

MASS LAY-OFFS, PAY CUTS ANNOUNCED

Veterans Bitter Over Fraudulent "Bill Of Rights"

By Larissa Reed

The first contingents of returning veterans are learning in deep disillusionment exactly what the government is providing for them in the so-called "GI Bill of Rights." Enacted by Congress in June, 1944, this measure formally known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, is already being called by disgruntled veterans the "GI Bill of Grips." It is so scandalous that even the ultra-reactionary poll-tax Representative John E. Rankin of Mississippi has been forced to apologize for it and Congressman William G. Stigler of Oklahoma has bluntly declared the bill "a mockery."

Even that instrument of Big Business, the American Legion, has been forced to criticize the bill and propose sweeping revisions. The Disabled American Veterans, through its national service director, has blasted the law as a "gross deceit to the veterans and a disgust to the public."

The main provisions of the bill cover educational, loan and unemployment benefits as well as employment assistance. The veteran has been led to believe that when he returns home with empty pockets and a precarious future in civilian life, his economic problems will be cared for until he can get back on his own feet. But what is the reality?

RED-TAPE
The "totally disabled," that is, those who have left the best part of their lives and limbs behind them in the war can get no more than \$115 a month REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS THEY HAVE. This begins after they leave the hospitals in this country where neglect and mistreatment of veterans is now reaching the stage of open scandal.

Veterans who have not been permanently maimed and disabled have been told that if they cannot immediately find a suit-

(Continued on page 4)

NAZIS SAVED MORGAN INTERESTS IN FRANCE

After the conquest of France, the Nazis imposed a regime of terror on the French people. Thousands of French workers were sent to slave labor in Germany. Hitler hurled vituperative broadsides at the Anglo-American imperialists for daring to challenge his right to dominate France and all Europe. But for the British and American banks in France, the Nazis had only kind words and, more important, kind deeds. Each proved helpful to the other.

The well-known newspaper columnist Drew Pearson recently disclosed some of the facts. When the American army swept into Germany, they captured a Dr. H. J. Caesar, the Nazis' Alien Property Custodian who had charge of all American banks and alien property which the Germans seized in France. Dr. Caesar was questioned by his captors and furnished, among other things, information showing how American banks in Paris collaborated with the Nazi conquerors. Pearson reveals part of what Dr. Caesar disclosed.

The Chase Bank (J. P. Morgan and Co.) was especially favored and "protected" by the Nazis because "it had been active on behalf of Germany before the war in such matters as the German 'standstill' credit negotiations." These negotiations led to suspension of German reparations payments, thus securing Chase's German loans and freeing the Nazis of a tremendous financial burden so that they could move ahead faster with their armament program.

The Nazis were grateful for this aid and furnished the Paris branch of the Chase Bank with profitable business throughout the period of the occupation of France, Dr. Caesar disclosed. The manager of the Paris branch, however, felt constrained to curry favor with the Nazis by showing that the House of Morgan had nothing to do with Jews. A memo which Caesar received from a Mr. Leestere of the Morgan banking firm read:

"On the attached sheet there is

Hard Coal Miners Continue Strike Into Third Week

MAY 14 — Pennsylvania's 72,000 hard coal miners, upholding the militant traditions of the United Mine Workers, continue to stand firm after two weeks of their strike to win a new contract and substantial wage gains. Their walkout began on May 1 with the expiration of their old contract, in conformity with their "no contract, no work" policy.

All government attempts to intimidate the miners and force them back into the pits have proved futile in the face of their fighting determination and solidarity. For more than a week they have ignored a government back-to-work order and the "seizure" of the struck mines on May 3.

Because the miners took a strike vote in a NLRB poll and have maintained their walkout within the terms of the Smith-Connally anti-strike law which permits no penalties when workers leave government-controlled industries "on their own volition," the administration has as yet hesitated to invoke direct measures to break the strike.

OPERATORS STALLING

But it is becoming clear that the mine owners and their government agents hope to use the weapon of hunger to whip the miners back to work on the operators' terms.

The operators, with the tacit support of the government, are stalling and prolonging negotiations over the issue of portal-to-portal (underground travel time) pay. They are refusing to accept last week's ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court upholding portal-to-portal pay in the case of the soft coal miners, trying to contend there is a difference involved in such payment for hard coal miners.

At Harrisburg, Pa., William H. Chestnut, state Secretary of Labor and Industry, has declared the striking miners ineligible for unemployment compensation on the pretext that they are out of work "due to voluntarily leaving without good cause." The state agents of the operators do not consider the lack of a contract "good cause," although responsibility for the strike rests squarely on the operators.

The latest issue of the United Mine Workers Journal exposes editorially the price-robbing and planned shortages, especially of meat, in the company-owned mining towns. Despite the grueling labor of the miners, they cannot get meat. "Coal miners cannot produce coal," points out the Journal, "on coca-cola, a doughnut and a cigarette for breakfast; macaroni and peas, a peanut butter sandwich and a cookie for lunch; and for dinner, rice, beans, cabbage, potatoes and coconut custard pie."

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Ford Local 600 Rally Calls For End Of No-Strike Policy

By Roy Weston

DETROIT, May 5. — At a meeting called by Ford Local 600, CIO United Automobile Workers, held in Cass Technical High School here today, more than 5,000 Ford workers went on record as favoring the immediate revocation of the no-strike pledge and the calling of a national labor holiday if the Little Steel formula is not abandoned and an effective reversion wage policy adopted.

This action came as a climax to an overflow meeting at which more than 5,000 workers were turned away due to lack of seating space. The rally was initiated as a protest against the cutbacks, layoffs, shortened workweek and the resulting pay-cuts in the Ford Rouge plant.

Present at the meeting, which was presided over by W. G. Grant, president of Local 600 and a notorious Stalinist stooge, were R. J. Thomas, president of the UAW-CIO, and Richard T. Leon-

ard, UAW National Ford Director.

A series of resolutions were passed. One of them — on the Little Steel formula — was read by Larry Yost retiring president of the Aircraft Unit of Local 600 and president of the National Rank and File Committee.

UAW HEADS STUNNED

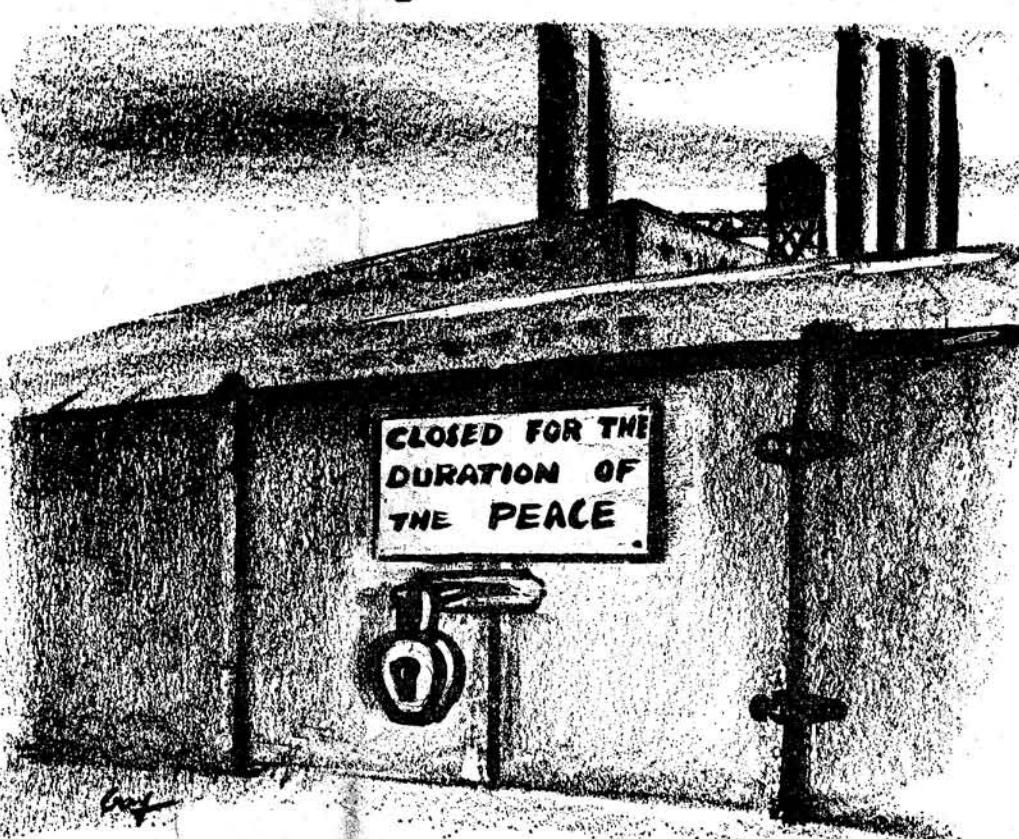
Thomas, along with Grant and the Stalinists, appeared stunned by the resolution, particularly when it was passed unanimously.

Complaining that Yost changed the text of the resolution as it had been adopted by the local's executive board when he included the threat to revoke the no-strike pledge and call a national labor holiday, Grant, who came out second-best in the local's recent primary elections, suggested to the meeting that the workers "didn't intend to pass such a resolution."

Immediately there were cries from the floor: "Oh, yes we did!"

Yost admitted having altered the resolution which had called for abandonment of the Little

A Sign of the Times



Greek Dictatorship Continues Brutal Terror Against People

By Joseph Hansen

British-supported reaction in Greece is methodically continuing its suppression of the Greek people who drove out the Nazi conquerors. Since the February 12 "accord" that ended the Allied-instigated civil war, more than 7,500 have been slaughtered, according to EAM (National Liberation Front) figures published in the May 5 *Nation*.

"ELAS adherents, republicans, and sometimes just plain people" are being arrested, beaten, and even murdered," declares the *Nation* correspondent. "When the guardsmen themselves do not join the man hunt, they and the local gendarmerie look the other way while illegal pro-fascist bands smash printing presses, burn organizational headquarters, and torture non-converts... Peasants are taking to the hills as in the days of the Germans."

The Daily Worker lists specific acts of the counter-revolution, including "persecutions of the press, illegal raids in residential neighborhoods, maltreatment of the wounded, hoodlumism, murders, destruction of printing plants, newspaper offices and EAM headquarters, illegal searches, kidnappings, pillage, violation of women and attempts at violation, bullying and intimidation during the trade union elections, judicial infringements, etc."

The Stalinists, however, are themselves largely responsible for the unbridled terrorism of the Greek counter-revolution. It was Stalinist leaders, including General Seraphis, who betrayed the Partisans to the Allied invasion

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IN THE NEWS

Pattern Not Yet Past

"It is obvious by now that the talk at San Francisco of trusteeships for colonial or mandated territories means little or nothing. It is the kind of talk that is invariably used to cloak a determination to sit tight and preserve the old order. Apparently, the big powers that have fought this war against Fascism mean to try to put back the old colonial order. They may use somewhat fancy language to give it a less old-fashioned, outmoded look. But it will be, essentially, colonial exploitation in the pattern of the past." (Marquis W. Childs, N. Y. Post, May 8).

** * *

Double Standard

On May 10, the day the administration announced the continuation of the wage freeze for the workers, the members of the House of Representatives voted themselves a \$2500 tax-exempt "expense allowance" in addition to their \$10,000 yearly salary. The measure must first get the approval of the Senate, but both bodies follow a tradition of never voting down decisions relating to the finances of the other.

** * *

No Danger For Whom?

Business Week, May 5, predicts that there will be 9,000,000 workers and veterans within the next year seeking jobs, but that "reconversion" will reduce this number to a "maximum unemployment of 5,000,000, WHICH IS NOT CONSIDERED DANGEROUS."

** * *

Grateful Recognition

The Miami Herald, reporting a meeting of the Burdine department store employees where George Whitten, president of the Florida resort firm, gave citations to members of its Seniority Club relates: "Whitten presented \$1000 war bonds to Mrs. Anna Wilson and Miss Emily Smith in recognition of 25 years of service. Willie Hepburn, Negro porter, was presented a button marking 30 years."

** * *

Millionaire Martyr

A "DeMille Political Freedom Foundation" to keep labor unions out of politics was recently founded in Los Angeles. Cecil B. DeMille is the big movie director suspended by the American Federation of Radio Artists for refusing to pay a \$1 assessment to fight the open-shop amendment in California. An official of the Los Angeles Central Labor Council commented on the new organization: "You can't make a martyr out of a millionaire over a dollar bill."

(Continued on page 3)

Wage Freeze To Continue While Prices Are Boosted

Government Officials Disclose Hunger Plans
For Workers, Huge Hand-Outs for Profiteers

By Art Preis

A partial picture of the ominous future awaiting the American workers and returning veterans was presented last week in a series of official actions and pronouncements by leading agencies and spokesmen of the Truman administration.

Its essential features include growing mass un-

employment, wage slashing, increased shortages particularly in food, price rises and a continuation of the wage-freezing Little Steel formula.

The men in the 34th Construction Battalion (Seabees) have been herded like prisoners or criminals under "armed guard with drawn bayonets" aboard their ship bound for the Pacific, "as though they were reluctant to serve their country."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sent this vigorous protest on April 27 to Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal. "This battalion has 21 months overseas service and has proved beyond doubt its ability and loyalty," stated the NAACP telegram.

SHAMEFUL TREATMENT
Such shameful treatment was accorded the men in this veteran Battalion after their hunger strike on March 2-3 in protest against gross mistreatment and discriminatory conditions fostered by their Negro-hating Commander, J. P. MacBean of Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The profit-bloated corporations face an altogether different prospect. The government has given them substantial assurances that their profit and monopoly incomes will be fully safeguarded. Within the next two years, the war profiteers are to be reimbursed with almost \$8-billion in various types of tax rebates.

Price ceilings are to be fixed during the "reconversion" period to guarantee manufacturers not less than the abnormally inflated prices of 1942, the third war year. They are assured further price increases where "necessary." These are the initial measures planned for the "relief of the greedy."

The general features of the

(Continued on page 2)

GOVERNMENT ASSURES PRICE, TAX 'RELIEF' TO PROFITEERS

While millions of workers and veterans will face total unemployment and those still working will have reductions in weekly earnings of from 25 to 40 per cent on a return to a 40-hour week, Price Administrator Bowles on May 11 told the manufacturers that they could be assured of prices at the high 1942 wartime level "at least." Of course, there will also be a few instances in which increases in retail prices above 1942 levels will be necessary.

