

Paris Meeting Of GIs Adopts 'Magna Charta'

Soldiers Demand Democratization of Army, Abolishment of Special Officer Privileges

By Charles Carsten

Moving to stamp out the worldwide GI protests against both the slow-down in demobilization and the U. S. Army's Prussian military caste system, Chief of Staff General Eisenhower issued an order from Washington on January 17 banning any further soldier demonstrations.

This edict came a day after General Joseph T. McNarney, commander of U. S. forces in the European theatre, prohibited all mass meetings of troops in his command, admitting that "further meetings may prejudice the prestige of the occupation forces."

The same day Eisenhower handed down his directive, Lieut. Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Jr., ordered court-martial for any soldier or officer in the mid-Pacific who continues to agitate for speedy demobilization.

REPRISALS BEGAN

Attempting to intimidate the GIs, General Richardson on January 17 confined to quarters three leaders of the Honolulu protests, while the Army "investigated" their remarks about the Army's demobilization policy at a servicemen's meeting. They were released later.

In their first response to mass soldier protests against the demobilization slowdown, the Brass Hats spoke of concessions and

(Continued on Page 3)

Flint Unionists Hit Red-Scare As Aid To GM

(Special To The Militant)

FINT, Mich., Jan. 18.—The united action of leading officials of the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council together with the members of AC Spark Plug local has frustrated a corporation-inspired attempt to split the ranks of the striking General Motors workers here with a red-baiting "anti-Trotskyist" campaign.

Meeting in special session, the presidents of Fisher Body, Chevrolet and Buick CIO auto locals and the Flint CIO Council's Executive Board issued a stinging statement denouncing four Bargaining Committee members of AC Local who had unsuccessfully sought to remove Robert Carter, chairman of the AC Bargaining Committee, from his post on the pretext that "Trotskyite Communists" were trying to impose their control on the union.

"THE MAGNA CHARTA"

This decision to punish all soldiers who protest against the harsh regime came shortly after five hundred angry soldiers, meeting on January 13 in the famed Trocadero in Paris, approved a "revolutionary program of Army reform," in the words of the United Press, and set up a GI Liberation Committee.

The "Enlisted Man's Magna Charta" adopted by this important meeting included the following demands:

(1) Abolition of officers' messes, with all rations to be served in a common mess on a first-come-first-served basis.

(2) The opening of all offices, clubs at all posts, camps

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Civil Liberties Spokesmen Protest "La Verite" Ban

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—Prominent leaders of American civil liberties organizations, together with a group of editors of labor and liberal papers, have joined together in a vigorous protest to the French government against the denial of democratic rights to *La Verite*, organ of the French Trotskyists. *La Verite* was the first working class paper to be published in the underground fight against the Nazis in France.

A protest cable, addressed to Charles de Gaulle, President of France and to Andre Malraux, Minister of Information, was signed by Roger Baldwin, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, George Novack, Secretary of the Civil Rights Defense Committee and Morris Milgram, Secretary of the Workers Defense League.

Editors signing the protest include Farrell Dobbs, editor of *The Militant*, E. R. Frank, editor of *Fourth International*, Liston Oak, managing editor of the *New Leader*, Dwight Macdonald, editor of *Politics*, Herman Singer, editor of *The Call*, Max Shachtman, editor of *New International*.

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THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1946

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

800,000 STEEL WORKERS STRIKE FOR LIVING WAGE

Get Off That Money Bag



Chicago Packinghouse Strikers Show Fighting Spirit On Lines

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special To The Militant)

CHICAGO, Jan. 18.—At 12:01 Wednesday morning, 193,000 CIO and 70,000 AFL packinghouse workers simultaneously started to man mass picket lines throughout the nation in their gigantic joint battle with the ruthless barons of the meat-packing industry for a decent wage vision within the union.

SPREAD FALSEHOODS

The Flint CIO leaders stated that the initiators of this campaign were irresponsibly spreading falsehoods, creating a "red scare," and trying to bring division within the union.

They expressed utmost confidence in Carter and his trade union policies, stating that he is still chairman of the AC

(Continued on Page 3)

1,700,000 On Nation's Picket Lines In Greatest American Labor Struggle

By Art Preis

JANUARY 21.—Today at one minute past midnight the battle was joined in the most titanic and crucial labor struggle in American history.

Eight hundred thousand CIO steel workers—the flesh and bones and blood of America's basic industry—threw down the gauntlet before the steel corporations, the most voracious and ruthless monopoly in the world.

Throughout the nation, at one blow from the mighty fist of steel labor, the gigantic mills, the vast blast furnaces and hearths, stood cold, silent and deserted.

Pittsburgh, Homestead Braddock, Youngstown, Lackawanna, Bethlehem, Gary, Indiana Harbor, South Chicago—all the names synonymous with steel—today became the battlegrounds of a struggle that strikes at the very foundations of American monopoly capitalism.

For from the steel plants come the indispensable materials and products on which the whole gigantic organism of American industry, transport and commerce is nourished and sustained. Steel

On National Strike Front

See Pages 2, 7, 8

the heart of American industrialism, is deprived of its very life blood, the labor of steel workers. With its heart paralyzed, all American industry in a few short weeks will face virtual prostration.

COAST TO COAST

The power in action of the organized steel workers is joined with that of more than 900,000 other striking workers already massed on embattled picket lines from coast-to-coast. They are fighting for decent wages and security against the country's greatest monopoly giants, whose leaders have agreed to accept under pressure from the government.

Workers report that the company has been pouring supplies—cots, blankets, truckloads of food, sugar, refrigerators, etc.—into the mills for the past few weeks.

The steam is completely down in the J & L mills because the straw bosses cannot operate the simplest kind of machinery.

Pickets told the *Militant* reporter that they can see the supervisors scurrying around inside the plants wrapped up in blankets the company provided.

They are suffering from the cold, and look enviously at the salamanders outside burning coke to keep the pickets warm.

While the *Militant* reporter (Continued on Page 2)

IN THE NEWS

Sign Of The Times

Banner at Newark, N. J. mass meeting of GM strikers and friends: "Hitler Burned Books—GM Hides Them—Let's See Them!"

All But The Bars

Commenting on the "Get Us Home!" demonstrations of U. S. soldiers, Maj. Vladimir G. Urse, chief of the neuropsychiatric section of Walter Reed Hospital, said: "It is a well-known fact that in prisons, Sundays or the day of rest present the most difficult time for the inmates—and the 7,500 miles of ocean separating the soldiers in the Philippines may be likened to a prison wall."

Numerous other pickets were hauled to police stations and then released. Almost one-fourth (Continued on Page 2)

Heroes' "Welcome"

"Amputees on the boardwalk at Atlantic City depress visitors and therefore hurt business, civic leaders there feel. Pressure has been brought on the War Department to close the Thomas M. England General Hospital there, which has been an amputation center. Civic leaders argue it's all for the good of wounded men—probably depresses them to see normal pleasure seekers. Hospital will be closed March 31." (N. Y. World Telegram, Jan. 12.)

Safety In Numbers

"Miami Beach, Jan. 16 (AP)—Winston Churchill said in an interview soon after arriving here today that he hoped U. S. troops are not all going home, because we are not numerous enough to handle postwar Europe alone."

Talked Too Soon

"SHANGHAI, Jan. 12 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Wedemeyer today told his China theatre troops he was proud that they had not held demobilization speed-up demonstrations. A short time later, 600 men and a few officers gathered and voiced send-us-home demands similar to those made by other U. S. soldiers throughout the world."

Militant Action Will Win

By The Editors

America's industrial workers have courageously resisted the brazen wage-cutting, price-gouging, union-busting offensive of the giants of monopoly.

The greatest strike struggle in American history, now headed by the mighty army of 800,000 steel workers, has begun.

In defense of their living standards, 1,700,000 workers have carried their fight to the picket lines. They have unsheathed their most powerful and decisive economic weapon, strike action, and are utilizing it on an unprecedented scale.

Where Responsibility Lies

The responsibility for this gigantic struggle lies squarely on the shoulders of the arrogant, profiteering corporations.

Greedy, insatiable, drunk with power, they are determined to rule or ruin, to exact ever greater profits from the toil of the workers, to rob the masses through deliberately contrived price inflation.

They have contemptuously spurned even the compromise wage proposals that the capitalist government itself, under the workers' pressure, has conceded, are the minimum for an equitable settlement.

As CIO Steelworkers President Philip Murray stated in his final strike call, American Big Business has proposed to labor's

millions nothing less than UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

When this crucial struggle first began with the heroic strike of the General Motors workers, *The Militant* correctly judged the real nature of the battle that was being joined.

While the union leaders sought to restrict and confine the struggle, to project a worthless "one-at-a-time" strategy against the corporations, *The Militant* week after week pointed out the true scope and character of the unfolding struggle.

We said repeatedly and events have confirmed our statements to the hilt—that the strike struggle was being waged not against single or isolated corporations, but against the combined power of American Big Business as a class. The corporations were waging a concerted war against labor.

Slogan For Victory

We said from the first and we now repeat it with all the force at our command: THIS IS THE BATTLE OF ALL LABOR! IT CAN BE WON BY THE UNITED ACTION OF ALL LABOR! AND IT WILL BE WON NOT IN WASHINGTON, NOT AT THE CONFERENCE TABLES, BUT ON THE PICKET LINES!

Every unionist to his post! The slogan for victory is: "Fight—Fight—Fight!"

ON-THE-SPOT REPORTS FROM NATIONAL STRIKE FRONTS

Youngstown Steelmen Out Solid In Strike

By George Weissman

(Special to The Militant)

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 21.—Over 70,000 steel workers went on strike at 12:01 this morning, completely blacking out steel and iron production in this Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania area. Not a pound of iron or steel, and practically no coke, is being produced. Joining the local Electrical and Packing-house workers, the steel workers have swelled the ranks of strikers in this area to over 85,000.

Half of these striking steel workers are in Youngstown and immediate suburbs. The biggest Youngstown companies closed by strike action are Carnegie-Illinois, whose three plants here employ 9,000 workers, Republic Steel Corporation where 8,000 are out, and Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company with 11,000 on strike.

Steel workers at the Ohio Works of Carnegie (Big Steel) were the first to establish picket lines in the Youngstown district. Infuriated by a last-minute double-cross on the part of the corporation concerning the agreement on those authorized to enter the plant, the men went directly from a meeting to the mill gates and started picketing at 10 o'clock last night.

AGREEMENTS BROKEN

Throughout preparations for the strike the corporation has made and then broken a series of agreements with Local 1330 (Ohio Works). The last agreement was that the company would submit the list of 15 top managers, inspectors, etc., who would be permitted to enter the plant. The union agreed to this proposal. At the last minute the company broke its word and, in emphatic reply, Local 1330 closed the plant two hours before the deadline.

Although the union had agreed to furnish the necessary maintenance men to prevent deterioration of equipment during the strike, the company, again breaking its agreement, has brought food, beds and foremen into the plant for the strike's duration.

