

**HEAR FARRELL DOBBS**  
Trotzkyist Candidate for Mayor of N. Y.  
Speak on  
"The Issues In This Campaign"  
Station WHON, Oct. 6, 6 P. M.

# THE MILITANT

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## Indo-Chinese Battle Imperialist Despots

Hands Off Indo-China!



By Joseph Hansen

American troops are being used against the Indo-Chinese movement for independence. Sent in by air, they broke up a demonstration on September 12 of Annamese Nationalists in Hanoi. They ordered Annamese leaders to release arrested local representatives of the French despots. In subsequent fighting, American troops inflicted casualties among the fighters for independence. An American officer in turn was killed and others wounded.

Salgon continues "under a virtual state of siege, with Annamese firing from places of concealment at French, British and Americans," according to press reports. The "American army transport personnel was summoned from an airfield to help 'guard' a hotel held by Allied troops.

The American forces are fighting in Indo-China, because, "we are committed," as CBS Correspondent Bill Downs puts it, "to returning the old French colonial regime to Indo-China."

### MARTIAL LAW

On September 20, the British Army declared martial law throughout south Indo-China "in a move to head off a threatened uprising by anti-French nationalists." The British commander forbade anyone outside of Allied forces to carry arms and decreed the death penalty for "looters" and "saboteurs," the Allied labels for strikers and revolutionaries.

The French despots said they had "intended to grant independence to Indo-China," but the wide-spread character of the independence movement had for the present "made that impossible." This lying propaganda (Continued on Page 3)

## Zionist Protest Mass Rally Held In New York City

By Ben Joseph

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—A protest mass meeting of the Jews of New York, sponsored by The American Zionist Emergency Council, was held tonight at Madison Square Garden. An overflow crowd filled the 25,000 seating capacity Garden and left 30,000 outside on the streets.

Though the meeting was called for 8 p.m., doors of the Garden were closed at 6:30. The crowd stood outside for almost three hours on a chilly September evening, listening to the loud speakers. The meeting was called to protest against the British Labor Government's announced intention of continuing in effect Chamberlain's White Paper.

But the expectant crowd was only to hear repeated the old shibboleths, the self-same pro-

gram of placing faith in the imperialists in the hope that they would find in "their good hearts" room for the solution to the Jewish problem. Despite the record of British imperialism, Stephen Wise said that he "still has hope" in England. Abba H. Silver, Wise's co-chairman of the Emergency Council, proposed that England return the mandate to the League of Nations—now long defunct. Then he pleaded with the United Nations to help the Jewish people, just as the Jews helped them to win the war.

All of the speakers looked to America and to President Truman as their savior, their new-found white hope who would make England understand that we did after all fight the war for "Four Freedoms." No one made any mention of American imperialism's interests in the question of Palestine and the Middle East.

### BRITISH POLICY

British imperialist policy, expressed in the White Paper of May, 1939, limited Jewish immigration to Palestine to 75,000 between May 1939 and May 1944. After this time all Jewish immigration was to be curtailed. Despite the trickle of immigration which has entered since the 1944 deadline, the broad and fundamental aims of the White Paper were carried out by the Churchill government and are now being carried out by the Attlee Labor government.

The reports on the situation of the Jews in Europe tell a tale of devastation and horror. Now, three months after the "libera-

tion" of Germany, we read a report written by Earl G. Harrison, President Truman's emissary. He tells us that large numbers of Jewish "displaced" persons (victims of Nazi concentration camps) are still to be found in these camps 3

(Continued on Page 2)

## Socialist Workers Party Protests Use Of U. S. Troops In Indo-China

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party, today sent the following telegram to President Truman:

"United Press dispatch dated September 16 reports that American troops have intervened in the struggle of the Indo-Chinese people for freedom from the oppressive rule of French imperialism and that United States troops in Hanoi broke up a demonstration by Annamese demanding the independence of their country. In Saigon, British and French troops in collaboration with the Japanese garrison are reported shooting down the Indo-Chinese people.

"The Socialist Workers Party protests vigorously against these Allied attempts to suppress the independence movement of the Indo-Chinese people and to deny them the freedom which the United States and other Allied Powers promised to all peoples in the Atlantic Charter. We request from you, Mr. President, a public assurance that the armed forces of the United States will not henceforth be used to oppose and frustrate the just demand of the people of Indo-China for full freedom and independence."

## Louise Simpson Answers A Republican Slanderer

NEW YORK, Sept. 26.—Louise Simpson, Trotskyist candidate for City Council, today answered the slanderous attack of a Republican "bigwig" which appeared in the Sept. 22 *Amsterdam News*. The Republican "bigwig," one Edgar Brown, alleged that the Trotskyist candidate sat "mute" during an "interview" and refused to divulge her views on the five-cent fare and related matters. Brown's propaganda was headlined as "Profiles of Women Candidates for City Council of New York."

In an indignant letter of protest to the *Amsterdam News*, Louise Simpson declared: "Mr. Brown is guilty of perpetrating a shabby hoax. Under the guise of being interested in 'interviewing' me as a Negro candidate, he has disclosed that his sole interest was that of serving the Republican Party, a party which shares equally with the Democrats, the odious responsibility of preserving and perpetuating the present system of exploitation and oppression of my people."

Louise Simpson then related what happened at the "interview." "Mr. Thomas, organizer of Local New York of the Socialist Workers Party, and I met with Mr. Brown. When I asked who he was he simply replied, 'Mr. Brown.' I told him I was unacquainted with the name and asked whom he represented. At this point he yelled he was Mr. Edgar Brown, whipped out a pencil and pad and screeched, 'What do you think of the five-cent fare?'"

"From his hysterical actions," (Continued on Page 6)

### Slugged By Police

One of the Detroit unionists is carried away by his comrades after police swung their clubs. His "crime" was picketing against America's native fascists.



## 1,000 Detroit Workers Picket Fascist Meeting

### POLICE USE CLUBS IN BRUTAL ATTACK ON ANTI-FASCISTS

By Kay O'Brien

DETROIT, Sept. 28.—Detroit workers, servicemen and war veterans gave a fitting reception last night to America's Number One Fascist, the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, by staging a mass picket line before the doors of Northern High School where Smith addressed an America First meeting.

Over a thousand pickets responded to the last-minute call sent out by the Wayne County CIO Council, which sponsored the demonstration, and a still larger number of persons filled the narrow sidewalks and streets surrounding the school, to express their grim hatred of the anti-labor, anti-Negro, anti-Jewish poison which Smith is attempting to spread by means of his America First organization.

### POLICE PROTECT FASCISTS

Three hundred and fifty police, headed in person by Detroit Police Commissioner Ballenger, were called out to protect the fascists from the wrath of the demonstrators. Patrol cars rushed to the scene where gas masks and sawed-off shot guns were distributed to the cops. In a nearby parking lot, partially concealed, stood a large squad of mounted police, ready to charge the crowd. Police "commandos," armed and helmeted, were on hand in trucks parked around the corner. A special police mobilization order, "MO-1," placing every precinct in the city on the alert and redistributing police to strategic locations, remained in effect for fifty minutes.

As Smith's fascist supporters arrived, they were courteously escorted through a police cordon to the school doorway. Anti-fascists, on the other hand, were freely and viciously clubbed as the police attempted to push them back and keep them in two separate picket lines on

(Continued on Page 7)

## NEW YORK LABOR SHOWS POWER IN BACKING ELEVATOR STRIKE

Bulletin

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—Officials of Locals 32B and 164 of the Building Service Employees Union, AFL, ordered the strikers back to work today after accepting a proposal made by Governor Dewey to submit the union's demands to arbitration.

### Hard Work And Brains

At the age of 28, Henry Ford II last week was made president of the billion-dollar Ford Motor Company after his grandfather, Henry Ford, resigned the post with a letter to the company's board saying, "May I recommend to the board that it consider the appointment of my grandson, Henry Ford II, as my successor?"

### Job "Opportunities"

More than half of the 62,000 jobs listed by the U. S. Employment Service as available to New York City's 200,000 laid-off workers "are the kind that have gone begging for years," says a statement of the Greater New York CIO Council on September 18. A CIO survey revealed 57 per cent of the jobs offered pay only from \$16 to \$29.60 a week.

### Investment Counselors

Protesting against American "outright intervention" in China, the *Stalinist Daily Worker*, September 15, editorialized that only a "democratic and united" China "will get real investments from our big capitalists... they will not venture to invest in a country where Chiang's rule has to be upheld by American bayonets against the masses."

### One-Man World

President Truman on September 23 told reporters that he would take "full responsibility" for the future development of the atom bomb and "emphasized that he would make the decision on Administration policy on the bomb and atomic energy when the time came—that he would have to make it." (N. Y. Times, Sept. 24.)

### Not Enough Butchery

The Army newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, on September 24 quoted Fleet Admiral Halsey as saying the war "ended too soon because there are too many Nips left."

### Smothered In Oil

The final draft of the new Anglo-American oil agreement, negotiated last week, eliminated a clause in the original agreement which said that the world's "ample supplies of petroleum" should be made available "in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter."

### By Bill Morgan

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—This huge nerve center of American capitalism has been almost paralyzed since Monday by a strike of 15,000 AFL elevator operators backed by a million and a half workers who are refusing to cross picket lines or walk up stairs.

In a demonstration of labor power and solidarity seldom equaled in this country, hundreds of thousands of garment workers, furriers, truck drivers, office workers have rallied in support of the militant elevator strikers, whose fighting refusal to accept

starvation wages and intolerable hours is beating the howling really interests and big landlords to their knees.

The bosses have been raging and impatient. At one blow by a group of determined workers in this city of skyscrapers, half of Manhattan's industries and most of its offices have been tied up. The only way the fat bosses themselves can get to their swank offices is by the "auto-ped" route—up the stairs on falling arches and bunions. Not many have made it past the fourth floor.

**PARALYZE GARMENT AREA**  
Over 2,000 business buildings (Continued on Page 2)

## House Buries Jobless Bills In Vicious Attack On Labor

By Art Preis

In a savage strikebreaking thrust at American labor, the House of Representatives' powerful Ways and Means Committee on September 25 "indefinitely postponed" all bills relating to unemployment compensation, with the admission that "the strike feature was the deciding factor."

Thus, the Ways and Means Committee struck a death blow at the measure from which the Senate already had amputated the most vital provision, for a \$25 weekly maximum unemployment allowance.

The House Committee's final action, however, was preceded by an 18 to 6 vote of the committee against the Forand bill, House counterpart of the Senate's Kilgore measure, which called for the \$25 provision. The committee wanted to make sure that its attitude on providing even the miserable \$25 maximum was made clear.

### WHY BILL WAS KILLED

According to Representative Knutsen, a member of the House committee, the motion that "further consideration of the jobless bill passed by the Senate and related House bills be indefinitely postponed" was passed because the committee "needed more concrete information as to what the unemployment situation is," and specifically because day he held a secret conference

"we must wait until the strikers get back to work and the hundreds of thousands of jobs crying for workers have been filled."

These brutal and cynical words reveal that the whole intent of Congress is to impose starvation conditions on the unemployed and on striking workers and to force them into jobs at any wages and under any conditions. It is the hunger, wage-slashing and strikebreaking program of Wall Street and the open shoppers.

Truman, whose secret memorandum to the Senate Finance Committee paved the way for killing the \$25 provision, had been laying low on the issue he said was "must" legislation. But after the House committee refused to act on the bill even in emasculated form, Truman was compelled to make a pretense of opposition, if only to save face with the embittered workers.

### TRUMAN'S DOUBLETALK

First he insisted on September 26 in a press conference "that he did not know that it had been killed," and when told it had at least been "shelved" he said "that he was sorry that such action had been taken, if it had been taken." (N. Y. Times, Sept. 27.)

This attempt to deny the patent facts—"if it had been taken"—was so lame that the next day he held a secret conference

with members of the House Ways and Means Committee, after which his Press Secretary claimed "the President spoke vigorously... He said the Senate let him down and he expected the House not to do so."

### RELIEF FOR GREEDY

But the House has other business to take up—how to provide more "relief for the greedy," the war-fattened profiteers. Chairman Doughton of the Ways and Means Committee announced: "I don't see how we can break off consideration of the tax bill to take anything up again."

The committee, after denying improved unemployment compensation to the millions of unemployed, is going directly into consideration of a bill to reduce taxes on corporation profits and add more tax refunds to the billions already being poured from the public treasury into the coffers of the big corporations.

### ON THE INSIDE

Westinghouse Pittsburgh Strike 2  
Allied Rule in Germany 3  
Camden Shipyard Strike 3  
COLUMNS AND FEATURES  
Trade Union Notes 2  
Veterans Problems 3  
Workers Forum 4  
Pioneer Notes 5  
The Negro Struggle 7  
Diary of Steelworker 8  
Shoptalks on Socialism 8

## Harlem Ghetto Arrest Protested By SWP

NEW YORK, Sept. 27.—The New York Local of the Socialist Workers Party is protesting the arrest of Ruth Lanahan, a member of the Workers Party, for distributing election campaign literature in the Harlem area. When arrested Miss Lanahan was informed by the police officer that Harlem is a "restricted area."

In defiance of the police campaign to "keep whites out of Harlem" members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party will conduct the third of a series of weekly street sales of anti-Jim Crow pamphlets, Saturday evening, September 29, in the Harlem area.

Over two thousand copies of council.

the popular pamphlet "A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow" have been sold in the past few weeks. In addition to its street sales campaign against the police attempt to build a ghetto wall around Harlem, the Socialist Workers Party is announcing the formal opening of a Harlem branch at 103 West 110th Street, Room 23.

### OPEN HARLEM BRANCH

The new SWP headquarters on the corner of 110th Street and Lenox Avenue, will be used during the municipal election campaign as the Harlem headquarters for the Trotskyist candidates, Farrell Dobbs for mayor and Louise Simpson for city



# Westinghouse "White Collar" Workers Demonstrate Militant Methods Of Labor Struggle In Strike

Special to THE MILITANT

By Eloise Black

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 24. — Sixty-five hundred striking "white collar" workers of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation have held production at a standstill at the company's huge East Pittsburgh plant here since their walkout began September 10.

The strike was called when the salaried workers' union failed in a two-year attempt to force the corporation or the War Labor Board to consider its demands for pay increases to meet rising living costs.

According to officers of the Association of Westinghouse Salaried Employees, the WLB has had the case of Westinghouse salaried workers on its books since October 1944. Not until a strike vote of the AWSE membership indicated that the "white collar" workers were prepared to fight did the Board take action on the case. On September 9, at the balloting on the strike proposal, the AWSE is reported to have been turned down.

## STRIKE RANKS SOLID

With the strike now entering its 14th day, it appears that Westinghouse is banking on the theory that "white collar" workers, new to the fighting methods of organized industrial labor, will sooner or later break ranks and drift back to work. To date, however, the strikers have exhibited an inspiring resistance to the provocations, misrepresentations and slanders circulated by corporation interests.

A back-to-work order issued by the WLB on the second day of the strike failed to induce a single salaried worker back into the plant. They know they are in for a hard fight when they buck the powerful Westinghouse Corporation, but the union leaders took the precaution to warn the membership in the beginning that it would take time and sacrifice to bring Westinghouse to terms.

Added to the company-inspired attack on these "white collar" strikers is a needling assault against their union led by the Stalinist heads of Local 601, CIO United Electric, Radio and Machine Workers of America, union of Westinghouse production workers. A genuine sentiment among the strikers for an organization embracing all Westinghouse workers is stymied by the stupid campaign of the Stalinists against the AWSE.

## STALINIST NEEDLING

Their charges that the union of the salaried workers is company dominated are hotly denied by AWSE members, who point out that it was the Stalinist UE leadership who saddled Westinghouse workers with the "no-strike" pledge during the war. The current drive of Local 601 to recruit the white collar workers away from the AWSE is resented by the strikers at a time when their union is engaged in battle with a powerful corporation.

## NEW DEVELOPMENT

Something new is developing here in the action of these thousands of "white collar" workers. Not only have they built a union that employs the weapon of industrial labor, but their picket lines are manned by a strata of workers to whom united action is a brand new experience. The pickets who parade before the gates of Westinghouse Electric in East Pittsburgh include engineers, typists, draughtsmen, and file clerks.

If the "white-collar" strikers emerge as winners in this contest, the organization of salaried workers throughout the country will receive a tremendous advance, and the efforts of the capitalists to maintain an artificial distinction between "hand workers" and "brain workers" will be dealt a heavy blow.

## Fighting The Oil Barons For 30% Raise



Striking oil workers picket the huge Socony-Vacuum refinery near East Chicago, Ind., in the national battle of the CIO Oil Workers for a 40-hour week with no reduction in take-home pay.

## Extension Of Oil Walkout Authorized By Union Board

CHICAGO, Sept. 27. — Some 220,000 more oil workers nationally may join the 35,000 already on strike in eight states if the CIO Oil Workers Union fails to get agreement from the major oil companies to an industry-wide wage increase of 30 per cent.

That was indicated today when officials of the union, meeting with federal conciliators here, announced that the OIUW-CIO international executive board has authorized such a national walkout in the event the demands of the union are not secured in present negotiations.

The militant oil workers, in a spreading walkout, are spearheading the fight of millions of CIO workers in a dozen industries to win a 40-hour week or less with no reduction in take-home pay.

Government conciliators of the Department of Labor, sent by Labor Secretary Schwelbensch, have so far failed to budge the

determined oil workers from their stand that they will take nothing less than the full increase they demand.

## GOVERNMENT PRESSURE

Increasing pressure was being brought to bear by the government to coerce the oil workers into halting their effective strike action and permitting their just demands to be dealt with in the well-known fashion made notorious by such government arbitration and conciliation agencies as the WLB. Schwelbensch has ordered the union leaders to Washington where the heat can be put on them more effectively.

No sooner did the union threaten serious strike action, than the big oil companies, which have made monumental profits during the war, hastened to stem the struggle for a full 30 per cent raise to compensate for reduced hours by offering 15 and in some instances 20 per cent increases.

## HOLD FIRE

Union officials here declared today that they would consider nothing less than their original demand, which the workers must win if they are not to suffer a big slash in weekly earnings and

driver who parked his huge semi-trailer across the service entrance.

"Look at the place," she said with pride. "Not one office worker over the fifth floor. We got it tied up tight. And do you know more people work in this building than live in many whole towns in this country. And we girls closed it down in ten minutes! If we can run a place this big don't you think we should get more than twenty-four bucks a week?"

One of the tallest structures in the world is at 40 Wall Street. On the sidewalk the pickets looked up and said, "I've worked here six years and the boss never gave me anything but a growl until we walked out. Now he is sure anxious to get us back. I guess Shakespeare was right when he said, 'Absence makes the heart grow fonder.' Why this morning the boss came by and offered to buy us coffee and a drink, if we wanted. . . . We said 'Thanks but the union's going to get us pork chops from now on. . . . That stopped him.'"