Moreover, the OPA head assured the war profiteers that he recognized "important changes" have taken place in the factors affecting production costs." He sympathized with reconverting manufacturers having "shoulder burdens they could not bear."

And he added significantly: "We are not going to disregard such cost increases even temporarily." This is a signal for cost-padding and general stampede for OPA approval of price increases.

This OPA price-boosting scheme, disguised as "price control" has merely whetted the appetites of the profiteers. Their legislative agents, headed by Senator Taft of Ohio, promptly moved to scuttle even the pretense of price control.

On May 11, Taft proposed before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee to reopen hearings on renewal of the price control act. He claimed the OPA was "determined fanatically" to keep prices at a "fixed level." "In my opinion," he stated, "price control policy now in effect is far too strict, even for wartime."

GIFTS TO MONOPOLISTS

Taft is one of the spokesmen of the big meat packers. Two of them, Albert and Hahn of Cincinnati, as revealed in Senate hearings, contributed substantial sums to his recent election campaign.

On top of this green light to price-gouging, Big Business was promised a further windfall. On May 11 it was announced that Truman had "tentatively approved" a scheme of the Treasury and Congressional "tax experts" and Congressional "tax experts"

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CIO Newsmen's Guild Is Target Of Attack By Labor-Hating Publishers Association

By Dave Jeffries

The big capitalist newspapers have almost unanimously hailed the labor-management "peace charter" signed only a few weeks ago by William Green and Philip Murray. This "charter" recognizes the bosses' rights to unlimited profits under "free enterprise" in return for a promise from Eric Johnston that the employers will engage in collective bargaining with the unions "in good faith." How cheaply the employers hold this promise is demonstrated by the actions of the very capitalist newspapers that have been waxing eloquent over the benefits of labor-management "peace" in their editorials.

The April 27 issue of the *Guild Reporter*, official organ of the CIO American Newspaper Guild, tells in detail how the newspaper barons have been conducting what it calls "an organized, well-knit campaign" to "cripple the Guild."

As in the auto industry, the main strategy of the newspaper companies has been to fire key union men on flimsy pretexts. Two Guild members, including the shop chairman, were fired from the Hudson (New Jersey) Dispatch the minute the Guild sought recognition as collective bargaining agent for the workers in the editorial department. Other intimidations of employees have followed. In nearby Long Branch the Long Branch Record fired a worker on trumped-up charges in an effort to avoid payment of severance indemnity. Both these cases are being fought by the Guild.

In Massachusetts, too, the campaign against union organization and collective bargaining has been proceeding apace. The Worcester Telegram fired the provisional president of the newly-organized local after he testified at a National Labor Relations Board hearing in an attempt to win union recognition. Sixteen workers in the circulation department of the New Bedford Standard-Times were fired in what the *Guild Reporter* called "a flagrant attempt to crush the Guild before it got started."

PUBLISHERS' TACTICS
"Publisher opposition hit new highs," continued the *Guild Reporter*, "in two unsuccessful Miami NLRB elections, featured by a phony court suit to halt the voting, a slugging, and a campaign of pressure and intimidation." Similar tactics were used in Windsor, Ontario and in Buffalo, where the Buffalo News blossomed out with a company union headed by a bosses' stooge who had just been feted by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The big wire services, Associated Press and United Press, have been conducting a persistent campaign against union recognition. Hearst's King Feature Syndicate has continually refused to obey a War Labor Board directive on maintenance of membership.

This campaign of firings has been accompanied by the continued refusal of the WLB Newsprint Commission to grant any substantial wage increases or other benefits to newspaper workers. The Commission has become the target of growing resentment on the part of newspaper workers, many of whom receive wages as low as \$18 a week and others only slightly more.

This resentment will undoubtedly

only be reflected at the coming Guild convention, where a substantial section of the membership is expected to attempt to withdraw the no-strike pledge against the furious opposition of the Stalinist-dominated New York Local.

Reports Forecast Unemployment And Wage Slashes

(Continued from page 1)

administration's plans and prospects for the next year are embodied in a report prepared for Truman by War Mobilization and Reconversion Director Vinson and released on May 9. Vinson, who is now referred to as the "Assistant President," outlined what was described by the N. Y. Times as a "Spartan regimen" for the American people.

He admitted that there are already one million unemployed and that there will be some 6,500,000 workers and war veterans seeking jobs during the next 12 months. However, he expressed the hope that many of these would be out of work "only temporarily" and thought that the unemployed "should not exceed" two to two and one-half millions at the end of 12 months.

UNEMPLOYMENT FORECASTS

Vinson based these unemployment estimates on his extremely conservative forecast of a one-third cut-back in war production during the next year. Actually, as the May 5 Business Week reveals: "Washington talks publicly of a 35 per cent cutback in munitions, privately of 50 per cent." It adds: "Maximum foreseeable unemployment is about 5,000,000."

How will these unemployed survive? Vinson points to state unemployment insurance with "maximum payments" of from \$15 to \$22 a week. For the unemployed veterans he pointed to maximum allowances up to \$20 a week—equivalent to \$10 in pre-war purchasing power.

Two days after Vinson offered the prospect of this starvation handout, the U. S. Employment Service revealed that government officials are "puzzled" over the rapid rise in unemployed veterans. These already numbered 28,902 on April 28—before the official end of the European war. About 2,000,000 more are to be returned home in the next year.

Shortages, the basis for price inflation and black marketing, are to increase. Vinson admits there will be "no early improvement in the civilian food supply." On the contrary, total food supplies will be 5 to 10 per cent less next year, while military requirements will be 5 to 10 per cent greater. In general, there will be no great increase in civilian goods production.

The Vinson report nevertheless opposed the "removal of wage controls," while admitting that "wages are likely to be forced downward rather than upward" and that "it will not be possible to assure every worker that his takehome pay will remain unchanged." There will be an increasing return to the 40 hour week, elimination of overtime pay and a general drastic reduction of weekly wages.

On May 10, the day following Vinson's report, the WLB followed up with a pronouncement indicating how this policy of wage slashing is to be maintained. WLB Chairman Taylor stated at a news conference that the government intends to shackle the workers with the no-strike pledge until the end of the war with Japan and that it "covers all plants" whether producing war goods or civilian.

This resentment will undoubtedly

DETROIT

6-Lecture Course in Parliamentary Procedure and Public Speaking
Thursday Evenings at 8 p. m.
Beginning May 24
3513 Woodward Avenue, Room 21

Empire State Scrubwomen Vote Strike!



Shop stewards and members of Local 32-J, AFL Building Service Employees taking a strike vote on May 5 in their meeting room at the Empire State Building, New York.

Skyscraper Scrubwomen Fight Vile Conditions

By Evelyn Atwood

Everybody knows about the 102 story Empire State Building, tallest and showiest in the world. Tourists visit it. A wealthy corporation owns it. The rich occupy it. But who knows anything about the cleaning women who toil and sweat throughout the nights to keep its swanky offices clean and shiny?

"They don't care nothing about

us poor scrub women," said one of them to me when I interviewed a group of them on May 11, at the offices of their local union 32-J, AFL Building Service Employees, at 250 West 57th Street, New York City. "We asked for only a nickel an hour raise, and the War Labor Board turned it down — after giving us the run-around for months!"

The women were tense and fighting mad. Last week, they said, they demanded a strike. But they were prevailed upon to wait another ten days pending further negotiations.

Her black eyes flashing, one of the women told me about their working conditions and pay. "We

speeded up in the overtime work. "We have to cover about 11,000 square feet of space in our regular time," they told me. "Then we have to clean and scrub the same amount of space in the five hours of overtime." One of the women added indignantly: "And don't think we can leave unless all the space is finished—even if we have to finish it on our own time!"

The work is dirty and physically exhausting. In addition to lugging around their big, heavy mops and brooms, the women explained: "We have to pull two heavy water tanks on wheels down halls that are each a block long, and we have to lug them from floor to floor." These tanks weigh hundreds of pounds and "are so heavy they are enough to pull your insides out." In fact, they said, many women are ruptured and others develop permanent internal disorders.

The women mop, dust, polish

and clean the offices, the toilets, the kitchens which have swanky dining rooms on some of the floors. They empty thousands of ash trays, hundreds of trash baskets, into huge sacks. The sacks when full are almost five feet high and half as big around. Each sack weighs at least 125 pounds.

"One of us had to lug twenty-five

of those sacks to the freight elevator, one day. She got so sick

she never could come back."

On Fridays and Saturdays, they said, they must clean the carpets thoroughly. "We use a big hose—something like the fire hose

men use. It weighs at least 150

pounds. One of the older women recalled: "Once I got sick for

two weeks, after the hosing. I just couldn't move myself out of bed." Another woman remarked: "You should see the sweat roll down us—just like we were

horses. And some of us get fever

and sickness from going out all

covered with sweat."

SWANKY OFFICES

I inquired what kind of offices

they worked in and who owned them. One of the women works in the offices of the duPont Company which has several floors in the building. "It's full of fancy furniture and expensive rugs from one end to the other." On Christmas, she said, duPont used to give the cleaning women \$5. Last year they cut it to \$2.50. (duPont's net profits for 1944 were only \$80,870,106).

Another woman works in the Schenley Distilling Company offices. "On the 37th floor they have the swellest restaurant and bar where they throw big, expensive parties. Us cleaning women have to clean up their mess after these big parties," she raged. The big-shots leave crumbled crackers and food all over the place and on the carpets. And we're the ones that have to pick up all the empty bottles, put them in cases and drag them out—case after case of empties.

"And you know, Schenley's

won't even give a scrub woman a



sandwich or a glass of ginger ale! We find all the left-over food thrown away in the garbage next day. Then we have to cart it out!" Deeply incensed, she added: "The place has to be cleaned up good too. If they find a speck of dust, we're reported to the ofice the next day."

One of the women reported

that she worked in the B. F.

Goodrich suite of offices, which

also occupies a whole floor,

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Seamen's Pay Cut While Operators Rake in Profits

By Art Sharon

The merchant seamen are squaring away for a struggle to preserve their present conditions against the onslaught of the ship operators and the government. The proposal to cut the seamen's bonus, reported in last week's *Militant*, is only the first move in the operators-government campaign.

With the end of the European war, the three-year-long submarine menace in the Atlantic and adjacent waters is over. It has cost the lives of over 6000 merchant seamen, to mention nothing of the untold hardships for thousands who spent up to 3 months in lifeboats after the sinking or bombing of their ships. Hardly a seaman who sailed during the past three years escaped the dangers and tribulations that the war brought.

While he braved the torpedoes, the dive bombers and the icy waters of the "Murmansk run" the merchant seaman was the hero in ducarees. Medals and ribbons by the thousands were freely offered by the government errand boys of the ship operators. More material rewards asked for by the seamen, such as improvement in living quarters in the floating death traps, better food to eat on voyages that sometimes lasted a year and more, restoration of previously cut bonuses, etc., received the familiar and obnoxious answer, "Don't you know there's a war on?"

The Stalinist leaders of one section of the seamen, the CIO National Maritime Union, simply urged more sacrifice above and beyond the ordinary demands of the wartime merchant service, as a "sure way" to convince the government and ship operators that the seamen were worthy of better treatment "after the war."

OPERATORS PROSPER

On the other hand, the ship operators have done very well for themselves during the war. From August 1939 to Pearl Harbor, the average operating profits per dead-weight ton per month for the unsubsidized lines rose from \$1.26 to \$3.70. Those of the unsubsidized lines went up from \$1.51 to \$4.29.

The profits of the shipping lines went up in direct proportion to the number of seamen killed and maimed. When the submarines and dive bombers were the most active the cash take of the operators went up phenomenally. To the questions of various government committees about their unusual profits, the shipping moguls told of the terrible risks that were being taken by the merchant marine. Such testimony proved sufficient to stop any serious attempt to trim their profits.

The sinking of freighters with crews of 50 to 60 during the war brought insurance payment far in excess of the original prices paid.

Fortune magazine for November 1944 tells the story of how one ship operator received \$727,000 in insurance for an old tub bought for \$48,000 some years before. This was the usual practice. Increased submarine activity meant lush profit to the shipping lines.

Fortune magazine, in the cited article, states, "incredible as it may seem, shipping is now prosperous. The assets of many companies have doubled and trebled; some have been multiplied five and ten times since the war began."

OPA FLOORS

The worst "space" in the building, they all agreed, is the OPA offices on the third and fourth floors. "For one thing you have to cover about 20,000 square feet of space," they said. The floors are unwarex and must be scrubbed every day. The confusion, filth and mountains of trash make work on these floors a "nightmare" for the women.

As a consequence, the overseer, who goes around on surprise visits to catch women who might be taking a moment's rest, uses the OPA floors as a club over their heads. "If I see you loafing, I'll send you down to Three and Four," he threatens them.

And many times he does send them down.