Despite the cold and snow, the pickets were in high spirits. Their oil drums, converted into stoves, lit up the gates. Coffee was served to everyone on the line. News of the early arrangement of the picket line was passed on by telephone and word of mouth.

As new pickets arrived, they would pick out one of their buddies in the line, then suddenly emerging from the darkness, would make a dash as if to enter the gate, always lunging into their best buddy. Although this happened scores of times, it never ceased to send a thrill of excitement down the line. Then, as soon as the new arrival was recognized as a militant, wave of laughter followed.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

No attempts were made to enter the plant. Workers, unaware of the early closing, would see the picket line, then turn around and go home, or join the line. One foreman, turned back by the line, not only refused to go through but doctored his lunch to the pickets. Both veterans

BALTIMORE Militant Labor Forum

Labor Comes Out Fighting

(The meaning of the Strike Wave)

Sunday, Jan. 27
Workmen's Circle Lyceum

Room 5
1928 E. Baltimore St. 8 p.m.

Mass Picketing At Chicago Stockyards



Chicago Packinghouse workers defying city police, block the 42nd Street entrance to the Chicago Stockyards on January 17. These pickets are part of the 325,000 CIO and AFL workers now on strike nationally.

No Scab Can Slink Past Lackawanna's Pickets!

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

LACKAWANNA, N. Y., Jan. 17.—Some 11,000 members of five CIO steel locals out on strike against the Bethlehem Steel Corporation here are now rounding out their first week on the picket lines. Undaunted by rain, snow and bitter cold weather, the pickets have done a first-rate job in carrying out their intention to keep the plant shut down tight.

Called last Friday night, the strike took place when the company was discovered to be making preparations to house and feed strikebreakers in the event of the national steel strike taking place on January 14 as originally scheduled. This, together with the company's refusal to come to an agreement with the union on maintenance of furnaces during the strike, precipitated the walkout.

All during the week the picket lines have remained solid. The men are clearly filled with a sober determination to fight through to a victory.

WORKERS' INITIATIVE

This vast steel plant stretching over more than three miles of lake front with many gates, miles of fence, fields and open spaces, has presented a difficult problem in organization. But right from the start the men have shown their ability and initiative in solving this problem and every day sees a steady improvement in the functioning of the picketing system which has effectively sealed off all entrances to the plant.

Reliable reports indicate that the few scabs in the plant are running low on food. The plant police, members of an AFL union, are complaining bitterly about the food situation, as the scabs get first choice of the little there is on hand. The situation in the plant is so bad that the secretary of Plant Superintendent Entwistle has to do the cooking for the few executives manning there since the surprise walkout last Friday.

But the pickets are getting plenty of food through the excellent organization by the food committee and through the generosity of the local merchants, whose sympathies are clearly with the strikers.

The Hazelwood union officers report that housewives living near the picket lines, have been calling the union offices and offering their homes as depots for coffee, etc. The union is now setting up a commissary in the union hall.

At Braddock, the union established picket lines at 10:30 last night. They have made arrangements, in agreement with the company, Carnegie-Illinois, to allow maintenance crews for the duration. The union was issuing passes to these authorized men.

UNION ORGANIZES

A meeting of the picket committee was held on Monday, with Scotty Jackson, picket captain, presiding. At this meeting, a dispatching system was organized with Vincent Copeland, Local

Chicago Packinghouse Strikers Show Fighting Spirit On Lines

(Continued from Page 1)

of the Chicago police have been withdrawn from regular duties and assigned to the packinghouse and other strikes. Three hundred cops from each shift are assigned to the stockyards area.

Democratic Mayor Kelly has issued an appeal for 500 to 1,000 new policemen on the pretext that they are needed to patrol the streets to check the growing crime wave in the city. Union officers state they will attempt to extend the picketing to throughfares inside the yards in spite of company contentions that the area is privately-owned property. So far picketing has been limited to the entrance gates to the yards.

PRIVATE PROPERTY

Two pickets distributing union leaflets inside the yards were arrested today by stockyards police and turned over to the city police. The leaflets appealed to the office workers, explaining their stake in the outcome of the strike. Police broke up the mass picket line at the 41st and Ashland entrance when workers attempted to stop cars from entering the yards.

The city maintains that streets in the yards are "private property" while the union insists these are public thoroughfares. The arrest of the pickets for distributing leaflets to office workers urging them not to go work in the yards.

MERCHANTS AID

Reflecting the attitude of the majority of the neighborhood

Eleven hundred striking steel workers closed the plants here. Yesterday mass meetings were held as a prelude to the strike. Large picket lines formed. No one except a few top supervisory and maintenance men are permitted to enter.

ELWOOD CITY, Pa., Jan. 21.—Local 1220, representing the workers of National Tube (Big Steel) shut the plant down at 11 p.m. last night. After a mass meeting the 800 workers marched back all cars, busses, and street cars, as well as workers on foot.

Members of the Foremen's Association of America voted not to maintain the fire in any of the furnaces after 6 tonight. In this event, the city of Gary will pass through and "the plant will be shut down cold."

The Carnegie management has stocked supplies, food and bedding in the plant, an obvious strikebreaking threat.

At the Carnegie Works in Chicago, the union states no maintenance men will be allowed through because the company insists upon using non-union maintenance men. The union states that only 16 men will be permitted through on passes, and these 16 must belong to the union.

No agreement on maintenance has been made at the South Chicago and Youngstown Sheet & Tube plants, and nobody is going through these picket lines.

MASS PICKETING

Mass picket lines have been formed in Gary, and at the other plants in this area employing nearly 80,000 steel workers. The South Chicago plant is the only one at which there are simply token picket lines.

The strikes at the three big plants in the Indiana Harbor section—Inland Steel, Youngstown Sheet & Tube, and General American—are solid. Workers from these three plants jammed the union hall in Indiana Harbor in a pre-strike mass meeting at which last minute instructions were issued. From the meeting the workers went to the plants and established picket lines. Only those with union passes are permitted through the lines.

Just before the strike started, Clark said: "The responsibility for the strike rests with the packers. It is interesting to note that Swift & Co. is ap-

parently insisting that its profits

position be subsidized either by the public or its low paid workers . . . Apparently the sole interest of the packers is to continue their exorbitant war profits, irrespective of its impact on the nation."

the workers of the Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation walked out at midnight Sunday. The reasons for calling the strike were the failure of the company to put in effect a WLB decision granting all employees a five-cent an hour increase retroactive to May 15, 1944 and sympathy with the Bethlehem strikers.

PROSPECTS GOOD

Prospects for the strike at Lackawanna are good. The organization of the strike is at a high level of efficiency and the morale of the men is high. Although the union negotiating committee made up of the local presidents and other officers have repeatedly attempted to come to an agreement with the company on the maintenance question, the company has remained adamant.

This company attitude has convinced the strikers more than ever that it is only their own fighting action on the picket line that will win them a living wage.

Pittsburgh Steel Workers Form Solid Strike Front

(Continued from Page 1)

was in the Hazelwood local's office, phone calls came in from the supervisors inside the mill, begging piteously for union escorts to guide them out of the gates. That brought the laugh of the week and an answer you can well imagine.

VETS BACK STRIKE

The entire population of Braddock is backing the strike. The borough officials of Braddock and New Braddock are scheduled to go on the picket lines.

The biggest single steel union local in this area is at the Carnegie-Illinois works in Homestead. It employs approximately 11,000. Last night from 9 p.m. to the time the pickets went on the lines, an enthusiastic mass demonstration was held at the Local 1397 union hall.

From the demonstration the pickets went out to cover all the gates of the mill. Favorite picket line slogans are:

"WE WANT A FAIR DEAL, NOT A FAIRLESS DEAL," and "WE WILL PICKET UNTIL WE WIN."

Every striker feels that they are in for a long, tough fight, a fight for the very existence of the union. They have tremendous pride in the strength of their giant union.

For the first time in steel labor's history, these sons and grandsons of the strike martyrs of 1892, many of them veterans of the great 1919 Steel Strike, are entering the fight with the knowledge that they have a powerful organization in the forefront of this tremendous national fight of the whole American working class.

800,000 Hit The Picket Lines In Mighty Steel Struggle

(Continued from Page 1)

proffer of an additional price-steal of \$4 a ton, it was clear that Big Business as a class had determined on nothing less than a showdown struggle against American unionism.

That is precisely what The Militant had warned, from the outset of the General Motors strike, was the main issue in the unfolding struggle. That precisely what was confirmed when General Motors walked out of Truman's "fact-finding" hearings and bluntly rejected the government's recommendation of a wage settlement nearly 45 per cent less than the CIO auto workers' original demand.

AFL, CIO UNITY

CIO and AFL unions are reported standing united against the packers, each agreeing not to settle until the other reached a settlement on its demands.

Despite enormous profits and fat government subsidies, the highest offer from any of the Big Four packers has been 10 cents an hour increase from Swift. A government "fact-finding" panel will start sessions in Chicago next Tuesday, although both unions contend all the facts in the situation are known and the panel is not needed.

Earlier in the week when the "fact-finding" panel was first announced, UPWA-CIO President Lewis Clark answered the question, "Will naming the fact-finding panel cause a postponement of the strike?", by stating, "We will not agree to a postponement for any reason except a concrete proposal that will satisfy our wage demands."

Just before the strike started, Clark said: "The responsibility for the strike rests with the packers. It is interesting to note that Swift & Co. is ap-

parently insisting that its profits

position be subsidized either by the public or its low paid workers . . . Apparently the sole interest of the packers is to continue their exorbitant war profits, irrespective of its impact on the nation."

CORPORATIONS' CONSPIRACY

These giant corporations, enormously enriched by the war, are conspiring to undermine and, if possible, destroy the industrial unions, drive down living standards and inflate prices. They are determined to maintain the unprecedented profits they are wringing from the working class and deny the workers, the real producers, the higher wages they need.

Moreover, they are scheming, with the aid of the compliant government, to rob the workers and nullify any wage gains by means of deliberate price gouging. To this end, they are proceeding to throw the country into industrial paralysis, to black-



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GI Protest Meeting In Paris Is Described By Eye-Witness

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

(The following is an eye-witness account of the important meeting at the Trocadero in Paris on Jan. 13, where the GI Liberation Committee was formed and "The Enlisted Man's Magna Charta" adopted.)

PARIS, Jan. 13—News appeared here a few days ago that there would be a GI meeting today at the Arc du Triomphe. The Herald-Tribune announced it but the Stars and Stripes remained silent. Yesterday General McNarney met a delegation in Frankfurt and suggested there should be no more protest demonstrations.

Here in Paris the authorities have said all week that peaceful demonstrations were permissible, adding that if any trouble arose the men who initiated the meeting would be liable to court-martial for "inciting to riot."

On Friday the commanding general ordered all unit commanders to inform the men that they should go through official channels with any complaints and not bring the Army as an institution into disrepute. Most of the unit commanders interpreted the order to mean there must be no demonstrations.

At the same time the commanding general informed the units of a French law of 1848 (1) prohibiting parades without permission of the police. And yesterday a story appeared saying the French objected to any demonstrations at the Arc, where the Unknown Soldier is buried, because it was a national shrine.