## NOTHING RUNS

Uptown on Fifth Avenue, in the lobby of the tallest building in the world, the Empire State Building, loose newspapers and cigarette butts lay scattered about, swirling in the draft that blew about as in an abandoned house. The observation tower office was closed and all the elevator floor-indicators were frozen at zero. In the entrances union shop-stewards kept their sharp eyes on the managers and superintendents to make sure nothing ran. Idle crowds walked by looking upwards toward the 102nd floor where life was completely absent.

"Fifteen thousand people a day went in and out of this place before we walked out," said Betty, one of the pickets at the Fifth Avenue entrance, "and now nobody but a few dopes who want to bust their blood vessels climbing stairs can get in or out."

In front of almost every building teamsters, furriers, garment workers of every trade and occupation stopped to cheer the building service workers and offer their support. "Go to it boys!" shouted one woman worker from a needle trades shop. "If you don't take what's coming to you now you'll never get it!"

which the oil barons can more than afford to pay.

In a statement published in the current issue of the CIO International Oil Worker, the union's official organ, its president, O. A. Knight, points out that the "oil companies enjoy the lowest labor cost of any major industry. They could double their wage scales without seriously inconveniencing stockholders."

## UMW Local 2399 Takes Action On Patterson Case

The Militant this week received a communication from Joseph Zibrida, recording secretary of United Mine Workers Local 2399, Dalsytown, Pa., describing the action being taken by the local on behalf of its member, William Patterson, now serving six months' imprisonment as the first victim of the Smith-Connally anti-strike act.

In the letter, the Local 2399 representative writes: "At the request of your reporter, the following information is given you to publish about what this local union is doing to help free William Patterson.

## RESOLUTION SENT

"A resolution was sent to President Truman asking him to free Patterson under a full pardon. An attorney was also hired to help him out in this matter.

"The members and officers also see that he gets his pay semi-monthly the same as when he worked at the mine. Collections are had at the pay windows at different times to keep this fund up to care for his family."

The Militant in a series of exclusive stories, last June exposed the facts about how the government and coal operators railroaded Patterson to prison.

## Urge N. Y. Police To Solve Murder Of Carlo Tresca

New York City's new Police Commissioner, Arthur W. Wampler, was urged to "make an intensive new investigation of the Tresca murder one of the first orders of business after he takes office," in a resolution adopted last week by the national executive committee of the Socialist Party.

District Attorney Frank S. Hogan was challenged in the same resolution to demonstrate that his office is doing something about apprehending the slayers of Carlo Tresca.

More than two years and eight months have passed since the murder of the editor of the Italian anti-fascist weekly, Il Martello. Universally recognized as a political murder, it remains unsolved. Attempts to get the FBI into the case have been balked by chief Edgar J. Hoover's refusal to enter it unless invited by the district attorney, while the latter refuses to do so.

"So long as any political murder in this country remains unpunished," said the resolution, "no individual within its boundaries expressing outspoken political views will be safe."

Tresca was bitterly hated by both the fascists and the Stalinists. The latest suspect was Vito Genovese, extradited from Italy and returned here in June on a 1934 murder charge. Genovese arranged Tresca's

# TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

## The "Inside-Dope" Boys

Now comes the flood of employer-inspired propaganda about how the CIO auto workers don't want to strike but are just being pushed and shoved and hornswoggled into it by this or that small faction inside the United Automobile Workers.

On the one hand, Scripps-Howard columnist Fred Perkins wrote last week that he had talked to a couple of "rank and filers" and that they didn't like the idea of strike one bit, but they didn't "dare" speak out loud against the policies of the "leaders."

Then we have such "inside-dopesters" as Victor Riesel, labor columnist of the liberal New York Post, who on September 24 gave us the "story behind last week's maneuvering—which may throw 325,000 men on the picket line."

You guessed it. The story is filled with "the crazy-quilt" of "left-wing politics of Trotskyites, Communists and Socialists." Take for instance, says Riesel, "a typical 'wild-catter' like the Kelsey-Hayes strike, a bitter, prolonged struggle for over a month. Do you know why 4,500 workers are out on strike? They are 'controlled by some 150 left-wing 'activists' who come early and stay late at union meetings.'"

Yes sir, and "the Trotskyites, who insist on immediate revolution, no less, were there in full force . . . decided, of course to continue striking to keep the 'revolutionary situation' alive." Riesel, who represents the streamlined school of "pro-labor" columnists, uses the cynical, sneering technique, with a misleading lie thrown in about the radicals—crack-pots, you know—"who insist on immediate revolution."

Perkins or Riesel, it's all the same game. The auto workers, most militant and advanced unionists in the country, are just being led around by the nose, either by their "leaders" (says Perkins) or the "Trotskyites" (says Riesel). It just seems that auto workers don't want that 30 per cent raise.

It's true enough that the Trotskyites are giving full support to the Kelsey-Hayes workers and back the strike struggles of the workers to the hilt. But we have the impression that the auto workers don't need much coaxing these days to hit the picket lines and stay there.

## Rewriting History

The Communist (Stalinist) Party in its current attempt to make the workers forget about its wartime strikebreaking record has been trying to make a little capital among the workers of New York through leaflets calling for support of the elevator workers' strike. Of course, the militant New York workers didn't wait for the Stalinists to speak before acting.

In the leaflet which the New York County section of the Communist Party is distributing we read how "the Communist Party . . . at all times stood in the forefront in the struggle to defend and advance the conditions of the workers."

Most workers will recall, however, how the Stalinists acted as strikebreakers in scores of

strikes during the war, called any worker who opposed the no-strike pledge a "Hitler agent," were the first to propose a permanent no-strike pledge, supported President Roosevelt's proposal for a forced labor law, etc.

Less than two months ago, the Stalinist Party would have ordered its members to scab in the elevator or any other strike. It can't hide its stripes now under a triple-coating of self-administered whitewash.

## UAW and Smith Act

Believe it or not, the General Motors workers on October 24 are going to vote under the terms of the Smith-Connally anti-strike act on the question: "Do you wish to permit an interruption of war production in wartime as a result of this dispute?" That's like trying to answer the question: "Are you going to stop beating your wife? Answer yes or no!"

Even the capitalist spokesmen want the repeal of the Smith-Connally Act, including its chief author, Representative Howard W. Smith, Virginia Democrat. Papers like the N. Y. Times and N. Y. World-Telegram have called for its repeal—to be sure because it's not tough enough.

But here are the leaders of the CIO United Automobile Workers insisting that the ranks go through the solemn force of a vote under this same anti-labor law, thereby supporting the principle of such legislation. And right now, of all times, when hundreds of thousands of workers are on strike without any by-your-leave of the bosses or their government agencies or the Smith Act.

The UAW leaders are pretty desperate though, and willing to use any pretext to stall or prevent strike action for the UAW's 30 per cent wage raise demand.

## Cotton Pickers Swindled

Some 50,000 Southern cotton pickers were cut from a wartime average weekly wage of about \$28 to \$15.75, when Truman's Secretary of Agriculture Anderson ruled, at the behest of the planters, that cotton pickers are to be paid only \$2.10 per hundred pounds instead of \$3.90, the wartime rate.

H. L. Mitchell, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union which also represents the cotton pickers, revealed that a referendum was conducted by special "wage boards" which set a wage ceiling of \$2 per hundred-weight for pickers and that the only ones permitted to vote in the referendum were the planters and farmers. Anderson proposed to make it \$2.50, but finally agreed with the planters to make it \$2.10—slashing wages almost in half.

When the highly-unorganized and relatively better paid workers demand wage increases, the administration puts out propaganda about being primarily concerned over those getting sub-standard wages. But what the administration actually does for the most exploited sections of the workers—and there are none more exploited than the Southern cotton pickers—can be seen in its vicious policy toward the agricultural laborers.

## FLINT AUTO LOCAL VOTES 30-DAY STRIKE DEADLINE

Special to THE MILITANT

By Jerry Kirk

FLINT, Mich., Sept. 25.—Local 659, CIO United Automobile Workers, has voted by an overwhelming majority to establish picket lines around the General Motors Chevrolet plant here 30 days after the UAW's application for a GM strike vote under the Smith-Connally anti-strike law.

This decision sets a definite time limit, so far as the militant Chevrolet workers here are concerned, on the negotiations for the 30 per cent wage increase which the UAW has demanded from GM.

At an earlier meeting, Local 659 had already voted to petition for the strike vote. Last week Buick Local 599 also voted 95 per cent in favor of a strike petition. Next Sunday, Fisher Body, Local 581, will vote, to be followed by A. C. Spark Plug Local 561.

This past week, Archie Meyers, AC local president, stated that he was attending the UAW local presidents' meeting in Detroit to protest the international leadership's postponement of the UAW convention. He said he expected

the other locals in Flint also to send delegates.

## FIGHT WAGE-CUTS

The strike sentiment here is a reflection of the ruthless wage-cutting program of General Motors, conducted under the guise of layoffs. For instance, workers are dropped from jobs paying \$1.39 an hour at AC and rehired at 89 cents. The same policy exists at Fisher Body and Buick.

Every auto local here is presenting the corporations with a long list of demands. Chevrolet has 15; Buick, 10. During the war, the UAW's GM department, headed by Walter Reuther, stalled the locals here from taking any action in defense of union conditions.

GM locals in Flint are determined to restore collective bargaining and obtain a 30 per cent wage increase in one decisive strike. They are watching and waiting to see if Reuther is really going to lead them in the fight. Chevrolet local is giving Reuther 30 days. That is the meaning of its latest vote for a 30-day strike deadline.

## New York Labor Shows Gigantic Power In Elevator Strike

(Continued from Page 1)

were shut down on the first day of the strike. In the midtown garment district, heart of New York's largest industry, hundreds of thousands of AFL Ladies Garment Workers and CIO Amalgamated Clothing Workers members, CIO furriers and low-pay office clerks put on a tremendous demonstration in support of the elevator men. AFL truck-drivers are dumping deliveries on the sidewalks, refusing to go through the picket lines.

That is the answer of the New York workers to the scurry actions of the real estate sharks and the War Labor Board against a group of the most exploited workers in this city.

The strike was called by AFL Building Service Employees Local 32-B and 164 when the Regional WLB reversed a WLB panel recommendation for a 40-hour week at weekly pay of \$30.15 to \$24.88, the present wages for a 44-hour week for loft and office building service employees. The panel also called for an increase of \$2.46 weekly for daytime apartment house workers now getting \$28.96 to \$30.58 and reduction of the hours from 51 to 49, and from 60 to 51 hours with no loss of weekly pay for the night workers.

## WLB DIRECTIVE

The Regional War Labor Board last week tossed this recommendation out the window

and issued a directive providing for take-home pay of only \$28.05 to \$32.50 for the loft and office building employees and corresponding cuts for the apartment workers.

The Realty Advisory Board and Midtown Realty Owners Association, representatives of the biggest property owners, are now yelling to high heaven — they won't get there on an elevator! — that the workers are striking "against the government." The boss press is raging. Mayor La Guardia is threatening to use strike breakers "in the interests of public health" if the apartment house workers go out, as the union has threatened. The War Labor Board has rushed in to try to do a job for the real estate sharks and ordered the Union into a "show cause" hearing today.

## 700 SIGNED UP

Already, union leaders report, some 700 buildings have signed up. There is no indication that the workers are going to give in at this stage of the struggle. Everywhere they are picketing the struck buildings—and they feel their power. They are determined to get a square deal.

The narrow streets of the world-famous financial district in lower Manhattan were crowded today with the thousands of office workers who stood about laughing and talking with their friends. Here and there a few

bosses — distinguished by their swank suits and angry voices — tried with little success to arouse some anti-union sentiment among the bank clerks and stenographers.

"It's a nice day to get out and walk in the sunshine for a change," said striker John Lomato, as he strolled slowly up and down before a gigantic structure of steel and concrete on Wall Street. "I've been running an elevator in that building for ten, twelve hours a day for five years and I don't care if the strike lasts a month."

Across the street and up a few blocks at 165 Broadway, one of the pickets stopped and lit a cigarette. "This place would be signed up by now only the union won't settle until the boss pays up some back pay. I got \$140.00 coming that's been held up for a long time. The owners thought they could rush up town and sign up with the union and leave us holding the sack for our back overtime—but this time they are going to learn a lesson."

## STRIKERS AREN'T WORRIED

"We ain't worried a bit," said one of the pickets at the Maritime Exchange Building, 80 Broad Street. "We won't lose a cent in back pay and the boss is losing plenty for every day he holds out. Why just look at all the support we are getting from the other unions. Up in the garment district everybody is refusing to cross the picket line. Down here there's some jerks climbing fifteen and twenty floors to punch the time clock. But we'll get what they win up town."

At each struck building pickets walked in pairs. Negro and white workers, shoulder to shoulder, walked up and down in front of the skyscrapers. Nothing else moved. Sidewalks were littered with undelivered goods and boxes heaped high along the curbs. Teamsters parked their trucks and mallmen stood about distributing letters to bosses who waited in doorways and restaurants. Telegrams and letters piled up in the lobbies and on the steps of empty office buildings.

The Woolworth Building, once famous as the tallest structure of its time, stood silent and hollow. At the Broadway entrance six girl pickets stopped all traffic. Martha, a tall blonde with a determined look in her eye, stood near-by talking with a truck

## THE MILITANT

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
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# Australian Dock Strike Supports Indonesian Battle For Freedom

By Robert L. Birchmar

Thirty thousand Australian dock workers have struck in support of Indonesian Nationalists. The stoppage was called in sympathy with Indonesian crews who refused to sail ships for the Netherlands East Indies loaded with military supplies for use against the independence movement.

The dock workers' strike quickly spread from Sydney to Brisbane and Melbourne. The New South Wales trades labor council officially supported the strike, placing "a total ban on Dutch ships loading for the East Indies."

Sydney dock workers demonstrated on September 28 in support of the Indonesian Nationalist "struggle for independence." "Thirty banners were carried among a crowd of 3,000 bearing such inscriptions as 'Hands Off Our Allies, the Indonesians,' and 'Down With Dutch Imperialism.'" Representatives of the longshoremen also protested the use of Japanese troops by British authorities against the Nationalist Government in Java. Police broke up the demonstration.

## MASS RALLY

In Batavia, the Associated Press reported September 21 that 10,000 Indonesian Nationalists held a mass rally demanding independence for the Netherlands East Indies. The Nationalist "have started a campaign for postwar freedom from foreign rule, with some extremists demanding the death penalty for returning European colonists."

"Japanese tanks and machine guns ringed the demonstrators," continued the dispatch. The Japanese are ruling the Dutch East Indies under British Navy orders until Allied occupation forces are powerful enough to suppress the independence movement. Admiral Mountbatten, according to a September 24 Reuters dispatch, "instructed Japanese forces in Java . . . not to hand over authority to any Java faction."

## WANT COMPLETE BREAK

Meanwhile Dr. I. R. Soekarno—middle-of-the-road leader of the Indonesian Nationalists—is said to have formed a cabinet of 17 ministers as a step toward autonomy, but "the Japanese warned him to desist." Soekarno claims that the Nationalists represent 95 per cent of the 70,000,000 people in the East Indies. "A complete break from Holland was desired," Soekarno asserted, "but the Dutch would be free to live side by side with the Indonesians."

The Indonesians rose against the Japanese imperialists before Allied troops arrived. A "delayed" September 13 United Press report said that "Europeans have been stabbed and Japanese Army officers have been murdered in their cars as they drove through Batavia at night." The killing of the "officers" of the Japanese Army would indicate that rank and file Japanese soldiers sympathize with the Indonesians. The dispatch even refers ambiguously to "rebel Japanese."

The Nationalists have three radio transmitters and "daily conduct violent anti-Japanese and anti-Dutch propaganda." The Nationalists call the Japanese "policemen of the Allies," and "traitors, fascists and imperialists." Pamphlets distributed in Batavia said, "We don't want to be ruled by the Dutch." Trampcars in the same city bore roughly painted slogans such as: "Better to Hell than Be Colonized Again."

British occupation troops landed in Batavia September 16. Japanese officials ordered troops to help unload the ships and asked if "the Japanese troops" should keep their arms "for fear of uprisings among Java's . . . population."

On September 25 a group of 2,000 Indonesians attacked Europeans in Surabaya. Japanese troops were used against the demonstrators.

## IMPERIALISTS UNITE

Mountbatten landed 2,250 British troops in Batavia September 29. He ran up the Stars and Stripes as well as the Union Jack and Netherlands Tricolor. Lieut. Gen. Sir Philip Christison, Allied Commander for the Netherlands Indies, said that "Japanese forces in Java will continue to be used temporarily . . . to avoid the taking of sides by the British in the dispute between the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republican Government."

The Netherlands Indies Government has asked release of Dutch ships from the Allied shipping pool to transport 43,000 troops to Java "to cope with the Indonesian uprising."



This is a map of people in the East who oppose imperialist powers seeking to restore colonial rule at close of second World War. Armed uprisings have broken out in Indo-China (shaded on map) and in Java.

## Annamese Battle Troops Of Allies

(Continued from Page 1)  
is cut from the same cloth that alleges the Indo-Chinese battle for freedom is "Japanese-inspired."

The British command has instructed the Annamese to turn over utilities to "Japanese commanders." These commanders in turn would relinquish control to the British who are trying to hold down the Indo-Chinese until the French can get sufficient troops into their former colony to do the job.

On September 25 the British turned "mortars and heavy machine guns" in the independence forces in a brutal attempt to draw in blood the growing uprising. "Armed Japanese troops are fighting side by side with British and French against the revolutionist Annamese," declared Bill Downs.

**REVOLUTIONISTS RESIST**  
"The revolutionists are resisting the return of French rule which would leave them subservient as in the days before

See Editorial  
"Colonial Independence"  
Page 4

the war. Armed bands of thousands of these Annamese irregulars are now moving toward Saigon. Truckloads of Japanese troops with rifles drive through the streets toward the front. Some of the fighters for the freedom of Indo-China are armed with rifles they obtained by one means or another from the Japanese forces, "but most have only sticks and clubs and bamboo poles tipped with knife blades."

The British commander at Saigon, according to the September 26 PM, "is using 5,000 armed Japanese troops as well as his 2,500 British Indian troops and about 2,000 French soldiers released from prison camps." The number of American troops in use is not listed.

## REPEATED INSURRECTIONS

The resistance of the Indo-Chinese against the Japanese was launched soon after imperialist Japan seized the colony from the French. Insurrections occurred repeatedly. The first took place in October, 1940, at Bao-son in the mountains of northern Tonkin; the second in Cochinchina in November, 1940. This uprising spread to Saigon. The third insurrection was at Do-loung in January 1941. The present battle for independence began as early as last March when both Tokyo and Paris reported fighting in various parts of Indo-China. Tokyo said the fighting was over in a few days and in a few weeks in the north. Paris, however, claimed the struggle continued.