"A little, skinny woman," they told me, "almost killed herself before they took her off that floor. She had six

'Peace Pact' Is Smokescreen For Anti-Union Drive

By Joseph Keller

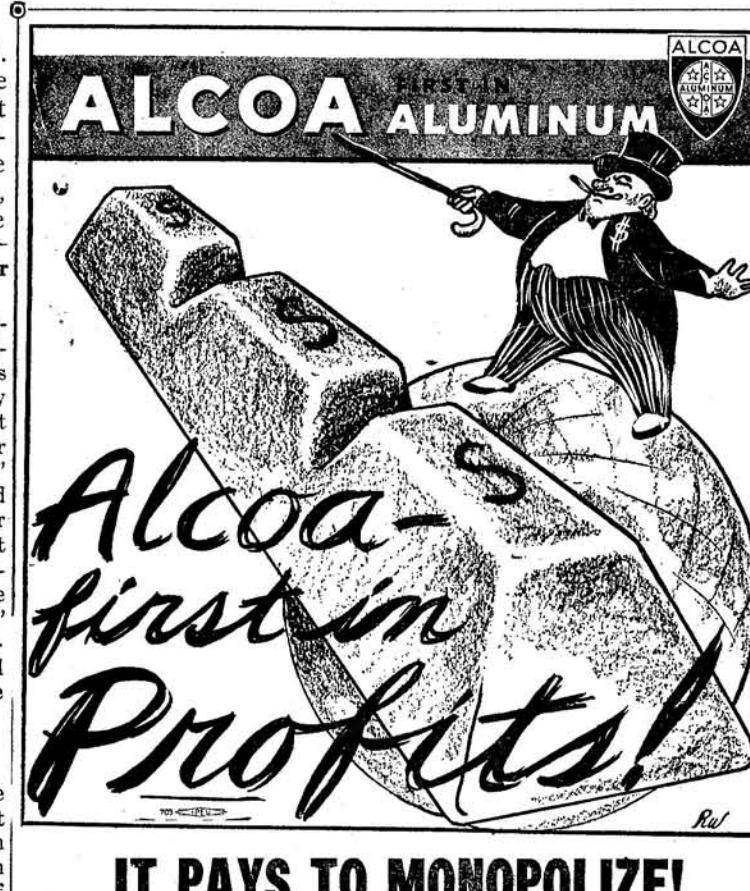
The top national committees of the CIO, AFL and U. S. Chamber of Commerce have all hastened to formally adopt the so-called capital-labor "postwar peace charter" designed in secret and signed by the respective heads of these bodies. Philip Murray, William Green and Eric Johnston. On May 4, the executive council of the AFL and the Board of Directors of the C. of C., following the previous action of the CIO National Executive Board, ratified the "peace pact."

As on all other questions of drafted jointly with the Chamber of Commerce. The "peace charter" is contrived as a smokescreen of benevolence behind which the employers can slam away at labor. Murray and Green, however, ballyhoo it as a prerequisite for postwar prosperity, "60,000,000 jobs," "high wages," etc. They contend that if only capital and labor would "get together" in the spirit of brotherly love — and on condition that the capitalists are guaranteed their "privileges" to control and run American economy as they please — then all would be hunky-dory for the workers.

INDUSTRIAL WAR
The very basis of the "peace charter" is absurd. Only the past week, the government spokesmen for Big Business, as reported on the front page of this issue of *The Militant* formally revealed some of their plans and perspectives. They forecast rising mass unemployment, wage slashes, price inflation. They foresee not industrial "peace" but industrial war, which they propose to forestall simply by disarming the workers with the continued enforcement of the no-strike policy and compulsory arbitration.

The sole "concession" made to labor in the "peace charter," the recognition of collective bargaining rights, according to Murray, is being furiously assailed by the "representatives of the Michigan automobile lobby and the powerful food lobby, the same food lobby which has operated with such disastrous effectiveness in connection with the current OPA hearings."

Murray need not have limited himself to these two major capitalist groups. The truth is that every single important section of industry — steel, rubber, oil, shipbuilding — is equally involved in this anti-labor conspiracy. Their most powerful organization, the National Association of Manufacturers, has openly admitted it is engaged in a legislative drive to outlaw strikes and the closed shop through a 5-point program.



IT PAYS TO MONOPOLIZE!

The history of the Aluminum Co. of America reveals that it pays to monopolize. In the 50 years since the Mellon dynasty incorporated as the Pittsburgh Reduction Co. in 1888, up to 1939, its net income exceeded \$335 million.

In the 24 years from 1889 through 1912 the Mellon family reaped \$33 million on an original investment of \$2 million.

Through their monopoly on the nation's aluminum industry, the Mellons shook down an average annual return on invested capital as follows: 35.7 per cent from 1905 to 1908; 17.6 per cent from 1909 to 1914; 19.3 per cent from 1915 to 1918; 9.4 per cent in 1919 and 1920. During the 1921-22 depression the family books showed a loss of 2.3 per cent, but from 1923 to 1929 they recuperated handsomely with a return of 10.2 per cent. In the 1930-34 depression the Mellons managed to scrape by with a 2.6 per cent return. The pinch of the depression was followed by a 12 per cent profit on invested capital from 1935 to 1939.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, however, the Mellons began to really make good. Net profits leaped from \$15 million in 1938 to \$36 million in 1939. Skillfully converting war orders into family profits, the Mellons admitted net profits of \$44 million in 1940, \$40 million in 1941, \$33 million in 1942, \$42 million in 1943, and \$31 million in 1944.

The Mellons did not overlook converting government subsidies into family property. In 1938 total assets were listed as \$253 million. By 1941 they mushroomed to \$427 million. At the close of 1943 total assets appeared on the ledger sheets as \$610 million!

"Equality of sacrifice" for the workers; monopoly for the capitalists — the Mellon balance sheets show there's no better formula for improving family fortunes!

ST. PAUL WARD WORKERS NEED MILITANT PROGRAM

By Jack Pearson

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 12. — Recently a Twin Cities paper carried a half-page story on "Women in the Trade Unions" with pictures of two local union organizers — Signe Santabacha of Local 215 of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's union and Mrs. Baker of the United Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers, both CIO unions.

These local Stalinists were interviewed by a staff writer, who, in glowing terms, told of the

Newark Carmen's Demands Turned Down By the WLB

NEWARK, May 8. — After

ten months of hearings and "study," the War Labor Board yesterday denied virtually all of the demands of the AFL-Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America, whose contract with the Public Service Coordinated Transport Company expired last July.

The Board granted five-cent an hour increase, retroactive to the expiration of the previous contract. The increase of five cents, which now brings the hourly rate to ninety-five cents an hour, was granted on the basis of parity with the New York drivers, who have been receiving that rate for several years. The Union had originally demanded an increase of ten cents, but later agreed to a five-cent increase and authorized a strike call if it were to be denied.

The Union's demand for time and a half pay beyond eight hours a day and forty hours a week was denied.

The Board also rejected the union's demand for a guaranteed work week, holiday pay and an increased vacation schedule. These demands were denied on the basis of non-conformity with "standard practice" in the industry.

News of the WLB decision has caused widespread indignation amongst the men. For years their fight to improve the rotten conditions imposed upon them by one of America's most powerful corporations has been greatly hampered by the limitations of a hide-bound craft union organization. The present decision of the WLB has served only to increase their dissatisfaction.

Recognition of this fact was expressed today in a statement on the decision by one of the Union's officials. He said to *The Militant* correspondent: "We got nothing that we couldn't have gotten directly from the company a year ago. All that the WLB gave us was nickel and a headache."

Ford Local 600 Demands End of No-Strike Pledge

(Continued from page 1)

Grant put the motion to a vote and it passed.

As a member of the committee from the local executive board, Yost had been selected to read one of the Stalinist prepared resolutions. Alert to the occasion, he observed that the Stalinists had inadvertently placed him in a position to put the question of the no-strike pledge to an honest vote for the first time in the history of Local 600.

He proceeded to incorporate in the resolution on the Little Steel Formula a resolve calling for the revocation of the no-strike pledge and the holding of a national labor holiday if the employers and their government refuse to comply with the workers' demands concerning the Little Steel Formula and reconversion policy.

The Stalinists were not the only group chilled by the resolution. Concerning Thomas Leonard, Grant and other officers of the International Union on the platform Yost stated: "I could hear their fat jowls slapping the platform in consternation when I read the resolution." Although slightly exaggerated, this is not too bad a description of the proceedings.

Thomas, who has toadied to the government during the war years but is highly sensitive to the militant vibrations of the rank and file auto workers delivered an agitational speech in which he castigated the government for its lack of foresight in preparing for the

Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalesky

Willy grinned in my face. "What kind of a pal are you, Pop, not coming down to see me fight tonight?" I smiled back and said, "I'm sorry, Willy. I can't make it. Good luck."

I thought to myself, "Good luck, kid. I hope you make it. I hope you do better than Punchy O'Donnell. I hope you get a break and make some money, and I hope you manage to keep it. I hope you don't get knocked silly like poor O'Donnell, trying to get a break for yourself."

I'd like to write a story about Punchy O'Donnell some day. I think I'd call it "The Man Who Tried To Get Ahead," and I'd tell all about the conditions that made Punchy go out and get pounded all around the ring time and time again, trying to rise out of his class in the only way he could figure out.

Punchy O'Donnell came out of the steel plants like a lot of other fighters. He was a likeable young guy, tall and rangy with good shoulders and hard muscles. He worked on the mill line where his father had worked before him. But of course in those days nobody called him "Punchy"; he was Jack O'Connell, tough, but a nice young guy.

It would be sort of unnecessary to say that life was hard in the O'Donnell family. The old man was a steelworker, and life was always tough for steelworkers. Sometimes he'd be working all the time, long twelve-hour shifts with a twenty-four hour stretch every other week-end, and then other times, there'd be no work at all, and the O'Donnell family and all the other steelworkers' families would be on starvation rations, living practically from hand to mouth, picking up coal on the railroad tracks to heat their rickety houses.

Jack O'Donnell remembered all this vividly. He was very conscious of the lines of worry in the old man's face and of the droop of weariness in the old man's sagging shoulders. He looked about him and saw no light: he saw only the darkness of poverty and insecurity ahead. But he was young, as I said, and tough. There had been guys... Well, there was Gene Tunney, Cripes, he was just a poor guy to begin with, and cripes! He was champ. Maybe there was a ray, at least a glimmer of light. Jack O'Donnell wasn't going to be just a working man getting kicked around all his life. Jack O'Donnell was going to be champ and ride around in a big car and wear swell clothes and maybe marry a debutante like Gene Tunney and never have to worry about money like the old man.

So young Jack started out in the amateurs, and he did pretty well. He rolled up a long string of knockout victories and only lost a couple of decisions and fought one draw. The sports writers thought he had something, and so did Mickey Daniels, the manager who took Jack into his stable as an up and coming young pro.

The Fighting Career of Jack O'Donnell

In the professional ranks, Jack did pretty well too. He went blazing along knocking over everybody that got in front of him. "Just give me a crack at the champ," he told the reporters, and the reporters said the champ had better look out, because Jack O'Donnell would make an ex-champ out of him.

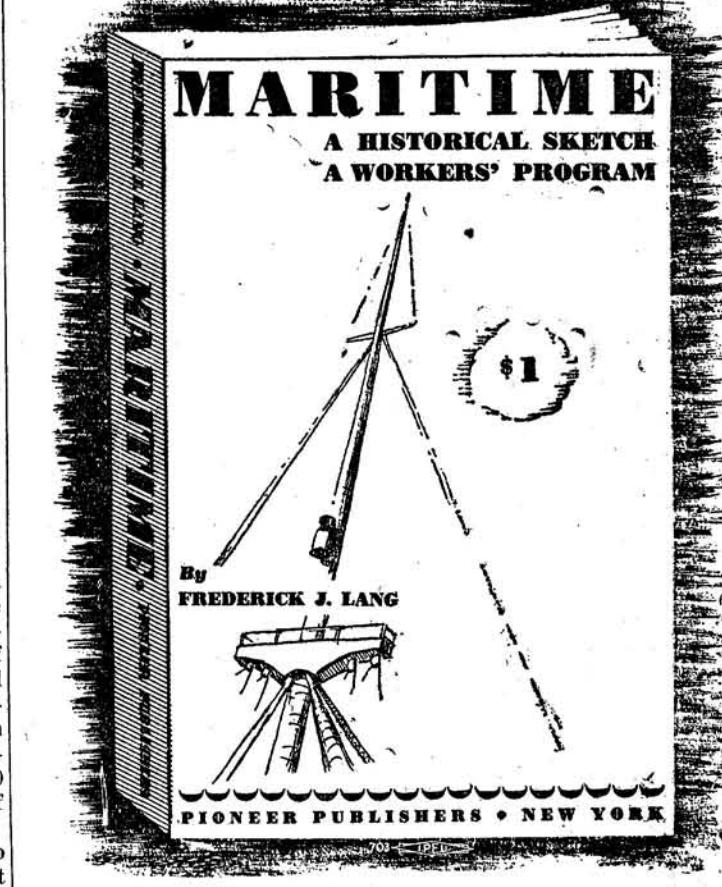
But Jack never got to the champ. There was a cagy old-timer that blocked the way to the title and sent Jack back the way he had come. The old-timer was Dick Williams, a thirty-three year old Negro who had been fighting since he was fifteen and knew all the tricks. He had never got very far, but he was known. All the better boys had licked him, and he had licked all the others who hadn't been quite good enough for the better boys. He was known as a trial horse.

Well, it turned out that Jack, in spite of eight to one odds, wasn't quite good enough. Perhaps it was the cold winters when he couldn't get the right food as a kid. Perhaps even his mother's milk has been weakened by poverty. But whatever it was, Jack didn't have what it takes, and Williams mauled him around pretty badly.

Daniels said one defeat didn't matter, that Jack would beat Williams in a return match and then get the champ. But Williams beat Jack again, beat him badly, beat Jack's tall, tottering form all around the ring and knocked him out in the sixth. And then the other boys began to beat Jack too, and Jack got the name of Punchy, because too many hard blows on the jaw and head had made him sort of queer.

Finally no promoter, not even the smallest, would give Jack, or rather Punchy, a fight. He was just a stumbler, broke and seedy, with a pushed-in face and a dull, battered brain, the victim of barroom toughs who liked to brag, "Say, I got in a fight over in Joe's with O'Donnell, you know, the fighter, and I knocked him on his—."

So Jack O'Donnell came back to us again. He works in the labor gang when he's not off drunk. God! I hope young Willy gets a better break than poor old Punchy.



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TO ALL MILITANT READERS:

Sunday May 27 is The Last Day Of The Militant Sub Campaign

THE MILITANT cordially invites all readers and friends to help us on the last day of our campaign. All the branches of the Socialist Workers Party listed below are mobilizing their members on Sunday, May 27th, attempting to double our original goal and reach 20,000 new subscribers. Come to our headquarters; go out with our comrades; and celebrate the achievements with us afterwards.

Chicago

3 Mobilizations!
No. Side: Belmont at Damen
11 a. m.
N. W. Side: Pulaski at North Avenue
11 a. m.
So. Side: 47th and S. Parkway
11:30 a. m.