Despite all this well over 500 men showed up today after the Stars and Stripes finally printed a statement on the back page saying the demonstration would take place at the Place du Trocadero instead of the Arc.

The demonstration was slow getting started. The Trocadero is a very big place and the men were scattered all over it waiting for someone to get things going. Finally a Tec 3 (sergeant) began to pass out a mimeographed statement entitled "The Enlisted Man's Magna Charta."

The sergeant called attention to the "Magna Charta" and its contents. He then pointed out that a Congressional Committee would be in Paris to investigate the demobilization situation in about two weeks and suggested that if there was agreement along the main lines of the document a committee should be elected to present it and other information to the Congressional Committee.

The men agreed with enthusiasm.

Paris GIs Adopt Magna Charta

(Continued from Page 1) Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson.

The soldiers elected a five-man committee, composed of four enlisted men and a first lieutenant, to present their demands and complaints to a Senatorial investigating committee scheduled to visit the European theatre soon.

Even before Eisenhower's order banning further demonstrations, officers had begun to crack down on the GIs. On January 11, the staff of The Daily Pacifican, widely read Army newspaper in Manila, issued a statement to correspondents that declared "new restrictions on freedom of expression imposed from above no longer enable us to bring full news and full truth to our GI readers."

Meanwhile, despite promises that no ship would sail for home with empty berths, a January 16 United Press dispatch reported: "The U.S.S. Cecil, carrying veterans to the United States left Manila one-third empty, the Navy disclosed today."

"Send Us Home!"



In a dramatic night demonstration in Paris, France, on January 8, United States soldiers carrying torches, march along Champs Elysees shouting: "We Want to Go Home!" AP photo

One Veteran's Reward



Note the overseas service stripes on the sleeve of the picket who is being brutally clubbed by a plainclothes cop in Los Angeles. Police launched a vicious attack, hurling tear gas bombs at 1,200 striking workers, members of the CIO Electrical Workers Union at the United States Motors plant. INS Photo

Labor Unions Back GI Protests Against Demobilization Delays

Labor is the only organized force in America which is giving outspoken support to the demands of the American troops for speedy demobilization.

A combat soldier replied: "Maybe you won't be here when things are changed, but think about your sons who will have to be in this army during the next war. Let's think about their welfare."

To this someone shouted, "No more war!", but few of the soldiers seemed to think this mere statement would guarantee that their children wouldn't have to serve in an undemocratic army.

The chairman pointed out that not everyone would be able to go home, point system or no point system, and there were "certain reforms absolutely necessary, along the lines of democratizing the army," if the interests of these men were to be protected.

The main emphasis at the meeting was on correcting injustices to the men who had been in the services for a long time by letting them go home, and preventing injustices to the men who had not been overseas long by democratizing the army and doing away with the privileges now enjoyed by the officer caste.

Everyone was highly satisfied with the meeting and left determined to spread the word about the GI Liberation Committee's plans for the future.

favorably acted upon by the government.

The Executive Board of Detroit Briggs Local 212, UAW-CIO, on January 11 addressed a strong resolution to the government giving "full support to the demand of the GIs that they be immediately returned home."

This resolution, adopted in response to an appeal from a Manila soldiers committee headed by Sgt. Emil Maze, former Briggs Local President, charges that "the continued stay of these millions of GIs in the Armed Forces can only serve the predatory interests of Wall Street."

CIO LETTER

Last week the CIO, in a letter to Congress signed by Clinton Golden, chairman of the CIO Veterans Committee, asserted, "The high command seems unable fully to appreciate the principles and workings of democracy," and charged that many soldiers are being kept in the army "for the advantage of their commanding officers."

At the same time, AFL President William Green publicly stated that the War Department "has not lived up to its promises to the servicemen." His statement came in response to a radio appeal from 7,500 AFL members in Manila. The GIs, Green said, "have lost confidence in the sincerity of the War Department's expressed policy of rapid demobilization."

In contrast to the widespread and open support for the GIs expressed by organized workers and their unions, the major veterans organizations in this country, dominated in the main by brass hat elements and business interests, have maintained a studied silence on the appeals of the soldiers overseas. Neither the American Legion nor the Veterans of Foreign Wars has come to the aid of the protest.

It is our considered opinion that the statements appearing in the pages of the Flint Journal are corporation-inspired. The

medical officer described as "a buffalo wallow."

About 1,000 Japanese prisoners of war were assigned to clean up a golf course for the Brass Hats. GIs "expressed the opinion that the Japanese could be better employed repairing damaged Philippine buildings or at least removing the debris of war."

Colonels and higher officers get the quality items such as good cigars, watches, cigarette lighters and fountain pens which are sold by the post exchanges. Privates may have enough money but quantities are limited and they don't get an opportunity to buy.

A young officer said his gold-braided commander lived in a sumptuous house staffed by 32 Filipino houseboys. The men, he says, "are trying to figure out what in hell has to be done that requires" 32 servants. The place was redecorated and painted before the commander moved in.

A lieutenant colonel has two private homes for his own use. He got them on the claim that he had to have space to "entertain distinguished visitors." His visitors have consisted of Red Cross and USO girls, a junior officer said. Housing of any kind is at a high premium in Manila.

A captain "sent an 80 foot launch on a tour of the harbor in search of the ship which was doing his laundry for him."

"It cost the taxpayers better than \$100 just so that bird could wear a clean shirt," declared a junior officer.

WHEREAS: Committees of soldiers on Manila and other fields of occupation have requested the aid of the labor movement in speeding their re-

turn to their homes and families,

Flint Unionists Denounce Red-Scare As Aid To GM

(Continued from Page 1)

Bargaining Committee, chairman of the Strike Strategy Committee and president of the Greater Flint Industrial Union Council and will remain."

"It is significant," they state, "that red-baiting has long been the method used by labor's enemies to disorganize labor, especially during strikes. This leads one to believe that these people, by their utterances, are serving management rather than labor. This is not the first time that organized labor has been hurt by people more concerned with their own political future than with the future of the labor movement. It is deplorable that this issue has been raised by a group led by one Bill Rodgers, whose public record is none too savory."

Rodgers, Keene, Kontyko, and Jordan who belong to the AC Local seven-man Top Bargaining Committee went to the boss press with a pack of lies and red-baiting cries after their failure to unseat Carter. Carter ran against R. J. Thomas for the presidency of the UAW at the 1944 Grand Rapids convention.

After attacking Sol Dollinger, local organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, they declared that the CIO Council is a "breeding ground of Communism" and "serves no good purpose."

RED-BAITING

Rodgers charged "it was the Trotskyite element that fostered the huge line of pickets that prevented office workers from entering December 18." This refers to the picket line set up by the AC workers to keep out of office help after police had resorted on the previous day to violence in order to open the lines.

The four red-baiters declared that "the Trotskyites had made inroads at Buick and Chevrolet as well as at GM and predicted the purge movement would spread to these locals and beyond Flint."

These irresponsible and false accusations have aroused bitter resentment in the ranks of Flint labor which for nine weeks has held solid against all General Motors' efforts to crack their unity. Carter, Edna McNamara and Harry Gray, the targets of these charges in AC local, stated to the press:

"We regret very much that a certain group of people took this mud-slinging to the daily press instead of taking it up with their membership... The red-baiting tactics used in their press release is a company trick. We

Despite the fact that the Trotskyites were the most

became very well acquainted with red-baiting stories, regardless of the tint, can be either over-ambitious local union politicians or company stooges."

CARTER REINSTATED

Ben Woodard, Buick Local president, denied that any but accredited pickets were sent to the AC picket lines. Although workers on the picket lines had hoped that AC President Archie Myers would firmly dissociate himself from the red-baiting charges, Myers chimed in with and condoned the accusations of the four.

ABETTED BY STALINISTS

Both the Daily Worker and leading local Stalinists have approved and seconded these wild company-inspired accusations. Now these actions are recouping upon their own heads, since the local company-dominated press has seized upon the red-baiting campaign to publish information furnished by FBI agents and raise a hue and cry against Casper P. Kenney, representative of the CIO State, County and Municipal Workers, who is leading the strike of the school maintenance workers. This strike is backed by the CIO Council of which Kenney is a member.

Belgium's Rulers Fear Trotskyists

The Parti Communiste Revolutionnaire, Belgian section of the Fourth International, has demanded in the January 5 issue of its paper, *La Lutte Ouvrière*, (Workers' Struggle) that Trotskyist witnesses be called to testify in a re-trial of leading capitalist collaborationists in Charleroi.

"Most of our leading comrades of the prewar period were arrested. Most of them died in the Nazi prisons," declares *La Lutte Ouvrière*.

"In this way," continues the paper, "our comrades in Liege lost comrades Renery and Van Belle who died in the Neunamme concentration camp. They were betrayed to the Gestapo by the infamous Destexhe who, like all capitalists, did not hesitate to collaborate with the Gestapo in order to crush the revolutionary communists."

The Gestapo became interested in the Belgian Trotskyists long before the Nazis invaded Western Europe. "On December 13, 1945," says the Belgian paper, "Paul Levy, a war correspondent, wrote a sensational article in the Liege paper *La Wallonne* in which he stated that as early as 1937 the Gestapo had prepared a list of Belgian communists and Trotskyists."

Despite the fact that the Trotskyists were the most

They were not permitted to participate in the trials, states *La Lutte Ouvrière*, "because it was well-known that the testimony of the Trotskyists would be a terrible indictment of the whole regime!"

SWP Organizer In Flint Nails Red-Baiting Smear

The following statement nailing the corporation-inspired, red-baiting attacks in Flint was issued to the press on January 17 by Sol Dollinger, Flint organizer of the Socialist Workers Party:

time-honored method, but nonetheless disreputable, to split the unity of striking workers is to resort to red-baiting.

At no time during this strike has General Motors Corporation been successful in breaking the magnificent solidarity of the GM workers. One has only to ask himself the question "Who benefits?" The answer is obvious. The only beneficiary of these red-baiting attacks is the power-glutted General Motors Corporation.

The General Motors workers are engaged in a titanic battle with the mightiest, the richest, most arrogant financial colossus in the world. The GM workers have the right to expect the aid of every working class organization, whether it be a political party or another trade union, in their fight to maintain a decent standard of living for the working people of America.

The Socialist Workers Party, all of its members, and I as an official representative of the party, are actively participating, supporting and aiding the striking General Motors workers. We accept our obligation as should every individual worker and organization in the entire country.

We feel that the basic problems of this country—war, inflation, and unemployment—will not be solved until the workers and farmers organize and win a majority of the people over to the idea of taking control of the government in the interests of the majority of the people, and not as it is today, in the interests of America's 60 families, who number less than 1 per cent of the population.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That copies of this resolution be sent to President Harry Truman, to all Senators and Congressmen of Ohio, to CIO President Philip Murray and to the press.

and program on the great Russian Revolution of 1917, led by Lenin and Trotsky. There, for the first time, the poor people of Russia proved to the workers of the world that it was possible to take power in the country and wield it in the interests of the people.