On September 16, the Nationalist movement proclaimed "a

## SWP Protest Cabled to Attlee

NEW YORK, Sept. 26 — James P. Cannon, National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party today sent the following cable to British Prime Minister Attlee:

"Socialist Workers Party strongly protests British military intervention in Indo-China and use of British troops in conjunction with Japanese forces to restore oppressive rule of French imperialism. Dispatches from Saigon report British gun turned on Indo-Chinese independence forces in Saigon. This action is a crime against the liberating movement of the colonial peoples and against the British working class, your government is supposed to represent. We demand immediate withdrawal of all British forces from Indo-China."

general strike" and called for "a boycott against all French in Southern Indo-China." By September 25 the fighting had grown intensive. The Nationalists burned the Saigon market place. This fire together with the capture of the city slaughter house left the city virtually without food. The Annamese fire department took the fire engines and joined the Nationalists.

"There is every indication that the revolt will continue in the northern section of Annam," says a September 25 press dispatch. "The Nationalists are reported to have withdrawn into the jungle country to organize resistance forces."

The scope of the movement can be judged from a September 25 Christian Science Monitor report: "Since August 19, the Annamese have been in control of most of the coastal provinces of Annam, Cochinchina, and Tonkin, where they have set up the Republic of Viet Nam. They are being backed by the primitive Mol tribesmen from the hills."

Saigon Radio reported September 19: "Backed with 80,000 rifles and several wealthy Annamese financiers the . . . party holds marches through Saigon with youths marching in blue and white uniforms . . . Military training continues daily in a large park . . . and today the city is packed with Annamese. They live outside the city area, but come in each morning."

## FRENCH ROLE

Chinese troops in control of Hanoi have not interfered with the Nationalist administration of the city. The Hanoi Radio consequently is broadcasting to the world the Nationalist side of the struggle. On September 19 a Declaration of Independence was broadcast. It said in part: "All men are born equal; nature has given them sacred with France."

## Allied Rule Tightens Over German People

The deathly hand of Allied rule is closing tighter on the people of Germany. "Conditions in that country are becoming appalling," declared William Philip Simms, correspondent of the N. Y. World Telegram on September 25. "Misery, disease and starvation are . . . getting out of control of the military authorities."

Ida Landau, overseas correspondent of the N. Y. Post, wrote September 24, "The story of our treatment of displaced persons in Germany is one of the most sickening pages in our war history." Landau visited the "best camp in Germany" at Hanau-on-Main here the "miserable unfortunates . . . trudge miles to get to . . . This camp 'heaters' 8,000 people. The buildings are ruins with 'hardly a pane of glass.' There is no heat. 'As many as 10 men, women and children sleep, eat and live in a single room without curtains or partitions for privacy.' The Army, he says, 'provides no fuel, clothing, medical supplies or equipment.'"

## WEEPING OUT WATER

A second camp visited by Landau, at Wiesbaden "is far worse." She reached it 12 hours after a rain. The people "still were sweeping out the water that had rained in through the gaping roof and the paneless windows. For two days and nights the rain had soaked down on these helpless people, saturated bedclothes and clothing, loosening the plaster so that lumps of it fell into the puddles on the floor."

The Manchester Guardian, according to the September Socialist Appeal, official organ of the British Trotskyists, declares: "There are plenty of people in Berlin trying to sustain life on no more than a slice or two of dry bread a day. There are women who take to the streets and offer themselves with a kind of casual hopelessness to anybody who cares to give them a few scraps of bread . . ."

## TERRIBLE STARVATION

Starvation is so bad in Germany, according to William Simms, that the American Army has posted signs "ordering the men not to give uneaten scraps of food to the civilians, but to throw them into garbage cans. This is not due to heartlessness but to prevent any rioting over the scraps."

The August 24 London Daily Herald as quoted by the Socialist Appeal, reports: "I saw at the Stettiner Station (Berlin) miserable remnants of humanity, with death already shining out of their eyes—with that awful, wide-eyed stare. Four were dead already, another five or six were lying alongside them, given up as hopeless by the doctor, and just being allowed to die. The rest sat or lay about, whimpering, crying or just waiting, hanging on to the slenderest hope that something, somehow, sometime would be done for them . . ."

## DESPERATE MOTHERS

"They have no money, no valuables, nothing with which they can barter or buy a crust of bread. And the mothers' only thought is food for the children. I spoke to many. One woman, emaciated, with dark rings under her eyes and sores breaking out all over her face, could only mutter self-condemnation because she was unable to feed her two whimpering babies. I watched—

rights—the right to be free, the right to look for happiness . . . Yet for more than 80 years . . . France refused us all liberty, thrust upon us inhuman laws, and planned to set up three different administrative regimes in the north, center and south to prevent our national unity. France built more prisons than schools, executed without mercy men whose only crime was that they loved their motherland, suppressed in blood all efforts at independence, strangled public opinion, muffled news, and used opium and alcohol to exhaust our race."

The proclamation charged the French with opening the doors to the Japanese imperialists and describes the joint French-Japanese oppression during the occupation years. The declaration concludes: "His Majesty Bao Dai abdicated and we have broken our 100-year old chains of monarchy, which have given place to the republic, and therefore we proclaim a definite break



German people, facing the most bitter winter in their history, hunt desperately for lumps of coal spilled from barges.

ed her trying desperately to force milk from her milkless breasts—a pitiful effort that only left her crying at her failure . . ."

The August 30 London News Chronicle reports, "Some 4,000,000 starved and homeless Germans, mostly women and children, expelled from Eastern Germany by the Poles have been ordered to leave Saxony within two days by the German local government." (Quoted by the September 8 Freedom.) These refugees apparently been ordered to go to Berlin.

At Berlin, according to the August 24 News Chronicle "25,000 people were being turned away . . . every day." The Chronicle describes a scene at the Stettiner railway station: "I looked this afternoon inside a cattle truck shunted beside the buffers of No. 2 Platform. On one side four forms lay dead under blankets on cane and raffia stretchers; in another corner four more, all women, were dying. One, in a voice we could hardly hear, was crying out for water. Sitting on a stretcher, so weakened by starvation that he could not move his head or his mouth, his eyes open in a deranged, uncomprehending stare, was the wasted frame of a man. He was dying, too."

"As I walked about the station a score of others came up to me, all ravenous and starved, for whom also, like those in the cattle truck mortuary, nothing could be done—until death."

## Trotskyists In Chile Forge Steadily Ahead

With a well-organized program, the Chilean Trotskyists commemorated the life of Leon Trotsky on the fifth anniversary of his assassination by a Stalinist agent. An assembly was called for 11 a.m. August 19, in the Plaza de la Balmaceda, Santiago, by the Partido Obrero Revolucionario (Revolutionary Workers Party), Chilean Section of the Fourth International. This assembly was followed by a radio broadcast at 11:30, in which Diego Henriquez, General Secretary of the POR, talked on the life and program of Leon Trotsky.

On August 20 a mass meeting was held to honor Trotsky and to explain how his ideas on building the socialist society applied to the workers of Chile. Principal speakers were Diego Henriquez, Humberto Valenzuela and Vincente Blanco.

## Nigerian Strike Supported By Caribbean Workers

The House of Representatives in Jamaica unanimously passed a resolution sympathizing with the strike of 200,000 Government workers in Nigeria. The resolution condemned the strike-breaking role of Governor Sir Arthur Richards. This action of the House received wide acclaim among the workers and people of Jamaica.

The majority of the members of the House of Representatives in Jamaica belong to the Labor Party. The balance are independents or members of the People's National Party.

The Barbados Workers Union and the Barbados Progressive League sent telegrams to the Government of Nigeria in support of the Nigerian strikers. They protested the banning of the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet and the threats made against their editor, Nnamdi Azikiwe.

## New Zealanders Protest Delays In Discharges

In a militant protest against delays in receiving discharges from the armed forces, New Zealand airmen stopped work in Whenuapai Field September 16. The airmen held a meeting in a hangar to formulate demands for their early release to civilian life. A delegation of 150 met with the station commander, Capt. C. C. Hunter. The captain agreed to transmit their grievances to the Air Department.

The Allied press characterized the protest as "mutiny."

## Guerilla Bands Fight Franco Rule

Pitched battles were fought September 19 between Franco's civil guards and two small bands of guerrilla fighters in the mountain ranges of western Catalonia, according to a dispatch released by the fascist Franco Government. In one of the fights, six of the guerrillas were captured, two of them seriously wounded. Six machine guns, a quantity of ammunition and hand grenades were seized by the fascists. In the second clash, one person was killed and more machine guns, grenades and ammunition taken.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES

### Italy

Prime Minister Ferruccio Parri, the puppet installed by the Allied authorities to help British and American troops keep down the people, narrowly escaped demonstrating workers in Naples September 22. Bottles and bricks were hurled by the 6,000 demonstrators at the hated agent of Allied imperialism.

Parri had come to Naples to confer with individuals listed by capitalist correspondents as "labor leaders." As he discussed Italy's unemployment problem with these "leaders," the demonstrators outside the building broke through police lines, forced their way inside the building and smashed chairs and tables.

The Premier managed to escape in an automobile, but a similar car carrying his secretary and a police official was overturned by the workers.

Later the demonstrators marched through the streets demanding "jobs and bread." They were finally dispersed by the carabinieri, according to the press.

A September 25 United Press dispatch reports 10,000 persons demonstrated against the high cost of living in Lecce, in southern Italy. Three civilians were killed and 40 wounded when the crowd stormed and looted the police headquarters.

### Japan

Inflation is running rampant in Japan since the end of the war. Food and clothing shops in Tokyo are nearly all closed.

Such common items as butter and salt are virtually unobtainable. Although wages rose by four or five times during the war, the cost of foodstuffs has skyrocketed as much as 200 times. Before the war 40 pounds of rice cost 30 yen. The price is now 2,000 yen. A pound of potatoes leaped from 1/5 yen to 3 yen; a pound of beef from 1 yen to 40 yen. American newspaper correspondents report that crowds in Tokyo look "underfed and dressed like Bowery derelicts."

Unemployed workers are reported wandering "aimlessly through the countryside searching for relatives or jamming the railroads in an attempt to escape to the country." In the great industrial belt of Tokyo the workers live in "shanty towns." Many of the shacks are built of rusty iron sheets.

According to the most conservative estimates, there will be more than 10,000,000 unemployed workers before the end of the year. Industrialists who dined with American correspondents in Tokyo predicted that more than 8,000,000 people will die of starvation this winter.

The industrialists feared that as the situation worsens, communism will grow by leaps and bounds among the working class. A socialist revolution is a very real possibility, in their opinion.

Two top executives of the house of Mitsubishi, however, informed N. Y. Post correspondent William McGaffin that investment of American capitalists had been protected during the war as well as possible. Kwanzo Tanaka, chairman of the Mitsubishi Electrical Engineering Co. declared: "We reserved their dividends for them during the war. They can get them whenever they care to come."

### Korea

General Hodge's decision to retain the Japanese administration and armed Japanese troops in Korea was not as "inexplicable" as some supporters of the Truman administration would like to make out. It has now been revealed that on August 15 when the Mikado surrendered, Korean workers went out on a widespread strike. This strike, directed against the Japanese, "brought manufacturing virtually to a standstill." Hodge apparently decided to utilize the Japanese despots to crush this movement.

Miners left their picks and shovels. Printers for the Korean Times walked out too, after printing one edition under the Americans. Their demands are not reported, although they are said to have refused an offer of 100 yen. They got 18 yen under the Japanese capitalists, correspondents report.

The strikes were in most cases spontaneous although some are said to have been organized by "communists."

A "delayed" dispatch from Seoul, the capital, reports that "Just after the Japanese surrender the Communists had taken over police stations and

public offices in many cities, including Seoul." These Communists, according to the report, had "no connection with the Soviet Union." Their exact political views are not mentioned.

The promises of the Allied conquerors to grant Korea her independence are not being carried out. Maj. Gen. Arnold, who has been appointed military governor, said September 15 that American occupation may last up to 15 years. "We will give Korea back to the Koreans when they are qualified to govern the country," the general declared.

The promises of the Allied conquerors as those made by Americans and Filipinos during the Spanish-American War. These promises, made almost a half century ago, still remain to be carried out.

### France

Total German and Italian prisoners of war now held by the de Gaulle regime is 925,000. Of this number 300,000 have been assigned to reconstruction projects in France while another 63,000 are slaving in Tunisia and Algeria.

In addition to this vast amount of slave labor, the United States Control Council in Berlin announced September 4 that the 300,000 German prisoners of war now held in the United States will be turned over to de Gaulle for exploitation. Beginning in December they will be handed over at the rate of 50,000 a month. On top of this, 427,000 now herded into American camps in Europe will be transferred to the French capitalists.

So frightful are the conditions in the camps where these prisoners are confined in France that even the capitalist paper Figaro has been moved to protest. In the September 18 issue, the editor declared: "We have learned . . . that in certain camps a large proportion of food that should in principle be sufficient has been diverted from its destination so that living skeletons may be seen in them, almost like those in German concentration camps; and deaths from undernourishment are numerous. We learn further that war prisoners have been savagely and systematically mistreated and that some have been employed in removing mines without apparatus or protection, so that they have thus been condemned to death with more or less delay."

Figaro pointed out it was the duty of France to live up to international agreements and to treat the prisoners with a certain amount of humanity. "People of course will bring up the Gestapo's tortures, the gas chambers and the mountains of human bodies found in the internment camps in Germany," the editor said. "But these horrors should not become a kind of sports competition in which we endeavor to outdo the Nazis. If the Allies intend to deliver blow for blow and eye for eye, the horror will never end."

### India

British officials predict famine will sweep India next year, reports a September 22 United Press dispatch from New Delhi. The rice shortage will reach 500,000 tons, say these officials. The Food Advisory Council set up by the British-dominated Indian government declared that "controls" would probably do no good and passed a resolution to "call the matter to the attention of the British Government." Under British domination the Indian people are prevented from undertaking measures themselves to forestall such famine.

In the 1943 famine in Bengal, a staggering total of 3,000,000 people perished, according to Sadar Vallabhai Patel, one of the leaders of the All-India Congress Party.

A grim order was recently issued in the Belgaum district, according to a Bombay dispatch: In the cremation of bodies, a forest ranger must examine the bodies and ration wood for the funeral pyre on the basis of the weight of the body.

For plump bodies 2,400 pounds of wood may be used, but for lean ones, only 1,600 pounds may be apportioned.

Residents had complained that the previous amount of 1,600 pounds for all bodies, permitted by the British, was insufficient in many instances.

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

—Leon Trotsky

## Policy For Labor

A militant strike wave such as this country has not seen since the 1937 sitdowns is sweeping America. Last week alone nearly a half million workers were battling it out on picket lines for wages and job security.

This explosion of labor struggle comes as a revolt against four years of frozen wages while prices and profits soared, of submission to employer provocation under the no-strike policy, of witnessing the workers' just demands buried in that "graveyard of grievances," the corporatist-dominated War Labor Board.

No sooner did American capitalism enter the war, than the trade union leaders rushed to Washington to give away the rights of American labor. They committed the workers to a no-strike policy and bound them to compulsory arbitration in the hands of a government agency of Big Business, the WLB. The workers were squeezed to the wall while the corporations looted the country.

Now the workers are smashing through these wartime barriers which the union leaders helped Wall Street to erect. Without a by-your-leave from the bosses, their government or the union bureaucrats, the workers have trampled the no-strike policy into the dust and are running rough-shod over the Little Steel formula.

Big business and its government are desperately seeking to establish more effective machinery to continue the profitable wage-freezing, wage-slashing, strikebreaking, union-busting policy. To that end, Truman has called a capital-government-labor conference on November 5 to get renewed commitments from the labor leaders which will again bind the arms of labor.

And just as they rushed eagerly at the start of the war to Roosevelt's conference and tendered labor's rights to the mercies of the political agents of Big Business, so today these union leaders are preparing to repeat the betrayal of four years ago, by participating in a conference whose sole purpose is to set up machinery to tie labor hand and foot.

The tremendous strike wave however is clear testimony that the union ranks are fed up with back-room deals, with commitments to hand over or blunt their powerful strike weapon, with the red-tape and Philadelphia-lawyer tricks of "conciliation" and "mediators" and the whole tribe of capitalist government agents whose function is to swindle the workers.

This instinct of the workers is sound. The War Labor Board experience has merely confirmed the workers' suspicion that nothing good ever has or ever will come to them from these slick management-government-labor set-ups. They can trust only in their own organized strength in action.

The workers want a real fighting labor program, a united militant mass offensive of labor on the political as well as the economic field in defense of their rights and living standards.

Yes, there should be a conference in Washington—but not the kind Truman is calling. The conference that is imperatively needed by the workers is the kind proposed by the recent national General Motors conference of the CIO auto workers.

That is a giant Congress of American Labor, with representatives from every local union and labor body in the country, which will hammer out an effective program for labor and mobilize a nation-wide struggle to win its adoption.

## Anti-Semitism

Mass protest meetings are being held in a number of cities against the British government's refusal to admit more than a trickle of refugee Jews into Palestine.

Why do they want to go to Palestine? Some of our readers may wonder.

The answer is that the refugees haven't said they prefer Palestine. They want a safe haven. But there is none for them.

In Germany large numbers of Jews are still kept in the very same concentration camps where the Nazis placed them. It's for their own good, say American and British authorities. And it is a fact that anti-Semitism is still rife in Germany, thanks to the Allied policy of not letting the German anti-fascists purge the country of the Nazis.

Yet this same Germany looks like a haven to Polish Jews fleeing from a new wave of po-

groms. The September 21 New York Post reports "a transport of 650 Jews who escaped from Poland" and arrived in the American zone. They tried to pass themselves off as German Jews returning to Munich. "But their faulty German gave them away. Whereupon an American general ordered them all returned to Poland. The next morning the camp was surrounded by American troops armed with machine guns. The soldiers drove the resisting Jews from the huts, using the butts of their rifles indiscriminately against women and children." And so on.

Most of the refugees don't want to return to the places where their brothers and sisters have been murdered by the Nazis and their satellites, and where anti-Semitism has not been burned out by the transformation of the old social order which breeds it.

They are not asking to go to Palestine. That is being asked for them by the Zionist and other "respectable" Jewish leaders. But in Palestine the Arab masses, whipped up by the Arab landlords, don't want more Jews to come in.

We can be sure the refugees would be glad to come to the western Hemisphere, where the Statue of Liberty was put up in the days when this country was populated and built by such immigrants and refugees. But those days are gone now, and the door is barred to them, and the respectable leaders who claim to speak for them don't even demand that the doors be opened. And meanwhile the signs multiply of the growth of anti-Semitism here, as the Gerald K. Smiths build their fascist gangs.

There is no haven on earth for the Jews. That is the simple, terrible truth. Nor will there be one, so long as capitalism which breeds anti-Semitism continues to exist.

## For Colonial Freedom

When the Second World War broke out, the Trotskyists once again emphasized what they had said countless times before. The second great slaughter, they declared, like the one before it in 1914-1918, was not at all a war to establish democracy and freedom, but another imperialist war for the redivision of the earth among the capitalist powers.

The prediction of the Trotskyists has been verified to the hilt. In the Far East, British and American troops are spearheading an assault against the colonial movement for independence. American troops have invaded Korea. American troops have been scheduled for occupation of Chinese cities. American, British and French troops, in collaboration with a Japanese army, are shooting down the natives of Indo-China. British troops are moving against the people of the Netherlands East Indies.