Dinner and Dancing at 3 p. m.
160 N. Wells Street, Room 317

Toledo

Sub Mobilization
1 p. m.
Followed by Social
905 Jefferson, Room 304

Detroit

Sub Mobilization
12 Noon
Followed by Social
3513 Woodward Avenue

Milwaukee

Sub Mobilization
9:45 a. m.
926 N. Plankinton, Room 21

Akron

Sub Mobilization
2:30 p. m.
Buffet Dinner at 5:30
6 Everett Bldg.
39 E. Market Street

New York

2 Mobilizations
Manhattan:
116 University Place
Brooklyn:
571 Pacific Street
Both at 10 a. m.

Joint Social 5 p. m.
116 University Place

Newark

Sub Mobilization
10:30 a. m.
Gala Social After
423 Springfield Avenue

Seattle

Sub Mobilization
12 Noon
Buffet Supper at 5:30
1919½ Second Avenue

Reading

Sub Mobilization
10 a. m.
8th and Windsor

Boston

Sub Mobilization
1 p. m.
WORKERS EDUCATIONAL CENTER
30 Stuart Street

Los Angeles

3 Mobilizations
12 Noon
Los Angeles and vicinity:
232 S. Hill Street, Room 200-05
Long Beach and San Pedro:
1008 S. Pacific, Room 214, San Pedro
Southgate and vicinity:
8026 Seville Avenue, Southgate
City-Wide Dinner
232 S. Hill Street, at 6 p. m.

Buffalo

Sub Mobilization
2 p. m.
Social at 7 p. m.
950 Main Street, Room 5

Philadelphia

Sub Mobilization
11:30 a. m.
Followed by a Social
405 W. Girard Avenue

Cleveland

Sub Mobilization
12 Noon
1446 East 82nd Street

Twin Cities

Sub Mobilization
10 a. m. to 5
Followed by Supper Party
10 S. 4th Street
Minneapolis

Mistreatment Of Sick Veterans Charged

NEGRO PLASMA SEGREGATION TRACED TO ARMY JIM CROW

Conclusive proof that the Jim Crow policy of the Army lies behind the segregation of white and Negro blood in the Red Cross blood banks was obtained in a recent interview of Negro leaders with Brigadier General F. W. Rankin, adviser to the Surgeon General of the Army. The story of this interview, which took place last month, was reported in the April 28 issue of the New York Negro newspaper, *People's Voice*.

Members of the delegation which met with Brigadier General Rankin were: Doxey Wilkerson, National Negro Congress; Beatrice Reed, administrative assistant, Wash., D. C. NAACP; Robert Sherman, president, Wash. D. C. CIO Council; Charlotte May, National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses; Harry McAlpin, National Bar Association's legal committee.

Despite their announcement that they had come as "friends of the Administration," Brigadier General Rankin turned down the delegates' plea for an end to the segregation policy of administering blood plasma. The delegates were told flatly that "many whites object to having Negro blood inserted into their veins" and that change in the policy "would greatly militate against the successful conclusion of the program for collecting blood plasma for the armed forces."

NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS

But the distinguished scientists of the Committee on Race Relations of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists have some different ideas on this subject. In a report published in the July 4, 1942 issue of the "Journal of the American Medical Associa-

A Tribute To Theodore Debs, Sincere Socialist

The recent death of Theodore Debs recalls the great days of the early Socialist movement in the United States and the role which the Debs brothers played in this movement. As secretary to his brother, Eugene V. Debs, outstanding American Socialist leader for over two decades, Theodore shared his brother's struggles as well as his successes.

David Karsner, official biographer of Eugene Debs, writes: "We could not conclude this phase of the life of Debs, his early struggles and the backgrounds that bring his portrait out in relief, without a word about his brother, Theodore Debs... The Debs have been a tireless worker for a score of years or more by Eugene's side. He has had no public recognition or honors and has never sought any." (D. Karsner, "Debs—His Life and Letters" pp. 128-9).

"they wrote, "The segregation of the blood of white persons from the blood of Negroes in the blood bank is, therefore, not only unscientific but is a grievous affront to the largest minority group in the country."

Reference is made in the Committee's report to the widespread use of vaccines and serums from the blood and glands of horses, rabbits, sheep etc. The Red Cross has never encouraged any foolish prejudices which patients might have against treatment with substances coming from animals, the Committee points out.

Knowing that the Red Cross officials were acting under pressure of the Southern Bourbons, the Committee also recalled the custom of the "better-circumstanced families" in the South of using Negro women as wet nurses for their babies. Many of the same substances that were circulating in the blood of the Negro wet nurses were imbibed by the white babies, along with the nutritious elements of the milk, it was observed.

INSULTING POLICY

Evidence was given that successful transfusions of blood from white persons to Negroes or vice versa has been accomplished hundreds of times in modern clinics and hospitals. "In view of these facts," the Committee stated in its summary, "it seems highly improbable that any soldier or civilian so seriously wounded as to require a blood or plasma transfusion will insist that it come from a person whose skin is no darker than his own."

But these eminently reasonable and logical arguments did not cause the Red Cross officials to abandon their shameful segregation policy in the administration of the blood bank. That they were carrying out the orders of the highest officials in the United States armed forces now becomes clear from the statement of Brigadier General Rankin.

V-E Day will not lessen the need of the American fighting forces for blood plasma, the Red Cross pointed out in appealing for donors to continue to give blood until Japan is defeated. But the Army and the Red Cross continue to jeopardize the success of the blood bank by imposing an insulting blood segregation policy upon potential blood donors among the country's 13,000,000 Negroes.



before company unions be rejected as bargaining agents."

Real Aim of the Wagner Act

Only after the great strikes which built the CIO did the Wagner Labor Act become a law, not to help organize the unorganized but to channelize the struggles of the already-organized workers into government boards.

It was on the picket-line, as the history of the rise of the CIO shows, that the workers raised the average hourly wage. But even so, one must understand the real limitations of this gain. Until the war, the rise in wages of the employed workers did not mean a rise in the total wages. Total wages were \$3 billions in 1929, and only \$5 billions in 1938. The working class as a whole had less to live on during the New Deal years than before the depression began.

The true story of such gains as were made by the workers during the Roosevelt administration is long and complex. We have told that story over and over in our press during the past twelve years. But there is a short and conclusive way to measure Roosevelt's attitude toward the workers. What did his administration do for the unemployed? If it were true that the workers owe their gains to Roosevelt's humanitarianism, then this should show most clearly in the case of the most needy, the unemployed.

The central fact to understand is that it is a myth that Roosevelt steadily supported federal responsibility for unemployment relief. He did so only during the short period of the existence of FERA, from the spring of 1933 to the end of 1935, during which the federal government put up three dollars for relief to every dollar spent by state and local governments. "While it isn't written in the Constitution," he declared in 1933, "nevertheless it is the inherent duty of the federal government to keep its citizens from starving."

By Grace Carlson

"The defendants and their co-conspirators would endeavor by any means at their disposal to procure members of the military and naval forces of the United States to become undisciplined, to complain about food, living conditions, and missions to which they would be assigned, to create dissension, dissatisfaction and insubordination among the armed forces, to impair the loyalty and morale thereof."

This is Count 7 of the framework indictment brought in 1941 against 29 leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and Motor Transport Workers Union, 544-CIO in the Minneapolis Labor Case. No evidence was brought in court to substantiate the charge of interfering with the morale of the armed forces, but 18 of us had to serve terms in federal prisons just the same.

But the morale of the disabled servicemen — of the wounded and sick veterans who have been discharged to the Veterans' Administration hospitals is not "protected" by the U. S. Department of Justice. Recent exposures of conditions in veterans' hospitals have shown that there is plenty of reason for veterans themselves "to complain about food and living conditions" in these institutions. Investigators have found a tremendous amount of "dissatisfaction" among the veteran patients in these federally-operated hospitals.

MORALE IMPAIRED

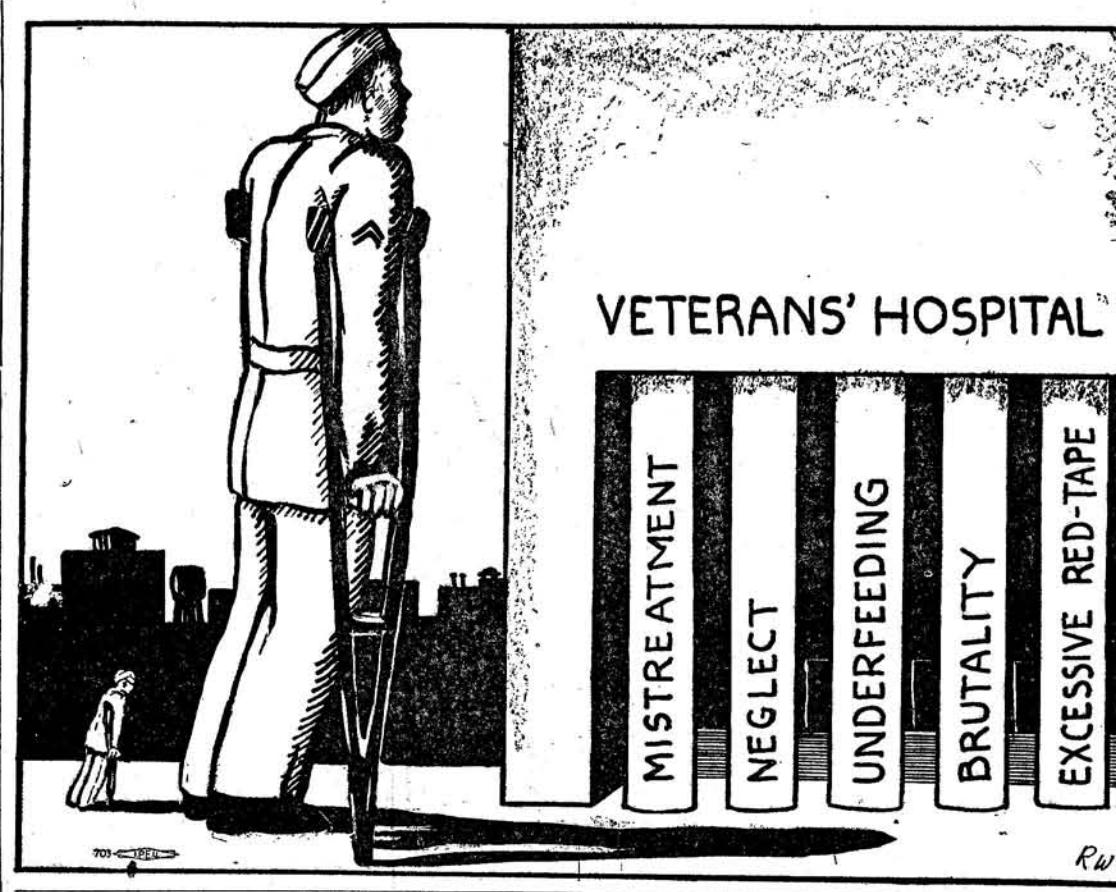
The "morale" of these war casualties of the "military and naval forces of the United States" has certainly been "impaired." But no federal indictments have been brought against the heads of the Veterans' Administration who are responsible for these shocking conditions in veterans' hospitals. They haven't even lost their jobs!

Most thorough of the investigations into conditions in Veterans' Administration hospitals was made by Albert Q. Maisel, author of "Miracles of Military Medicine" and "The Wounded Get Back." Published under the title, "Third-Rate Medicine for First-Rate Men," Maisel's articles on veterans' hospitals ran in the March and April issues of *Cosmopolitan*.

In the introduction to the second article, Maisel writes:

"In last month's *Cosmopolitan*, I exposed how thousands of tuberculous veterans are being neglected, mistreated, underfed, and discharged to almost certain death in the hospitals run by the Veterans' Administration. Yet these b. hellholes — disgraceful as they are — are almost heavens compared with the thirty Mental Hospitals run by the same Veterans' Administration.

"Read the evidence in the accompanying article — the shocking, shameful evidence of brutal beatings, overcrowding and third-rate treatment which are the lot of our most defenseless disabled veterans. Read it — and remember that this is no description of Hitler's concentration camps. This is happening today and every day, here at home to Americans — the veterans who



should be our honored and best-treated citizens."

Already 10,000 mental casualties of World War II have been "sheared" into the Veterans' Mental Hospitals alongside the 30,000 mentally wrecked soldiers from World War I. Maisel visited many of these hospitals and talked to Veterans' Administration officials and mental patients of both wars. He has mountains of evidence of bureaucracy, incompetence, backwardness and brutality.

The most damning evidence against them came from the diary of Robert Hegler, a conscientious objector who ran away from the Veterans' Mental Facility at Lyons, N. Y. in October 1944. Hegler's diary shown to New York City reporters told of veteran patients being "kicked in the head," "beaten up in bed," "being 'wriggled out,'" i.e., being choked with a towel around the neck.

Maisel reports that after Hegler's story broke in the New York papers Brigadier General Frank Hines, the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs was forced to make an investigation into Hegler's charges. On November 17, 1944, General Hines said, "The

"While in the employ of the Ridge Tool Company, Elyria, Ohio during the month of January, 1944, during an organizational drive put on by the AFL, I was contacted at my home one Sunday by Gerald Nau, Employment Manager, and Edward Swanson, Superintendent of the company, and asked to cooperate in keeping the union out of the plant.

"I was given an extra \$100 by Nau for my testimony at the hearing, saying it was from Ingwer, President of the Ridge Tool Company.

"A few nights before the NLRB hearing, Attorneys R. W. and R. F. Vandemark, representing the company asked me to their office, where they asked me to tell them the whole story. I told them substantially what I have stated above.

"Later in the hearing they evaded any questions which would have brought out the real facts of the case.

"Both Kayden and I were ordered reinstated with back pay by the NLRB. Thereafter Gerald Nau sent me a letter asking me to write the company waiving my back pay and asking reinstatement. I was put back to work without back pay.

"In the early part of this year

"my income tax return was prepared by the younger Vandemark. At that time he knowingly failed to include the money paid me by Gerald Nau while I was no longer working at the Ridge Tool Company.

"Signed,

"Maurice F. Banks."

"Efforts to unionize the plant

"are now being conducted by the CIO United Steelworkers of America.

Labor Spy Confesses Boss Plot To Smash Ohio Union

The use of labor spies to smash unions or prevent union organization is an old and established custom of Big Business. For the benefit of workers who have had no experience with these bachelors of the bosses we reprint the full, sworn statement of such a spy who framed a union organizer. This is reported by the Lorain County CIO Council.