In answer to the four misguided individuals of AC local, who issued the release to the press about Trotskyists working in the GM-UAW locals of Flint, we would like to make this clear: If there are any people in these locals who accept part or all of our ideas, they can rest assured that they are the most active people on the picket lines, the best supporters of the strike, the most selfless, self-sacrificing and devoted members of the UAW. Where any members of our party are elected to office by the membership of their union, they perform their duties in the best traditions of militant, progressive unionism.

We expect and know that all our members in the UAW are in this fight to the finish, for a 30 per cent wage increase. For this strike will determine whether the American workers will be able to maintain themselves and their children at a decent standard of living or be pushed down as serfs of the corporation.

Flint, Mich.
Socialist Workers Party
Meeting
EVERY SUNDAY
YWCA
First Street And Harrison
8 p.m. Admission Free

READ
THE FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Vol. X-No. 4 Saturday, January 26, 1946

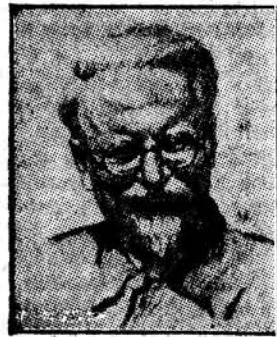
Published Weekly by THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASS'N at 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y. Telephone: Algonquin 4-8547

PARRELL DOBBS, Managing Editor

THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to express their views in their articles. These views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorials.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per year; 50¢ for 6 months. Foreign: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months. Single copy: 5 cents. Bundle order: 3 cents per copy in the United States; 4 cents per copy in all foreign countries. Single copies: 5 cents.

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



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

—Leon Trotsky

Labor Unity

The inspiring unity in action of the AFL and CIO workers in the Stamford, Conn., General Strike is now being demonstrated on a far greater scale and in an even more crucial struggle by the 325,000 striking packinghouse workers.

Equally confronted by the attacks of the meat-packing barons and fighting for similar wage demands, the AFL and CIO unions in the industry have jointly called their members on strike.

When the CIO United Packinghouse Workers announced its strike date, the AFL Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union immediately announced it would not only direct its members to respect the CIO's picket lines and refuse to work in any struck plant, but that it would give financial aid to the rival union.

Once the strike began, the two unions are reported to have pledged that neither will settle and return to work before the other has also made a settlement. In this connection, the AFL union, which had offered to settle for a wage increase less than the final offer of the CIO, has since returned to its original higher demand.

On far too many occasions the American workers have witnessed the tragedy of narrow jurisdictional interests overriding the great principle of labor solidarity. Many times workers, divided by rival union interests and affiliations, have been misled to the point where they violated each other's picket lines on union leaders' orders.

But the deepest and most abiding desire of the workers is for class unity in the struggle against their common class enemy, the ruling capitalists.

In the great battle now being waged by all sections of American labor, this urgent desire of the workers to get together in action, despite different affiliations, is becoming a tremendous force.

Every worker must hail this latest inspiring example of labor solidarity exhibited by the AFL and CIO packinghouse strikers.

The final guarantee of victory in the present fight being waged by American labor resides in its ability to unite in action and meet the enemy with a solid front of militant struggle.

Political Action

The Congressional halls are again ringing with denunciations of labor. A flood of old and new measures to bind labor hand and foot, shackle the unions, destroy the right to strike, are pouring into the legislative hoppers.

This renewal and intensification of the Congressional anti-labor drive comes in the midst of American labor's greatest struggle for decent wages and security. It comes when organized labor is demonstrating its tremendous power on the picket lines.

With all its numbers and power, the labor movement stands politically helpless before the insults, threats and tirades of a capitalist-dominated Congress. Not one effective voice is being lifted on behalf of labor inside Congress.

The responsibility for this lies with those union leaders who have consistently fought against and blocked any movement for genuine independent labor political action, for the formation of a labor party.

Today in Congress there would be a different story to tell if the workers had their own party, based on their union organizations, mobilizing and directing the political might of the working people.

There would be genuine labor spokesmen who would rise to throw the slanders of the labor-haters back into their teeth. There would be working class representatives who would turn the attack back against the political hirings of Big Business.

The American working class which has built such mighty unions is fully capable of creating a political organization with a program which truly expresses its interests.

This is a task of greatest immediacy and urgency. Labor must now exert the same energy, resources, organizational capacity to

ward the building of a labor party, that it is using so magnificently in the economic struggle on the picket lines. Through a party of their own the workers can take the next big step forward in defense of their rights, liberties and economic well-being against the conspiracies of the union-hating Congressmen belong to the Democratic and Republican parties of Wall Street.

The Choice Is Clear

Who are the contending forces in the titanic struggles surging over America today?

On one side, spearheading the struggle on the picket lines, are 1,700,000 workers in basic industry. Whom do these embattled unionists represent and what are they fighting for?

They are fighting not only to win living wages for themselves and their families but for all the wage earners in this country.

They are fighting for the welfare of the returning veterans. That is why scores of thousands of ex-servicemen are in the forefront of the picket lines fighting shoulder to shoulder with their fellow workers.

They are fighting for the millions of demonstrating GIs who are clamoring to come home but who want to come back to good jobs with decent working conditions, not to sweatshops or breadlines.

They are fighting for the interests of the small business men, professional people and farmers whose own livelihood directly depends upon the earnings of the industrial working class. That is why, as The Militant reports, entire communities are openly expressing their sympathy and support for the strikers.

Opposed to all these sections of the American people, snarling and baring their fangs like wolves at bay, stand the giant corporations owned and controlled by a tiny group of billionaires. The Morgans, Rockefellers, du Ponts who produce nothing are defiantly refusing to give any substantial concessions to the workers who create all the wealth.

In wartime while the workers were slaving in the factories and the soldiers were fighting and dying, these parasites were gorging themselves on blood profits.

In their lust for endless gain they did not hesitate to falsify inspection records, manufacture defective war materials, swindle the government and commit half a hundred other crimes. Through their connections with the German and Japanese international cartels they colled money on both sides of the imperialist war fronts.

Thus the battle lines are clearly and sharply drawn. An infinitesimal minority of rich parasites are arrayed against the toiling masses, who represent the overwhelming majority of the population.

There can be no neutrality in this fight. Every decent American must unambiguously answer the question:

WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

Gangster Methods

Along with a concerted campaign of slander, red-baiting and lynch incitation against the Trotskyists, the Stalinists in a number of cities have physically assaulted Socialist Workers Party members.

The latest assault took place last week when five Militant distributors in front of the Chicago Coliseum were brutally attacked by Communist Party goons. Previously, the Stalinists had made similarly vicious assaults on Militant distributors in Akron, Ohio on November 16 and in Youngstown, Ohio, on December 21.

In Youngstown at Ukrainian Hall where Williamson, the CP National Secretary, was speaking, Stalinist hoodlums set upon a girl distributing The Militant, tore the papers from her hands, and threatened "Get away or get beat up!"

The Stalinists are resorting to these desperate acts of violence because the Trotskyists—the real working class revolutionists—are gaining greater influence among the best union militants at the same time that the Stalinists are becoming increasingly discredited.

Militant unionists, disgusted by the total surrender of the Stalinists to Wall Street during the war, have been further revolted by their more recent "left" opportunist twists and turns.

On the other hand, through reading The Militant and watching Socialist Workers Party members at work within the unions, the militants have observed that the Trotskyists are honest, devoted and principled defenders of labor's interests.

Unable to answer our ideas and arguments, the Stalinists have stooped to the vilest reactionary methods in desperate efforts to check the growing influence of the Socialist Workers Party and the Militant. They use lies, libels, frameup-tactics—and now physical violence. While falsely labeling the Trotskyists as "fascist spies," they themselves are practising the gangster tactics also employed by fascists. Such methods can only play into the hands of the worst enemies of labor.

These vicious attempts to suppress The Militant not only violate the cherished traditions of free discussion in the labor movement. In their poisonous propaganda the Stalinists have clearly indicated that their attacks are directed not against Trotskyists alone, but against all other advocates of progressive policies within the unions.

That is why it is the duty of every sincere defender of democracy to expose the slanders of the Stalinists, to repel their assaults and prevent any repetition of these Stalinist gangster tactics which have no place in the ranks of labor.



"I always say—if we DID give those strikers the raise, they'd only squander it foolishly."

Workers' BOOKSHELF

MARITIME, BY F. J. Lang. Second edition, with new introduction by author. Pioneer publishers, 1945; 182 pp. \$1.

The maritime industry occupies an important place in the economy of U. S. imperialism. In the militancy and sweep of its struggles the maritime labor movement during the past 12 years has made history. Yet, nowhere except in this book by F.

J. Lang, is there an integrated account of the ships, the men who own or control them, the men who man the ships, and their respective relation to the

problems, including the "labor problems." So far as the men on their ships are concerned, the operators help subsidize the American Merchant Marine Library that furnishes every ship with books carefully chosen for remoteness from reality.

"Maritime" helps expose the false contention of the operators that the economics of the industry are no concern of the seamen. "Maritime" shows that on the other hand how the Stalinists have to scurry around today trying to cover up their tracks of yesterday! They put forward the program of collaboration with the shipowners not only in war but for the postwar period in order to make capitalist "free enterprise" work.

One section of the book relates the story of the maritime industry and the long struggle of the seamen to achieve the status and rights of the organized shore-side workers. The book concludes with a program of action to insure the survival and strengthening of the seamen's unions as independent organizations of the seamen.

Hundreds of seamen in all the maritime unions have had their eyes opened by this book. Some found in it a new and fascinating history of their own union. Others for the first time read the cold facts proving that the shipowners are government-subsidized parasites. Still others began to understand the real role of the capitalist government.

No other book like this ever found its way into the foci of the merchant ships. For their own information the parasite bosses of the maritime industry have many carefully documented studies on the industry and its

problems, including the "labor problems." So far as the men on their ships are concerned, the operators help subsidize the American Merchant Marine Library that furnishes every ship with books carefully chosen for remoteness from reality.

Compare what is written in "Maritime" with all that has been written by the Stalinists, either in *The Pilot*, organ of the CIO National Maritime Union, which they lead, or in *The Daily Worker*. Not a word has to be changed in the new edition of "Maritime." Consider on the other hand how the Stalinists have to scurry around today trying to cover up their tracks of yesterday! They put forward the program of collaboration with the shipowners not only in war but for the postwar period in order to make capitalist "free enterprise" work.

Whatever slogans and demands the maritime workers raise in the coming period of great battles, they will surely be far closer in spirit to the militant program outlined in "Maritime" than to the "wisdom" peddled by the Stalinists in one section of the maritime industry, or to the "hand to mouth" strategy of the syndicalist "anti-political" leadership in other sections of the industry.

This program points to the political arena as the next great necessary step for the unions. It advances the argument that the organized seamen must control the industry in order to stop the mismanagement by the parasite ship operators. In addition it calls for the opening of the shipowners' books, to expose the loot of enormous government subsidies.

This program was worked out prior to the publication of "Maritime" in 1943. At that time many maritime workers thought it too "radical" and unrealistic. Is there any other proposed program that is more realistic today?

