviet Union, ex-member of the Central Committee of the Russian Communist Party and of the Executive Committee of the Communist International from 1919 to 1924. Radek was condemned to death in the Moscow Trial held on March 2-13 1937.

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While out on a walk, Radek died in mysterious circumstances soon after he was sentenced. He was killed by a revolver shot fired at him by one of his guards, a member of the GPU. One rumor says that the assassin was wreaking personal vengeance on Radek, who was supposed to have given certain "information" about one of the relatives or friends of the guard. According to another version, the assassin is alleged to have been part of a conspiracy determined to prevent Radek from making new "revelations."

"The workers in this area only earn about 30 cents a day which makes them very poor. The cost of living for eggs alone has increased 500 per cent from peace time. The rupee in all can be likened to 5 cents in 1939 values. Everyone in the family, young and old, are forced to labor as the result. Yesterday I saw a child of three years learning to balance a load on her head. Women dig roads alongside men, but this is not always the case. Their usual job is carrying baskets of rock to the primitive builders.

"Things are so antiquated. Working hard, a motor took hours to load with gravel, and the way they did it was to scoop gravel into the baskets and carry them to the lorry. A couple of good 'shovel men' could have done it in an hour. The rich Indian contractors do not put much capital into modern machinery. Massive undertakings are carried out with such backward methods. The hours worked are usually near the 12 mark each day of the week."

S. F. Conference Will Not Ensure World Peace

(Continued from page 1)

isted between the two world wars. Political middleheads are fond of referring to the "failure" of the League of Nations to prevent or stop wars. They imply that there was some flaw in the League organization. These middleheads deceive the people. They seek to create the impression that the League was created to preserve peace. In reality it was merely an instrument of the Big Powers, intended to serve their predatory interests. It served these interests and was discarded when its usefulness was outlived. Lenin called the League the "Thieves' Kitchen."

Another "Thieves' Kitchen" is now being constructed at San Francisco by the cynical imperialists and their Moscow ally. It will differ but slightly, and mainly in its external features, from the League. It is to be called the "United Nations." Its executive body will be a "Security Council." It will revive the useless International Court of Justice and an Economic and Social Council will replace the impotent International Labor Office of the League.

PEACE BY FORCE

The one really new feature of this revamped edition of the League is the proposed Military Staff Committee which is to be the instrument for imposing "peace by force." It will consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent dominating members of the Security Council, namely, U. S. A., Britain, the Soviet Union, China and ("in due course") France.

Against whom is "peace by force" to be directed? Germany and Japan will be unable to make war. Is it not clear that the Security Council will loose the horrors of war against small nations, against subjected colonial peoples who dare to challenge the oppression of the big imperialists? And who will restrain the Big Powers if they decide to make war on each other?

The hollowness of the whole arrangement as an instrument of peace can be seen in the proviso that the Security Council may take no action to restrain any state from warlike action where



the matter at issue is a dispute "arising out of matters which by international law are solely within the domestic jurisdiction of the state concerned."

Thus the British imperialists will be left free to bomb and blight the rebellious peoples of India, as they have done in the past. That's Britain's domestic concern. International "law" says so. The American imperialists will be equally free to make war on the people of Puerto Rico or the Philippines if they dare to rise up to gain their independence.

At Yalta, the Big Three agreed to amend the Dumbarton Oaks plan so as to make any effective action by the Security Council impossible without the unanimous consent of the Big Powers who are to dominate the Council. Thus any power may veto action—even where it is the plain aggressor. The United States could make war on China, for example, and then block by its own veto any action by the Security Council.

Two-headed calves, it seems, are competent only when it comes to the "undignified" study of bridge building under fire, flying B-29s over Tokyo, driving Mark IV tanks across mined fields or establishing a beach-head on Okinawa.

Such is the real character of this proposed "peace" organization! The most fruitful source of future great wars is the growing rivalries and antagonism of the Big Powers, obvious even now, and the united hatred of the capitalist states for the Soviet Union. No "peace" organization of the imperialist statesmen and their Moscow accomplices can devise will be able to prevent the growth of these rivalries and antagonisms, and their ultimate explosion in war. Mankind can end the ever-present threat to peace only by abolishing the capitalist system that breeds war. There is no other way.

ON ITALIAN SLOGAN: "FOR THE REPUBLIC"

By M. Morrison

In *The Militant* of March 17 there was published the program of the Workers Communist Party of Italy, the party of Italian Trotskyism. The first demand of that program was the abolition of the monarchy and institution of a democratic republic.

I am of the opinion that our Italian comrades are absolutely correct and have followed the best traditions of revolutionary Marxism in making the demand for the abolition of the monarchy and the institution of a democratic republic, at the present time, one of the basic demands of their platform. The American party has taken no position on the question and since there are differences of opinion among the party members, I wish to emphasize that I am speaking only for myself and those who agree with me in giving whole-hearted support to the slogan for the abolition of the monarchy and the institution of a democratic republic.

EXPOSE REFORMISTS

The slogan and struggle against the monarchy and for a democratic republic can very well serve the purpose of exposing the reformist parties for what they actually are—supporters of the capitalist system. If a party claims that it is socialist how does it come that it tolerates a monarchy that once worked so closely with Mussolini?