* * *

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drive put on by the AFL, I was contacted at my home one Sunday by Gerald Nau, Employment Manager, and Edward Swanson, Superintendent of the company, and asked to cooperate in keeping the union out of the plant.

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These figures show:

(1) PWA proved to be not a drop in the bucket as a means of alleviating unemployment.

(2) WPA ranged from employing one out of ten of the unemployed to one out of three—the latter, however, only during 1936.

(3) In the election year of 1936, WPA payrolls were at their highest. Similarly for the years of Congressional elections, and also for 1940, payrolls temporarily rose just preceding elections.

What the Figures Prove

But, goes the myth, it wasn't Roosevelt's fault, but the fault of the Republican and ultra-reactionary Democratic Congressmen who cut down his requests for appropriations. This systematically-propagated lie is refuted by the complete figures of how much Roosevelt asked for WPA each year. These show he asked for little more than the so-called "Republocrats" gave, and far less than the labor movement asked for. Here one example must suffice. On April 27, 1939 Roosevelt wrote in his relief message to Congress:

What Roosevelt Really Did

"For the fiscal year 1940, I recommend, therefore, that the specific sum of \$1,477,000,000 be provided for the Works Progress Administration. This represents a reduction of one-third below the amount provided in the current fiscal year."

In other words, it was Roosevelt himself who, when unemployment stood at nearly eleven million, proposed to throw a million out of the 2,900,000 on WPA off the payrolls.

In a word, the story of his admirers, that Roosevelt provided WPA jobs for the bulk of the unemployed, is a deliberate fraud.

(This is the fourth of a series of articles on Roosevelt's role.)

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

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

—KARL MARX

Hitler's Race Hatred Is Not Dead!

"HITLER'S RACE HATRED IS DEAD" headlines the May 5th *Michigan Chronicle*, Negro weekly. The article describes him as one of the bloodiest rulers of all times and points out that his climb to power utilized an organized campaign of race hatred. These latter remarks are true. But we are forced to warn *The Militant* readers that the policy of indoctrination of racial hatred is NOT dead. Anyone who says it IS dead is just indulging in wishful thinking.

Furthermore race hatred was never the PRIVATE property nor possession of Hitler. It was here before he came and it is STILL here since he has gone. IT IS, however, the private property of the CAPITALIST SYSTEM today. Hitler never set foot in America—but capitalism did; and race hatred over here is neither dead nor dying.

Significantly enough on May 1st (the date of Hitler's reported death), in the Detroit News (an organ of anti-labor and anti-Negro reaction) Rep. Hoffman (from the home state of the Michigan Chronicle) was reported to have taken a "vigorous blast" at the Fair Employment Practices bill.

WISHES—AND REALITY

While the bill, in writing, would take a dig at those employers who refuse to hire Negroes or Jews on a job for which they are qualified, yet Hoffman is infuriated by even this gesture at equality in employment. Pulling the time-worn trick out of his bag, this domestic race-baiter viewed with alarm the "additional desire to prohibit discrimination in social intercourse..." A known stooge for the vested interests he nevertheless charged that the sponsors of the bill "expect financial reward" from this step in the direction of economic equality for the working people.

Since 59 per cent of the cases studied by the present FEPC

he involved discrimination against Negroes and since Negroes comprise 10 per cent of the population, therefore, says Hoffman, "the only discrimination practiced has been in favor of not against—the Negro."

Regardless of what we WISH were true, the death knell of race hatred (be it Hitlerite or Hoffmanite) can ONLY toll when capitalist exploitation is supplanted by Socialist liberation. Only then will we have reason to celebrate Victory Day.

"IT COMES OUT IF IT'S IN YOU..." states the caption over a picture of Negro sailors and hostesses at an official dance run by the Navy Department at its Treasure Island Station in California. The Masthead of April 14, 1945, official camp newspaper, goes on to relate how the Negroes present "jived and jitterbugged to the torrid tunes of Treasure Island's jump band."

DOES COME OUT

A correspondent removes the grinning mask covering the Na-

Returning Veterans Bitter Over GI Bill

(Continued from page 1)

agency must deem the veteran a sound risk.

"As far as getting a loan is concerned," wrote Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt in her May 5 column, "the GI Bill of Rights gives them nothing that they could not get in the ordinary way... red tape makes the whole proceedings so long and complicated that most of them feel difficulties are being put in their way instead of help being extended."

HOME LOANS

This is corroborated by Ray Turk in the May 1 *Cleveland News*, who states: "GI loans are mostly pipedreams... tougher to get than a three day pass to Paris." He states that although machinery was set up six months ago to "grind out loan guarantees," only 21 GI loans for veterans in Cuyahoga County have been approved. "During the same time more than 200 other discharged veterans have obtained priorities to build new homes in this county without the wide-advertised 'help' of the GI loans."

This is a great hardship on the veterans, who dip into their tiny savings or borrow the money from loan sharks.

NEW YORK

Wednesday Night Forum

May 23 - 8 p. m.

"THE SOVIET UNION AND POST-WAR EUROPE"

Exploding Lies Of The Jew-Baiters

By Dan Shelton

Hitler may be dead—but the poisonous lies of Hitlerism still live and circulate in this country. For example, there are people who say: "It's the Jews who run this country and run us all to the dogs. It's the Jewish bankers and industrialists who own the United States and it's the Jewish newspapers and movies that fool us into believing differently."

Such statements are a pack of lies and there are plenty of facts to show this. Fortune magazine's statistical survey of "Jews in America," conducted in 1937, is but one of many proofs.

The great mass of the four and a half million American Jews (three and a half per cent of the population) is made up of workers.

The myth of the "Jewish banker" is exploded by the following facts. Of 420 bank directors, only 30 are Jews. There are no Jewish directors in the biggest United States banks: National City, Guaranty Trust, Chase and First National. The great investment banking firms such as J. P. Morgan, Dillon Read and Chase—among the real rulers of the United States—are composed of non-Jews. Finally, there are virtually no Jewish employees in the largest commercial banks.

JEWS IN INDUSTRY

A similar situation prevails on the New York Stock Exchange, nerve center of United States economic life. Only 250 out of 1375 members are Jews. Only 55 of 637 firms are listed as Jewish.

In the insurance business, one of the nation's most gigantic enterprises, "the absence of Jews is noteworthy," Fortune remarks.

Jews hold an even more inconspicuous place in heavy industry, the very foundation of United States economic life. They are not to be found in the directing circles of Big Steel or Little Steel or in any other of the nation's basic industries. The automobile industry is non-Jewish in its entirety; there are but three Jews of any prominence in the executive end of manufacturing. In fact, Henry Ford is one of the foremost anti-Semites.

Such giant industrial combines as Koppers Coke and the other 25 leading coal companies are entirely non-Jewish. So is the entire rubber industry, led by Firestone and U. S. Rubber. The chemical industry, with its enormous wartime expansion, is non-Jewish (du Pont, Allied Chemical & Dye, etc.).

More Jews are to be found in the motion picture industry (Warner Bros. and Loew's, Inc.). But even here the majority of owners are non-Jews (20th-Century Fox, Paramount, Universal and most of RKO).

SMALL SHOPKEEPERS

But some misguided worker may say, "Is it not true that in some industries or professions we constantly meet Jews? Does this not prove the point?" This impression is created, according to Fortune, by the fact that "many Jews are to be found in occupations that bring them into direct contact with the consumer-workers." In our daily lives we do not meet the heads of U. S. Steel or the National City Bank, but we do meet the Jewish grocery

man. The real power in the United States, however, is wielded precisely by the magnates of U. S. Steel and not by a little candy-store owner. It is not the thousands of small enterprises that determine economic power, rather it is the few huge monopolistic enterprises which rule us all.

Thus, in retailing, some of the big department stores (especially in New York) are Jewish-owned. But the big Five and Ten chains, such as Woolworth and Kress are 95 per cent gentile-owned. So are Stern Bros., Wanamaker's, Lord & Taylor in New York, and Marshall Field in Chicago. In the food-and-grocery field, 98 per cent of the chains, including A & P, are non-Jewish.

Neither Montgomery Ward nor Sears Roebuck is Jewish-owned, nor are 90 per cent of the drug store chains.

Armed with these undeniable facts, the progressive worker can point them out to his fellow-workers and warn of the poison of anti-Semitic propaganda. But he may well be asked: "If it isn't the Jew who runs this country, who is it?"

BANKERS AND BOSSES

There is only one group that really runs this country—the bosses. It is not the Jewish bankers nor the Jewish industrialists, but ALL the bankers and ALL the industrialists combined who are the rulers, Jews and Christians alike. Their religion should matter as little to us workers as it does to them. Their only god is the dollar, and not Christ or Jehovah. It is profit they worship. And they violate all ten commandments every day to uphold their only commandment, "Phoo shall make more money."

They do this by cutting wages and initiating speed-ups; by establishing monopolies and fixing prices; and by making war to get rid of imperialist rivals and to get fat war profits.

It is the bosses who try to "foo" the workers by telling them about the Jews "running the show." It is the bosses who benefit if they can divide the workers and set Christian against Jew, white against Negro, Irish against Italian.

Hitler, pawn of the Big Bosses, fooled some of the German workers into believing that they could end their troubles by getting rid of the Jews. By now, the German workers have learned the full measure of Hitler's fraud. The Jews have been "gotten rid of" but the bosses have remained to gobble up profits, drive down the workers' living standards and slaughter them in their disastrous imperialist war. Fascist Germany is proof that it is not the Jews who are the workers' real enemies.

Let us not be deceived by these same lies.



Reprinted by courtesy of "338 News."

U. S. Brass Hats Teach A Lesson In Etiquette

By Bill Morgan

Do you know your etiquette? Do you always act like a gentleman or gentlewoman, as the case may be, when confronted with a delicate social situation?

If you want a chance to brush up on the gentle art of manners, consider this example of conduct taken from real life as reported by the May 3 N. Y. Herald-Tribune.

One morning recently some American officers attached to the headquarters of General Patch's 7th Army discovered that they had a German prisoner on their hands. He was none other than Field Marshal Karl Rudolph Gerd von Rundstedt, Prussian aristocrat and commander-in-chief of the German armies on the western front. You can imagine their surprise.

There he stood, surrounded by newspapermen who were pestering him and asking all sorts of questions. And the poor fellow was tired and nervous after a

long drive from his headquarters at Bad Toelz to the American lines.

Not one of the American officers was so rude as to rush out, gun in hand, and yell "Hands up!" or anything like that. Oh, no. These officers were gentlemen, as we shall see, and they know how to deal with prisoners—especially Prussian aristocrats.

The first to act was Major Frank W. Milburn, commander of the 21st Army Corps. He eased the situation at once by inviting the Field Marshal inside for a bit of a chat. And as they entered the headquarters Milburn remarked, "This is not an interrogation or anything like that. I have the utmost respect for your ability as a soldier."

At this point some prisoners might have been stripped of their weapons and searched for documents, handled roughly, and ordered to march to the rear at double-time. But not this prisoner. No, he was in the hands of gentlemen.

Once inside and seated comfortably the Field Marshal was urged to accept some coffee and cognac. His nerves, you know... He accepted the refreshments.

Then, bit embarrassed, he asked for a cigarette. A most reasonable request.

FIELD MARSHAL TALKS

This time Colonel Rinaldo von Brandt of San Antonio, Texas performed the honors. He immediately produced a package of a popular brand of American cigarettes and offered them to the prisoner.

Once again you may wonder why not one of the American officers ordered the prisoner out to dig graves for the burnt, mangled corpses of Hitler's victims. You forgot we are dealing here with officers and gentlemen.

In the quiet, chummy atmosphere of the decent gentlemen,



the Field Marshal relaxed and felt entirely at ease and, for an hour or so, while he sipped his coffee and cognac and smoked his cigarette, he talked with his new friends.

He spoke of the war. Sometimes he spoke sadly. Sometimes he spoke bitterly and at times he was downright whimsical.

"It was amusing when I had my headquarters in Paris, at Versailles. The French said they did not fear air raids because General Eisenhower and I had agreed not to bomb each other's command post," he said, grinning broadly.

(Of course no one mentioned a word about taking the prisoner on a tour of the concentration camps to view the atrocities. Only a cad would bring up such a subject.)

The Field Marshal was immaculate in his trim, grey-green uniform but he apologized for his scanty luggage. "My last uniform," he explained. "Everything I had was destroyed last March when your airforce bombed me out at Bad Nauheim."

Again Milburn stepped into the breach. In a diplomatic effort to take the prisoner's mind off the war he said, "This is beautiful country through here."

(It would have been definitely out of place and a sign of bad manners to suggest that the prisoner be sent to a foreign country as a slave laborer. Happily none of the officers present made this blunder.)

THOUGHTS ON WAR

Completely rested and feeling rather chipper, the Field Marshal again talked of the war. "Aren't you surprised to see the destruction your bombers and artillery have caused?" he asked.

Now it fell upon Brigadier General Ward H. Marks, of Pasadena, Calif., to relieve the prisoner's self-consciousness and to remove any feeling of defeatism which might linger in the Field Marshal's mind. "No, sir," he replied skillfully, "we saw London first."

His morale boosted, the aristocratic prisoner mused, "Mechanized war is not pretty," and he resumed sipping his coffee and cognac.

Not a word was mentioned about putting the prisoner on trial as an enemy of civilization, or hanging him if proved guilty. Not a word. No, indeed! How could anyone suggest such a thing? It would have been poor etiquette!

Why the Duke Left His Post In the Bahamas

In the March 31 issue of the British *New Leader*, George Padmore tells the inside story behind the resignation of the Duke of Windsor from the governorship of the British West Indian colony of the Bahamas. The Duke resigned six months before his term expired from the post that paid 3,000 pounds per annum.

The situation in the Bahamas is typical of all West Indian colonies of the British Empire. A small group of white planters and oil barons exploit the vast majority of the population, the Negro workers at coolie wages and under inhuman working conditions. Through a property qualification of 200 pounds a year and an open ballot the white oligarchy excludes the bulk of the Negro population from representation in the House of Assembly.