Reviewed by

Art Sharon

Congressmen At Work

Like other human beings, Wall Street's Congressmen have their heroes. On auspicious occasions, the Congressmen assemble in adoration, while their leaders recount the mighty deeds and inspiring acts of the illustrious paragons of virtue they revere.

The most recent ritual of this type occurred when the Senate confirmed the appointees to the United Nations Organization. Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, took the floor. The usual noise, chatter and commotion died down, for Barkley is Majority Leader and he speaks the scriptures and the law for all Democratic Party wheelhorses.

"Mr. President," began Barkley, "I shall content myself with just a word or two with reference to this nomination. I never knew Mr. Stettinius until he came to Washington a few years ago in a public capacity, although the name had been familiar to me for many years."

Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., the hero up for adulation in the Senate, is truly molded of the stuff of Wall Street's great. His most stupendous single act of heroism was to select as his father none other than Edward R. Stettinius, Sr., a partner of the Wall Street banker, J. Pierpont Morgan.

Senator Barkley, devoutly attended by all the other Congressional worshippers of the House of Morgan (including the Republicans, of course), showed how hero was Stettinius, Jr.'s birth.

Barkley contrasted it to the easy path of those born poor:

"It is not difficult for one who was born and reared in hard circumstances, who had to fight his way in childhood, in boyhood, and in manhood, to get his feet firmly planted on the soil and to be able to stand erect with his chin up in the face of all circumstances, however difficult and trying." Imagine then, how heroic was Stettinius, Jr., in shooting as his first mighty hur-

did not rest. He decided to hitch his wagon to the star of politics. Sure enough, his heroic character overcame all obstacles. A post as Chairman of Roosevelt's War Resources Board fell his way. Then a post on the National Defense Advisory Board. And a post as director of priorities on OPM. Then Director of Lend Lease. And finally as a "reward of merit" this shining knight in golden armor spearhead the post of Secretary of State.

"It seems to me," declared Barkley, rising nobly to the oratorical heights demanded by the occasion, "that he has shown the same sort of devotion to public ideals that was shown by George Washington."

"We have all praised and heaped encomiums on Thomas Jefferson," continued Barkley, ". . . Mr. Stettinius belongs in that class. He is a man of the highest ideals, a man of the deepest moral convictions, a man of vision, a man who has contributed his ability and talents, who has contributed of his time and of his wealth, to the elevation of the standards of the people of the world."

With deep emotion and without a dissenting voice, Wall Street's Senate confirmed the appointment of their hero to the post of representative of the United States to the United Nations Organization.

On January 8 the Stalinists warned soldiers and their families, "We have duties to fulfill in the armies of occupation." They thus clearly identify themselves with Wall Street's oppressive imperialist policy.

The N. Y. Times, outspoken propagandist for Wall Street, condemned the GIs for demanding to be brought home. An editorial on January 8 made this callous demand for courts-martial reprisals: "What they have done is indefensible, and they should be made to understand this."

Virginia Gildersleeve, Dean of the Rockefeller-controlled Barnard College, brazenly advocated the following imperialist concept:

"Many Americans must live abroad and serve their country abroad. They can't always live at home," Dean Gildersleeve said. "The English learned it long ago. We must learn it now. Many must live and work and perhaps die in foreign lands."

These statements are typical of the attitudes taken by the capitalist press and Big Business spokesmen throughout the land toward the rightful demand of the soldiers abroad to be brought back at once.

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

Buffalo Points the Way

Upholding previous interpretations of the so-called GI Bill of Rights, General Bradley, Veterans' Administrator, recently ruled that veterans are not to receive unemployment compensation under the bill if they are out of work "due to an industrial dispute."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars responded to this discriminatory ruling with a demagogic proposal typical of its entire anti-union program. Omar B. Ketchum, national legislative representative of the VFW, said his organization would attempt to have the bill amended so that veterans who did not vote for strikes might draw compensation.

Adoption of this proposal would place a premium on anti-strike activity by veterans. It is an attempt to make strikebreakers and union-wreckers of the veterans.

While this move is made in the guise of "aiding" the veterans, it is in reality motivated by a desire to split the veterans away from organized labor. This is what the bosses hope to do.

VFW'S Anti-Labor Proposal

This latest proposal is in keeping with the whole anti-labor, pro-Wall Street program of the VFW. Joseph M. Stack, Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, recently demanded enactment by Congress of a national system of compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

"The Veterans of Foreign Wars want all Americans back at work," Stack said in backing his proposal, "and we demand that Congress act now to put the wheels of industry in motion." This attempt to hog-tie the union movement by taking away its one real weapon, the right to strike, was hailed with enthusiasm by all spokesmen for reaction.

Some time ago the VFW went on record favoring legislation giving veterans fantastic super-seniority rights. The August 18 Militant branded the proposed legislation as another attempt by the bosses to use the veterans in their drive to smash the unions.

The VFW's program is inspired by what the employers want—not by the desires and needs of the worker veterans who are in the vast majority. The VFW is an agency of Wall Street. It attempts to dupe GIs through demagogic trickery.

Labor Proposal Recognizes Veterans' Rights

The proposals of the VFW are in sharp contrast to those advanced by the Veterans' Committee of Greater Buffalo Industrial Union Council. This union committee recognized the right of every veteran to unemployment compensation — no matter what the cause of unemployment.

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.

Soldier Describes Army Caste System

Editor:
The following letter appeared in *Stars and Stripes* on October 9, 1945. I think it's as interesting for civilians as for the GIs to whom it was addressed.

C. C.
New York

I have information that might throw more light on the Army caste system, and would like to pass it on to my fellow GIs as food for thought.

Due to the additional rental and subsistence allowance he receives, a married 2nd Lt. gets \$81 a month more than a single 2nd Lt. This boils down to the fact that a 2nd Lt.'s wife is worth exactly \$81 a month. A corporal with overseas pay gets only \$79.20 a month. Would you say that a 2nd Lt.'s wife could sit at home doing nothing (or whatever it is that 2nd Lt.'s wives do) and still be worth \$1.80 more a month to the War Department than a corporal who has given up everything and is serving overseas?

A major's wife is worth \$147 a month, slightly less than the base pay of three privates. A Lt. Col.'s wife is worth \$162, four dollars more than a private's wife and six kids. Does a Lt. Col.'s wife need \$4 a month more to live on than a private's wife needs to support herself and six children?

How embarrassing it will be when I get home to have someone ask how much I did toward winning the war, and have to say that I did \$2.40 a month's worth less than a 1st Lt.'s wife. There is definitely a caste system.

Sgt. Norman L. Manuel

For More Articles On Women's Problems

Dear Grace Carlson:

Like G. W. of Los Angeles, who wrote in the December 29 issue of *The Militant*, I miss your column on women. Your articles always were the first I read when I opened the paper.

As a housewife and mother, it gives one a "lift" to read about the things that concern us most. For instance, the other Thursday evening, when I went to 14th Street to shop, and then sat, tired, in the subway on my way home, I thought of what a story you could write about all those women who have to go "bargain hunting" on Thursday night (the only night the stores are open to 9 p.m.).

Like many others, I cannot go during the day, because I have nobody to leave the baby with. On Thursday evenings, my husband watches the child. Then I rush downtown, looking for cheap things—glad when I find some "seconds" or "irregulars" at a less expensive price. And the bitter feelings I sometimes have about this rotten way of life! We cannot afford to pay the outrageous prices they ask for children.

PLAN FOR HUNGER

Editor:
As I see things in my own community, the bosses are planning things ahead for me and my fellow worker just to see how long we can take to starve. I am enclosing some clippings from the Toledo papers on food price increases.

I am a subscriber to *The Militant*. Good and more good wishes to you.

I. M. H.
Toledo

drain's clothes—or any clothes, for that matter!

And then I think about what a different life it would be if we had a socialist world, in which we could get good, long-lasting clothes; no more bargain hunting on Thursday nights, no more worries, day in and day out, about the necessities of life!

I know this letter is not very good—I am tired. But I wanted to write, anyway. If I wait for some evening when I feel fresh and able to write a good letter, I shall not write for a long time.

Hoping to find your column again soon, every week, I am yours with hearty greetings.

A Housewife
New York

(Editor's Note: Comrade Carlson intends to resume a regular series of articles for *The Militant* in the very near future).

Scores Poem About Trotsky

Editor:
In the January 5 issue of *The Militant*, in the "Workers Forum," appears a "poem" apparently dedicated to Comrade Trotsky, which I believe shameful to our movement and a gross insult to the memory of Trotsky, the revolutionary leader, Trotsky the materialist.

The type of poem such as "Trotsky's Dream" is similar to the Byzantine odes to the leader that have filled the Stalinist press and brought only nausea to intelligent revolutionaries.

"Did Trotsky come from realms afar,
To build his golden dream—
And did he contemplate at night

The shining fields of stars and see
The Socialism that would grow
The time that was to be?"

Comrade Brown could very well have been writing of a Yogi or saint, but of a Bolshevik revolutionary man, never!

Comrade Brown was no doubt filled with the most honest enthusiasm, the best motivations. But unfortunately he does not yet understand that Trotsky to us was a man, a mortal man. He was a great man and our leader insofar as he expressed, developed and added to our ideas, led us in action. He was subject to man's mistakes and he made many. He was subject to criticism and all his life welcomed it.

Trotsky's greatest contributions

to our movement were in the struggle against the Stalinist bureaucracy, its slavish prostitution of thought, its introduction of idol worship into the labor movement and the consequent devastating damage to the socialist movement that has characterized our epoch. Trotsky fought all his life against the attempts to make an idol of Lenin, as Lenin had previously done in the case of Marx and Engels. He vigorously condemned those who did not think, who worshipped. He scored the type of poems that have been, that are, dedicated to Stalin. Stalin in these poems also surveys the stars for socialism. Trotsky all his life participated in and surveyed the working class struggle.

The poem, I repeat, is an insult to Trotsky, to our movement. Comrade Brown must learn the meaning of our movement, the relation of leaders and led in a Bolshevik movement.

Henry Martin
N. Y.

"Royal Runaround"

Described By Vet

Editor:
When I was discharged from the Army in early November, I decided I might as well get something for the worse-than-wasted years (5½ of them) I had been indentured to Uncle Sam. So I went over to the Veterans' Administration and made application for attending school, under the "GI Bill of Gribes" plan. And I have learned something new about the royal run-around the government is handing its "heroes" of yesterday.

"They told me at the Veterans' Administration that the Government would pay up to \$500 for my schooling. That sounds pretty good, when you hear it, but just try to get it!

In the first place, I had to wait more than two months to be notified of my eligibility to attend one of their schools. Yesterday I finally received the certificate, and went around to the school which the Veterans' Administration recommended to me.

There, the president of the school told me that a 15-week electricians' course would cost \$140. But, he continued, the V.A. would pay only \$80 of the \$140. He said frankly, he wouldn't advise me to try to get anything out of the government. He had veterans stick it out for as long as three months, living on their own pitiful savings, waiting for the government to come through and then quit the course because the money never came. "And as for us," he said, "we have to wait for months before we can collect even the \$80 they offer to pay."