The purpose of these acts of hostility is absolutely clear. British imperialism seeks to recover its empire in the Far East. The French and Dutch imperialists seek to reestablish their bloody and oppressive despotism over the East Indies and Indo-China. Wall Street, the most sinister and powerful imperialist despotism of all, backs the aims of these capitalist gangsters, and in the process intends to establish its own domination over the entire area.

But the people of the Far East are not meekly submitting to the knives of the imperialist butchers. For long decades they fought for independence against the bandits of the Western Hemisphere. When the Japanese capitalists seized control over these rich lands, the people continued their struggle. As the Japanese grew weak under the blows of the Anglo-American bloc and finally went down in defeat, the colonial peoples seized the opportunity to run up the banners of independence.

Throughout the Far East the masses are beginning to rise against imperialist domination. They see no reason to submit once again to foreign conquerors. They want to choose their own form of government. Virtually all the press correspondents report that the peoples of Java, Malaya, Burma, India, and Siam as well as Korea and Indo-China are setting out on the road to national independence. Thus, terrible and sanguinary struggles will wrack these lands of the imperialist powers, try—as they surely will—to carry out their plans.

It is the duty of the American working class to do its utmost to help these peoples in their fight for independence. Demand the withdrawal of Allied troops from these areas! Bring the soldiers back home!

## Sir Bernard Pares

A capitalist "expert" on communism—Sir Bernard Pares—is making himself a piece of change at the University of Kansas by slandering Trotskyism. In the first of a series of lectures he alleged that the Trotskyists "have always been close to Germany. Maybe that will explain something for you."

Besides slandering Trotskyism, Pares likewise attacked Lenin. From the rostrum of the University of Kansas he condemned Lenin for championing socialism, for opposing the First World War and for signing the Brest-Litovsk Peace Treaty which the German imperialists forced on the newly-born workers' state.

At the same time he praised Stalin for his "non-communistic trend."

Sir Bernard Pares is not a novice in the profession of red-baiting. After the October 1917 Revolution he violently opposed the Bolshevik regime and called for intervention by the capitalists. At that time too the capitalist enemies of the workers' state spread the foul lie that Lenin and Trotsky, the revolutionary leaders of the Russian working class, were agents of Germany.

Times change but the lies against communism remain the same.

## READ

## THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL



"They're so selfish—you may be sure if THEY lived in pent houses they'd keep the elevators running!"

## Workers' BOOKSHELF

**FASCISM—WHAT IT IS, HOW TO FIGHT IT:** a compilation of writings by Leon Trotsky; introduction by E. R. Frank. Pioneer Publishers, 1944; 48 pp. 15 cents.

No sooner had the roar of imperialist battle ceased in Europe, than native fascists in America began crawling from their holes. Gerald L. K. Smith, former Senator Robert R. Reynolds, John C. Scott of "Christian America," Upton Close, Father Coughlin, these and others emerged from hiding to feed on the funds already being handed out by capitalism to smash the labor movement.

Smith, after a series of meetings in Los Angeles (concluded ignominiously when the CIO called a mass counter-meeting), invades Detroit, the stronghold of the powerful United Auto Workers Union, on a speaking tour which next will bring him to New York. The many fascist elements are preparing to unite their forces. Nowhere has a city or state administration raised a voice of disapproval. The federal government is silent.

It is readily apparent that the capitalist government, which last year quashed the trial of 30 native fascists, has no intention of combatting the enemies of the working class.

But how can Fascism be fought? A pamphlet issued a few months ago by Pioneer Publishers, "Fascism—What It Is, How To Fight It," by Leon Trotsky, explains the nature of Fascism, and points to the only way Fascism can be combated and destroyed.

Fascism, Leon Trotsky explains, grows out of the insoluble contradictions of decaying capitalism. "The historic function of Fascism is to smash the working

class, destroy its organizations and stifle political liberties when the capitalists find themselves unable to govern and dominate with the help of democratic machinery." The capitalists turn to Fascist brutality not out of choice, but of necessity to preserve their rule.

"The sober bourgeoisie," says Trotsky, "does not look very favorably even upon the Fascist mode of resolving its tasks, for the concessions, although they are brought forth in the interests of bourgeois society, are linked up with dangers to it. Therefore the opposition between Fascism and the bourgeois parties. The big bourgeoisie likes Fascism as 'little as a man with aching molars to have his teeth pulled.' But like the man with a toothache, Big Business inevitably goes to the Mussolinis, Hitlers and Francos for 'relief' from the threat of the proletarian revolution."

### FASCIST DEMAGOGUES

The Fascist demagogues, financed and controlled by Big Business, utilize Socialist slogans to win over large masses and build a popular mass movement. Their shock troops were made up primarily in both Italy and Germany of middle class elements: unemployed youth, sons of shopkeepers and professionals, returning veterans, etc.

Once in power, Fascism rules as the brutal agency of monopoly capitalism. The duped middle classes clamor for the "reforms" promised to them; Fascism thereupon purges its ranks (Hitler's "blood purge" of 1934). Fascism which came to power as a mass movement, thus gradually loses all popular support as it disillusions one section of the population after another. In its later stage, Fascism rules as a

naked military-police dictatorship.

Trotsky demonstrates from the experiences of Italy and Germany, that Fascism can become a sweeping mass movement only after the revolutionary party has had its chance to mobilize the masses for the socialist revolution and failed to do so. Only then does the disillusioned middle class turn its back on the working class movement and place its hope for salvation in Fascism.

What the American Trotskyists did to combat the Fascist menace in New York City is shown in a number of illustrations. A picture of the demonstration summoned by the Socialist Workers Party against the Fascist rally on February 20, 1939 at Madison Square Garden, shows a section of the 50,000 workers protesting Fascist provocation.

In action, the Trotskyists thus demonstrated how Fascism can and must be fought.

### A COMPILATION

The excerpts from Trotsky's writings in this compilation, are taken from articles, letters and books written over a period of nine years. Included are extracts from a letter to an English comrade, from "What Next?" "The Only Road," "Whither France," and from articles published in "The Militant," "Fourth International" and "American Mercury."

The introduction by E. R. Frank discusses the problem of Fascism in the United States. The American working class which alone can fight and destroy Fascism in this country, must begin by learning the nature of its enemy. This lucid pamphlet provides this analysis. It should be read by every thinking worker.

Reviewed by  
Ruth Johnson

## Congressmen At Work

Wall Street's Congressmen have been mopping their brows pretty frequently of late. They support the imperialist plan to maintain a gigantic peacetime army. Yet they want to appear as champions of the servicemen who demand just one thing—a discharge.

A number of Congressmen believe pay boosts will make army life so enticing that the demand for discharges will slack off. But others are opposed to pay boosts for servicemen—since these capitalist politicians raised their own pay a cool tax-exempt \$2,500 last session, they've been ultra-conservative on the question of raising other people's wages.

Representative May of Kentucky, speaking from experience, declared: "It is awfully easy to be liberal, especially when you are handing out somebody else's money. May I suggest . . . that this matter of demobilization is like running into a nest of live hornets. If you run into the north side you are stung; if you run into the south side you are stung; if you run into the east or west side you are also stung. So we better get down to business here and find out whether we are going to completely wreck the Treasury . . ."



Representative Starkey of Minnesota thought of a happy way to induce men to stay in the armed forces without a pay boost: "I am satisfied that many of those who have gone through the tortures of hell in the Pacific are so sick and tired of that area that no amount of money would induce them to re-enlist even for a year in the occupation forces, yet they might be willing because of the educational value to serve a year in the European theater."

Mulling over the attractiveness to soldiers of educational opportunities in other war-torn areas, Starkey had another happy thought: "And what goes for the boys in the Pacific would likewise be true of those who served in the European theater."

A group of Western Congressmen figured they could entice the veterans with first choice at homesteads in the West. They forgot to mention whether veterans' crops would be plowed under in the next depression, but didn't forget to ask for funds to build dams for reservoirs to provide irrigation for the homesteads.

Representative Gross of Pennsylvania, however, was not very enthusiastic: "To induce them now to go out into the West on new lands," he declared, "where rattlesnakes might bite their children and coyotes and wolves endanger the lives of their wives, and where their greatest asset is sunshine, which never pays mortgages or educates their children, and where foxes will kill their chickens and crows pick the eyes out of any livestock that is born outside, is just not right. . . . They ought to be located east of the Mississippi River, where there is enough rainfall . . ."

Meanwhile millions of servicemen and their families wonder what's holding up Congress in getting the men back home from overseas. They don't realize that a capitalist politician has first got to settle which farms are best for veterans, those East of the Mississippi River or those West.

## PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

### Hershey's Campaign to Divide Veterans and Non-Veterans

General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of Selective Service, intensified his efforts to create a division between veterans and non-veterans and brazenly struck against unions through new directives issued in the form of a handbook for the guidance of local draft boards.

In broadening and strengthening his anti-union position Hershey ruled that "union membership or other conditions not enumerated in the law may not . . . be required of a veteran as a prerequisite to his reinstatement."

In the past Hershey attempted to force the violation of the seniority clause in union contracts by insisting that a World War II veteran must be reinstated, if the employer desired, regardless of the seniority of a World War I veteran or a non-veteran whose job he took.

Further evidence that the Selective Service acts only in the interest of the employers is contained in the following section of the new directive: "The proviso 'unless the employer's circumstances have so changed as to make it impossible or unreasonable to do so' applies only to the employer . . ."

He continues to the effect that consequences to a third person are not involved and that it makes no difference if a non-veteran with higher seniority loses his job. And protests from unions against super-seniority are declared to be groundless because, he says, the law is concerned only with the employer and the veteran employee.

All of organized labor has declared itself in favor of granting seniority to veterans for the time they had accrued before being drafted, plus their time in service. But organized labor does oppose granting of super-seniority to veterans.

### Wall Street Gloats Over Ruling

Reporting the directive in its September 24 issue, the New York Sun, organ of Wall Street, spoke with unconcealed satisfaction concerning the section dealing with the reinstatement of men who held temporary positions prior to induction: "The burden of proof whether the veteran left a temporary job or not rests with the employer under the new interpretation of the law . . ."

In every respect the new ruling is favorable to the employers. They determine whether or not their circumstances have changed so as to make it "unreasonable" to rehired a veteran. They decide whether or not the veteran's position was temporary.

The decision is a blow at unions because it forbids insistence on union membership even in a closed shop. Veterans can be hired to take the place of union militants through the super-seniority ruling.

The veteran is not protected. He can be discharged whenever the employer decides "circumstances" have changed. At most the law gives dubious protection to the veteran for a year. Real security for the veteran lies in the strengthening and growth of the unions.

The new ruling places even disabled veterans at the mercy of the employers. The UAW said in a statement issued through Victor G. Routh that Hershey's interpretation "leaves the door wide open for the employer to deny re-employment to a disabled veteran on the claim, true or false, that his disability might prevent him from working quite as fast or producing quite as much as he previously could."

Thus Hershey is again acting as the spearhead of a drive by employers to cause friction between organized labor and returning veterans. Employers hope to hire veterans with anti-union bias to replace union militants. This ruling is another weapon employers hope to use in their efforts to smash the unions. It is to the interest of veteran and non-veteran workers alike to see that their plan fails.

## Standard Oil's Battle To Seal the Pipelines

How the oil magnates work behind the scenes to maintain high prices and monopoly control over the nation's oil products is again being brought to light in a Congressional debate over the closing of government-owned pipelines. Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney from Wyoming and Representative Jerry Voorhis from California are demanding that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation hold up its recently announced plans to close the Big Inch and Little Inch pipelines on October 1.

These huge pipelines, running a total of 2,729 miles, were built by the government during the war to carry gas and oil from the Texas oil fields to the New York City ports. Costing the public \$145,000,000 their operation netted the government a profit of \$135,000,000 during the war.

Under the Surplus Property Act, no facilities which cost the government more than \$5,000,000 can be disposed of without a report. On September 14, at the same time that the government hung a "for sale" sign on these public facilities, the RFC, obviously under heavy pressure from the Rockefeller oil trust, announced plans to seal up the pipelines almost immediately. No effort was made to find out if the pipelines could be operated as a common carrier by independent oil companies. Access to these transportation facilities would serve to reduce the cost of oil products to the consumers.

Voorhis revealed why the RFC is so determined to hurry up the closing of the pipelines. He declared that "the key to the monopolistic power of the major companies lies in their control of pipelines. Therefore the one thing they fear most is the existence of true common carrier pipelines." Before the war, Standard Oil owned or controlled more than 99 per cent of the interstate trunk pipelines through which nearly 80 per cent of the crude oil produced is transported. Thus to turn over these pipelines to independent companies would represent a direct threat to Standard Oil's monopoly.

The agents of the big oil companies want to seal the pipelines swiftly before the American people have a chance to learn what is going on and can intervene to prevent it.



# 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.

## British Member of Y.C.L. Sends Correction on French Martyrs

Editor:

I would be grateful if you would send me five copies of The Militant of March 3, which contains an article from La Verite showing that the French Trotskyists fought against the German fascist occupation. Although I am still in the YCL (Young Communist League) and do not accept the Trotskyist position in many respects—and any contact I have with the Trotskyists is naturally "secret"—this article proves very well that the Trotskyists are not "Hitler's agents" as the CP says they are.

The CP omits to mention that Bourhis and Guegen—shot at Chateaubriant—with 25 of our own comrades in the CP—Timbaud, Charles Midrels, Gardette, Dr. Ternine, etc.—were Trotskyists.

However, in your issue of April 28 and in Fourth International, when listing some of your martyrs, you make a mistake. Trotskyist comrades, which might do you a good deal of harm. You list Timbaud as one of your own people, saying that he was a member of the French Internationalist Communist Party—the French Trotskyist organization. This is completely untrue! Timbaud, who was executed at Chateaubriant in October, 1941—at the same time as your two comrades—was never a Trotskyist. "Le petit Timbaud," as every French worker could tell you, was the ever-popular secretary of the Paris Metal Workers' Union and a leading member of the French Communist Party; in fact, he was probably what the Trotskyists would call—in their own language of abuse—a "Stalinist trade union bureaucrat!"

This man, like other prominent leaders of the French CP—Gabriel Peri, Jean Catelas, Pierre Bernard, Lucien Sampaik, etc., whose names were household words among the French workers—was among the 15,000 "Stalinists" executed by the Nazis; he died with the words of the "Internationale" on his lips. Do not forget either that Timbaud and the "Stalinists" executed with him were arrested by order of the Germans on October 5, 1940—eight months before Germany attacked Russia!

No, the leaders of the CP—although I disagree with their present policy—are not such degenerates as you make out, as is shown by the last letter of Gabriel Peri—brilliant foreign editor of L'Humanite and Communist member of the French Parliament—who was shot because he refused to accept the offers of the fascists to edit one of their papers and collaborate with them like Capron and other traitors in France and the Trotskyist Walter Dauge in Belgium did. In his last letter Peri said: "I have remained faithful to the ideals I have held all my life. Let my friends know that if I were to live again I should follow the same path... I remember that night when my dear Paul Vaillant-Couturier said to me that communism is the regeneration of the world and that it prepares 'morrrows of song.' I myself am presently going to prepare 'morrrows of song' and doubtless it is because Marcel Cachin was my good teacher that I face death with fortitude... I die that France may live."

(Needless to say, both Vaillant and Couturier—who died in 1937—and Cachin—veteran French working class and resistance leader—were considered by the Trotskyists as the 'blackest of the black'!)

Doubtless your mistake about Timbaud was not made intentionally but through a misinterpretation of some document. I hope, however, that you correct the mistake in The Militant and Fourth International—which seems usually to be a reliable and well-informed journal and which in the main has impressed me very much—and will give due recognition to the bravery and strength of conviction of the leaders of the CP, while continuing of course to criticize their policy.

Hoping I will see some more of your papers, etc., which I find very interesting, and that you will be able to send me those copies of The Militant so that CP comrades may be shown that the Trotskyists are an anti-fascist proletarian organization like ourselves.

Fraternally,

ENGLISH READER

## Editor's Reply

The English YCL comrade is right about Timbaud. Timbaud was, indeed, never a member of the French Section of the Fourth International, but a member of the CP in that country. The mistake in The Militant of April 28, which described him as a Trotskyist, was due to a misconstruction of information translated from the organ of our French comrades, La Verite, of September 29, 1944. The Militant incorrectly assumed that Timbaud, like Bourhis and Guegen, was a Trotskyist. We are glad that the comrade called the error to our attention and are naturally desirous of correcting it.

As to some of the young comrade's other comments, here is what we have to say: Unquestionably a considerable number of Stalinist militants, including well-known leaders, behaved heroically under the Hitler terror. As the comrade is probably aware, there have been numerous reformist Socialists who have behaved no less heroically in the face of the fascist persecutors. We need only call attention to the most famous of all such cases—that of Giacomo Matteotti in Italy.

But the heroism of these individuals has never blinded Marxists to the treacherous policies pursued by the parties to which they belonged, nor to the degenerate class collaborationist character of the bureaucracies which ruled them. The same holds true for the Stalinist bureaucracy. While giving all due honor to the heroism of the individual militants who died under the dastardly persecution of the Nazis and their henchmen, our criterion for judging their party remains the Marxist criterion, what class does its policies aid? The Militant, in treating this question, has adduced volumes of factual proof to show that the Trotskyist evaluation of Stalinism—as a degenerate workers' bureaucracy serving world imperialism—is well grounded. It is on that basis, and not on some abstract ethical considerations, that we ask the young comrade to judge between us and the completely Stalinized Communist parties.

One final point, on Walter Dauge. He was a left Social Democrat of long standing who for only a few short years belonged to the Belgian Trotskyist party and is, to the best of our knowledge, the only case internationally of a member of one of our organizations who betrayed it and went over to the "collaborationists." (Isn't it somewhat unfair to compare this isolated case to the group betrayals like those of Paul Faure and Co. of the French Socialist Party, Henry De Man and Co. of the Belgian Labor Party, Ciamamus and Co. of the French C.P.?)

However, when we speak of traitors and treachery we are not concerned with the actions of individuals belonging to a given party (such betrayals cannot be prevented even in the most revolutionary parties and, indeed, there were numerous such cases even in the Bolshevik party of Lenin's day.) We are concerned with the declared and established policy of the party itself over a considerable period of time. Our "English Reader" will find a rounded out treatment of the question he raises along this line in "The Policy of the Stalinist Parties During the War," by Spero, in Fourth International, May 1945.

## Red Sunday Mobilization

A National Red Sunday Mobilization to sell the new Pioneer Publisher's pamphlet, JOBS FOR ALL! is scheduled for October 7 by the Socialist Workers Party.

All readers of The Militant are cordially invited to participate in the mobilization.

Consult the Socialist Workers Party branch in your locality for the exact time and place.

## Railroad Locals Call For 36 Hour Week

Editor:

Last week in Chicago a meeting of all the general chairmen of the shop craft's locals of AFL railroad unions went on record to secure a 36-hour week at 48 hours pay.