This explosive situation came to a head when the government in London granted naval and air bases in the West Indies to the United States at the beginning of the war. American contractors arrived in Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, to recruit laborers for construction work in the outlying islands. The American cost-plus contractors had agreed to offer the Negroes American rates of pay. But after objection from local white employers that such a move would disrupt the prevailing wage structure of the Islands the American offer was withdrawn and wage rates were pruned down to "normal."

On June 1st, 1942, a general strike broke out, accompanied by riots in Nassau. The acting governor ordered out the troops who fired on the people and several Negroes were killed or wounded. The Duke of Windsor who had been vacationing on his ranch in Canada rushed back to the Bahamas.

REFUSE TO BUDGE

So explosive had the situation become that the Duke feared that British rule might be seriously endangered by upsurge of the masses. Concessions had to be made to appease an aroused people. A commission appointed by the Duke brought in recommendations that wages be increased to meet the rising cost of living; that higher taxation be placed on Europeans; that the money derived from taxation should be turned over to a social security fund. Other recommendations dealt with a public works program to relieve unemployment after work on American bases had been completed and tariff reductions to permit the importation of cheaper foodstuffs for the masses.

But the white Bourbons refused to budge an inch. When the Duke brought in the Commission's recommendations, the Assembly flatly rejected them. Then the Duke introduced a Constitutional bill to substitute the secret ballot for open voting. Again the Assembly voted him down. He threatened to invoke the special powers invested in him as Governor, but when the Bourbons threatened to precipitate a political crisis he backed down.

Last December the Duke made another and his final attempt to introduce the secret ballot bill. He warned that if the Assembly persisted further riots and labor disturbances would break out in the Islands for which he would hold them responsible. But the white rulers, backed up by the British Colonial Office, remained adamant and threatened to fire the Duke if he persisted.

The Duke had to resign.

If a Governor belonging to the King's own family could not obtain minor concessions for the people of the Bahamas, it is clear that they will be able to free themselves from British tyranny and capitalist exploitation only by relying upon their own independent forces. In this fight they should receive the warmest sympathy and staunch support from the working class of England and the United States.

TROTSKY'S WARNINGS ABOUT WORLD WAR II

Last week's *Militant* published a few of Trotsky's many warnings to the workers of the dangers of Nazism. In this issue we present more excerpts from Trotsky's writings concerning Hitlerism and the Second World War. Eleven years ago all the demagogues promised the people enduring peace. Using the Marxist method of analyzing history in the making, Trotsky exposed the hidden mainsprings of both the German and Allied masses and warned the workers of the impending slaughter.

"The same causes," said Trotsky in 1934, "inseparable from modern capitalism which brought about the last imperialist war have now reached infinitely greater tension than in the middle of 1914. The fear of the consequences of a new war is the only factor which fetters the will of imperialism. But the efficacy of this brake is limited. The stress of inner contradictions pushes one country after another on the road to fascism which, in its turn, cannot maintain power except by preparing international explosions. All governments fear war. But none of the governments has any freedom of choice. Without a proletarian revolution a new world war is inevitable."

Six years before Roosevelt promised again and again to keep the sons of the fathers and mothers from fighting in any foreign wars, Trotsky foresaw even the main alignments in the coming war.

"Driven by its unbearable contradictions and the consequences of defeat, German capitalism has been forced to tear off the straitjacket of democratic pacifism and now comes forward as the chief threat to the Versailles system. State combinations on the European continent still follow in the main the line of victors and vanquished. Italy occupies the place of a treacherous go-between, ready to sell its friendship at the decisive moment to the stronger side, as she did during the last war." (War and the Fourth International. 1934.)

Fearing the approaching war would upset his bureaucratic grip on the Soviet Union, Stalin sought alliances with the "democracies." In 1938 Trotsky predicted Stalin would soon consummate a pact with Hitler.

"Stalin's next move will be a diplomatic approach to Hitler, and Hitler, in turn, will talk business. But not on the basis of abstractions, shibboleths, or 'principles'—Hitler's principles are as false and phony as Stalin's. Hitler will demand, and Stalin will offer concessions, concrete and tangible." (Socialist Appeal, October 15, 1938.)

After the signing of their pact, common belief held Hitler and Stalin were "twins" who would set out together to conquer the world. Trotsky again warned that reality was different from this superficial view.

"To picture it as if the new western boundary of the USSR were a permanent barrier to Hitler's road eastward violates all proportion... the march eastward presupposes a major war between Germany and the USSR. When the time comes for this war, the question as to what meridian the struggle will begin upon will have only secondary significance." (Article in Liberty, January 27, 1940.)

Foretold Fate of German Imperialism

In the early months of 1940 many commentators talked about the "phony" war and predicted that German armies would not attempt to attack France. Trotsky saw differently.

"As great as may be Hitler's conquests in Europe, they will not solve the problem of German capitalism; on the contrary, they only aggravate it. The Austrian, Czech and Polish industries were added to the German; all of them suffered from narrowness of national borders and lack of raw materials. Further, in order to retain the new territories, a constant tension of military forces is unavoidable. Hitler can capitalize on his European successes only on a world scale. In order to do this he must crush France and England. Hitler cannot stop. Consequently the Allies cannot stop either if they do not wish to commit voluntary suicide." (Interview in St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 14, 1940.)

At the beginning of Hitler's conquests, many politicians imagined he would endure for an unlimited period of time. Trotsky, however, saw no prospect of the stabilization of European capitalism under Hitler.

"In return for the enslavement of the peoples Hitler promises to establish a 'German Peace' in Europe for a period of centuries. An empty mirage! The 'British Peace' after the victory over Napoleon could endure a century—not a thousand years—solely because Britain was the pioneer of a new technology and a progressive system of production. Notwithstanding the strength of her industry, present-day Germany, like her enemies, is the standard bearer of a doomed social system. Hitler's victory would in reality not mean peace but the beginning of a new series of bloody clashes on a world scale... But neither would an Allied triumph result in any more radiant consequences." (Manifesto of the Fourth International on the Imperialist War and the Proletarian Revolution. 1940.)

The German military machine was the most formidable history had seen before the hot-house development of American militarism. Nevertheless Trotsky was able to foresee the hopeless impasse of the German armies.

"I do not believe for a moment, as I have stated, in the actual realization of Hitler's plans concerning a Pax Germanica—that is, world domination. German imperialism arrived too late; its military fury will end in a tremendous catastrophe." (Article in Liberty, January 27, 1940.)

Today many are pessimistic about the future of socialism. They feel that capitalism will be able to maintain itself indefinitely. Trotsky, however, before he was assassinated by an agent of Stalin, looked still further into the future and made the following forecast.

"None of the present governments will survive this war. The programs which are now proclaimed will soon be forgotten just as will their authors. The only program that the ruling classes will maintain is: Save their own skins."

"The capitalist system is in a blind alley. Without an entire reconstruction of the economic system on a European and a world scale our civilization is doomed. The struggle of blind forces and unbridled interests must be replaced by the rule of reason, or plan, of conscious organization." (Interview in St. Louis Post Dispatch, February 14, 1940.)

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Big Business Domination Over The American Press

By Paul Abbott

The labor movement came in for attack at the annual meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers Association in New York April 26. This organization of capitalist publishers believes that the working man should be held down to the grindstone. Consequently it lines up its membership for concerted action whenever it believes labor's militancy is rising.

"In a report on proposed changes to the social security law," declares the N. Y. Herald Tribune, "the publishers were warned that many interests, including government agencies and labor organizations, are advocating proposals that are developing some situations where it could conceivably be more profitable to be unemployed than it would be to work." Decoding the double talk, this means the publishers do not believe the postwar period will provide 60 million jobs. On the contrary, they expect a terrific depression.

Wages, they are convinced, can be forced down to a new bottom. But if demands of the labor movement for social security, for unemployment insurance, etc., succeed in becoming law, then the employers will have difficulty in forcing wages down to the level they hope could otherwise be reached. The bosses would even like to scrap the present inadequate provisions.

The capitalist press, coordinated through such organizations as the ANPA, can be expected to launch concerted propaganda against the progressive "proposals" advocated by "labor organizations."

KEPT PRESS

The meeting of the ANPA reminds us once more that the daily press belongs to the capitalist class, body and soul. In his book, *America's 60 Families*, Ferdinand Lundberg declares: "The journalism of the United States, from top to bottom, is the personal affair — bought and paid for — of the wealthy families. There is little in American journalism today, good or bad, which does not emanate from the family dynasties. The press lords of America are actually to be found among the multimillionaire families."

Lundberg's expose, has never been successfully challenged. "Newspapers as a whole are hostile to organized labor," he continues, "and the public is therefore suspicious of organized labor whenever it moves to implement its rights. Whether the hostility be open or covert it is nevertheless a notorious fact that all the effective efforts of labor to better its precarious economic position are misrepresented by the newspapers. The average newspaper reader believes that labor starts riots, throws bombs, and is the enemy of law and order."

"Misrepresentation of union labor is, indeed, fundamental in all newspapers, almost without exception, and is readily understandable since all gains made by labor, although of indirect benefit to the middle classes and to the farmers as well, are gains made at the expense of reduced dividends and management salaries for the rich families that own or control newspapers... This virtually unbroken coordination of the American press would seem a miracle of coincidence if it were not obvious that the press is owned by the wealthiest families, who must distort and suppress dynamic news to retain political, social and economic power."

LORDS OF JOURNALISM

Lundberg reveals startling facts about the financial lordship over the press. The Morgan family, for instance, holds the controlling strings of *The American Magazine*, *The Country Home*, *Collier's Weekly*, *Woman's Home Companion*, and *The Saturday Review of Literature*. "Perhaps



Child labor has mounted to five millions in the course of the Second World War. The charts show existing state laws—although even these have not been enforced during the war. Above: shown in black are states in which the minimum age for work is under 16; states shown in white have a minimum age of 16. Below the states shown in black have a minimum age of 16 for work during school hours except on farms and in domestic service. Those in white have a minimum of 16 for any kind of work during school hours.

British Puppet Government Slaughters Greek Workers

(Continued from page 1)

armies. This can be proved by quotations from *The Militant*, written when the Partisans still controlled all Greece and were defending themselves against the British in Athens.

The utterly venal and reactionary character of the press under the control of these wealthy families is well illustrated in the case of the nation-wide Hearst chain. "In 1898 it was revealed that six years earlier Hearst had signed contracts with the Southern Pacific Railroad, agreeing for a monthly consideration of \$1,000 not to be unfriendly. And in 1934, to mention a recent instance, the Hearst newspapers began to supply the Hitler press bureaus with American news dispatches for the sizeable consideration of \$400,000 annually... After this arrangement with the Hitler regime the Hearst newspapers began beating the drum for the Third Reich."

Small wonder that workers, beginning to see through the lies of the capitalist press, appreciate *The Militant*! In the face of the most powerful vested interests the world has ever seen, *The Militant* courageously tells the truth. It is financed wholly by the contributions of working-class readers who appreciate its fighting qualities and its role in defending the labor movement from the rascistic Wall Street cliques.

WHAT WE SAID

The Dec. 30 *Militant* predicted: "The Greek revolution will end in a horrible blood-letting if the Stalinists succeed in their designs."

THE MILITANT

The *Militant* warned again on January 6 of Stalinist treachery: "Since the civil war broke out, the Kremlin has not said a word against Churchill's use of force and violence. Moscow did not even withdraw recognition of the Glucksburg dynasty as the official government of Greece. Churchill, Eden and Bevin have all declared that British troops entered Greece with the approval of Moscow. Churchill emphasized

that the civil war was ended."

Pioneer Paragraphs

HOW INDUSTRIALISTS ORGANIZE ANTI-LABOR FASCIST GANGS

(The following introduction to "Fascism—What It Is, How to Fight It," was written in August, 1944, before the court declared a "mistrial" at Washington in the case of the 30 native fascists.)

The writings of Leon Trotsky on Fascism, included in this pamphlet, prove that the present show trial of the Roosevelt administration, far from constituting a fight against Fascism, is merely empty, theatrical bombast.

To really struggle against the organizers of Fascism, that is, those who finance it, control it and set the Fascist movement into motion, one would have to struggle against the Fords, the du Ponts, the Girdlers and Averys. To render really powerless these forces, one must destroy the capitalist system which gives them strength. At a certain stage, when the capitalist plutocrats feel their control, their privileges and rule menaced, when they fear for the capitalist system, they will attempt to set into motion the despairing middle classes against the American people a bloody Fascist dictatorship.

We saw a preview on a minor scale of what Fascism really represents and how and by whom it is organized during the Little Steel Strike in 1937. We saw vigilante gangs made up of pool room

ELECTIONS SHOW FRENCH PEOPLE WANT SOCIALISM

By Albert Goldman

The results of the recent municipal elections in France clearly indicate that the French workers are ready to struggle for a Socialist France. It also indicates that the French workers are still unaware of the fact that the party which they are supporting is the greatest obstacle to the victory of the European masses.

Forty percent of the voters of Paris supported the Stalinists. The industrial suburbs of Paris gave the Stalinist party a solid vote. There can be no explanation for the support the workers of France are giving that party other than that they still believe that this party is a revolutionary party representing the program of socialism for France and Europe.

When one compares the present situation in Europe with the one that existed immediately following the First World War, one can recall both advantages and disadvantages.

The main factor that is unfavorable is that the Soviet Union is now under the control of Stalin who fears a successful revolution in western Europe because that would endanger the rule of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

Whereas in 1918 the workers could count with absolute assurance on help from the Soviet Union, at present the Soviet armies would help the imperialist armies crush the revolution.

Another unfavorable factor is the more aggressive, more powerful and more demagogic apparatus that the Stalinist parties possess in comparison with the Social-Democratic parties in 1918.

The mere fact that the Stalinist parties have the support of the G.P.U. is a terrible danger to the militant workers.

One can say that the "Socialist" Government of Germany did not hesitate to use violence against the workers. Perfectly true. But it is also true that the Social-Democrats had to grant some democratic rights even to their revolutionary opponents. The Stalinists are more ruthless and will not hesitate to eliminate from the scene every militant worker opposed to their policies of betrayal. Right now in France the revolutionists of the Fourth International are hounded more by the Stalinists than by the official government.