I left the school and went back to the V. A. I asked the counselor there if this was true, and he frankly admitted it.

"I am a veteran myself," he said. "And I wanted to go to school, too. But when I realized what a runaround it was going to be, I decided to take the job, save my money, and go to school on my own."

I was glad when I was sent across three years ago. Two years in the Army here had made me so sick and disgusted with the whole set-up we're living under. I thought anything would be better than the dirt we had to take here. But I found out over there that you can always learn something more about the filthy way the big shots kick the "common man" around. So I was glad to get back home; and I guess I even believed some of the big promises they made about what they were going to do for us.

Well, as I said, you can always learn more and even more. When it comes to the "schooling" they were going to give us—we get more bull and less dough. When it comes to houses fit to live in, they won't even give us permission to sleep in Central Park.

Well, at least, I'm home, and able to fight this damn system. That's more than a lot of my buddies can say; more than a lot of them can ever say. But from what's happening now in Manila, in Germany, in France, in Indo-China, and everywhere else where the GIs are rearing up on their hind legs and telling the brass where to get off, maybe it's not too much to say: there's hope for mankind yet. If we act quick enough, maybe we can finish off this stinking system and get started on a decent way of living under socialism!

To All Readers Of The Militant: Our Party Is YOUR Party, Too!

You have been reading *The Militant* and recognize it as the fighting newspaper of the working people. You know its ideas and most of you agree with them. But ideas alone are not enough...

Good Ideas Must Become A Reality

The Militant is the spokesman of the SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY. The Socialist Workers Party is made up of workers like you. It is led by workers like you. The more workers who join, the better we can fight together against Big Business rule, for decent living and working conditions.

Now Is The Time For You To Join Us

Join the ranks of the Socialist Workers Party and help to build a better world—a socialist world—for you and your children. Help us educate more workers on how to prevent World War III and the atomic destruction of civilization. Organize with us today to win a workers' world tomorrow.

Fill Out the Application Blank—

at the bottom of this page.

Join The Socialist Workers Party

THE EDITORS

Harlem SWP Invites Workers To Visit And Join Its Ranks

Editor:

I want to report a very interesting experience that you are partly aware of. I was very glad to read M.T.R.'s letter to me in *The Militant* of January 12 because she is a part of Harlem, which is my foremost thought. It is the desire of every member of our party to awaken the people of Harlem and to draw them to us.

I accepted the invitation of M.T.R. and visited her. I am happy to report that I found a young lady who is 100 per cent socialist, although unaware that socialism is the name of her ideals. After conversing with her, I realized more clearly the great need for the Harlem Branch of the Socialist Workers Party to really work toward giving socialism a hearing in Harlem.

The Militant has many readers in Harlem who know we are real fighters against capitalism, which breeds discrimination, exploitation and oppression, wars and depressions. Harlem knows that the landlords, the bosses, the Bilboes and so forth are its enemies. But Harlem also knows it has been deceived by the Republicans and Democrats as well as the so-called Communist

Party. Now Harlem is afraid to believe in anyone.

I am speaking to Harlem as a section and as individuals. Come and investigate the SWP, this party of workers who have the answer to the Negro question. Come and question us on any subject. Look at the records. Give us an opportunity to prove we alone—and not the Stalinists—are the real Communists.

We alone support all oppressed people throughout the world. We solidarize ourselves with the workers wherever they are awakening to the evils of capitalism.

PARTY IS A WEAPON

Our party offers all workers a weapon to fight a winning battle against all who exploit and oppress us. We say to the workers of the world: Unite and fight the common enemy. And when the workers unite, and are ready to fight exploitation and discrimination, we say: Join our party and together we, the workers, can overthrow this decayed society of capitalism, place its records in the pages of history, and establish a new society, a society of socialism where there can be no exploitation, discrimination or oppression.

M. T. R. stated in her letter: "Mr. Howell and his party should really get busy in Harlem."

We invited M. T. R. to join our party. Every member gives us strength to fight a greater battle for the workers against the landlords, against the day of socialism.

The more individuals who come to us the more power we will have. It is not enough to read *The Militant* and wish us luck. We want you as individuals to come to us and join in the class struggle which alone will bring an end to the hardships we now face.

We invite all workers to attend

Pioneer Notes

One of the most interesting letters we have received came this week from a young man who is at present a patient in a tuberculosis sanatorium. He writes:

"I feel that I must write to tell you how much I have enjoyed a Christmas present sent me by a friend—a subscription to *The Militant*, and *The Case for Socialism*.

"I come from a Scandinavian family, and my grandparents on both sides were old time socialists. So all my life I have heard arguments and discussions about socialism—but it always sounded vague and impractical to me. Since the war began all the horrible things which have happened to the world have made me lose all desire to ever get well.

"I began reading *Socialism* on

Trial and before I had finished the introduction I realized that here was something far different than what my grandparents had been talking about. Here was something real, proposed and presented by real people, people who believed firmly enough in what they were doing to be willing to go prison for it.

"I have read and studied *Socialism* on Trial and In Defense of Socialism and the other two pamphlets, (*Who Are the 187?* and *Why We Are in Prison*) and have passed them both on to the other three fellows in my ward. We have many interesting discussions and have already sent my friend a list of books and pamphlets which we wish to read.

"By the time I get out of the hospital I want to be sufficient of a Trotskyist to merit membership in the party."

The Case for Socialism: four attractively boxed pamphlets on The Minneapolis Labor Case, special price, 25c. Order from Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

MILITANT ARMY

One of the most popular features in *The Militant* is "The Negro Struggle," written by Charles Jackson. Many comments from Militant subscribers and reports from our comrades and friends testify to this fact.

In addition, Comrade Jackson's column has been reprinted by a number of the leading Negro publications. One of the most recent reprints appeared in *The St. Louis American* of January 3; quoted intact was the column entitled: "The Colonial Struggle Is Our Struggle" (*Militant*, December 22). The *Omaha Guide* of January 5 reprinted "Round-About-Roundup" (*Militant*, December 29).

Ruth Laurie of Newark sends in this enthusiastic report: "It is great to hear workers calling for *The Militant*, and that is just what happened at the United Automobile Workers' mass meeting held in the Essex House in Newark. We distributed the papers in the meeting hall, and just couldn't pass them out fast enough. 'Shouts of 'Five more here'; 'Three more here'; 'Some over here'; greeted us from all sides.

"I spoke to auto workers from the outlying communities, and they all had favorable comments to make on *The Militant*. A worker from Bristol, Conn., told me the paper had been distributed there. He told me further that he liked *The Militant* very much, and added that he considers it one of the Trotskyist literature excellent.

"Another GM union activist from Linden suggested that we send a number of copies of the paper to his union headquarters. He pointed out: 'If *The Militant* were left at our headquarters so it could reach our pickets and union members who frequent the hall, it would serve a particularly useful purpose since the paper exposes the role the Stalinists have played in the trade unions, and we do have trouble with them there!'

George Rock of Kansas City sent in this very interesting experience: "Recently I hitchhiked from Missouri to New York,

then back to Missouri and I was very pleased to note a very militant leftward trend among all the workers I met on the road. Several months ago while I was on the road, workers would apologetically admit to me that they were union men. Today I find they proudly whip out their union cards to prove this to me.

"One truckdriver I traveled with replied to my query, 'Have you ever read a real labor paper?' with a sharp statement, 'There ain't none such.' Needless to say I discussed *The Militant* with him, and also gave him some of the facts in the Minneapolis Labor Case. By the time we parted he had taken a one-year subscription, and he had changed his mind to the point where he agreed that there is at least one real labor paper."

Our distribution of *The Militant* at the Stamford general strike left quite an impression. Reporting the demonstration in their issue of January 12, *Business Week* related that a picket came into one of the Yale & Towne strike centers with a copy of *The Militant*. *Business Week* quotes the girl as saying, "Nope, I don't know where you could get one, unless at the meeting."

Since then, thanks to our alert comrades in Connecticut, many workers have found out where to get it. Last Sunday our comrades obtained 33 subscriptions to *The Militant* in Stamford, many from Yale & Towne workers.

Mrs. L. Hubbard of California sent us the following letter: "I am enclosing \$1 for a renewal of my subscription to *The Militant*. I am not sure just when my present subscription expires, but I hope I am getting this renewal in to you in time not to miss a single copy."

"Each week I look forward very eagerly to the arrival of the paper. Even though I am just a housewife, I wish to keep posted on matters affecting the workers. I take particular interest in your 'Postwar Notes for Seamen' as my husband has been going to sea for some time now."

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!

Government operation of all idle and government-built plants under workers' control!

Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages during the entire period of unemployment!

2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!

No restriction on

Liebknecht-Luxemburg Working-Class Martyrs

By Ruth Johnson

More than 10,000 Berliners filed through shattered streets and light snowfall today to honor the memory of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, revolutionary leaders who were assassinated twenty-seven years ago. The crowd bearing floral wreaths, assembled in East Berlin and marched two miles to Friedhof Cemetery, site of the monument which was ordered destroyed by Adolf Hitler.

The few lines of this report last week in the N. Y. Times gives an answer to all who try to blame the German working class for Hitler's crimes! Hungry, thinly clad, suffering under the heel of military occupation, 10,000 workers of Berlin marched in tribute to their forgotten martyrs, two great revolutionists who gave their lives fighting for a socialist Germany and a socialist world!

Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg were assassinated on January 15, 1919 by Junker hire-



LUXEMBURG

power and organized a workers' republic.

It was in prison that Rosa received the inspiring news of the Russian Revolution, which she ardently supported. Then in 1918 came the revolt of the Kiel sailors and soldiers of Berlin. One of the first acts of the revolutionary workers and soldiers was to throw open the prison gates for Liebknecht and Luxemburg.

TRAITS TO REVOLUTION
The Social-Democratic traitor strove to persuade the Kaiser to remain. Failing to save the monarchy, hating and fearing the spread of Bolshevism above everything else, they then strained their efforts to establish a bourgeois republic and prevent the workers from taking power. The Social-Democracy particularly feared the Spartakus Bund, organized by Liebknecht and Luxemburg in 1918 as an independent party, with the slogan of "All Power to the Workers' Councils."

Conscious of their tasks and the pressure of time, Liebknecht and Luxemburg began to organize the German Communist Party. Rosa wrote the program for the party in complete agreement with the program of Lenin and Trotsky. But events moved too rapidly. The advanced workers were pressing forward. The German Communist Party, just emerging from the Spartakus group, was still too weak to take power.

INSPIRING REVOLUTIONIST

Rosa Luxemburg was a fiery orator, gifted writer, theorist and activist who conquered physical frailty to become one of the most eminent revolutionists. Born in czarist Poland, she was a political refugee at the age of 18. She secured German citizenship and in the Social-Democratic Party worked and fought against the revision of Marxism promoted by the Bernsteinians. She met the outbreak of war in 1914 by calling upon the German workers to refuse to shoot down their French brothers. Like Liebknecht, she was imprisoned.