But some may say to the Italian Trotskyists: we are with you when you are against the monarchy but why do you ask for a democratic republic? Why don't you limit yourselves to demanding a Soviet republic?

Answering such critics the Italian Trotskyists would undoubtedly say: Of course we are for a Soviet republic and for the Socialist United States of Europe, but unfortunately we do not have a majority of the masses behind us. We say to the masses that we are for a Soviet republic but we also say to them that the majority of the workers are not with us as yet but they are for the abolition of the monarchy and for a democratic republic.

We must ask them to fight with us at least for a democratic republic. We do not create any illusions that such a republic will solve their problems but it is a step forward insofar as it mobilizes the masses for struggle and will help them go forward to the establishment of a workers' republic.

RELIC OF FEUDALISM

To the masses the monarchy was especially hateful because it was closely tied to their hated enemy, fascism and Mussolini. The King had supported Mussolini and only when he saw that the war was lost did he consent to the ousting of the fascist regime. The masses had to tolerate the monarchy only because it was supported by the bayonets of the Allies.

These critics would place us in the position of saying that we are for the overthrow of the monarchy only on condition that a Soviet Republic replaces it immediately. And since the majority of the workers are not with us it would in effect mean that we would be willing to let the monarchy continue. This would be far from the political tactics as practiced by Lenin and Trotsky.

SLOGAN CORRECT

As I write the German army was rapidly evacuating Northern Italy. Millions of industrial workers will enter upon the scene of Italian politics. They do not want the monarchy and they may settle that question very quickly. They may settle it in the best way possible—by establishing their own power. The situation may develop to a point where our comrades in Italy will no longer give the slogan for a democratic republic the important place they have given it up to now.

The slogan may be dropped altogether, for under conditions when the masses are ready to take power, the slogan can acquire a reactionary content. But all that is a matter for the future—even though the immediate future.

When our comrades adopted the slogan in favor of the democratic republic they were correct in doing so, under the conditions then prevailing. They have thus shown the ability to judge events and conditions and to adopt the correct slogans at the proper time.

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A British soldier stationed in India writes the following comments to the *Socialist Appeal*, British Trotskyist paper.

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"The News Behind the Headlines"

Allied Censorship Is World-Wide

By Ralph Graham

While political spokesmen for the Allied powers continue to babble about a "free press" as one of the essential guarantees of a "healthy democracy," the press of the great "democratic" nations becomes less and less free. Government censorship often suppresses news and comment outright. Press dispatches are doctored, mutilated, twisted. Newspapers and news agencies are told what they may or may not publish.

A sharp reminder that censorship in America is more potent than ever was the action taken April 5 by Byron M. Price, director of the Office of Censorship in Washington. Price was appointed by the late President Roosevelt, who made "freedom of speech" (including freedom of the press) one of the celebrated "Four Freedoms" enshrined in the Atlantic Charter.

From Price's office came a memorandum cautioning against publication or broadcast of speculation "regarding the probable intentions of Soviet Russia toward Japan" in connection with Moscow's denunciation of the Soviet-Japanese neutrality pact. Price's censors promptly blocked transmission from this country of Congressional and editorial comment on this new move in the dark diplomatic schemings of the Kremlin oligarchy and the "democratic" imperialists.

Press censorship, introduced at the beginning of the war "for reasons of military security," has grown into a hardened system. Where originally it was supposed to cover only military affairs, it now pervades the broad spheres of politics and diplomacy.

CENSORSHIP SYSTEM

Eric Sevareid, a CBS war correspondent who has felt the heavy hand of the censors in various parts of the world, describes the system of censorship as an "intricate, cunning mechanism," world-wide in its scope. He tells some of his experiences in *The Nation* of April 14.

In New Delhi, on his way to China, he found that British and American military censors "would pass no copy describing the amazing social life that went on this headquarters town... Full reporting of India's political problem was out of the question... American military offices turned over to the British all American dispatches which dealt with British or Indian affairs in any degree... nobody has been able to tell the whole truth about India."

When he got to Chungking, Sevareid thought he would be able to send out dispatches on his findings in India, but he felt the hand of the New Delhi censor even in the Chinese capital: "By arrangement with the American military in Chungking any copy by any American reporter which dealt with far-off India had to be given to British officers in Chungking for approval. If you went back to New Delhi and wrote

about China, your stuff had to be passed by the Chinese commissioners there."

The systematized character of the censorship was impressed on the reporter even more forcibly in Cairo where he "discovered the neat little system of interlocking agreements between governments working without hitch. Whether you wrote about Egypt or Yugoslavia or Greece or Syria, your material would be passed around to all the interested officials for everyone to get in his whack with the blue pencil. Naturally the full story about the 'mutiny' of left-wing Greek soldiers in Egypt did not get out. The detailed story of British plans for Greece was not related, day by day, step by step, during that period."

When Lord Moyne was assassinated by young Jewish political terrorists, the Cairo censors "refused to let correspondents reproduce the courtroom speeches of the two defendants, dismissing them as 'mere political bombast,' of no interest to the world." Thus the world was permitted to hear only the voice of the British imperialist oppressors. The voices of their opponents were silenced by the censors.