For nearly a year now the railroad workers have been demanding a change from the AFL leaders' old do-nothing policy. Some of the locals have even threatened to withhold per capita tax until they were guaranteed some action. I heard one worker say in a union meeting that as long as we keep sending them money they will keep raising their own pay and doing nothing for us.

The general chairman on returning from the Chicago meeting, told the workers here that there were just stacks of resolutions from local unions on the table at the front of the hall. The car men's union here circulated their own resolution nationwide inside their own craft, for which their General President Knight threatened to revoke their charter.

Local 209, Sheetmetal Workers, about six months ago circulated a resolution calling for a 40-hour week and substantial pay increases, to all the Northern Pacific and Great Northern locals in their craft. System Federation, 101, which is a sort of council of shop crafts on the Great Northern, passed a resolution calling for a 40-hour week with increased pay to offset the reduction in hours. We have received copies of resolutions from locals as far away as Sacramento, Cal., all demanding shorter hours and wage increases.

Now that the war is over and the railroads all over the United States are cutting out all overtime work, the workers are receiving from one-fifth to one-third less wages than during the war. Coupled with the fact that rail workers as a group received from a quarter to a third less pay than war plant workers, we can readily see the reason for this trend.

The workers who run the

## QUESTION BOX

Q: Were there many strikes after the last war?

A. At the end of the first world war, there was a great wave of strikes. The year 1919 got a record that still stands for the number of workers involved in strikes. During that year, there were 4,160,348 persons on strike or 20.8 per cent of the total working force in industry. This compared with 6.2 per cent on strike in 1918.

Q: How many years, on the average, have the men in the U. S. Army served?

A. According to a September 1, 1945, estimate, a total of 8,050,000 men in the U. S. Army have served as follows: 800,000 more than 4 years; 1,200,000 between 3 and 4 years; 3,600,000 between 2 and 3 years; 1,450,000 between one and two years; 1,000,000 less than one year.

Q: I hear that the mechanical cotton picker is now perfected. How many are in use, and will they displace much labor?

A. Already more than 100 cotton pickers are in commercial use. These machines pick more than 1,000 pounds of seed cotton in an hour, compared to an average of 15 pounds an hour by a human being. How much labor a mechanical picker displaces is indicated by its application on one plantation of 4,000 acres which uses 40 skilled workmen operating machines, instead of 130 families consisting of 600 to 700 men, women and children, previously employed.



trains are becoming more militant every day. There is no question but that they will run up against opposition from the union bureaucracy in this industry which is probably as reactionary as any in the American labor movement. Let us speed the day when we will get rid of it.

Jack Pearson  
St. Paul

## Harvester Company "Explains" Job Loss To A Sailor

Editor:

The following letter was sent to my husband, a sailor aboard a cruiser now in Korea by the International Harvester Company. I thought maybe you could use the irony of it!

In addition, I may say that this company, in St. Paul at least, gave nothing to employees when they were drafted. They do, to be sure, send a package at Christmas time. And regularly send a company newsletter, too.

Sailor's Wife  
St. Paul, Minn.

I am sure that the end of the war has turned your thoughts toward your return to civilian life and toward job opportunities. For that reason I want to explain our situation at St. Paul Works to you, to assist you in making your plans.

As you know, the International Harvester Company had no manufacturing operation in St. Paul before the war, and St. Paul Works was established as purely an ordinance operation—its only products being military weapons. When the Japanese surrendered, the Government immediately cancelled the production at St. Paul Works, operations ceased, and it was necessary for us to lay off St. Paul employees. For that reason, I am sorry to say, there is no job at St. Paul Works for us to offer you. There are, however, two other possibilities which I will outline.

1. Because our Company has been favorably impressed with the spirit of employees and the general success of our wartime operation at St. Paul, the management is making studies to determine whether any Harvester civilian products can be manufactured in the Twin Cities area as a permanent peacetime arrangement. The problem requires careful study because the area is at a cost disadvantage for a metal working industry like ours, since the Twin Cities are at a considerable distance both from the supplies of steel and other raw materials and from the center of distribution for most of our products. We do hope, however, to find a product which can be made in the Twin Cities without too much cost penalty. If we are successful, this will involve the acquisition or construction of a plant other than the present St. Paul Works, which is not well adapted to efficient peacetime manufacture.

If such a manufacturing operation is established in the Twin Cities, we certainly will give preference in hiring to former employees of St. Paul Works, and especially to veterans who have worked at this operation. It is only fair to say, however, that if we do establish a new plant in the Twin Cities it cannot begin operation for a considerable time, probably more than a year.

2. The other possibility would involve your being willing to leave the Twin Cities and work elsewhere. Under the Harvester Veterans' Re-employment Plan, if you desire, we will try to find you a job for which you are qualified at some other International Harvester location, provided you make application to us within 90 days after being discharged from military service. Under the Selective Training and Service Act, and under existing union contracts, you would have to begin such a job as a new employee from the standpoint of work seniority. However, any other rights for the purpose of vacation, extra compensation, E. B. A. and other company plans will be computed from the date your service record began at St. Paul Works or other International Harvester Company operations.

If neither of these possibilities appeal to you, or if we are unable to provide an opening for you, we certainly will be most happy to give you a letter of reference to other employers or to

assist you in any other way we can in securing employment.

We were glad to have you as a Harvester employee, and we hope it will be possible for us to work out some means of making you a Harvester employee again.

For some time to come we will have employment counselors at St. Paul Works. Thereafter, we suggest that you contact, either in writing or personally if convenient, the Personnel Department, International Harvester Company, 180 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 1, Illinois. Such contact should be made within 90 days of the date of your discharge from military service.

Sincerely yours,  
International Harvester Company  
St. Paul Works

## Calvinist Cant

Editor:

H. V. Kaltenborn with his "Polly wants a cracker" painful delivery, tells us that America is "losing the moral leadership of the world!"

Our Militant (Homer nods!) quotes a preacher who tells us that "America has lost her moral position."

This is worthy of the Stalinists at their most muddled.

Where in Gehenna did America get her job?

Fascism means basically "for self only." It is endlessly antisocial; its Satanic tentacles penetrate and strangle the souls of the flower of the flock; its most subtle weapon is Calvinist cant.

Calvinist cant has so long saturated the atmosphere of "this country" that we lose all discrimination; blind with false pride we walk in the footsteps of Hitler and Mussolini, mouthing pious words.

Where in Gehenna did we get our job?

Joseph McNamee  
New York

## Capitalist Press Changes A Line

Editor:

The end of armed hostilities is proving more clearly to the workers how capitalism lies. The press is only one of the many outlets the capitalists have to propagandize their lies as truths. The most vicious propaganda form is to establish that monstrous ghost called "Public Opinion," which in reality is not public opinion, but only a capitalist trick to hold the workers in check.

Prior to December 8, 1941, the news we were given on and about Japan was of a fairy-tale character. The Japanese imperialists were painted as Gilbert and Sullivan creations; and the Japanese workers... We never heard of them. (Better close our eyes and take an indifferent attitude on what was happening in China.) After December 8, that lie was discarded for another, just as

big, but more vicious. It was a deliberate campaign to instill in our minds a hatred and a misconception of the Japanese people as being so imbued with the love of their Emperor that they thought of nothing except Hirohito's will and hara-kari.

And now we have an inkling of the truth buried in the middle of the New York World-Telegram, September 6. An A.P. release stating that... "a labor leader had been arrested five times for his labor activities and for opposing the war against China!"

Let us not think that this "line enlightenment" was printed because the U. S. policy-makers have suddenly realized that there are workers in Japan that disagree with Japanese Imperialist policy; but rather that they are somewhat concerned with the attitude of thousands of American workers in uniform when these soldiers see for themselves the actual sentiment in Japan and begin to write the truth in letters home.

We see clearly that capitalism changes its line to coincide with its own interests; and its contradictions are flaunted in the face of the workers, to be accepted without question.

Jerry Baker  
New York

## A "Great" World

Editor:

Out of sheer curiosity I bought your paper today and read practically every article. I was particularly impressed with the article captioned: "Wall Street the Real Victor in Second World-Wide Slaughter."

I am in agreement with the thread of its thought that this war is a "money" war. I also know that which is not mentioned—that certain powerful newspapers sold out the people in this war into the clutches of the Dictator, war-mongering politicians in Washington.

However, I cannot agree with Trotsky's opinion that "Peace will come to this world only when the workers of the world take matters into their own hands and throw off the bandits who rule over them." Corrupting any group of people and labeling them thus and so is not an intelligent approach for defining conclusions because individual opinions and feelings preclude any such wholesale circumscription. Just that is being done by all name callers today.

Therefore, fitting myself into today's groove as I trust you must now understand, with allowances, I tell you this: Politicians, capitalists and the workers were all willing to feast and fatten themselves by the spilled blood from the slaughter and the desecration of great cities. The votes at the election proved that. If the "workers" who were well organized had refused to make the inhuman and death dealing instruments for the ambitious politicians and militarists to wield there would have been no war.

Communist Russia attacked little Finland before this big war started and, pardon me while I smile, the "mighty British Empire" through the pygmy, whiskey-bloated mind of Churchill, declared war on that little country—ah, well! All I can say is—we are living in a "great" world. The actions of the human family the past six years make one sorry they were born a human.

G. Cornell  
New York City

## Socialist Workers Party Branch Activities

AKRON—Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 23 East Market St., open Tues. and Thurs. 2 to 4 p.m.; Mon., Wed., Fri. 7 to 9 p.m.

ALBANY—BETHLEHEM—Public discussion meeting on current topics every Thursday, 8 p.m. at Militant Labor Forum, 8 E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown.

BOSTON—Office at 30 Stuart St., open evenings (except Sundays) until 8:30; also Monday and Saturday afternoons. Come in and get acquainted. Complete stock of literature.

BUFFALO—Open house every Saturday night at the Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO—Visit the Chicago SWP headquarters to obtain The Militant, Fourth International, Marxist books and pamphlets, as well as information about the SWP. Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7662.

TROIT—All Militant readers invited to the SWP Open House held every Saturday evening, from 8 p.m. on. Music, dancing, cards, refreshments. Admission free. Room 21, 3513 Woodward.

Forums on topical questions every Sunday 8 p.m. Refreshments. No admission charge. Basic Training Class in Fundamental Principles of Marxism every Thursday 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 13—October Barn Dance, music and program of entertainment.

LOS ANGELES—Buy The Militant, 4th International and other Marxist books and pamphlets and get information about the SWP at the following places in the Los Angeles area: LEO ANGELES, Socialist Workers Party, Rooms 200-205, 212 S. Hill St., VA-7936. SAN PEDRO, Socialist Workers Party, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

MILWAUKEE—Visit the Milwaukee branch of the SWP at its headquarters,

205 Plankinton Ave., Room 21, any evening between 7 and 9:30 p.m.

NEWARK—Lectures are held every Friday at the Progressive Workers' School, 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA—SWP Headquarters, 405 W. 9th Ave. Open forums every Friday 8 p.m. on current topics. Socialist Youth Group meets on alternate Saturdays, 8 p.m. All young people invited.

PORTLAND, Ore.—Visit SWP headquarters, 220 S. W. Alder St., Room 500; open 1 to 4 p.m. daily except Sunday, and 8 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday. Sunday, Oct. 21—"Unemployment. How to Fight It." Speaker: C. M. Hesser.

SAN FRANCISCO—Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

TOLEDO—Forums held every Sunday evening at 905 Jefferson Ave., Room 304, 8 p.m. Open House every Saturday night; dancing, refreshments.

## Newark

Buy THE MILITANT

and  
FOURTH INTERNATIONAL  
AT THE  
PROGRESSIVE WORKERS  
SCHOOL

423 Springfield Avenue

Open Daily  
10:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.  
7:30 to 10:30 P.M.



Militant Army boosters will be happy to learn that the increased circulation and general growth of The Militant, combined with the impending subscription campaign, have necessitated moving our press to a much larger and more modern printshop. This change will be good news to all subscribers, especially those in the Mid and Far West who will receive their Militants almost two days earlier.

Local New York advises: "The

## Pioneer Notes

A letter from the New York Trotskyist Youth Group this week indicates that the branches which have exhausted their supply of Charles Jackson's pamphlet A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow are taking advantage of the new campaign methods to sell other basic literature on the Negro struggle. A letter from the organizer of the Youth Group reads:

"We had scheduled a street sale and demonstration in Harlem for last Saturday to sell A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow and to distribute The Militant. When we learned that New York Local had sold all of the more than 2,000 copies which they had bought, we decided to try the campaign methods on The Struggle for Negro Equality and Negroes in the Post-War World. In less than three hours we sold 89 copies! The comrades met with very enthusiastic response from the people, many workers stopping on the street to ask for information about the Socialist Workers Party."

Both of these pamphlets are basic documents on the Negro struggle. They can be used by the branches in street sales, house-to-house distributions, at union meetings, and in individual contact work.

The Struggle for Negro Equality is now in its third large edition, with a new introduction by Charles Jackson. Albert Parker, who collaborated with John Saunders in writing this pamphlet, is well remembered as the first editor of the fighting column The Negro Struggle, published weekly in The Militant, and now written by Charles Jackson. Parker also wrote Negroes in the Post-War World.

The Struggle for Negro Equality, by Albert Parker and John Saunders, with an introduction by Charles Jackson, 10 cents. Negroes in the Post-War World, by Albert Parker, 5 cents.

Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3 N. Y.

placing of The Militant on newsstands in all boroughs has been very successful. Approximately 1,500 papers are sold weekly, and many news dealers report all their papers are sold within a couple of days after their display on the stand.

"In addition, we are experimenting with a new way to sell The Militant—via the radio. Radio Station WINS will carry plugs advertising The Militant at 7:05 a. m. (daily except Sunday) and at 8:00 p. m. (daily except Saturday and Sunday). This will enable us to reach a large circle of potential Militant subscribers."

S. Crabb, our Boston agent writes: "Our renewal drive will continue for three weeks, and then stop temporarily during the new subscription campaign. The result of our first day's renewal activity was very fruitful; we obtained 12 six-month and 9 one-year renewals, plus 4 six-month and 1 one-year new sub and 1 one-year combination to both The Militant and Fourth International. Forty-three per cent of those we visited renewed, which is a very good percentage and has given us quite a boost."

H. M. Smith of Chicago sends this enthusiastic note: "More subs! We, too, rejoice over the way they keep coming in. And especially when they are sold in the plants as all six of these were... three of them in steel plants and the other three in an auto plant."

Chicago friends will be pleased to learn that two people who bought copies of the excellent pamphlet, "A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow," by columnist Charles Jackson, mailed The Militant advertising coupon and obtained subscriptions to our paper.

Each mail brings in scores of new subscribers. Pittsburgh is top scorer this week with 17 six-month and 8 one-year subscribers among the coal miners. St. Louis makes the record with 10 six-month subscriptions, Los Angeles obtained 6 six-month renewals and 9 six-month new subs, and Rochester sent in 3 one-year renewals and 1 six-month new sub.

Militant Army welcomes into its ranks M. Karen, literature agent of Kansas City, who writes: "We had a good mobilization for Militant sub selling this week, and here are our results—11 six-month and 1 one-year subscription."

"We received excellent reactions from the workers we talked with, many of whom expressed a desire to attend our future meetings. One of the workers, an active member of the NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, invited us to their next meeting."

## Our Program:

1. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!

A sliding scale of hours! Reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay!

A rising scale of wages! Increase wages to meet the increased cost of living!

Operate all government-built plants under workers' control!

2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!

Rescind the no-strike pledge!

Withdraw union representatives from the War Labor Board!

3. Organization of the war veterans by the trade unions!

Full equality for Negroes and national minorities! Down with Jim Crow!

5. Working class political action!

Establish the workers' and farmers' government! Build the independent labor party!

3. Tax the rich, not the poor!

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!

Hands off the European and colonial peoples! Withdraw the Allied Occupation Troops from Europe! Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the European and colonial peoples!

## Join the Socialist Workers Party!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY  
116 University Place  
New York 3, New York

I would like:

- ☐ To join the Socialist Workers Party.
- ☐ To obtain further information about your organization.
- ☐ To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... Postal Zone ..... State .....



## 'Militant' Opens Drive For 10,000 New Subs

By Justine Lang  
CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

An intensive six-weeks *Militant* subscription campaign for 10,000 new readers will be launched by the Socialist Workers Party beginning October 14 with a National Red Sunday mobilization on Sunday, November 25. The subscriptions will be offered at the regular price

of 50 cents for six months and \$1.00 for a year.

Thirteen of the 29 SWP branches have already responded by accepting their quotas: Allentown-Bethlehem 100; Buffalo 300; Chicago 1,000; Cleveland 200; Los Angeles 1,500; Milwaukee 100; New York 2,000; Philadelphia 300; Reading 50; St. Paul 100; Toledo 300; Youngstown 300. Portland raised its quota from 50 to 75. St. Paul, expressing the sentiments of most of the branches, declared: "Of course we plan to get more than our quota, but this'll be a start."

### CAMPAIGN PLANS

Following the pattern set in

Indeed regrettable," she declared, "that your paper has so little respect for journalistic ethics as to take responsibility for the publication of a scandalous article by permitting it to appear without the author's by-line. By doing so the *Amsterdam News* has made itself a partner in a shabby political swindle."

Comrade Simpson said she had "assumed that the *Amsterdam News* had a higher standard than that adopted by the Republican Party and its 'bigwigs'!" During the course of this campaign I have granted interviews to many people sincerely interested in the program, ideas and Party which I represent. I would suggest that if the *Amsterdam News* is at all interested in an interview with me I would gladly meet any accredited representative and present my views. I would further suggest that in the future you attempt to verify your stories before publishing them."

## Louise Simpson Answers Bicious Fake 'Interview'

(Continued from Page 1)

continued Louise Simpson's letter, "Mr. Thomas and I concluded we were dealing with a crackpot. We gave him a copy of our election platform which definitely states our position in support of the five cent fare as well as on all the other important questions involved in the election campaign and terminated the interview."

"Since then," declared Louise Simpson, "I have been informed that as a Republican 'bigwig,' Mr. Edgar Brown is a close collaborator of Colonel McCormick of the reactionary Chicago Tribune, Wm. Randolph Hearst, and other such 'friends' of the Negro people. In that capacity he undoubtedly is so preoccupied with the task of preventing the Negro people from finding a radical solution to their problems that he has little time for the truth."

**SLANDEROUS ARTICLE**  
The Trotskyist Councilman candidate also pointed out the role of the *Amsterdam News* in printing Brown's article: "It is

the last *Militant* sub campaign, in the spring of this year, the branches are deciding upon their concentration points, mobilizing their forces and setting up campaign directors and teams. Philadelphia writes that their Campaign Committee will be two elected team captains together with the branch organizer.