Rosa smuggled articles for "Die Internationale" out of her prison cell. She wrote the famous "Junius" pamphlet circulated throughout Germany, explaining that victory of either side—German or Allied—would only lead to another world slaughter unless the masses took

SENTENCED TO PRISON
Karl Liebknecht, son of the founder of the German Social-Democracy, proved his own stature as early as 1906 when he delivered a series of lectures against capitalist militarism to a socialist youth organization. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison for their subsequent publication.

When World War I broke out,

he was arrested and sentenced to prison for "socialism and saved the toting capitalist regime."

YOUNGSTOWN

On January 15, 1919, he was sentenced to prison for "socialism and saved the toting capitalist regime."

UE Girl Pickets In Youngstown Aided By Husky Steel Workers

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

SEATTLE, Wash. — The Stalinists in this area are setting their frame-up machinery in motion again. This time it is aimed against the hundreds of rank and file union militants here who are organizing for a labor party and for militant, democratic unionism.

The first move in what looks

like a new concerted drive to go down the line with the Stalinist program of betrayal is a letter signed by the Northwest District of the Communist Party, published January 10 in the New World. This paper, whose president is Congressman Hugh De Lacy, claims to be an independent weekly, but is in reality an out-and-out Stalinist slander sheet.

Ranting all the Moscow Frame-up Trial lies against Trotskyism that Trotskyists are "fascist agents and spies," that Trotskyists are "enemies of the Soviet Union," etc., the letter of the Communist Party shrieks "No quarter to Trotskyism! Oust the Trotskyites from the labor movement!"

However, the text of the letter reveals that not only Trotskyists but all other advocates of a labor party and militant unionism are included in the Stalinist incitement to frame-ups, bureaucratic expulsions from the unions, and lynch attacks.

WHOM THEY SLANDER

The CP letter falsely lumps together as "Trotskyite" all three publications distributed at the Hugh De Lacy rally, although The Militant is a Trotskyist organ. The Militant, chief target of the Stalinist attack, has many hundreds of subscribers in the Seattle area and receives enthusiastic response at numerous union meetings where it is distributed.

FEAR LABOR PARTY

"Our attention has been called," the Stalinist letter begins, "to several pieces of literature" distributed at the recent meeting at Eagles Auditorium, among them two poison-pen sheets called the 'Militant' and 'Workers Action' and a leaflet for a 'labor party.' The meeting in question was a rally of the Democratic Party, featuring Congressman Hugh De Lacy. The advocacy of a labor party contained in these 'several pieces of literature' especially incenses the Stalinists. For they

Workers Action is a monthly newspaper published by a group of leftward moving Seattle trade-unionists, who are not Trotskyists, but who in the last eight months have vigorously campaigned for the formation of a labor party.

The Committee for a Labor Party, which sponsored the labor party leaflet attacked by the Stalinists, is a committee of individual unionists from 30 different unions whose purpose is to win the labor movement over to a labor party position. The Committee has already obtained

the support of the Stalinist gangster methods.

The Stalinists are now attempting a new frame-up and lynch campaign against their opponents in the Seattle unions. All honest and progressive unionists must once more call these treacherous enemies to order.

HONOR IN THEIR UNION

500 workers struck two GE plants at Niles, O., and 24-hour picketing began at 6:00 a.m. 320 glass workers who produce auto headlights and bulbs also struck.

Here in Youngstown, UE Local 734 today closed GE's Mazda Lamp Works which employs 770 workers. The company had taken a threatening attitude and moved cots and food into the plant just prior to the strike. Some foremen are now in there and are the virtual prisoners of the pickets rather than the star boarders of the corporation.

Local 734 is a young local and the great majority of its members are young girls in their first strike. Fearing trouble the first morning, they called upon the CIO steelworkers to aid in picketing. Several squads of steelworkers bolstered the line and those few who came to report to work left without trying to enter the plant. From that point on the girls have carried on the fight very well.

WARRIOR STRIKE

At Warren, O., 3,500 workers of UE locals 717 and 722 closed GE's Ohio Lamp plant and GM's Packard electrical division this morning. Picket lines were formed at both plants at 6:00 and veterans were prominent on both.

This is the hometown of the traitor, DeCavitch, who was a leading Stalinist trade unionist and International Vice-President of the UE. A week before his union's strike he sold out by resigning from the UE and taking a job with Federal Machine and Welder Company as labor relations "expert." DeCavitch goes to his anti-labor job directly across from the struck GE and GM plants every morning in plain view of the now scornful pickets who once struck for wage demands.

The production workers at

the GM Strike

honored the independent union's strike, but when the national UE leadership ordered them into the plant because "they had to win the war," they returned to work. Now their former non-support of the office workers has come home to roost in the form of disunity and a threat to the strike.

PROGRESSIVE STRIKE

The largest electrical plant in the district, the Westinghouse transformer factory at Sharon, Pa., was closed by pickets who formed ranks at 6:00 a.m. A strikebreaking attempt led by William Bogert, head of an independent union of office workers, failed when the office workers made no serious attempt to enter the struck plant.

For more than two hours this morning the streets adjoining the factory gate were jammed with thousands of workers. But when it became apparent that the office workers were not going to play cat's paw for the company by attempting to force the picket lines, the great crowd went home leaving the pickets to guard the plant.

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General Electric Strikers In Lynn Gain Support Of Entire Community

By Ann Anders

(Special to The Militant)
LYNN, Mass., Jan. 15.—At 8 a.m. today, 15,000 members of Local 201, CIO, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, struck and closed the River Works and West Lynn plants of the General Electric Company here, as part of the national strike against the big electrical corporations.

Braving freezing temperatures, hundreds of union strikers marched two abreast before the River Works main gate, while hundreds of others stood by. A large contingent of gaily-clad girl strikers marched at the West Lynn plant singing "Solidarity Forever" and other labor songs.

Passers-by stood about watching the girl pickets, commenting on their spirit and militancy. Many placards reading, "We Want To Live, Not Exist," "You Got Yours, Charlie" (referring to GE President Charles E. Wilson), "We Want Ours" and others were carried by the marching pickets.

Lest Sunday afternoon in Odd Fellows Hall, at a packed meeting which overflowed into the streets where many workers listened to the proceedings through loud speakers, the strikers made known their determination to fight to a finish.

NO ADMISSION!

Proposals to permit autos, carrying supervisory and office help to pass through picket lines, met violent opposition. UE International President Albert J. Fitzgerald restored order by personally making the motion that NO cars be permitted to enter

the plant. At this writing only three or four Army and Navy autos have passed through the picket line, bearing military and government personnel.

Only skeleton maintenance and power-house operator crews—union men—are being permitted to work on union passes, a provision designed to protect company property. But as one woman militant expressed it: "Let the pipes freeze—they don't care if we freeze!"

Reduction of work hours since V-J Day resulting in about a 30 per cent pay cut; other wage cuts instituted under the guise of job reclassification; piled-up grievances accumulated throughout the war years; all these plus the steady rise in living costs, have resulted in the workers' demand for \$2-a-day pay raise.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The company, after months of stalling, has countered with a ridiculous offer of a 10 per cent increase and flatly refused to consider a compromise offer from the union for a 15 per cent wage increase with the balance of the \$2 to be negotiated.

Local feeling against the company is running very high, since the GE payroll constitutes roughly 60 per cent of the purchasing power in Lynn. Both newspapers in this overwhelmingly working-class city were forced to adopt either a pro-labor or a neutral tone in their front-page editorials. Mayor Cole issued a statement urging the company to meet the "just and reasonable" demands of the workers.

Various fraternal organizations have donated their halls for use as picket centers. The Lynn Labor Council, comprising all AFL and CIO unions in this

Ship Workers Convention Marked By Faction Fight

By L. Williams

Control of the Industrial Union of Marine & Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO, passed completely into the hands of a hard-bitten red-baiting bureaucracy at the 11th National Convention of that organization held at Atlantic City during the week of January 7.

The failure of the opposition, led largely by the Stalinists and called the "progressive" caucus, to develop a clear-cut militant position on the vital wage question, enabled the administration to present the issue as a fight against "Communist control" of the union and to deal with the insurgents a smashing defeat.

STALINIST ROLE

The efforts of the Progressives were centered primarily in a fight to seat a Stalinist-dominated delegation from Local 16, Kearny and Port Newark, N. J., and to elect Phillip Van Gelder to the office of Secretary-Treasurer, a post which he held prior to his induction into the army from which he has recently been discharged.

The convention program of the opposition was allegedly against the participation of the IUMSWA in the company-backed Stabilization Committee, which has been in session on and off since mid-December and has evolved a government recommendation for a 10 per cent wage increase which both labor and the employees have rejected.

The Progressives' amendment to the Wage Report was a weak proposal to enlarge the present "negotiations." When the amendment was defeated and the motion "carried" by debatable voice votes, the opposition made no attempt whatsoever to obtain a hand or roll-call vote.

CONFlict ON DELEGATES

Climaxing the convention, the most dramatic and fiercely-contested in the union's history, was the struggle to seat rival delegations from Local 16, second largest in the International Union. Its 108 votes might easily have tipped the scales in favor of the opposition.

The group that was finally seated on the fourth day by a dubious voice vote had been picked by Local 16's official Board, which in turn had recently been decisively elected over a Stalinist slate by 700 votes in a total of 5,000 cast.

The second delegation was Stalinist-controlled and had been chosen by a rump meeting of 69 union members. A genuine election of the Local's delegates had been rendered impossible by a number of obstacles, introduced first by the Stalinists who wanted no general election and who had protested to the national office in an attempt to legalize their rump-meeting delegation.

Following this, the national officers postponed one scheduled election and a second was prevented when a few drunken hoodlums on a "red hunt" barged into a meeting of the election committee and scattered its paraphernalia around the local headquarters.

The convention's belated action

Chicago

Hear
ALBERT GOLDMAN
speak on

Palestine and the Jewish
Refugees

Wednesday, January 30
Liberty Hall
3420 Roosevelt Road
2nd floor 8 p.m.

Auspices:
Socialist Workers Party

The convention's belated action

the plant. At this writing only three or four Army and Navy autos have passed through the picket line, bearing military and government personnel.

Only skeleton maintenance and power-house operator crews—union men—are being permitted to work on union passes, a provision designed to protect company property. But as one woman militant expressed it: "Let the pipes freeze—they don't care if we freeze!"

Reduction of work hours since V-J Day resulting in about a 30 per cent pay cut; other wage cuts instituted under the guise of job reclassification; piled-up grievances accumulated throughout the war years; all these plus the steady rise in living costs, have resulted in the workers' demand for \$2-a-day pay raise.