SUPPRESS TRUTH

Back in America, Sevareid wrote and presented for censorship "a long, carefully documented account of China at war, written, I thought, with full sympathy for a nation I much admired. The War Department refused to pass it." There were lengthy negotiations which revealed that Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, who frequently protested that his department imposed no political censorship, had asked the War Department "to deliver up to it any dispatches by returning war correspondents which dealt with China."

Finally, after he had left the country again, Sevareid's story was passed for publication, but "so mutilated by the censors that it was unfit for print." The American people were not permitted to know the truth about the vile, reactionary regime of Chiang Kai-shek. Why? Because Chiang is an ally of American imperialism in the great "war for democracy."

Former *Time* correspondent Jack Belden, in his excellent book *Still to Die*, told of censorship in Algiers at the time of the North African campaign: "On the correspondents' bulletin board

Italian Partisan Action



Group of Partisans attacking Nazi police units in a North Italian town last year. These Partisans are the same heroic fighters who last week seized control of the main cities in North Italy from the Nazis and Fascists.

Allies' Real Aim In Their Campaign Around Atrocities

(Continued from page 1)

in Algiers I saw a notice posted there by the authorities: "There will be no more political censorship." It was a lie. Should you write a message in any but the official American-British version of events, more often than not, when tracing it down, you would find it streaked with many marks of blue, and penciled with the legend, "as censored by Mr. Murphy." Should you question that august personage, that representative of the mighty American state, he would blandly assure you: "There is no political censorship."

Such denials speak volumes for the hypocrisy of the "democratic" imperialists and their censorship servants. Censorship operates, not to eliminate falsehoods from the news, but to hide unpalatable truths about the imperialists and their war aims. Its purpose is to deceive and befuddle the people. Honest politics and honest diplomacy require no censorship. The imperialists and their accomplices employ censorship because, far from carrying on a war in the interests of the peoples, they are conspiring against the interests of the broad masses in every land, including America.

One turns the pages of his daily newspaper or weekly news magazine to be confronted, day after day, with horrendous pictures. There are open graves filled with nameless human corpses, their bony limbs grotesquely tangled in death. Other pictures are of single victims or small groups, faces contorted teeth protruding, their glassy, sightless eyes staring horrors. Many of the corpses were disinterred so that pictures of the victims, their frames partly denuded of flesh by earth's corrupting agencies, could be taken to heighten the public horror and revulsion.

As if the pictures alone are not enough, news writers, editorialists and columnists dilate in detail on the pictorialized horrors, with insinuations of GERMAN guilt. In a single issue of the *New York Post* last week, no fewer than six pages contained material on Nazi atrocities. A newsroll of the horrors, taken by army photographers, is now making the rounds of the country.

RAMMING IT DOWN

Compulsory viewing of atrocity films is reported from London. Said *Time* magazine last week: "In London, queasy moviegoers, unable to stomach atrocity newreels, started to leave the theater but were turned back by Allied soldiers in the audience."

Just as the people of Britain and America are having anti-German hate propaganda rammed down their throats, so the people of Germany, who were and have remained the principal victims of Nazism, are being strong-armed into viewing the evidence of Nazi villainy in an effort to induce in them a psychology of guilt for the infamies of a regime which they loathed and resisted.

Here, however, the atrocity campaigners sometimes over-reach themselves and lift a corner of the veil of falsehood from the face of truth. At Weimar Gen. George S. Patton ordered 1200 German men and women to be "taken through Buchenwald and shown its obscenities," *Time* reported. They walked unwillingly through the camp and wept, rretched, fainted. A young Hitler Maiden sobbed: "How awful!"

MYTH EXPLODES

This single report explodes the myth of German guilt. If the German people as a whole were the aides and accomplices of the Nazis, as Allied propaganda would have us believe, if they knew and approved all the revolting crimes of the Nazis, thus becoming responsible for them — why did the men and women of Weimar evince feelings of horror and revulsion at what they saw, and not the brazen approval, or at least the indifference, that might have been expected? Their reactions were not different from those of the audience in the London movie theater.

But the campaign of hate against the Germans rolls on. British parliamentarians and American congressmen have been touring the captured concentration

camp, blue blood is exempt from all the hate, prejudice and nationalism.

THE KAISER'S WIDOW

"Kill the bastards!" yells Wall Street. "Shoot the swine!" growl the Himmlers and Krupps. "Destroy the white dogs!" scream the Togos and Mitsuis.

But what happens when blue blood meets blue blood? Ah, fellow worker, there's a difference. Blue blood is exempt from all the hate, prejudice and nationalism.

Take for instance Princess Hermine, widow of Kaiser Wilhelm, "the Beast of Berlin" in the first World War. She is now a "prisoner" of the American Army along with half a dozen other Hohenzollerns and former royalty. She is permitted to remain in her eighty-four room castle. When



she asks for coffee and cigarettes no one laughs or growls at her.