FRENCH WORKERS

Upon the shoulders of the French workers rest the responsibility and burden that rested on the shoulders of the German workers in 1918. At that time Germany was the key to the European revolution. It had a wonderfully organized working class with tens of thousands of militants trained in the traditions of revolutionary socialism. Its industry was hardly touched by the war and although food was not plentiful there was enough to satisfy the hunger of the masses.

GERMANY TODAY

On the east of Germany was the Soviet Union. Its Red Army was not powerful and its industries were undeveloped. But its masses under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky were ready to fight and die for the German Revolution as they fought and died for the Russian Revolution.

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TRAILBLAZERS VISIT STEELWORKER AREA

The Trail-blazers have secured a total of 845 subscriptions to date. Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes write on last week's work in the Pittsburgh area.

"Thanks to the advice of a friendly steel worker who subscribed last night, we found a housing project to work in today where the majority of the men are Homestead Steel mill workers."

"It was V-E day and we had (friends of) labor causes it to 'cover up' much that workers should know."

"An elderly Italian steel worker listened to us for a brief moment and launched into an attack against Stalin's betrayal of Lenin's program. He explained how Stalin had abandoned the working class and instead made alliances with capitalist powers. He insisted that the present war could never have begun had Lenin's program not been buried by Stalin. He took The Militant for his son, pointing out that it is the youth who must be educated in the ideas of the class struggle today."

"Those with large families told us that their men had to work three-double shifts a week (16-hours) in the mill to earn enough to cover the necessary expenses. Most of them know that their earnings are due for a sharp slash with approaching curtailment in production. Consequently the lead story on the closing of Wil-low-Run and the editorial: 'No Idle Factories' were in most cases viewed with keen interest."

STEEL WORKERS

"Among the 27 subscribers we got today, 20 we know of are working at the Homestead Mill. The subscribers we get are those workers who are anxious to see what we have to offer as a solution to their fundamental problems. One of them looked through the pages of The Militant with interest and inquired about our successes among the steel workers. He is a man who has obviously been searching for a fighting program and he was concerned with the reception our ideas are getting among his fellow workers. According to his explanation, militancy and the will to fight exists mainly among the younger steel workers. The Steel corporation management, he claims, has tamed many old-timers with a combination of intimidation, small-time bribery and discouragement."

"But the young men have grown up with no illusions and they will lead the struggle. He also remarked that the Corporation which once fought unionism with blood and violence has found it also effective to operate through a union leadership that is 'house-broken', i.e. the Murray machine."

"One steel worker held us in discussion for almost an hour while we explained the program of Trotskyism. We were intrigued from the start by this worker's appreciation of the role of Stalinism. When we had barely outlined our class program, he volunteered the information that he favored the Soviet system for the working-class minus the Stalinist bureaucrats."

"Workers here seem to sense the imperialist nature of the war. They all know the capitalists are growing fabulously wealthy today, and that the whole story of equal sacrifice is a hoax. We have heard a few women express the conviction that 'they' will have another war on their hands when the European war is ended—a class war at home. One woman remarked 'I'm a Communist at heart, aren't you'—and 'I think all working people are at bottom Communists.'

"Another woman whose husband is railroad, expressed interest in PM because it occasionally exposes the corporations and Wall St. politicians. She took The Militant, she said, because PM doesn't answer the question 'What is to be done,' and also because its policy of supporting the some capitalist politicians truth!"

10 Years Ago In The Militant

MAY 18, 1935

TOLEDO—Ending their historic three-week strike in the first pitched battle against General Motors, the Toledo Chevrolet workers voted to accept an increase of four cents per hour and minor concessions, yielding their demand for union recognition.

"Out of this fight," The Militant reported, "has grown a force of militant progressives in the auto unions who have demonstrated conclusively their power and ability."

"Tonight these progressives are planning to get together, to lay out a national program, to organize, train and discipline themselves more thoroughly... The men unanimously pledged themselves to stick in the union, throw out their false leaders, and build the organization toward a fight to the finish with General Motors."

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.—For the third time the Illinois Workers Alliance massed its forces to march on the state capital demanding immediate relief for the starving unemployed.

Governor Horner of Illinois, elected as a "humanitarian friend of the poor," threatened: "Not one cent" for relief until the Assembly voted to increase the state sales tax from two to three per cent, thus throwing the burden of relief upon the underpaid workers.

Fearful of the threatened hunger march, however, some counties were already yielding a measure of relief, while the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission suddenly "discovered" \$1,250,000 of available relief funds.

16,283 Subscriptions Pour Into 'Militant' Office As Campaign Enters Last 2 Weeks

By Reba Aubrey, Campaign Director

During the first eleven weeks of the 13-week Militant Subscription Campaign members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party have secured 16,283 new readers. This is already 163 percent of the original goal of 10,000 new subscriptions to *The Militant*. During the week 1,114 more subscriptions were obtained, which is a little below the average weekly. With only 14 days left to go, a little extra spurt can bring us the margin of subscriptions necessary to double the quota.

FROM THE BRANCHES

Ruth Grayson, New York Trotskyist Youth Group: "With the fire and enthusiasm that is native to youth, the New York Trotskyist Youth Group (although severely handicapped by the loss of our 18-year old males) is nearing its quota of 500 subs. At present we have 420. Our Pace-Setters are Rose Brandt with 49 subs and Ruth Grayson with 117. Our 13-year old Rose is now averaging between eight and 12 subs a week."

Bob Kingsley, Cleveland: "We aim to quadruple our original quota of 200 subs."

A. Field, Minneapolis: "The standing of our two teams is—Go-Getters 431, Sub-Builders 454. Rivalry between these two teams is intense right now, for each team has about the same number of subs to its credit and a continued neck-to-neck pace is anticipated. The St. Paul Branch is certainly turning in its quota and more of subs and there is a great deal of friendly competition between the sub-getters of the two cities."

Jerry Kirk, Detroit: "On V-E day one of the comrades who got off early from the plant rounded up four other comrades (one was in the bathtub, another sound asleep) and went out to sell The Militant headlining revolt in North Italy. They sold 500 subs."

"By very rough figuring I see that during this campaign we have sold directly in the auto factories 440 subs."

"I mentioned that 38 friends are selling subs with us and that six of them joined the Socialist Workers Party. This does not mean that all six joined only as a result of our sub work in this campaign. And so there will be no misunderstanding, let us say that several joined as a result of sub work in this and the last campaign."

Inez Cope, Youngstown: "Enclosed are 66 new subs. We're certainly glad to have such active competition as Cleveland. They have us on our toes."

P. Mertens, St. Paul: "Enclosed please find 20 subs. That brings our total to 183 percent. And three weeks more to go!"

Libby Jones, Buffalo: "We are all sure that the party as a whole, and the Buffalo branch certainly, will make 200 percent by the end of the campaign."

K. Karl, Philadelphia: "Our branch now stands at about 160 percent of its quota, with 62 to go in three weeks to make it 300 subs. We anticipate no difficulty in attaining this or better. And as to Bayonne, well—they'll just have to keep eating our dust."

Ruth Haddon, San Francisco: "We are hoping that these last three weeks of the campaign will see us well over the 500 mark. The national results are wonderful!"

Dorothy Lessing, Newark: "During this campaign we have branched out into workers sections which we never canvassed before. The results in these areas showed us that there are hundreds of workers ready and willing to read The Militant. And by the time our comrades have finished their talk the prospective subscriber has a pretty good idea what kind of a paper The Militant is. His readiness to subscribe is an indication of a desire to see what we have to say on the problems that are confronting him."

Rose Stevens, Seattle: "Because of the difficulty caused by employment conditions plus travel our sub campaign suffers. However, we are happy to report that approximately 50 percent of our subscriptions have been gathered in the city of Tacoma. Our work in Tacoma so far has produced two workers who have stated they will join our party when we establish a branch there in the very near future."

Al Lynn, Los Angeles: "The branches of Los Angeles stand as follows in the campaign—East Side 124 percent, Southside 106 percent, San Pedro 85 percent, West Side 77 percent, Central 54 percent. Our Pace-Setters are: Leo Lusetti of the Socialist Youth Club with 95 subs, Jack Gail with 92 subs, Abe Bors with 78, Julie Miller with 69, and Herb Cappy with 62 subs. Individual competition will probably pick up a little next week as there are 12 comrades at the 50 mark and all of them will be going out during the next three weeks. Every branch but one has a mobilization scheduled so we ought to reach 100 percent by this Sunday."

MILITANT PACE-SETTERS

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

Name	Branch	Subs Sold
Mike Warren	West Side, New York	812
Jerry Kirk	Detroit	346
Paul Kujac	Chicago	270
Doris Hilsen	Akron	227
Howard Mason	Detroit	211
Ernest Drake	Detroit	198
E. Logan	Detroit	184
Joe Simpson	Minneapolis	180
Marion Winters	Brooklyn, New York	178
Fred Kaminsky	Buffalo	172
Jack Wilson	Youngstown	141
K. Kane	Minneapolis	133
Dotty Hill	Brooklyn	132
Dorothy Lessing	Newark	125..
Bill Horton	Detroit	124
Ruth Grayson	N. Y. Trotskyist Youth Group	117
E. Kennedy	Detroit	117
Izzy London	Cleveland	113
Kay O'Brien	Detroit	113
Justine Lang	East Side, New York	112

SCOREBOARD

Branches of the Socialist Workers Party	Quotas	Subs	Percent
Akron	85	443	521
Allentown	50	217	434
Flint	50	169	338
Cleveland	200	506	298
Minneapolis	300	854	285
San Diego	50	116	232
Toledo	250	545	218
Detroit	1000	2129	209
Youngstown	300	627	209
Milwaukee	100	191	191
St. Paul	100	183	183
Rochester	50	86	172
Buffalo	350	550	157
Philadelphia	150	229	153
Reading	75	113	150
New York	2500	3660	146
Bayonne	150	182	121
Chicago	1000	1200	120
San Francisco	350	400	114
Boston	200	218	109
Newark	350	378	108
Seattle	400	408	102
Los Angeles	2000	1661	83
Groups, Members-at-Large and Friends	140	273	195
Eloise Black and Rudy Rhodes, (Trail-Blazers)		845	
TOTAL	10,000	16,283	163

Stalinist Ranks Aid French Trotskyists

The March 17th issue of *La Verite* (*Truth*), organ of the International Communist Party, French section of the Fourth International, has just reached this country. The following is a summary of some of the articles in the paper.

Freedom of the press remains a mockery under the de Gaulle government. The government uses its dictatorial powers over the supply and allocation of news print to foster reactionary newspapers and to discriminate against working class periodicals. New capitalist papers are permitted to appear daily in large format while working class papers are forced to continue in small tabloid size, mostly single sheet. None of these papers conform to the government rule of having appeared illegally in struggle against the German occupation.

DEMANDS OPEN TRIAL
Our party challenges *L'Humanité*, the Stalinist paper, to produce the evidence for its anti-Trotskyist charges before a commission composed of all tendencies of the labor movement and the resistance movement. *L'Humanité* refuses to prove its charges in the open, that will show that it and the Stalinist leaders, by their slanders and their lies are introducing filth into the labor movement."

Some idea of the increasing support received by *Verite* among the workers under difficult conditions of persecution and repression can be gathered from a small item addressed to "The Friends of *La Verite*." In it they state that for every bundle of *Verite*'s that a frightened bureaucrat destroys, innumerable copies are distributed secretly with an infinite variety of ingenious methods by communists, socialists, anarchist and non-party workers. An example is given of one French factory where some workers placed copies of *Verite* on every work bench.



Agents for The Militant report

Dorothy Lessing, Newark: "One young auto worker said he didn't want the paper if it were communistic—he didn't mean Stalinist—but communist. Since he was young and an auto worker and from his talk appeared interested, if not active, in his union, we considered it worthwhile spending a few valuable minutes talking to him. We gave him the paper and while he was glancing at the headlines, articles and columns, we proceeded to tell him our program for putting an end to the class-collaborationist policy of the union leadership and to explain our slogan for independent labor political action. Either the paper itself, or that plus the salesmen's talk convinced him to take the sub though we didn't deny being communistic."

H. Newell of Allentown: "Comrade Fitch sold a sub to a worker in steel who bought the paper on the strength of the recommendation of his buddy. His buddy had shown him the paper in the shop."

Reports from agents in other parts of the country also indicate the ever-widening circle of workers to which The Militant is becoming known.

Ruth Haddon, San Francisco:

"I went out with the East Bay people last Sunday. One of the subscriptions I secured was from a member of the Bakers Union. He immediately recognized the paper, saying: 'Oh, sure, I saw that paper at the San Francisco Labor Temple. Yes, I'll subscribe.' Inez Cope, Youngstown: "We occasionally run into workers and find the person's brother or friend in another district is receiving The Militant. Naturally this stirs discussion and as a result these friends and families get together and discuss articles in The Militant. And wanting to be in the know of it they are eager to subscribe."

"We had a successful May Day meeting with visitors from Akron and New Castle, and, of course, our local friends. We're trying to get New Castle to cooperate with us in this subscription campaign."

"New Castle isn't too far from here so we plan to sell subs there this Saturday. The reception should be good as it was formerly a very militant town. I know when we sold our paper on the streets there about six years ago we sold them like hot cakes, until we were interrupted by the police and politely told to vacate."

GREAT DEMAND

"I want to acknowledge three recent parcels of The History of American Trotskyism for which many thanks. Would it be possible to send over some more *In Defense of Marxism* (by Leon Trotsky) and also *The Struggle for a Proletarian Party*. There is a great demand for both these books, and the material contained in them is of such wonderful value that it seems a pity not to be able to supply them when they are so much needed."

ANOTHER

"Another: 'I expect you have guessed what I—and my friends—want: LITERATURE. Anything you can spare. We are starving for it. We can get some of Lenin, Marx, Engels, etc., but none of Trotsky or anything on the Fourth International. Can you send us any spare copies of the Old Man's (Trotsky's) works, which we are very hard up for over here?'

NO TAXES ON INCOMES

"No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!"

7. A working class answer to capitalist militarism!

Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!

Trade union wages for all workers in the armed forces!

8. Hands off the European and colonial peoples!

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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 oligarchy.