In New York, a city-wide Campaign Director will supervise the activities of the five branches: West Side, East Side, Chelsea, Brooklyn and Harlem. Each branch will have its own Campaign Director and the branches will be divided into teams, at the head of which will be Team Captains. New York is planning to concentrate a large part of its efforts in Harlem, where a new branch has just been opened and where an intensive drive is being carried on for the Trotskyist candidates in the November elections.

In this campaign, as in the last, national branch and individual pace-setters will be featured. Weekly reports and a scoreboard will keep *Militant* readers posted on the results of this campaign.

Every branch in the country is keyed up and aspiring to lead all other branches in spirited competition. Not only members but friends and readers of *The Militant* are invited to participate in the sub campaign. Trotskyist Youth Groups in many branches are preparing to compete for youth group and singles championships.

In our previous campaign this year the goal of 10,000 new readers was upped by a record-smashing total of 22,437 subscriptions.



MARC DAUBER

## High Award For Heroism To Comrade Dauber

Pfc. Marc Dauber, member of the Socialist Workers Party, killed in action last November, was awarded posthumously last week the Distinguished Service Cross, second highest medal.

Wounded on D-Day on the Normandy beachhead, Marc recovered only to be killed in action in the Huertgen Forest in Germany. The medal was awarded because, after being badly wounded, he continued to shout and throw hand grenades in order to draw enemy fire away from his platoon.

Before being drafted, Marc was a senior at Brooklyn College. He was 22 when killed.

To readers of *Fourth International* Marc was known as James Cadman. In 1941, at the age of 19, he was writing like a seasoned Marxist on various military and political questions.

His biography appeared in an obituary in the April 14 issue of *THE MILITANT*.

## Wright Lectures In 3 Cities On The British Labor Victory

(Continued from Page 1)

tries, he said, they were coalition governments. The great victory of the British Labor Party today places a majority of two to one in the capitalist Parliament. Today, for the first time, the leaders of the Labor Party do not need the consent of anyone to carry out the job for which the English workers voted them into office.

### SIMPSON SPEAKS

A special feature of the evening was the question and answer period following the lecture, when dozens of written questions were answered by Comrade Wright.

Louise Simpson, Trotskyist candidate for New York City Council in the November elections also spoke. She said that many workers in this country, disgusted with the corrupt and

treacherous capitalist parties and the Stalinist party, think of politics as a dirty business and want to have no part of it.

This is because they are still unacquainted with the revolutionary socialist program of the Socialist Workers Party, she declared, the only party that offers a real solution to the oppressed and enslaved workers.

The audience responded with a generous collection of \$125. The meeting concluded with the singing of *The Internationale*. From New York, Comrade Wright will continue his coast-to-coast tour, with his next meeting in Rochester.

### Allentown Hears John G. Wright

By John Fitch

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Sept. 24—

An enthusiastic group of 25 workers attended the meeting at which John G. Wright spoke on "The Victory of the British Labor Party—Its Meaning for American Workers," held in the newly acquired headquarters of the Allentown Branch.

The masterly presentation of his subject by Comrade Wright provoked a lively discussion among the workers, many of whom work in Mack Truck and Bethlehem Steel. After the meeting two members of the audience joined the Socialist Workers Party.

Practically everyone stayed for the housewarming which followed the meeting. Groups of workers gathered together to discuss various phases of the lecture while they enjoyed tidbits and refreshments, music and dancing. Many of them are looking forward to future meetings to which they

intend to bring their friends.

As an indication of the welcome accorded the new Socialist Workers Party headquarters in this area, bouquets of flowers and messages of good wishes for our party and its activities were sent by neighbors.

be jubilant over the electoral victory of the British workers," declared Comrade Wright. He presented carefully-documented facts to demonstrate that this victory was the result of the bankruptcy of British capitalism.

### PROCESS HERE

In response to questions from the audience, Comrade Wright explained that the same process was beginning to take place in this country. He showed how the movement of the militant Detroit workers to elect a labor candidate for mayor was an important indication of this trend.

The general feeling of those present was summed up by one newcomer who declared: "I wouldn't have missed this meeting for anything. I learned more from that one speech than from anything else I've ever heard!"

### Newark Meeting Well Attended

NEWARK, N. J., Sept. 25—An enthusiastic reception was accorded to John G. Wright, noted Trotskyist speaker and writer, when he addressed a well-attended meeting tonight of members and friends of the Socialist Workers Party, speaking on "The British Labor Victory—Its Meaning for the American Workers."

"The oppressed peoples of the entire world have every right to

Hear  
**JOHN G. WRIGHT**  
Associate Editor of "The Militant"  
and 4th International speak on  
"The British Labor Victory—Its Meaning  
for American Workers"

### BUFFALO

Friday, October 5, 8 p.m.  
Militant Forum, 629  
Main Street.

### AKRON

Friday, October 12  
405-6 Everett Bldg.,  
39 E. Market Street.

### CLEVELAND

Sunday, Oct. 14, 8 p.m.  
Carnegie Bldg., 1220  
Huron Road (off Euclid)  
Room 914.

### YOUNGSTOWN

Sunday, October 7, 8  
p.m., 225 No. Phelps  
Street

### JOHN G. WRIGHT TOUR SCHEDULE

CITY	DATE
YOUNGSTOWN	Sunday to Tuesday, Oct. 7-9
AKRON	Wednesday to Friday, Oct. 10-12
CLEVELAND	Saturday to Monday, Oct. 13-15
TOLEDO	Tuesday to Thursday, Oct. 16-18
DETROIT	Friday to Sunday, Oct. 19-21
FLINT	Wednesday, October 24
CHICAGO	Friday to Wednesday, Oct. 26-31
MILWAUKEE	Thursday, Friday, Nov. 1-2
TWIN CITIES	Monday to Friday, Nov. 5-9
SEATTLE	Tuesday to Friday, Nov. 13-16
PORTLAND	Sunday to Tuesday, Nov. 18-20
SAN FRANCISCO	Friday to Monday, Nov. 23-26
LOS ANGELES	Thurs., Nov. 29 to Wed., Dec. 5
KANSAS CITY	Monday, Tuesday, Dec. 10-11
ST. LOUIS	Thursday, Friday, Dec. 13-14
PITTSBURGH	Sunday to Tuesday, Dec. 16-18

# THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN TROTSKYISM

## OUR EXPERIENCES IN THE N. Y. HOTEL STRIKE

By James P. Cannon

The hotel organization campaign began, and as so frequently happens in trade union developments, luck played a part. By chance, a few members of our party belonged to this independent union which became the medium for the organization campaign. As the hotel workers began to turn toward unionism in a big way, this handful of Trotskyists found themselves in the midst of a swirling mass movement. We had a comrade, an old-time militant in the trade, and after years of isolation he suddenly found himself an influential figure. Then we had in the party at that time a man named B. J. Field, an intellectual. He had never been engaged in trade union work before. But he was a man of many intellectual accomplishments, and in our general push toward mass work, in our drive for contact with the mass movement, Field was assigned to go into the hotel situation to help our faction and to give the union the benefit of his knowledge as a statistician, an economist and a linguist.

### Organizing the N. Y. Hotel Workers

It happened that the most strategically important sector in the hotel situation was a group of French chefs. Because of their strategic position in the trade and their prestige as the most skilled craftsmen, they played, as is always the case with the best mechanics everywhere, a predominant role. Many of these French chefs could not speak or discuss things in English. Our intellectual could talk French with them till the cows came home. This gave him extraordinary importance in their eyes. The old secretary was leaving office, and before anybody knew what had happened, the French chefs insisted that Field should be secretary of this promising union and he was duly elected; naturally that meant not only an opportunity for us, but also a responsibility. The organization campaign then went on with full force. Our League gave the most energetic help from the start. I personally participated quite actively and spoke at several organization mass meetings. After five years of isolation down on Tenth Street and Sixteenth Street, making innumerable speeches at small forums and internal meetings—and not only making the speeches, but listening to other speakers interminably—I was happy to have an opportunity to speak to hundreds and hundreds of workers on elementary trade unionism.

Hugo Oehler, who later became a quite famous sectarian, but who, strangely enough, was an excellent trade unionist—and more than that, a member of this craft—was sent into this union to help. In addition, a number of other comrades were assigned to help in the organizing campaign. We publicized the campaign in *The Militant* and gave whatever help we could, including advice and direction to our comrades, until the movement culminated in a general strike of New York hotel workers on January 24, 1934. At the invitation of the union committee, I made the main speech at the mass meeting of the hotel workers, the night when the general strike was proclaimed. Thereafter the National Committee of our League assigned me to devote my whole time to assisting and collaborating with Field and the fraction in the hotel workers union. Many others—a dozen or more—were assigned to help in every way from picketing to running errands, from writing publicity to distributing handbills and sweeping up headquarters; any and every kind of task which would be required of them in such a situation.

Our League went all out for the strike, just as we had done in the German crisis in the early part of 1933. When the German situation came to the breaking point, we brought out *The Militant* three times a week in order to dramatize the events and increase our striking power. We did the same thing in the New York hotel strike. *The Militant* was carried by our comrades to all meetings and picket lines. So that every worker in the industry on strike saw *The Militant* every other day popularizing the strike, giving the strikers' side, exposing the bosses' lies, and offering some ideas on ways of making the strike successful.

Our whole organization, all over the country, was mobilized to help the New York strike as task number one; to help the union win the strike and to help our comrades establish the influence and prestige of Trotskyism in the fight. That is one of the characteristics of Trotskyism. Trotskyism never does anything half-way. Trotskyism acts according to the old motto: Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well. That is the way we acted in the hotel strike. We poured everything we had into that task to make it successful. The whole New York organization was mobilized; they scraped down to the bottom of their pockets, to the last dime, to pay the tremendous expense of the three-times-a-week *Militant*. The comrades all over the country did likewise. We strained the organization almost to

the breaking point to help that strike.

But we did not become trade union fetishists. Simultaneously with our concentration in the hotel strike, we made a decisive move on the political front. *The Militant* of January 27, the very issue of the paper which carried the first report of the general strike, published also an open letter addressed to the Provisional Organization Committee of the American Workers Party, which the Conference for Progressive Labor Action had set up at their Pittsburgh conference in the preceding month. In this open letter we took note of their convention decision to move toward the constitution of a political party; we proposed to open discussions with the objective of coming to an agreement on program so that we could form a political party unitedly, putting their forces and ours together in one organization. It is symptomatic, it is significant, that the initiative came from us. In every relationship ever established between the Trotskyists and any other political grouping, the initiative always came from the Trotskyists. That was not because of our personal superiority or because we were less bashful than other people—we have always been modest enough—but because we knew what we wanted all the time. We had a more clearly defined program and were always sure of what we were doing, or at least we thought we were.

This gave us confidence, initiative. The hotel strike had a very promising beginning. A series of great mass meetings was held, culminating in a mass meeting in the annex of Madison Square Garden with not less than 10,000 in attendance. There I had the privilege of speaking as one of the featured speakers of the strike committee, along with Field and others. Our comrades in the union were in a position from the start to influence strike policy most decisively, although we never pursued the policy of monopolizing strike leadership. Our policy has been to draw into cooperation all the leading militants, and share responsibility with them, in order that the strike leadership may be really representative of the membership and sensitively responsive to it.

### Strike Encounters Difficulties

Naturally, the strike began to encounter many of the difficulties which scuttled so many strikes of that period, particularly the machinations of the Federal Labor Board. It required political awareness to prevent the ostensible "help" of these governmental agencies from being transformed into a noose for the strike. We had sufficient political experience, we knew enough about the role of government mediators, to have some ideas about how to deal with them—not only to turn one's back on them in sectarian fashion, but to utilize every possibility they might afford to bring the bosses into negotiations; and to do this without placing the slightest confidence in these people or giving them the initiative.

All this we tried to impress upon our brilliant young intellectual prodigy, B. J. Field. But he in the meantime had gone through a certain transformation; from nothing he had suddenly become everything. His picture was in all the New York papers. He was the leader of a great mass movement. And strange as it may seem, sometimes these things which are purely external, having absolutely nothing to do with what is inside a man, exert a profound effect on his self-estimation. This, unfortunately, was the case with Field. By nature he was rather conservative, and by no means free from petty-bourgeois sentiment, from being impressed by government representatives, politicians and labor skates into whose company he was suddenly thrust. He began to carry out his negotiations with these people, and to conduct himself generally, like a Napoleon, as he thought, but in reality like a schoolboy. He disregarded the fraction of his own party in the union—which is always the sign of a man who has lost his head. But it often happens with party members who are suddenly projected into important strategic positions in unions. They are seized by the utterly irrational idea that they are bigger than the party, that they don't need the party any more.

Field began to disregard the militants of his own party fraction who were right there by his side and should have been the machine through which he carried out everything. Not only that. He began to disregard the National Committee of the League. We could have helped him a lot because our committee embodied the experience not of one strike but of many, to say nothing of the political experience which would have been so useful in dealing with the Labor Board sharks. We wanted to help him because we were bound up in the situation as much as he was. All over town, and all over the country in fact, everybody was talking about the Trotskyist strike. Our movement was on trial before the labor movement of the country. All our enemies were hoping for disaster; nobody wanted to help us. We knew very well that if the strike had a bad outcome the Trotskyist organization would get a black eye. No matter how far Field might depart from the party policy, it would not be Field who would be remembered and blamed for the failure, but the Trotskyist movement, the Trotskyist organization.

Each day that went by, our headless intellectual pulled

Previous installments of Comrade Cannon's book described the emergence of the American Communist Party out of the left wing of the Socialist Party in 1919, the expulsion of the Trotskyists in 1928, the formation of a new party and the preparation for mass work.

farther away from us. We tried hard, in the most comradely way, in the most humble way, to convince this swell-headed fool that he was leading not only himself but the strike to destruction, and was threatening to bring discredit upon our movement. We begged him to consult us, to come and talk to the National Committee about the policy of the strike, which was beginning to sag because it was being directed wrongly. Instead of organizing the militancy of the ranks from below, and thus coming to the negotiations with a power behind him—the only thing that really counts in negotiations when the chips are down—he was moderating the militancy of the masses and spending all his time running around from one conference to another with these government sharks, politicians and labor skates who had no other purpose except to knife the strike.

### The Party Must Determine The Line

Field became more and more disdainful. How could he, who had no time, come down and meet with us? All right, we said, we have time; we will meet you at meal time in a restaurant a block from the union headquarters. He didn't have the time even for that. He began to pass disparaging remarks. There was a little political group down on Sixteenth Street, and all they had was a program and a handful of people; and here he was with 10,000 strikers under his influence. Why should he bother with us? He said, "I could not get in contact with you even if I wanted to; you haven't even got a telephone in your office." That was true, and we really winced under the accusation—we had no telephone. That deficiency was a relic of our isolation, a hangover from the past when we had no need of a telephone because nobody wanted to call us up, and we couldn't call anyone. Besides, up till then, we couldn't afford a telephone.

Eventually the hotel strike bogged down for lack of militant policy because of a crawling reliance on the Labor Board which was aiming to scuttle the strike. Days were wasted in futile negotiations with Mayor LaGuardia, while the strike was dying on its feet for lack of proper leadership. Meanwhile our enemies were waiting to say: "We told you so. The Trotskyists are nothing but sectarian hair splitters. They can't do mass work. They can't lead strikes." It was a heavy blow to us. We had the name of leading the strike but not the influence to shape its policy, thanks to the treachery of Field. We were in danger of having our movement compromised. If we should condone what was being done by Field and his group we could only spread demoralization in our own ranks. We could convert our young revolutionary group into a caricature model of the Socialist Party, which had people all over the trade union movement but had no serious party influence because the Socialist Party trade unionists never felt any obligation to the party.

We had before us a fundamental problem which is decisive for every revolutionary political party: Shall trade union functionaries determine the party line and lay down the law to the party, or shall the party determine the line and lay down the law to the trade union functionaries? The problem was posed point-blank in the midst of this strike. We did not evade the issue. The decisive action we took at that time colored all the future developments of our party in the trade union field and did a great deal to shape the character of our party.

We put Mr. Field on trial in the middle of the strike. Big as he was, we brought charges against him for violating party policy and party discipline, before the New York organization. We had a full discussion—as I recall, it lasted two Sunday afternoons—to give everybody in the League a chance to speak. The great man Field disdained to appear. He had no time. So he was tried in his absence. By this time he had organized a little faction of his own of League members whom he had misled, and who had become unbalanced by the magnitude of the mass movement as against the size of our little political grouping on Sixteenth Street. They came down to the League meetings as Field's spokesmen, full of arrogance and impudence and said: "You can't expel us. You are only expelling yourselves from the trade union mass movement."

Like many trade unionists before them, they felt bigger than the party. They thought they could violate party policy and break party discipline with impunity because the party wouldn't dare to discipline them. That is what really happened in the case of the Socialist Party, and that is one important reason why the Socialist Party has wound up in such a pitiful debacle in the trade union field. All its great trade union leaders, lifted into office with the help of the party, are still there but once in of-

fice they never paid any attention to the party or its policy. Labor leaders were above discipline in the Socialist Party. The party never summoned up enough courage to expel any of them, because they thought that thereby they would lose their "contact" with the mass movement. We had no such thoughts. We proceeded resolutely, to expel Field and all those who solidarized themselves with him in that situation. We threw them out of our organization in the midst of the strike. Those members of the Field faction who didn't want to break with the party, who agreed to accept the discipline of the party, were given an opportunity to do so and are still members of the party. Some of those whom we expelled remained in political isolation for years. Eventually they drew the lessons of that experience and returned to us.

### "The Trotskyists Mean Business"

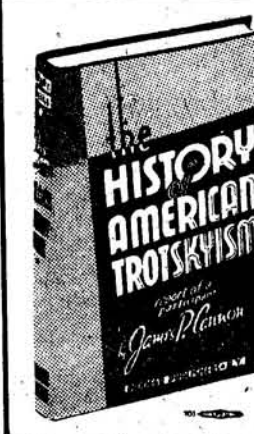
That was a very drastic action, considering the circumstances of the strike in progress; and by that action we startled the radical labor movement. Nobody outside our organization ever dreamed that a little political grouping like ours, confronted with a member at the head of a movement of 10,000 workers, would dare to expel him at the height of his glory, when his picture was all over the newspapers and he seemed to be a thousand times bigger than our party. There were two reactions at first. One reaction was summed up by people who said: "This means the end of the Trotskyists; they have lost their trade union contacts and forces." They were mistaken. The other reaction, the important one, was summed up by those who said: "The Trotskyists mean business." Those who predicted fatal consequences from this disgrace and debacle of the hotel strike were soon refuted by further developments. Many who saw this little political grouping take a stand like that towards an "untouchable" trade union leader at the head of a big strike acquired a healthy respect for the Trotskyists.

Serious people were attracted to the League, and our whole membership was stiffened up with a new sense of discipline and responsibility toward the organization. Then, right on the heels of the hotel disaster, came the Minneapolis coal yard strike. Before the hotel strike grew cold there was a flare-up in Minneapolis and a strike of the coal yard workers. It was led by this group of Minneapolis Trotskyists who are known to all of you, and conducted as a model of organization and militancy. Party discipline of our comrades in this endeavor—100 percent effective—was in no small degree affected and reinforced by the unfortunate experience we had in New York. Whereas the tendency of the trade union leaders in New York had been to pull away from the party, in Minneapolis the leaders came closer to the party and concluded the strike in the most intimate contact with the party, both locally and nationally.