Ah, no. She is allowed to tell American readers of the press her sad story. "The Americans have been so attentive to me," she said. "They have not bothered us at all. I was walking in my garden April 12 when I heard American convos running past. The next thing was an American lieutenant. He walked in and said: 'We must take this for a command post.' He was very nice. He was attentive to us, and so are all you Americans."

HER SAD STORY

"By 'us' she meant her sister, Princess Ida; the Princess Carmo Hartung, her niece; Prince Christopher-Martin; the Countess Therese of Stolberg and the Countess' children, Prince Franz Joseph and Prince Ritz.

She had been living in tranquility at her Silesian castle... But let her tell her own sad story: "I was ordered to move by the German Army. That was Feb. 21. I left in such a hurry that I had to leave behind many of my precious personal souvenirs.

"I had to leave some of my jewels and some of my horses. I didn't want to go... We had only a few cars left... There

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Huge Uprising Sweeps North Italy; Mussolini Executed

(Continued from page 1)

whelmed the German and Fascist garrisons, forcing them to surrender or flee.

Milan—"Red Milan"—center of the great revolutionary working-class actions which preceded Mussolini's rise to power—was the white-hot focus of last week's stirring mass uprising. The transport workers gave the signal by going on strike. A general strike of all workers in Milan was then set for May 1, the traditional socialist holiday of the international working-class.

But the compromisers were too late, too weak and too far from the scene to stay the hand of mass vengeance. Any doubt as to the popularity of the verdict was quickly dissipated when the corps of the Fascist chief of state and his henchmen were driven into Milan and dumped in the Piazza Loretto—the spot where but recently fifteen Partisans had been executed by the Fascists.

A vast crowd gathered to hurl the last curses of the outraged masses on the Fascist beasts. Men broke through the cordon of Partisan guards and kicked and stamped on the head of the dead Fascist chieftain. Guards strung the corpses head down from the roof of a gasoline station, where the crowds pressed forward to express their hatred.

The Nazi command, caught in a hopeless situation, surrendered to the insurgents. Through Cardinal Shuster, Mussolini started negotiations for surrender with the Italian Committee of National Liberation.

This treacherous, class collaborationist leadership, dominated by the Stalinists, instead of proceeding to arrest the Fascist dictator, allowed him to slip through their fingers. Mussolini requested an hour's grace to discuss the Committee's terms with his colleagues.

One turns the pages of his daily newspaper or weekly news magazine to be confronted, day after day, with horrendous pictures. There are open graves filled with nameless human corpses, their bony limbs grotesquely tangled in death. Other pictures are of single victims or small groups, faces contorted teeth protruding, their glassy, sightless eyes staring horrors. Many of the corpses were disinterred so that pictures of the victims, their frames partly denuded of flesh by earth's corrupting agencies, could be taken to heighten the public horror and revulsion.

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JUSTICE TO MUSSOLINI

Without hesitation, a tribunal, presided over by the Communist Partisan leader Cino Moscatelli, dispensed working-class justice against the vicious dictator whose hands were stained with the blood of innumerable Italian working people done to death by the infamous Fascist regime.

The sentence of "death" was pronounced by this court of justice and promptly carried out.

Mussolini, together with his mistress, was shot by a firing squad. Forty-five leading members of Mussolini's staff of Fascist cut-throats, butchers and hangmen were also tried and executed.

It was with good reason that the revolutionary workers acted with the dispatch they did. They had reason to expect that their vacillating leaders in the Committee of National Liberation would act like the German Social-Democrats who permitted the Kaiser to escape, or the Russian Mensheviks who sheltered the Czar, or the Bonomi court which allowed the Fascist gangster Roatta to escape while on trial.

As subsequent events confirmed, the apprehensions of the workers were entirely justified. The Partisan prefect of Milan revealed that an order had been

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LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AID BOSSES

The following letter is sent to us by an auto worker reader of *The Militant*. He describes from his own personal experiences how the so-called "labor-management" committees function only in the interests of the company. *

Editor: It seems to me that the bosses are more and more getting the representatives of the workers to do their dirty work for them.

Before the war, whenever our Bargaining Committee met with management, we always heard the complaint that the Committeemen were not doing right by the company. The company said the Committeemen were supposed to see that the men they represented put out a day's work and didn't take too much time, going to and from the rest room or going too many times to the water fountain, to put out good work, keep right on the job until the quitting whistle blew, be there to start working when the starting whistle blew, not to eat on the job, never to rest while on Company time, and a mess of other rules of the same nature.

What they were doing was trying to get the Committeemen to do the dirty work that the foremen were getting paid to do.

I must say that they were successful in convincing some of the Committeemen to do just that. I even witnessed the unbelievable incident of "representative" of the workers bawling out a worker for being late. The foreman even called the Committeeman over to do the bawling out instead of doing it himself. This Committeeman thought he was a dictator. When other Committeemen pointed out to this small-time dictator that his job was to defend the workers and not to work against them, he said he was elected by them and he was giving the orders in his district while he was the committeeman. This fellow discredited himself so that he was not reelected.