— Leon Trotsky

Walter Held's Fate

Last week *The Militant* reported that Walter Held, a heroic working class fighter against Hitlerism, had disappeared together with his family in the Soviet Union while in transit from Sweden to the United States. His friends believe him a victim of Stalin's secret police, the dreaded GPU.

They fear Stalin took personal revenge on Held because of his investigations in the Moscow frame-up trials. Held uncovered facts that helped expose these trials as monstrous fabrications arranged by Stalin to justify his slaughter of the leaders of the Bolshevik revolution.

The last man to report Walter Held alive was Erlich, well known figure of the Polish labor movement, who shared a cell at Saratov prison with Held. Shortly thereafter, Erlich was executed by the GPU on frame-up charges.

The press has recently been filled with indignation over the fate of 16 leaders of the Polish underground who disappeared in the USSR. The British and American governments have demanded information from the Stalinist bureaucracy as to their fate and are utilizing every ounce of pressure at their disposal to receive a satisfactory answer.

The same press is not concerned, however, over the disappearance of Walter Held, for he opposed the capitalist profit system. Only the labor movement has a direct interest in his fate. It is up to the labor movement to put pressure on the Stalinist officialdom. Why did the GPU seize Walter Held? Let them answer!

Pacific War

With the shift of the war to the lands and waters of eastern Asia, the second phase of World War II is commencing.

In Asia is concentrated more than half the world's population and immense natural riches. The peoples of China and India alone number 835,000,000. In the archipelago of the Netherlands East Indies is crowded another 67,000,000. The Western imperialists freebooted in these lands for two centuries and more. They enslaved the inhabitants and despoiled them of their wealth.

In a succession of swift campaigns after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese imperialists grabbed the Oriental possessions of their Dutch and British rivals and snatched the Philippines from the American imperialists. The losers are now trying to get back what they lost. American imperialism, in conformity with its role of the dominant world power, aims at establishing its own hegemony in Asia against all other rivals or claimants.

This is what the war in the Pacific is really about. It is a war to decide which set of imperialist slave-drivers shall wield the whiplash of colonial servitude and exploitation over the teeming multitudes of Asia.

The Asiatic peoples want their independence. They want to be free from alien domination and exploitation. They don't want to be ruled by any imperialist power, white or yellow. The Koreans have fought as vigorously for their freedom from Japan's yoke as the masses of India and Burma have fought to free themselves from the British yoke. The Indonesians have resisted the Japanese conquerors with the same determined opposition that they displayed toward their Dutch conquerors. The people of the Philippines strove for their independence from American imperialism just as formerly they fought the Spanish Conquistadores and, more lately, the Japanese.

As the war in the Pacific unfolds and Japan's grip is loosened, the millions of colonial slaves in the countries of the East will intensify the struggle to make themselves master in their own house, to free themselves, once and for all, from the chains of imperialist domination. Their cause is just and progressive. Every class-conscious worker must give it his fullest support.

Program For Jobs

Mounting cut-backs portend a most serious situation for the workers. Instead of 60 million jobs promised by the administration last fall, workers and returning veterans face widespread unemployment. For lack of adequate wages, working class families are being squeezed tighter in the vice of sky-rocketing prices and a shrinking income.

The government, however, is doing nothing to relieve the situation. On the contrary, the Washington representatives of Big Business are maintaining the wage freeze, permitting and even encouraging the closing down of plants, and passing regulations to ensure monopoly profits.

Great concern over this grave situation is evident in the labor movement. At Detroit, for instance, 40 presidents of (CIO) United Automobile Workers Union locals met last week to consider ways and means of protecting labor's interests.

They represented more than 400,000 workers, the bulk of the Detroit industrial area.

They agreed to begin a campaign for 48 hour pay for the 40 hour week to which plants are being cut. An excellent step forward! But every thinking worker must feel that this alone cannot possibly solve the growing crisis. It is only a beginning. Jobs must be provided for tens of millions of workers. Wages throughout the country must be increased to meet the rising cost of living.

What to do?

First of all, the government-built plants must be kept in full operation. Those that have been producing war goods should be converted immediately to the production of peace-time products. The present scarcity of essential goods that still afflicts us with rationing and price-gouging must be eliminated. No idle factories so long as anyone is without work!

Next, these plants must be placed under the control of the workers. Big Business sabotages production, fights to increase profits no matter what suffering it may impose on the majority of the population. Workers control is the only effective means of safeguarding labor's welfare against the self-seeking designs of the capitalists.

Third, a sliding scale of hours must be adopted. By taking the total number of labor hours available and dividing it by the total number of men in need of jobs, the day's work can be shortened so as to take care of everyone. This spread of work must be accompanied, naturally, by no reduction in weekly pay which during wartime has never kept up with soaring prices.

If organized labor fails to adopt and fight for such a program, a post-war depression far worse than the depression of 1929-33 will inevitably paralyze the nation.

Withdraw The Troops!

Germany has been defeated and is now in process of being completely disarmed by the Allied victors. Yet the American imperialists have declared their intention to keep large military forces in Europe for an indefinite period of time. In addition to the regular troops, an American air force requiring ground crews numbering between 75,000 and 100,000 men is to be maintained on the Continent. Why?

Press reports tell of American soldiers in Europe anxiously calculating the number of their service points in the hope that they have qualified for discharge and will be sent home. Sickened by war's agony, they want to get out of the army and back to normal civilian life. But although the fighting has ended, large numbers of them are to be kept in uniform and must endure continued separation from their homes and families. Why?

The imperialists make no secret of their reasons for keeping large military forces in Europe and the purposes for which they will be used. As the Associated Press reported on the very day of Germany's surrender, they are to be used to "maintain order."

Against whom? Obviously against the peoples of Europe, above all the workers, who are manifesting a growing determination to put an end to the capitalist system which has plunged them into the unspeakable horror of two world wars.

The imperialists, however, have their own plans for the tortured people of Europe. They know that the socialist revolution, beginning in any one country, would sweep across the whole continent and set afire colonial revolt in Asia, in Latin America and in Africa. The entire world system of capitalist exploitation would be imperiled.

And so they intend, if they can, to preserve European capitalism by armed force. The Atlantic Charter promised freedom from want. But wherever the hungry masses rise up to demand food, the imperialists intend to suppress them. Wherever as in Greece and Belgium the masses attempt to overthrow the reactionary military, police and monarchist regimes imposed on them by the Allies, and move in the direction of a socialist future, they will be shot down.

It is for this that American soldiers are to be kept in Europe, separated from their homes and loved ones. The great majority of these soldiers are part of the American working-class. The American labor movement must not permit the government of the Wall Street bandits to use them for carrying out the nefarious purposes of the imperialists. From the ranks of organized labor the cry must go up:

Hands off the European revolution!

Withdraw all American troops from Europe!

That Old Familiar Feeling



Reprinted from "Spicer Unit News."

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.

Must Newark Be A Slum City?

Editor:

A report submitted to the city Commission by Newark's Planning Board reveals the deplorable housing conditions in the City, without offering any solution to the problem.

The Planning Board shows that there are 38,413 substandard dwellings, housing one-third of the city's population. Newark requires 55,000 new dwelling units and the modernization of 22,000 more, at an estimated cost of \$300,000,000 over a period of 25 years!

How are these houses to be built? Presumably, by a combination of public housing, subdivisions, and private enterprise. Why should private capital, having refused in the past to invest in new housing and renovation in Newark, do so in the future? No convincing reason is offered.

Much of the real estate in Newark is owned by huge corporations such as Prudential Insurance Co., Public Serv., Building and Loan Associations, etc. They have no interest in improving the housing conditions in the city. They are solely interested in reaping profits with the least possible expenditures or improvements.

These same corporations use their influence to see that Commissioners are elected to the City Commission who will aid the Corporations in keeping these slums in existence. It is more profitable to have slums, so there are slums. What do they care about us living in dark, damp, dirty hovels, where the sun can never shine? It is our children who will get T.B., not theirs.

Newark needs low-cost housing, which can only be obtained by subsidies from the Federal Government. The Government which has spent so much money on the war for destructive purposes, should surely be willing to spend a few million dollars for decent houses in Newark.

Is Newark an example of the much talked about "American Way of Life," where one-third of the city's population lives in sub-standard dwellings?

Joe Ford
Newark, N. J.

Fascist Poison

Editor:

The following is information on developing fascist activities. The April 25 *Eastside Journal*, a community paper of the eastside section of Los Angeles, prints information evidently given by Jewish workers employed at the Naval Drydocks, Terminal Island. Leaflets of anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, anti-Oakie type have been appearing with increasing frequency on the bulletin boards at the drydocks. Workers have been complaining to the Naval brass about this situation, and the complaints are ignored.

Several weeks prior to April 25 a group of CIO workers formed a committee to stop this fascist propaganda. Three leaders of this committee were Bronson

Parrett, William Rosenthal, and Charles G. Greenwood Jr. When an anti-Semitic leaflet appeared in the following days, Rosenthal appeared before the Naval brass hats, and was promised action. Then the committee removed the anti-Semitic bulletins from the boards.

A few days after Rosenthal was fired from his job, Parrett was also fired, and Greenwood was given a warning notice and his occupational deferment reconsidered. Thus the Navy and the government give support to the fascists.

In addition there have been increasing physical attacks upon Jews in the Boyle Heights, section of L. A. by young hoodlums. A letter has been sent by Jewish leaders of Boyle Heights to Mayor Bowron, but nothing has yet been done.

L. T.
Los Angeles

"Liberated" Italians

Editor:

I just had a letter from my sister dated March 19th, 1945. She lives in central Italy in a town that was occupied by the Allies only a short time ago. The conditions she describes are unspeakable and filled me with anger at those who brought my folks to such conditions.

She relates that as the armies approached the town they took to the hills with all of the other inhabitants of the town. In the woods they "lived like animals on

QUESTION BOX

Q: What is the extent of the J. P. Morgan holdings?

A: According to Ferdinand Lundberg in "America's Sixty Families," published in 1938, the Morgan family and partners (including eight leading executives)

controlled a fortune of nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars—\$728,000,000. Huge profits in the Second World War have unquestionably swelled this over a billion.

Q: How many strikes were there in the United States during the first World War?

A: The total number of strikes during 1917 and 1918 was 3,976, of which 30 lasted over 200 days. The Department of Labor reported 388 strikes during the 19 months of American participation in the war in basic war industries alone.

Q: How many government-owned plants are there in the United States which could provide post-war jobs if they continued to operate?

A: The government owns 96 per cent of the magnesium producing facilities; 90 per cent of the shipbuilding; 90 per cent of the aircraft; 70 per cent of the machine tool facilities, and 10 per cent of the steel-production industry.

C. Peters
Youngstown, O.

The Bigger the War -- The Greater the Profits

So you've been told that your plant is going to shut down? So you're going to have to take your hundred dollars worth of war bonds and cash them in—with interest—to feed your family while you're being "reconverted?" Well, if you think you've got it tough, look at what the big corporations have to put up with!

C. M. Reckert, in the financial section of the *N. Y. Times*, May 7, tells us mournfully that "corporate profits were not so impressive" in 1944. It seems according to him that a survey of 857 leading manufacturing companies shows they made net profits, after all taxes, of \$2,763,171,176 in 1944. This was—horror!—"only 4 per cent better than the \$2,658,634,842 net for the same companies the year before." Imagine, "only" 4 per cent more than the record take of 1943, which was double that in 1939!

Some of the dollar patriots did a little better than that. Sixteen automobile companies raised their take 11 per cent in 1944 over 1943, from \$201,409,923 to \$223,073,582. A group of 27 oil companies shot their net up 25 per cent in one year, from \$462,512,436 to \$579,568,388.

Now, to workers struggling along on \$20, \$30 or \$40 a week with prices soaring higher daily that might seem pretty fair profits for the industrialists. But consider, says Reckert, how "high taxes, operating costs and wages and manpower problems . . . reduced profit margins." Just think what the employers could have made if they didn't have to pay some taxes and wages!

Of course, Reckert concedes, there were some rays of sunshine in this gloomy scene. "The war, however, has provided many industries with stabilized and profitable business, enabling many corporations to strengthen working capital, reduce debts and eliminate divided arrears. . . Most of these companies have set up contingency reserves to meet post-war adjustments."

Still, it's not like the good old times, when a concern "might operate fairly profitably on a 40 to 50 per cent capacity," says Reckert. What the corporations want is to be able to fire half the workers and still clean up.

Government Takes Good Care of Big Corporations

If Big Business is not too overwrought at the prospect of war production cutbacks and long lines of unemployed, there is good reason, explains Ralph Hendershot, financial editor of the *N. Y. World-Telegram*.

"Despite high taxes and close pricing on war goods," he wrote on May 1, "most corporations will emerge from this war period in much better financial condition than was thought possible a year or so ago.

"For one reason these companies have been very conservative in their dividend disbursements, preferring rather to set aside heavy reserves each year out of earnings for postwar emergencies."

Moreover, "the heavy depreciation allowances on plants and machinery" for war use "have given these companies an important lift." At 20 per cent a year allowance, most of the companies will have received plants from the government free of charge.

Also, "substantial credits have been rolled up through excess-profits tax levies. These funds will come in handy in the reconversion period." Mighty handy for the plutocrats to roll at luxury resorts, while workers are out on the street.

German Workers Were Main Victims of Atrocities

After 12 years of the known existence of the Nazi "horror camps," the Allied propagandists have suddenly unleashed a frenzied campaign of "exposure" in an attempt to place responsibility for these atrocities on the whole German people.

By telling a half-truth, however, this propaganda perpetrates an enormous lie. It carefully conceals the fact that these atrocities were directed first and foremost against the German masses themselves.

Walker Stone, writing in the *New York World-Telegram*, May 10, reports that these camps contained no American and British prisoners of war. At Buchenwald and Dachau, "there were thousands of GERMAN citizens, whose only crime was resisting the Nazi political machine." And there were WORKERS, slave labor, of all nationalities, "the corpses of GERMANS, Austrians, Poles, Russians, Hungarians, Czechs," etc.

Reporting an interview with 15 American newspapermen, the *New York Post*, May 8, stated: "M. E. Walter, managing editor of the *Houston Chronicle*, however wanted to assure parents and wives of American soldiers that prisoners-of-war, generally, were not subjected to the atrocities they witnessed at Buch