The coal yard strike came to a smashing victory. The Trotskyist trade union policy, carried out by able and loyal men, was brilliantly vindicated in this battle of the coal yards, and did much to counterbalance the bad impressions of the New York hotel strike.

Following these events, we addressed another letter to the American Workers Party proposing that we send a committee to discuss fusion with them. There were elements in their ranks who by no means wanted to talk to us. We were the last people they wanted to unite with, but there were others in the AWP who were seriously interested in uniting with us to form a bigger party. And, since we didn't keep our approaches a secret, but always printed them in the paper where the membership of the American Workers Party could read them, the leaders found it judicious to agree to meet us. The formal negotiations for the fusion of the American Workers Party and the Communist League began in the spring of 1934.

(To Be Continued)



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# 1,000 Detroit Workers Picket Fascist Meeting; Police Use Clubs In Attack On Anti-Fascists

(Continued from Page 1)

Several pickets, including a war veteran still in uniform, were knocked unconscious. As the veteran slumped forward, blood pouring out of his ears from a blow on the head, he was heard to protest "I haven't done anything. I was just walking on the picket line." In answer a policeman lifted his club to strike him again, but the veteran had already fainted.

## STALINIST FINGERMEN

Police brutality to pickets is not a new thing to Detroit workers. However, union members were shocked to learn that the official leadership of the Stalinist-dominated Wayne County CIO Council had been collaborating with the police and had acted as fingermen.

A reporter for a Detroit daily newspaper stated that "CIO officials gave the police information about individual pickets." Police Commissioner Ballenger told a UAW member who protested the beatings, "We knew last night what was coming. One of your boys tipped us off. You got just what you asked for."

The treachery of the official CIO leadership was further corroborated by a picket from Local 263 UAW-CIO who overheard Sam Sage, Stalinist Secretary of the Wayne County CIO Council tell the police "We're going to call OUR line off. You'll know how to take care of the others."

## "WHERE'S GANLEY?"

The conspiracy between the Stalinists and the police department to have the pickets beaten up explains in part why Stalinist-dominated auto locals were so conspicuously absent from the picket line. Their absence did not set well with the pickets however, who were heard asking "Where is Ganley? Where's Quinn? Where is John Anderson?"

The betrayal of militant pickets, into the hands of the police was the final attempt of the Stalinists to prevent a mass anti-fascist demonstration, after all their earlier efforts at sabotage had failed. Although the Wayne County CIO Council, controlled by Stalinists, had known for two weeks about the America First meeting, they kept silent until two days before the event.

Only the pressure of the ranks finally forced them to endorse a picket line, and even then they tried to sidetrack the action. They made plans for only a small "token" picket line across the street from Northern High School, where it would not interfere with the Smith meeting. They attempted to muster the pickets through two Stalinist stooge organizations, the People's Institute of Applied Religion and the Civil Rights Federation, rather than through the organized labor movement. Finally they made every effort to keep their plans for a picket line a secret, at the same time claiming that the unions were being notified.

## NOT INFORMED

Phone calls made by the Socialist Workers Party to leading CIO locals throughout the city disclosed the shameful fact that most of the locals were NOT being informed of the Council's plans, although they were eager to act against the fascists and to cooperate with the Council in every way. Those few locals which had been notified were given Wednesday, September 26, as the date of the demonstration, instead of the correct date Thursday, September 27.

On Tuesday, September 25, the Socialist Workers Party sent a telegram to the Wayne County CIO Council announcing its full support of the Council's action in calling for a picket line and recommending that the Council make every effort to secure a mass turnout by publicizing the demonstration through press releases, handbills, advertisements, broadcasts, sound trucks, and all other means available.

Similar telegrams asking for support to the Wayne County CIO Council and calling for publicity were also sent by the Socialist Workers Party to the Wayne County Political Action Committee; to the United Automobile Workers, CIO; to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and to Richard Frankenstein, vice-president of the UAW-CIO and labor candidate for mayor. Frankenstein was particularly urged to make an immediate statement to the press and over the radio in support of the anti-Smith demonstration.

## HOSTILE RECEPTION

Arthur Burch, Detroit organizer of the Socialist Workers

Party, went to the executive board of the Wayne County CIO Council which was meeting that same night, to repeat in person the recommendations contained in the telegram, and to point out that local unions had been given an incorrect date for the picket line by CIO officials.

He had a hostile reception, the board voting 6-to-1 not to give him a hearing. When he managed nevertheless to state the party's recommendations and to offer the party's help in raising funds and supplying material assistance needed to properly publicize the picket line, the board remained silent, except that Williams, president of Local 208 UAW-CIO, kept interrupting by shouting hysterically, "You can't talk here. We voted not to hear you."

The Stalinist conspiracy of silence about the Wayne County CIO Council's plans to picket the Smith meeting was finally broken the next day through press releases sent by the Socialist Workers Party to the three daily papers.

The Detroit News on Wednesday, September 26, carried a front page story announcing the demonstration and admitting that "news of the picket line leaked out when one of the co-operating groups sent out a press release Tuesday night." Thus did Detroit workers finally learn, one day before the event, that they would have an opportunity to demonstrate their hatred of fascism and of those who would try to spread fascism in this country.

## LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED

On Wednesday, the same day, the daily papers carried news of the coming demonstration, the Socialist Workers Party distributed 20,000 leaflets calling on



G. L. K. SMITH

the workers of Detroit to answer the call of the Wayne County CIO Council to picket at Northern High School the following night. The leaflet set forth the dangers of fascism to the labor movement and to all minority groups and called on the workers to "Smash Fascism Before Fascism Smashes You."

These leaflets were distributed in all the working class neighborhoods, where they were received enthusiastically at plant gates; and to as many local union halls as could be reached in the short time that remained.

Local union officials, with two exceptions, willingly posted the leaflets on their bulletin boards; apologized that they had not had sufficient notice to get out leaflets of their own; and asked for ample supplies of the Socialist Workers Party leaflets to distribute to their members. The two exceptions were Local 208 UAW-CIO, where Williams ejected the Socialist Workers Party representative, and the Wayne County CIO Council, where the Stalinist Sam Sage, Council secretary, refused to post the leaflet. At neither place was there any announcement to be found of the CIO picket line.

## AFL ENDORSEMENT

In spite of the short notice which they were given, at least four UAW-CIO locals, Briggs 212, Budd 306, Fleetwood 15, and Bower Bearing 681, managed to distribute thousands of their own leaflets to their members, resulting in an especially large turnout on the picket line from these four locals.

Frank Martel, chairman of the AFL Central Labor Council, announced the AFL's endorsement of the demonstration, and called on all AFL locals to be present. In contrast, R. J. Thomas and other UAW-CIO officials remained silent. The Wayne County CIO Council, whose picket line this was, did not get around to notifying affiliated CIO locals until 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, on the very eve of the action, when it was too late for most unions to organize a large turnout.

All the efforts of the Stalinists to sabotage the anti-fascist militancy of the workers and to reduce their picket lines to a mere

## DRIVE OUT THE FASCISTS!

Picket The G. L. K. Smith Meeting at Northern High School

Corner Woodward and Clairmont

Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7:00 P.M.

Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, leading fascist demagogue, has dared to call an anti-labor rally in this UAW stronghold at the very time that the workers are fighting for a 30 per cent wage increase.

Rev. Smith is stirring up anti-Negro and anti-Jewish hatred after the pattern of Hitler.

This is all part of the drive of Big Business to crush the unions.

Stop fascism from getting a foothold in Detroit.

Do not stand idly by and permit fascism to smash the labor movement.

Answer the call of the Wayne County CIO Council to picket. Be at Northern High School Thurs. 7 p.m. sharp

SMASH FASCISM BEFORE FASCISM SMASHES YOU!

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY and THE MILITANT

1415 WOODWARD, ROOM 31 DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Leaflet issued by the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party and The Militant supporting the CIO call for a demonstration against the fascist demagogue, Gerald L. K. Smith.

token protest were unavailing. Although the demonstration was called for 7:00 p.m. pickets began arriving at the school with their placards well ahead of time. After looking around for the official CIO sponsors, who were not there, the pickets formed their own line of march, led by AFL representatives who had come promptly.

## LINES SWELL

Within a few minutes the lines had swelled to huge proportions, the majority of pickets being auto workers and their families. All racial groups were well represented, as were veterans or organizations, servicemen in uniform, students, civic and fraternal organizations, and finally, somewhat late, the Stalinist church group.

Particularly in evidence on the picket line were the flying squadrons from a number of UAW-CIO locals, including Locals 212, 490, 306, 15, 154, 681, 600, 174 and 50. In the absence of any leadership given by the CIO Council, these flying squadrons members, cooperating with Socialist Workers Party leaders, took the lead of the demonstration.

It was this committee, organized in the action itself, which kept the lines together when the police tried to break them up and push the pickets back. They bore the brunt of the police brutality and took care of their wounded, refusing to permit the pickets to be taken away in a police ambulance. They kept the picket lines going in spite of repeated Stalinist pronouncements that the demonstration was over.

PROMISES A PROTEST

Sam Sage finally persuaded some of the pickets to quit, but only on the promise that the CIO Council would organize a protest meeting the following day at the mayor's office at which he personally would be present to protest police brutality. With the demonstration thus weakened by Sage, Arthur Burch, who led the Socialist Workers Party delegation, addressed the pickets remaining on the line, pointing out that the isolation of genuine anti-fascists in a smaller picket line was precisely what the police were waiting for. It would be better, Burch told them, to disband in an organized fashion and prepare for a gigantic demonstration if and when Smith returned in December.

## PICKET SIGNS

The scores of picket signs showed that the workers well understood the meaning of fascism and its dangers to the labor movement. Besides the slogans of "Drive the Fascist Rev. G. L. K. Smith Out of Detroit!" and "Smash Fascism Before Fascism Smashes You," repeated many times over, there were such signs as "Big Business Supports Fascism"; "Smith Preaches Nationalism. So Did Hitler"; "Smith Divides the Workers—Worker Against Veteran, Christian Against Jew, White Against Colored"; "Why Did Smith Leave Los Angeles?" "Smith, Bilbo, Reynolds, Rankin, Coughlin"; "Hitler Was a Jew Hater—So Is Smith"; and "Hitler Was Anti-Negro—So Is Smith."

The small groups of fascists who ventured through the police lines were greeted by boos and jeers, as were the police reinforcements. Cheers and applause, on the other hand, welcomed the flying squadrons from the various auto locals as they arrived to take their place on the picket line.

## UNDERSTAND POLICE ROLE

The pickets also showed a fine understanding of the role of the police. They answered the beatings by shouting: "Mayor Jeffries' Storm Troopers Protect Fascists"; "We Want a LABOR Police Commissioner"; "Down With Jeffries"; and "Elect Frankenstein and the Cops Will All Be Union Members."

There were many demands that the plants be closed for a one-day protest against the brutal actions of the police, and a number of UAW-CIO locals sent delegations to the protest meeting which Sage had called at the mayor's office for today. However, the Stalinist Sage reneged on his promise, and due to the complete absence of any officials from the UAW or from the Wayne County CIO Council, the protest meeting did not take place.

## STALINIST SLANDER

Why did Sage call off the protest against police brutality? The answer can be found in the Daily Worker of September 29 which says: "The Trotskyites sought to incite a violent clash. They were partially successful and two persons were hurt." This makes it clear that the Stalinist chiefs gave the order to whitewash the police and to place the blame for police violence on the pickets.

It was reported that the fascist Smith did not have things all his way at the meeting inside the school, as is his usual custom. Although it was claimed that 500 attended the meeting, no more than 150 of his own people were seen to enter; others at the meeting were mostly teachers and students who had been attending night school and who reportedly heckled Smith throughout his three-hour speech. This heckling was in sharp contrast to a meeting Smith held in the same auditorium about a year ago, when 600 of his supporters cheered his every word.

## SMITH A "STINKER"

The police tried to stop a group of Jewish soldiers in uniform from entering, but were forced to admit seven when a U. S. Army major interceded. It was reported that one of the soldiers managed to make his way to the platform where Smith was speaking, and called Smith a "stinker", whereupon there were loud cheers from the audience.

When the meeting was over, hundreds of pickets still milled around the school, although the picket line had been disbanded almost two hours before. The fascists, who had assumed a jaunty manner upon entering the meeting, came out frightened and downcast, and again had to be escorted through police lines.

Today the Detroit Board of Education announced that Smith and his America First Group

will no longer be permitted the use of public schools for meetings.

## JOB WELL DONE

The magnificent response of the Detroit workers to the hastily called picket line, and the severe setback suffered by Smith, point to a job well done.

However, the question still remains: "What next to drive the fascists out of Detroit altogether?" The finky role of the Stalinists is well understood in labor circles here, and many UAW locals are already planning to make a sharp protest at the next general meeting of the Wayne County CIO Council against its treacherous actions. The Stalinist officials of the Council will be called to account, but there still is the task of establishing a genuine anti-fascist leadership to guide the workers in their struggles.

What disappointed the workers was the silent and aloof attitude of the UAW-CIO international officials whose political lead the Detroit workers are more inclined to follow. Right now, when the Detroit labor movement is engaged in an election campaign to put its own candidates in the offices of mayor and common council, the pickets had every right to expect from their candidates a demonstration of solidarity in the fight against fascism and police brutality. They could be heard asking one another on the picket line: "Where is Frankenstein? Where are Doll and Hill? Why aren't they here?"

## "SMART" POLITICS

Nor will the workers be satisfied with the answer given by the Wayne County Political Action Committee, controlled by the UAW top leadership, to the request made by the Socialist Workers Party that Frankenstein take the lead in the demonstration—it would not be "smart politics," said the PAC.

## The Fight In Los Angeles Against Race Segregation

By Jean Simon

(The first of two articles)

With good reason Los Angeles has become the center of the legal fight against isolating Negroes into ghettos. While some 23,000 Negro families have moved into this city during the past five years, nearly every residential district opened in the past 20 years has been limited by race restrictions.

Moreover out of some 54,000 privately built houses for war workers, only five per cent are available to Negroes who made up a good 14 per cent of the incoming population.

## GHETTO EVILS

All the evils of the ghetto system are glaringly apparent in Los Angeles. Negroes are forced to pay fantastically high prices for run-down houses that are packed together and without sanitary facilities, to say nothing of conveniences. The attempt is being made to set Negroes apart in isolated communities by what amounts to virtually a separate school system, separate police and so forth.

To make matters worse, native American fascists, miniature Senator Bilbo and underlings of Gerald L. K. Smith, are extremely active in whipping up prejudice to aggravate the situation.

But the Negro people aren't taking it lying down. While most states have laws aimed to force racial minorities into ghettos, there are more cases against such segregation in California courts than in all other states combined. Most of these cases are in Los Angeles.

NO LEGAL BASIS

The present drive to force Negroes into the same sort of hellholes that segregated the Jewish people in Europe actually has no legal basis in the United States. But it's nothing new. With the often open and always tacit support of the Federal Government, it got started on a nation-wide scale during the

spokesmen, for Frankenstein to get mixed up in the fight against the fascist Smith.

The policy of ignoring Hitler, of refusing to lead the German masses in an all-out fight against him, and of not publicizing that fight to the workers before the fascists became strong, was precisely the kind of "smart politics" to which the German workers were treated by their leaders before Hitler came to power.

Detroit workers insist that their union and their political leaders DO become "mixed up" with the fight against fascism, that they get out and lead it or be replaced by leaders who will. The next few weeks may well see such a leadership established. A number of UAW local presidents, indignant at the treacherous role played by the Stalinist CIO Council, have already declared the need for a broad anti-fascist united front, based on the labor movement and led by militants who want to involve the masses in genuine struggle. A resolution to that effect will in all probability be introduced at the next presidents' conference to be held early in October.

## LABOR HOLIDAY

There is talk also of declaring a general labor holiday in Detroit the next time Smith attempts to hold a meeting here, and of bringing down the powerful Flint and Pontiac locals to join in a mass anti-fascist demonstration.

Smith has announced that he will be back in December for a return engagement. If he dares to return he will find a solid front arrayed against him. Given two months instead of two days in which to organize, the anti-fascists can easily make it impossible for Smith to hold a meeting in public schools or in any other meeting hall in the city. By their numbers and their willingness to fight, the workers will drive the fascists out of Detroit.

First World War, the war for so-called "democracy." At that time a wave of migration brought Negroes into the labor markets of the industrial cities throughout the country. The ignorant and the reactionary, the misguided and vicious, organized on a wider scale to bar so-called "blacks" from the so-called "white" neighborhoods.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution says that no state shall deny any person within its jurisdiction equal protection within the law. However, capitalist politicians got around it by legal sleight of hand.

## "RIGHT TO DISCRIMINATE"

In a series of decisions, state and federal courts ruled that while states and communities could not establish restricted residential districts, individuals could. "The individual," it was ruled, "has the right to discriminate against whomever he chooses."

Given the legal basis, the practice was made more effective by the so-called Roosevelt New Deal through its Federal Housing Administration. The FHA, following a policy set down with the approval of Roosevelt, extends credit to Negroes only if "they build in Negro neighborhoods and to whites only if they build in white neighborhoods."

During the Second World War the vicious pattern of segregation has been greatly extended. And the "democratic" government, its courts and its agencies are clearly responsible.

(To Be Continued)

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## The NEGRO STRUGGLE

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

by CHARLES JACKSON

## The True Role of Religion

The Negro people have been bound down by the chains of servitude and persecution for the last 300 years. Although many of us have been taught to look upon religious belief as a beacon of hope that has had a helpful influence during all this time, the fact of the matter is that no small link in those very chains that bind us, has been the white man's ruling class religion.

It is not accidental that one of the first slave ships to leave the port of Bristol, England, to go to Africa and obtain native blacks to be taken to the new world and sold into bondage, was named the "Jesus Christ."

It is no accident that the clergy unanimously sanctioned the slaveholding policies of the southern landowners—wrapping up this inhuman practice in such tinsel as this: "It is to the great advantage of the slaves that the slaveholders took them from their heathen existence in Africa and brought them here so that they could be taught the Christian religion and thereby become worthy of everlasting life"—(incidentally, while they were here they tended and harvested the cotton crops under forced labor so that their masters could live in palatial splendor.)

## "FOR WHITES ONLY"

It is no accident that Senator Bilbo (a devout Christian), in April, 1944, declared before a special joint meeting of the Mississippi legislature that the superiority of the white race has been proved. . . . The white race is the custodian of the gospel of Jesus Christ." Thus Bilbo in the name of Christianity would even put a "for white only" sign on the Pearly Gates.

Almost unanimously the official church organizations in this country, in England, Germany and Japan supported this past imperialist slaughter where boys were sent out to cut the throats of fellow humans whom they had never even seen, and where air force bombardiers on both sides squeezed releases that reduced tens of millions of innocent men, women and children to bloody mush.