The thing I want to point out is that this fellow fell for management's honey and went about doing the bosses' work. What this leads up to is that the employer is still practising the same method today and a lot of boys are falling for it because they are afraid that they will be called unpatriotic, radical, red or something if they

Well, management tried to get the Committeemen to go for the speed-up, etc. The Committeemen who knew the score attempted to use the same Committee for enforcing safety rules, to get better meals in the cafeteria at a lower price, to set up a commissary to sell work clothes at cost, etc. It wasn't long until the Labor-Management Committee was defunct.

I am writing this letter in the hopes that you will publish it because yours is a labor paper and I hope some shop Committeemen see it and quit doing the bosses' dirty work for them, such as speeding up the workers spying on them, etc. Let the foremen take care of it. He and not the shop Committeeman represents the boss. Let them push the speed-up as it is their war and they're making all the money. Just look at their profits reports and then look at who is doing the dying, sweating and suffering. Not the bosses by a long shot.

An Auto Worker,
Los Angeles

Buy 'The Militant' Here:

AKRON

News Exchange, 51 S. Main
"Militant" Bookshop, 6 Everett
Bldg., Rm. 405.

BUFFALO

SE corner Main & Mohawk
Eidelman's Newsstand, Wil-
son Ave. near Sheet and
Tube Employment Office.

CAMPBELL, O.

Eidelman's Newsstand, Wil-
son Ave. near Sheet and
Tube Employment Office.

CHICAGO

Ceshinsky's Book Store,
2750 W. Division
Socialist Workers Bookshop,
Room 317, 160 N. Wells.

DETROIT

Family Theatre Newsstand,
opposite theater
"Militant" Bookshop,
3513 Woodward - Room 21.

LOS ANGELES

Downtown: NE corner 5th
and Main; 326 W. 5th St.; Con-
solidated Bldg. 6th and Hill;
Workers Book Shop 232 So.
Hill, Room 200.

Hollywood: Stands at Holly-
wood and Cahuenga, Holly-
wood and Los Palms,
Southwest: corner Robert-
son & Pico Blvds.

South Gate: South side Book
Shop, 8026 Seville Ave.

MINNEAPOLIS

Labor Book Store, 10 S. 4 St.
Shinder's News Agency
Hennepin Ave. and 6th St.;
Pioneer News Agency,
238 2nd Ave., South; Happy's
Stand, 8th St. and Nic-
olet.

MILWAUKEE

N.W. corner, Wisconsin Ave.
on Third St.
Militant Bookshop, 926
Plankinton Ave., Rm. 21.

NEW HAVEN

Nodelman's News Depot,
106 Church St.

13,497 New Subscribers To "Militant" As Campaign Reaches 132 Per Cent Mark

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

There has been no slackening whatsoever in *The Militant* Subscription Campaign even though the 10,000 national quota was passed two weeks ago. Last week the branches of the Socialist Workers Party obtained 1,637 new worker-readers, the third highest weekly total to date. This raises the national total to 13,497. This is 132 percent of our quota.

FROM THE BRANCHES

"We would like to express our appreciation of the magnificent job the New York Branches are doing with the tremendous task of sending out *The Militant*."

Doris Hilson of Akron thus expressed the gratitude we all feel to those comrades who are shouldering the huge task of getting *The Militant* out each week to our thousands of new readers. They are Naomi Kane, Sara Ross, Margaret Worth, Mili Adams, Connie Locke, and scores of other comrades without whose weekly assistance the regular staff would be swamped. These are hard-working disciplined comrades of whom we are all proud.

Mike Warren, leading national Pace-Setter, has stated that he is aiming for 1,000 subs by the end of the campaign.

Ruth Haddon, San Francisco: "Jim Long is our Campaign Director for this campaign and was also the director of the previous campaign. He has done a fine job of organizing the work and is also one of our fine sub-getters. The record of the national campaign is wonderful. And those Trail-Blazers truly deserve the name."

Jeff Thorne, Flint: "Send another 50 subs. We sold 34 subs today and are cleaned out."

Sylvia Moran, New Haven: "Enclosed are seven more subs. Let me tell you that I didn't get those subs I sent in a couple of weeks ago by myself. Comrade Bert, who is located about ten miles away, and myself got them."

P. Davidson, Boston: "Enclosed are 17 cards. This brings us well over the 100 percent mark."

Jerry Kirk, Newark: "Our score for the week is 203. As you can see there has been no slackening of the campaign. In the past few weeks participation has reached its highest point. We have also had more friends participate in the work since my last monthly report."

A. Alma, Rochester: "Enclosed are 21 more subs. We miss having the Trail-Blazers here very much."

Rose Stevens, Seattle: "We have been dividing our forces in order to cover workers' areas in Tacoma as well as Seattle. Our final scores will be almost half and half between the two cities."

Her Newell, Allentown: "Tell Akron we just had our seventh inning stretch. From now on in they'll catch our dust. Please send us 50 more sub cards immediately."

Al Lynn, Los Angeles: "Our subscription activity has already involved a wider base in the local than any other form of activity we have ever engaged in, including the election campaign. Our work during the rest of the campaign will be to widen still more the base of sub campaigners. From this will flow an increase in subs. I don't expect any phenomenal increase in the next month, but do expect enough of an increase so that we should end up our campaign with about 2,300 subs. Jack Gail of Southside Branch is now leading the local with a Leo has 62. Mike Warren sure has us all Pace-Setters with their fantastic scores. That box was a wonderful idea. The Trail-Blazers are also inspiring the comrades."

Maggie McGowan, Toledo: "The Toledo Branch is proud of the magnificent job the party has done in this campaign. If you take Jerry Kirk's report in last week's *Militant* about those Trotskyists selling subs all over the city and multiply it by all the branches, you have an accurate picture of those Trotskyists selling subs all over the country. The party's record in this campaign is only further verification of the tremendous vitality of our ideas. That exploded thermometer is a tribute to the determination and enthusiasm of comrades who, when a task is before them, accept it as a challenge and carry it through in the Trotskyist tradition."

FROM OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Again we want to thank our new readers for the aid they are giving us in this campaign by getting their friends to subscribe to *The Militant*. This week the following readers sent in trial sub-scriptions:

C.O.W. of St. Louis, Mo.; B.D. of Pine Bluff, Ark.; W.H.H. of Chicago, Ill.; R.M.H. of Arlee, Mont.; and L.S. of Newark, N. J.

Have you told your friends about *The Militant* and have you asked them to subscribe?

MILITANT PACE-SETTERS

Here are the twenty who have sold the highest number of subscriptions in this campaign:

Mike Warren	West Side, New York	650
Jerry Kirk	Detroit	818
Paul Kujac	Chicago	221
Howard Mason	Detroit	171
Ernest Drake	Detroit	156
Doris Hilson	Akron	151
Fred Kaminsky	Buffalo	145
E. Logan	Detroit	139
Marion Winters	Brooklyn	138
Joe Simpson	Minneapolis	125
Bill Horton	Detroit	124
M. Kennedy	Detroit	110
Ruth Grayson	N. Y. Trotskyist Youth Group	103
Jack Wilson	Youngstown	100
Dorothy Lessing	Newark	98
Dotty Hill	Brooklyn	95
Kay O'Brien	Detroit	95
Justine Lang	East Side, New York	95
Robert Kendall	Toledo	92
Maggie McGowan	Toledo	90

SCOREBOARD

Akron	85	327	385
Allentown	50	166	330
Flint	50	151	300
San Diego	50	116	232
Cleveland	200	417	209
Toledo	250	458	183
Milwaukee	100	183	183
Detroit	1000	1823	182
Youngstown	300	514	171
Rochester	50	78	156
St. Paul	100	153	153
Reading	75	109	145
Minneapolis	300	432	144
Buffalo	350	476	136
Philadelphia	150	189	126
New York	2500	3141	126
Boston	200	210	105
Bayonne	150	150	100
San Francisco	350	344	98
Newark	350	329	94
Seattle	400	346	87
Los Angeles	2000	1338	67
Group, Members-at- Large and Friends	140	249	178
Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes (Trail-Blazers)	683		
TOTAL	10,200	13,497	132

'TRAILBLAZERS' REPORT ON VISIT TO MINE TOWN

With a total of 683 new subscribers to *The Militant* obtained up to April 30, the Trail-Blazers, Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes, are now in Pittsburgh. They write regarding their first few days' work in that area:

"Although Pittsburgh is a huge city housing tens of thousands of industrial workers, we couldn't think of beginning anywhere except among the coal miners we've been talking about for so long. So we 'moved' into one of the close-by mining towns where our local campaign got off to a flying start."

"Forty-four fighting miners are

Militant subscribers now as a result of one day's effort. And we've only covered a third of the families in Coverdale. Almost every miner we met looked the paper over with keen interest and took an introductory subscription. Even among the older folks who themselves read only papers in their native language, many bought subs to *The Militant* for their children.

WOMEN'S OPINIONS

"Women whose husbands were away at the mine when we visited their homes seemed to the rest of the labor movement. Dozens of them told us that only the day before one of their number had been brought up from the pit with his skull crushed from a falling timber—dead, of course, by the time the company doctor came around."

"In the last household we visited we found the family circled around a young fellow in his early 20's. He is a discharged veteran of World War II, who had been carried out an hour before his foot smashed by a backsiding iron coal truck."

"Even though these people were wrapped up in the grief of their family catastrophe, all were warm in their greeting, and talked eagerly with us about *The Militant*. The injured lad wanted the subscription as soon as he had scanned its pages. He spoke up angrily against the miserable campaign of the capitalists and their prostituted press to contrast the dangers risked by the armed forces with the supposed security of the workers."

PERILS OF MINING

"He pointed to his own crushed foot as proof that the coal miners face maiming and death every day of the year, and he told us that the soldiers he had fought beside had learned of these things from him. We left with him a copy of Joseph Hansen's pamphlet on the Labor Party to read while he is laid up and promised to call back for another visit soon."

"We could repeat dozens of stories and comments from these people—and all would be interesting as well as enlightening. We feel that here we have met some of the finest working people in the whole country. They have the dignity of people who have suffered a lot but who have never lost courage nor the will to see their fight through. We will hear from these miners who are now readers of *The Militant*."