## DIVIDES WORKERS

Isn't it true that religion sets Protestant workers against Catholic workers, Mohammedan workers against Jewish workers, and so on down the line? Even in starving India the British leeches promote a hatred of the Hindus against their blood brothers, the Moslems, through religion.

Thus religion is, in fact a belief which assumes the practical form of a prejudice. It is strangely similar as far as destroying working class solidarity is concerned to our own familiar bugaboo—racial prejudice. When you hear someone claim they have "got religion" what they're really got is religious prejudice.

On a recent Socialist Workers Party mobilization to sell the pamphlet, "A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow," one of our agents entered a house where several colored workers and a preacher were gathered. Explain-

ing that the pamphlet contained a fighting program to gain full equality, our comrade soon interested the workers in getting the pamphlet. The preacher, however, said "Don't buy that brothers, we will never gain our rights through fighting. That is not the way of Christ."

When it was made clear that we were opposed to a fight of black against white and that we stood for the workers of all colors getting together in a solid alliance, the minister came back with the answer that our only ally was Jesus Christ. He thus successfully prevented these oppressed Negroes from getting the pamphlet and thereby arming themselves with the truth.

## CLOTHED IN RELIGION

Every leading enemy of equality for the Negro, from the rabid Southern slaveholders through the venomous Senator Bilbo and Harry Truman, commander-in-chief of the Jim Crow U. S. Army and President of the Country in whose national capital Negroes are forcibly barred from "white" theaters, on down to Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, the Number 1 fascist—each of these purveyors of the lie of white supremacy clothes himself in the snow-white robes of religion.

Only Socialism will bring a Brotherhood of Man and that is what we must fight for. In the meantime, to one who, because of the insecurity and the frustrating contradictions of life in capitalist society, feels a need to safeguard his soul after death, we say: join us also in fighting to safeguard your body during life.

There have been, of course a few religious people who also sacrificed in action for the oppressed class; for example, John Brown. But where are the John Browns of today? No one should be denied the right to his belief but on the other hand, who can deny the truth of this slogan: If fried chicken is good for the preacher, it is also good for the working man?

## IN THE COMING

## New York Election

## VOTE AGAINST:

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## Diary of a STEEL WORKER

By Theodore Kovalesky

### LETTER TO THE STEELWORKERS

Others:

We are a people that is dying. Our lungs are choked with the dust and gases of the steel plants.

Our bodies are rotted from long years of sweating and chilling on the furnace floors.

Our constitutions are warped and cracked from the poor meals, the cold houses, and the worries of depression years.

How many of our brothers lie in their graves, their bodies crushed in the mills and yards, burnt and charred in the flames and explosions of the coke ovens, open hearths, and blast furnaces?

How many of our brothers lie dead of tuberculosis and pneumonia?

How many exist today with maimed, crippled, or worn-out bodies that are no longer of use to the steel companies or to themselves?

We are a people that is dying. But what have they paid us for our lives, for our living sweat and our dying agony?

Only in recent times have we received even a subsistence wage; and now that is about to be wrested from us, if the masters of industry have their way.

And how did we gain that subsistence wage? We gained it by years of struggles for organization. Our fathers fought the gunmen and Pinkertons at Homestead. Our brothers met violence and murder in 1919 and tightened their belts when they were blacklisted.

Ten of us died martyrs' deaths at Republic Steel in Chicago on Memorial Day, 1937.

But we won; and we organized a million steelworkers into our union.

Today once again the battle lines are being drawn up. Our enemies, the owners of the huge steel companies, seek to smash our union and thrust us back into the darkness of poverty from which we have struggled so hard to come so short a way.

The battle lines are once again being drawn up, and we will take our place in these lines, glad to be able to strike a blow for ourselves and our wives and children, eager to meet our old enemies on the field of battle.

For we do not fear them, we who have gone out daily and nightly to face the blasting flames of the furnaces, the yellow-hot billets and slabs that tear down the mill lines, the flaming white coke of the coke oven batteries.

We do not fear them. We are ready for them.

But, brothers, remember that this battle is only part of our war.

Win it we can and must. But it is not enough. For as long as the capitalists own the factories and mills, we have not triumphed entirely.

We will win higher wages and safeguard our unions, because we must.

But the day is drawing ever nearer when we must fight for a greater prize, for the ownership of all the factories and the control of the government, for a Socialist Society.

So, as we fight for our lives and welfare in this battle, we must look ahead to the greater battles that are coming.

We must learn as we fight, so that we will be prepared for the great battles that lie before us.

And when that day comes, when we win the last battle, then we shall have peace and plenty; and our children will grow up in the sunshine of the Socialist Society.

Fraternally,  
Theodore Kovalesky

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 20.—The J. P. Morgan firm of Montgomery Ward and Co. in its attempt to get workers is circulating a leaflet which in glowing terms gives "SIX good reasons why you'll like working at Wards." On the front page it says: "Wards, a fine establishment, invites your interest in a future of security." It pleads to the workers to "Think of today and tomorrow." It says, "At Wards you start a career." That's what it says.

Some people, it is true, find careers at Wards—the career boys who come in as trainees from business colleges and are sons of the well-to-do petty-bourgeois merchant class. But not the overwhelming majority of low-pay "help."

As for security, it is one of the big questions of dispute now before management. Unions have been calling strikes against Montgomery Ward in an attempt to get security for the last 10 years. If the company were really interested in security, all it would have to do is to put into effect any one of the number of union contracts presented in the last few years.

"EXTRA MONEY" "Employees discount means extra money," the Ward blurb says. At 45 cents an hour starting rate and a maximum of 60c for the vast majority how could one have "extra money?" "Pay is good—earn while you learn" is another slogan which is supposed to make you rush out to get a job at Wards. "A full staff of instructors to teach you" it also proclaims. But there is nothing to learn for the beginner because division of labor and simplicity is the rule.

"Immediate placements for women and men" it says. As I look over the jobs I can see the majority of them are for girls and at low pay. "Have fun in Wards recreation rooms." Just as though workers had lots of time to spend there.

"Enjoy tasty meals in Wards cafeteria." The person that wrote that never ate there. He is their publicity man and like all the other big shots eats different food in a separate cafe, which the workers are not allowed to enter. Besides that he has the money to pay for it, whereas the workers have only enough for sandwiches.

DON'T BE BORED Karl Marx said (Capital, pg. 329, Modern Library edition) "The less the skill and exertion or strength implied in manual labor, in other words, the more modern industry becomes developed, the more is the labor of men superseded by that of women. Differences of age and sex have no longer any distinctive social validity for the working class. All are instruments of labor, more or less expensive to use, according to their age and sex." We find this Marxist law in full force at Montgomery Wards regardless of what they may say in a leaflet.

Small pay, long hours, pre-dominance of youth, especially girls, is the rule at Wards. The leaflet says "Why take a job which bores you? Why lead a dull humdrum existence? Why take a path in business which leads you nowhere?" But isn't that exactly what Wards has been doing to the workers all the time? The workers in all the factories, not only Wards, will always have jobs which lead to nowhere, will always lead a dull humdrum existence as long as we allow this capitalist system to rule over us.

# 14,000 Workers In Militant Sitdown Strike "Hold The Fort" At New Jersey Shipyard

## Bulletin

CAMDEN, N. J., Sept. 28.—Andrew W. Reeder, President Local 1 of the Shipyard Workers Union, announced to cheering strikers settlement of the six-day old sit-down strike at the New York Shipbuilding Corporation here. As the workers flocked to the main gates of the plant Reeder got up on the steps of a building at the entrance. "It's a good union victory... all the main points of the dispute have been won by the union," he said. Singing and cheering, led by a brass band, the workers filed out of the yard to the strains of "Solidarity Forever." They marched up Camden's Broadway to union headquarters a block away. There Reeder read the complete terms of the agreement to take up the reinstatement of the workers filed last week for so-called "loafing."

### Special to THE MILITANT By Susana Hill

CAMDEN, N. J., Sept. 27.—Going into the fifth day, the sit-down strike of 14,000 New York shipyard workers here is holding solid in face of company attempts to break the strikers' solidarity. Confronted with the militant determination of the workers, the company could only make an impotent gesture by announcing that the yard was closed for the duration of the strike.

In the meantime, the workers under the leadership of militant Local 1, CIO Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, proceeded to organize for a showdown fight for reinstatement of the 25 workers fired last week on charge of alleged loafing on the job, plus additional demands for settlement of a heap of old grievances and immediate negotiation for a long-delayed new contract.

Negotiations between union representatives, Navy officials and company heads broke down yesterday when company officials refused to rehire the 25. Thomas W. Saul, executive secretary of Local 1, declared, "This is the worst doublecross ever dealt this union."

### COMPANY "WELCHED"

He also charged that the company "welched" on the agreement made in the presence of Navy officials to reinstate the men and end the sit-down. "We accepted the agreement," Saul said, "but when we attempted to put it into effect today, the company did a complete flip-flop and backed out of the agreement."

The union is maintaining a skeleton force of 1,500 strikers within the yard on a 24-hour rotation basis. The workers patrol the huge grounds, manning the gates and keeping strict check of all activities within the yard. Since the company reneged on its agreement to rehire the discharged workers, union stewards were instructed to stand ready to notify the entire force of 14,000 to reoccupy the yard at a moment's notice.

### "GOLD BUTTON MEN"

The temper of the workers was indicated by the reception they gave to 78 department heads (called gold button men) when they attempted to leave the plant yesterday. As even the local newspapers admit, they were under no actual restraint—except that the gates and exits were blocked by the strikers. Rather than buck the strikers, the gold button men preferred to be "prisoners" of the sitdowners for 24 hours. It was not until 6:00 p.m. yesterday that they came out under a truce effected by union and management negotiators. When they left, they had to run a gauntlet of boos and pointed remarks.

Negotiations between the union and the company were resumed today. But the workers are holding on solidly to their best negotiations argument—continuation of the sitdown until their demands are met.

Copies of The Militant passed to the strikers through the bars of the gates were passed from worker to worker and avidly read.

### New York Readers Register Oct. 8 to 13

To Vote For  
**DOBBS AND SIMPSON**  
Trotskyist Candidates  
For Mayor and City Council

## Sitdowners Massed In Camden Shipyard



APRIL 1946. A LARGE CROWD OF MORE THAN 14,000 SITDOWN STRIKERS MASSED BEHIND THE GATES AT THE NEW YORK SHIPBUILDING COMPANY YARD IN CAMDEN, N. J.

## Lumber Workers Walk Out In Fight For General Wage Raise

(Special to THE MILITANT)

SEATTLE, Sept. 28.—Because of the operators' refusal to consider any change in the 1940 pay scale, 60,000 AFL lumber and sawmill workers went on strike at midnight Monday. This is the first large-scale walkout since the industry-wide strikes in 1935 through which the AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union established itself.

A cutback in hours from 48 to 40 also cut back the workers' wages by 23 per cent, according to Ernest C. Jorgensen, secretary of Local 2519 of Seattle. Involved in the dispute are the following points:

1. Establishment of an industry-wide minimum wage of \$1.10 per hour. This would eliminate the present differential between west coast and mountain states. It would also eliminate the so-called "punk" scale for beginner yard men and for a few box company classifications.
2. A general across-the-board increase of 20 cents per hour in all classifications.

3. The wage scale and contract to be applied uniformly over a seven-state area, including Montana, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Oregon, Northern California and Arizona.

### RANK-AND-FILE SUPPORT

Local CIO tops, mostly Stalinists, have hedged in giving support, or have even sabotaged the strike. Rank and file members of the CIO International Woodworkers of America have voted to go on strike themselves for a 25 cent wage increase and for the most part observe picket lines. Last Monday the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council, meeting in Seattle, voted full support for the strike. The AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific here took the same action.

Dave Beck, AFL teamsters head, who loudly called upon the whole movement to support him in his beef with the laundry bosses just a few weeks ago, now finks on the lumber and sawmill workers because "they did not first obtain formal approval from the Central Labor Union executive board." However, the

drivers for the most part observe the picket lines of their own accord.

### WHAT BOSSES OWE

The operators have thus far displayed an unyielding attitude. In 1941 the operators stated that they could afford to pay only 62½ cents per hour at the price they were then getting for lumber. They said, however, that they could add 7½ cents per hour in wages for every dollar they got over \$21.50 per thousand, which was the 1941 price for lumber.

Lumber is now selling for \$43.50 per thousand. Accordingly, the lumber bosses owe the workers 22 times 7½ cents, or \$1.65 per hour.

## Vets Criticize Mechanical Limbs

A delegation of three veterans from Walter Reed Hospital appeared before a Congressional committee September 19 to protest the government's failure to provide serviceable mechanical limbs for amputees.

"The artificial limbs which are given us are crude and outmoded," declared Lieut. Sol Rael. "We who wear them laugh at reports of great progress in development of these limbs."

### TOO HEAVY

Howard Moss told the committee he preferred to get along without the mechanical arm provided him by the Army. It was too heavy to be guided by the muscles of the stump left of his arm. He said a fellow officer had given him artificial limb to his younger brother as a toy, "and says he is glad to have found a use for it."

The artificial limbs given amputees are "a throwback to horse and buggy days," the veterans declared. They reported that amputees say the miracle hand is so called "because it's a miracle there's never been a better one made."

## Chicago Social To Feature Skit

A special social to raise funds for the International Solidarity Fund campaign, will be held by the Chicago Branch of the Socialist Workers Party on Saturday, October 13. The main feature of the evening will be a five-scene musical-dramatic skit which vividly depicts the activities of our comrade revolutionaries throughout the world.

### BRING PACKAGE ITEMS

The admission will be \$1, plus any item suitable for packages to send to our comrades overseas: soap, needles, razor blades, aspirin, quinine, etc. Festivities begin at 8:30 p.m., Saturday night, October 13, at the Socialist Workers Party headquarters, 160 N. Wells St., Room 317.

## SHOP TALKS ON SOCIALISM



One thing you can't help noticing wherever you work. In fact, you not only notice it, you're a part of it. And that's the universal system of hiding when you're not busy.

What a humiliating thing it is, when you stop to think of it, to have to hide from some punk of a supervisor, while you smoke a cigarette! Oh sure, it's fun to steal that little pleasure while you crouch under the steam pipes somewhere. It's human nature, they say, to enjoy stolen pleasures the most.

But what kind of pleasure is it for a grown man to reflect that he has so little dignity as this? You're hiding for an hour before quitting time. You know you've worked hard the other seven hours—damned hard. Maybe you've done twice your usual work. Maybe you were on an emergency job, maybe a big repair job on a blast furnace that just had to be done before the next cast. But you have to hide all the same.

If the master mechanic were to walk by at 2:30 and see you squatting under the pipes he'd sure as hell think of something or you to do. You couldn't explain that you had done your work for the day without having a fight with him. But why couldn't you? As a matter of fact, why shouldn't you smoke on top of the pipes and offer the m. m. a cigarette too, if he came along?

And why shouldn't he know just by seeing you taking it easy there, that you had earned a rest? Why should he even bother asking what you had done, if he were a real man?

The master mechanic is the engineer boss. He is supposed to know the most and be the most skilled. Maybe he does and maybe he is. But the fellows do their work. They are mechanics too, those fellows in the repair gang. They take an interest in their jobs. (They couldn't do that type of work if they didn't.) So why should the master mechanic tell them to work harder, when they are working hard enough already?

The simple fact is that he not only wants to get more work out of you like any other boss, but he's afraid that if you work one hour today, you will take two tomorrow. He doesn't trust you any more than you trust him.

### Capitalism Steals Your Dignity

Neither he nor you can act like very much of a man. That's because this is the capitalist system. And that system forces you to be scared and sneak away for a smoke just as it forces him to be mean. It forces people not to trust each other, even when they can see that the others are doing their best. It takes the dignity out of you and prevents you from standing on your own two legs whenever you want to.

In a socialist society, the master mechanic will be just that—the most skilled mechanic—not a boss. People will be interested in their work. They won't feel under obligation to a boss or any other individual—but only to themselves and the rest of humanity, for whom they'll be working. They won't feel obliged to hide under pipes 'til quitting time. If they finish their work early, they'll go home early, that's all.

The master mechanic of the socialist future might not know why you quit your job early, but he'd know there was a reason and he wouldn't bother asking it of you. He would have the same faith in you that he had in himself.

For in those days we're going to be grown men.

## THEATERS PICKETED IN STUDIO STRIKE

Special to THE MILITANT

### By Lois Saunders

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 19.—

New York and Washington motion picture houses were being picketed this week as workers in these cities gave practical demonstration of their support of the six-month-old Hollywood studio strike. They join the unionists here, both AFL and CIO, who have been picketing Los Angeles theaters for weeks.

Pickets were to be thrown around theaters in the nation's capital, in order to bring the strike forcefully to the attention of William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, who, together with his executive committee, has failed thus far to curb the piracy of leaders of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

ITASE officials, in collaboration with the movie magnates, have attempted to grab the contracts formerly held by the striking unions. Green was holding a conference in Washington with Richard Walsh, president of IATSE, and other AFL international union officials.

STRIKERS have also sent an appeal to organized labor in England, Australia and Mexico, urging workers in these countries to boycott theaters showing films put out by struck studios. Plans are likewise being perfected to picket theaters in Chicago and 10 eastern cities, in addition to those already affected.

In Hollywood and the rest of Los Angeles, all first run and important neighborhood motion picture houses are being picketed in force. Strikers are using this method of bringing pressure upon theater box offices in an endeavor to force a settlement of the strike, which involves all major producers.

Effectiveness of the method can be judged by the fact that a picket line thrown around Paramount Theater this week from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. reduced patronage at the opening here of the \$2,000,000 star-showered "Duffy's Tavern" from a normal attendance of 3,000 to approximately 800, according to

### Urgent Need For Child Care Centers

How necessary it is to continue the operation of government-financed child care centers can be gathered from sample figures recently taken in the Baltimore area by the Woman's Bureau of the Department of Labor.

Eighty per cent of the working women want, and need, to keep their jobs in the coming period. They prefer factory work. Ninety-five per cent want to stay in the area where they are now employed. One out of every seven working women is the sole wage-earner in the family.

### WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

Response to strikers' appeals made throughout California and in many other sections of the country has been enthusiastic. In addition to picket lines formed in New York, Washington and elsewhere, San Francisco workers donated \$2,250 to support the strike; the New York Painters District Council, which is conducting a strike of its own, donated \$3,000; the CIO Screen Publicists Guild of New York gave \$1,000.

The dispute, which originally involved only 78 set decorators, members of the Screen Set Designers Local No. 1421, AFL, now involves 15 unions with a combined membership of 7,000.

The strike was called last March, after producers refused to continue recognizing Screen Set Designers Local No. 1421 as the bargaining agent for the set decorators, although this union had been chosen by the workers some time previously, and although the producers for many months had given de facto recognition to the jurisdiction of Local 1421.

Vote Trotskyist!

for  
**DOBBS AND SIMPSON**  
In the Coming  
N. Y. ELECTIONS