Two New Trailblazer Teams Report Inspiring Success

The success of the Trailblazers, Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes, in introducing *The Militant* to new localities has inspired two of the Socialist Workers Party branches to follow their example on a larger scale. Last week Youngstown sent a team of Trailblazers into Pittsburgh, and Detroit sent a crew to Pontiac, Mich.

The report from Youngstown states: "In about two hours of concentrated work from door to door, eight of us received 80 subscriptions, which we are sending along together with 19 subscriptions received here locally. We found our new subscribers so eager to read our paper that some of them even subscribed for friends of theirs. In fact, there were four subscriptions sold in one house in this way. Our Negro comrade was tops with seventeen subs received in two hours."

"There were many who had no money at the time, but we left a subscription blank with them and they promised faithfully they would send for the paper. We believe that this should give our comrades in Pittsburgh a good start, not only in obtaining new subscribers but in following them up with more literature and building themselves a base on which to work in the future."

"Locally, one of our comrades sold a subscription to a reader of *The Daily Worker*. When our comrade revisited him, the new reader said that he was cancelling his subscription to *The Daily Worker* or at least wouldn't renew it upon its expiration, because he found *The Militant* much more inspiring and said it was a real workers' paper."

"We believe that we have laid the groundwork for further activity and work in Pontiac. In the meantime *The Militant* will continue its job of organizing for us."



THE MILITANT

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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 incapable blotting out of the Kremlin oligarchs.

— Leon Trotsky

Mussolini's End

In the manifesto on "The Imperialist War and the Proletarian Revolution" written for the Fourth International in 1940 just before his assassination, Leon Trotsky predicted: "Before the judgment bar of the proletariat all the present rulers will answer" for plunging humanity into a Second World War.

Mussolini is the first to be brought to judgment by the workers. He answered with his life.

In carrying out this stern act of justice the Italian masses demonstrated that they are the sole power capable of purging the country of the fascist vermin and meting out retribution to the criminals who inflicted such misery and tyranny upon Italy. This time they took no chances on Mussolini eluding judgment. They rightfully mistrusted the Allies and the present heads of the government for they have seen how they have treated the fascists and their accomplices.

Instead of purges and punishments, the Allies have retained many of the most prominent upholders of fascism in positions of power and shielded them from the wrath of the people. They strengthened the monarchy which lifted Mussolini into power and placed the dictator's right-hand general Badoglio at the head of the government. The present Premier Bonomi permitted the hated butcher Roatta to "escape" with British connivance during his trial. Above all, the workers remembered how Mussolini had once before been "rescued."

Having seen how the Allies and their quislings handled the fascists, the workers of Milan drew the proper conclusion and took care of Mussolini themselves.

How justified they were in their suspicions! For, according to the Partisan Prefect of Milan, an order had been issued by the authorities holding up the execution of Mussolini.

The actions of the workers in the past week give the most dramatic proof of the real attitude of the Italian people toward fascism. Since the war Allied propagandists have propagated the lie that the Italian and German masses supported fascism and should be held responsible for its crimes. But when it comes to the critical test, it is the Italian workers themselves who do away with the fascists—while the Allied leaders try to protect them!

The deeds of the Milanese workers are in the best traditions of the Italian and German proletariat. In both these countries the workers did all they could to prevent fascism from coming to power. When they were defeated and crushed because of treacherous leadership and the international combination of the capitalists, they continued to struggle from the underground. They suffered privation, misery, imprisonment, torture, death, but they never accepted fascism.

Now the workers of North Italy have given incontrovertible evidence that it is only necessary to free their hands to bring fascism to a swift end. Given the right leadership and socialist program, they can march forward on the revolutionary road and uproot the capitalist system which imposed the savage fascist regime upon them.

Program For Jobs

Production cutbacks, and their accompanying mass unemployment, are coming at a faster and faster pace. Hundreds of thousands of war workers are already laid off. Millions more face the same grim prospects. This process of "demobilization" and "disemployment" will now be immediately accelerated by the end of the war in Europe.

The capitalist press and government have met this critical development with a conspiracy of silence or deceptive assurances about "reconversion to civilian production." They have suppressed

or minimized the facts of hundreds of mass layoffs throughout the country, which *The Militant* alone has reported from week to week. WPB Director Krug even expressed regret at his "mistake" in announcing in advance the pending shut-down of the huge Ford Willow Run plant.

This conspiracy of silence or misinformation is dictated by the fact that the capitalist government has no program to maintain employment and job security for all the workers. The only program the monopolists and their government agents are advancing is to sell the vast, modern government-owned plants as scrap to the big corporations or shut them down. While the capitalist war profiteers are guaranteed their profits in war contracts terminations, the workers are to be dumped jobless into the streets.

So far as the big-business government is concerned, the unemployed workers can either starve or scrape along miserably on the doles of state unemployment insurance, which in some instances is as low as \$2 per week. That is the program enacted in the George Starvation Bill, signed by the late President Roosevelt.

This is the reward facing the workers who have done all the sweating and sacrificing in this war, whose labor and taxes built and paid for the huge government plants. But they cannot permit themselves and their families to be reduced to beggary. They have every right to demand, and to enforce the demand, for full employment and job security at the wages of decency, comfort and health.

There is only one program which can begin to meet this demand effectively. That is the program based on the bed-rock premise: NO IDLE FACILITIES AS LONG AS THERE ARE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS!

Against the schemes of the monopolists to buy up for a song, and scrap the vast productive apparatus built at public expense during the war, the organized labor movement must counterpose the demand for the full operation of all government plants and equipment under workers' control to provide jobs for all and consumers' goods for the people.

Together with this indispensable first step, must go the demands for the sliding scale of hours with no reduction in weekly income. All the labor unions are on record for the 30-hour week. Now they must open a full-scale, determined struggle for the reduction of the work week, as against mass layoffs, with the maintenance of existing weekly wages.

Ira Mosher, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, speaking in Boston on April 23, said he was all for the labor-capital "peace charter" signed by Philip Murray, William Green and Eric Johnston, Chamber of Commerce head.

But—Mosher doesn't like it "as it now stands." The NAM opposes any "truce" which would "uphold the legislative status quo" on labor. Specifically, he thinks any agreement not to "modify" the National Labor Relations Act threatens to "accentuate, rather than eliminate" the struggle between capital and labor. And the "modifications" which the NAM seeks are its projected 5-point legislative program to outlaw strikes, protect strikebreakers and illegalize the closed shop.

In short—when the bosses shout "peace, peace!" with labor, they mean nothing less than unconditional surrender by labor.

Miners Show Way

It is generally acknowledged that the soft coal miners have won important wage gains by contrast with the War Labor Board's miserable awards to the steel, auto, packinghouse and other organized workers.

Naturally, the War Labor Board and the government have attempted to minimize these real gains by stressing the claim that miners' awards remain within the formal limits of the wage-freezing Little Steel Formula.

But as the New York *Sun*, rock-ribbed Republican paper of the Morgan interests, pointed out editorially on April 27: "Lewis executed a neat pincer movement on the 'little steel' formula. He obtained for his miners more money in the pay envelope. They are not likely to quarrel over the name that economists give to that extra money. It will buy meat, shoes and eggs just as surely as if it were 'little steel' money. Not even the most intricate language of the economists serves to disguise the extent of the Lewis victory."

Moreover, that victory did not come after a protracted runaround by the WLB and other government agencies, such as the steel, auto and other unions experienced. With the approval of William Davis, Economic Stabilization Director, on April 30, "this procedure rounded out the Government's processing of the United Mine Workers' contract in record time." (New York *Times*, May 1)

Why have the miners been able to win more than the other unions? Why have they been able to get such prompt action from the employer-dominated WLB and the other wage-freezing agencies?

The answer is indisputable. The miners didn't go into negotiations meekly explaining they didn't under any circumstances intend to strike. On the contrary, they showed by their overwhelming strike vote, and even more by their widespread walkouts, that they were determined to put up a fight for their demands against the mine operators and the government wage-freezing agencies.

In this fashion, the miners have given another convincing demonstration to American labor that the only way union workers can defend their interests and win even a part of their demands is through organized militant struggle conducted with the most effective methods, especially the strike weapon.



"These peace reports are very upsetting."

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.

Indian Woman Likes 'Militant'

Editor:

As further proof of the fact that The Militant sells itself, I am sending the following incident which happened on our sub drive in Tacoma.

I knocked on a door in the housing project. An Indian woman answered. After I had tried to sell the paper, she said she was too busy taking care of her house and her grandchildren and didn't have a chance to read. Before going I left her a copy of the paper and went on to the next house.

When we were finished in that district and were getting into the car, this woman came out of her house and called to me from her doorstep. She invited me in and said she was very much impressed with the paper and with the fact that it told the truth about things—about the food profiteers, about the high cost of living, about government bureaucracy.

She had come from a reservation in a neighboring state, which she said was run by civil service employees who did nothing but eat the best kinds of food, ride around in big cars, had an unlimited supply of gasoline, and run the affairs of the Indian people as though they were incapable of managing their own lives. She wound up by taking a subscription, several extra copies for her sons in the shipyard, and urging me to go to her daughter's house to sell her a sub.

R. D.
Seattle, Wash.

Masters -- Or Slaves

Editor:

I have observed that some people, new to going house to house selling *Militant* subscriptions, feel that it is an undesirable, difficult task.

This reaction is caused by the fact that they are not always favorably received by the person who comes to the door.

Actually, we have no reason to feel depressed if we are not received with open arms at every door. We give the person visited an opportunity to learn the way out of his present and future difficulties. From that point of view, we are really doing him a service.

As they came up to us, there was an exchange of cigarettes and those who could speak a little English engaged in conversations.

I got to talking to one who had been a student before he was drafted into the Italian army.

We were discussing Italy and the situation that country is in today. I told him what the conditions were there from reports I had read in *The Militant*. After we had talked awhile I said that it looks like the only solution for the workers of Italy was a revolution.

These fellows are mostly pretty young, 21 to 24 years old. Some of them haven't been home in 4 to 6 years, and the one most obvious thing about them is their dejected, dependent manner. They just didn't seem to care about anything.

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