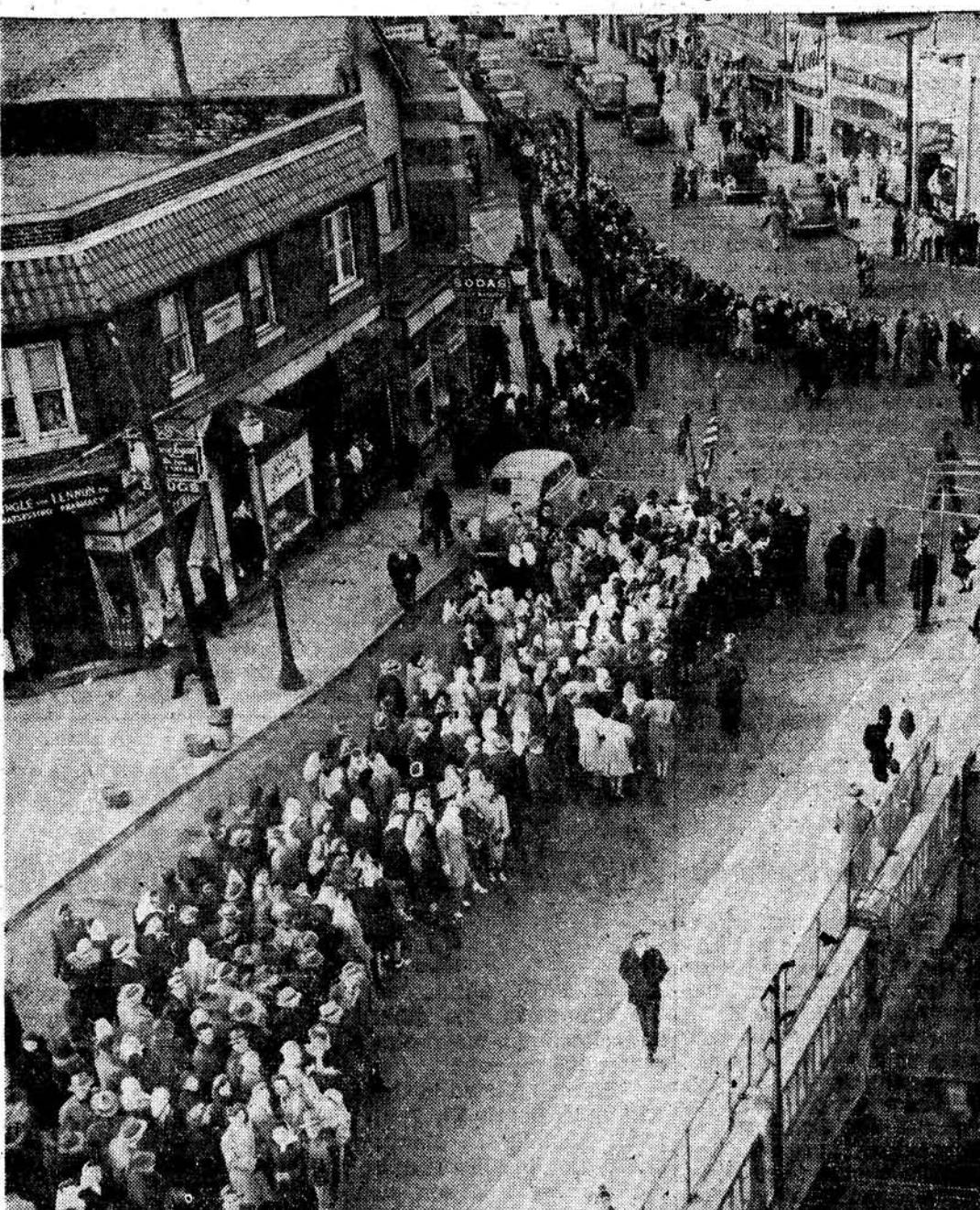
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The company, after months of stalling, has countered with a ridiculous offer of a 10 per cent increase and flatly refused to consider a compromise offer from the union for a 15 per cent wage increase with the balance of the \$2 to be negotiated.

Local feeling against the company is running very high, since the GE payroll constitutes roughly 60 per cent of the purchasing power in Lynn. Both newspapers in this overwhelmingly working-class city were forced to adopt either a pro-labor or a neutral tone in their front-page editorials. Mayor Cole issued a statement urging the company to meet the "just and reasonable" demands of the workers.

Various fraternal organizations have donated their halls for use as picket centers. The Lynn Labor Council, comprising all AFL and CIO unions in this

UE Strikers Mass In Bloomfield



Determined lines of striking workers from General Electric and Westinghouse plants in Bloomfield, N. J. shown above merging at Lawrence Street to march together to a mass meeting staged on the Town Green on January 15. They are part of the 200,000 members of the CIO United Electrical Workers Union who walked out of 78 plants in 16 states, affecting General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

by CHARLES JACKSON

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

—KARL MARX

Saga of the Virgin Plum

The precedent-breaking nomination of a Negro, Judge William H. Hastie, for Governor of the Virgin Islands by President Truman has been triumphantly hailed in many quarters. Many Negroes, looking at the thing from a most narrow angle, simply view the \$8,000 a year "plum" as better in Judge Hastie's jeans than fattening the already bulging pockets of the former Governor, Charles Harwood. Furthermore, since Hastie's wife is a native of the Virgin Islands, some interpret this as a vestige of "self-expression" for the islanders.

However, to fully get the significance of this appointment it is necessary to add the other links in the chain. First let us scan the history of the Islands and the people who live there. Discovered by Columbus in 1493, they were so rich and unsullied in natural resources that they were named the "Virgin" Islands.

In the name of "salvation" (which still cushions the fighting spirit of millions of oppressed peoples today) the natives were later ruthlessly enslaved by their conquerors and put to work harvesting plunder for the invaders. Other slaves were brought in too. In consideration of the church's benediction of this massacre, the three islands were glorified with the names of saints: St. Thomas (where stands the Governor's mansion), St. Croix and St. John.

From the beginning the natives were extremely militant. The first large slave insurrection in the New World occurred on St. John in 1733 after a severe penalty of torture had been imposed on runaways. It was quelled in blood after French soldiers were hastily brought from Martinique.

In 1847, after repeated protest actions, the Dutch Governor proposed that familiar and nauseating formula of twelve years "preparation" for emancipation. Not to be fooled by this ruling class trap, the courageous slaves answered this with a general rebellion. The Governor was forced to grant immediate freedom in order to retain any semblance of authority for the imperial Dutch masters.

In 1917, as a part of one of the deals in the first imperialist war, the United States took over control of the Islands. Since then the sugar trusts, the cotton trusts and the rum trusts have placed the natives back in new chains of wage slavery. Although this is one of the wealthiest of American "dependencies" for its size, the native laborers on the sugar and the "sea island" cotton plantations are under-fed, ill housed, ill clothed and an easy prey to disease simply because their buttons proclaim. They are suspicious and resentful of maneuvers by the top CIO and UERMWA leadership seeking a way out to settle for less.

Thus the island has a long history of strong independence movements throughout the Caribbean area. In Haiti, Jamaica and in other islands there are signs of unrest. The colonial people want the whole loaf of freedom.

In the meantime Negroes here will do well to stop and ask whether a Negro getting a political "plum" in the form of a job in a machine of continued oppression of other colored peoples is getting a plum or a prune.

We as an oppressed minority must never forget that we will not be free as long as we condone, sanction or assist in the continued oppression or exploitation of other subject peoples anywhere on the globe.

Lester UE Strikers Demonstrate Solidarity At Westinghouse Plant

By Robert Oliver

(Special to The Militant)

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17.—It

is almost an hour-long trolley ride from Philadelphia to the trolley-bound Lester, Pa., plant of the Westinghouse Corp., where 7,000 are employed. It is bitter-cold even late in the morning. But a feeling of warmth comes over us when the first thing that greets our eyes as we alight from the trolley, is a big sign saying "This way to the Local 107-UERMWA office." Passing us is a small truck placarded with signs saying "Local 107-Of-

Others are registering for their unemployment insurance, which they won't get for eight weeks, but at least they don't have to hang around.

Unemployment Compensation Commission offices. The local had arranged for a special UCC office to be set up in the union headquarters.

Downstairs, in the picket headquarters, old and young, men and women, black and white, factory and office workers mingle together. Workers are coming in to receive picket cards and assignments. Others are making signs. All are wearing buttons, the most common

reading "I Paid My Five-Did You?", referring to a \$5 strike assessment voted before the walkout.

The Local leadership is preparing for a siege and are confident that, if necessary, they can outstay the company. To conserve energy they decided that pickets would stand duty in two-hour a week shifts and still have three hundred on the line at all times.

However, this plan has "failed" so far. They just can't keep the members away from the line!

While we were there, at least

1,500 were on voluntary duty.

Local 107 is set for victory, but we could sense an undercurrent of serious concern among the strikers. They all wear big buttons saying "\$2 a Day or Bust!" The membership and local leadership of Local 107 mean what their buttons proclaim. They are suspicious and resentful of maneuvers by the top CIO and UERMWA leadership seeking a way out to settle for less.

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Socialist Workers Party Branch Activities

Schedule:

Central, 1106 S. Broadway; "Prices," Feb. 1; "Jobs," Feb. 8.

East Side, Folks Hall, 424 N. Soto; "Prices," Jan. 30; "Jobs," Feb. 6.

San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214; "Jobs," Feb. 1.

AKRON — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open Monday through Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.; also Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7 to 9. Current events discussion Friday evenings.

ALLENTOWN - BETHLEHEM — Branch meeting every Thursday, 8 p.m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Allentown.

FONSTON — Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Mondays and Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

MINNEAPOLIS — Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Forum every Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

NEWARK — Open forum every Friday night, Current Events Discussion and Open House, at Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO — Visit SWP, 160 N. Wells, R. 317. Open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 7562.

CLEVELAND — Militant Forum every Sunday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St.

DETROIT — Forums on topical questions every Sunday, 8 p.m. at 6108 Linwood.

Classes every Thursday: "How To Prepare A Speech" and "History Of Russian Revolution."

KANSAS CITY — SWP Branch meets Saturday, 8 p.m. Rm. 203, Studio Bldg., 418 E. 9th St., for study and discussion.

LOS ANGELES — Visit SWP headquarters, 1106 S. Broadway, Blue Room, Cabrillo Hotel, or San Pedro, 1008 S. Pacific, Room 214.

Lecture Series On Current Strike Wave: "Wages," John Patrick; "Profits," Al Miller; "Prices," Gordon Bailey; "Jobs," Myra Tanner Weiss.

TOLEDO — Forums every Tuesday, 8:30 p.m., at Beachcombers Get-Together at Chelsea Branch 130 W. 23 Street.

YOUNGSTOWN — Youngstown School of Social Science, 225 N. Phelps St., open to public Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 5; also 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

PHILADELPHIA — SWP Headquarters, 405 W. Girard Ave. Open forums every Friday 8 p.m. on current topics.

Socialist Youth Group meets on alternate Saturdays, 8 p.m.

PITTSBURGH — Militant Reading Room, Seely Bldg., 5905 Penn Ave., corner Penn Ave. & Beatty St. E. Liberty. Open evenings, 6:30 to 9:30, also Saturday 2-9 p.m. Circulating library. Class on fundamentals of Marxism every Sunday evening.

PORLAND, Ore. — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W. Washington, 3rd Floor. Tel. ATwater 3992. Open 1 to 4 p.m., daily except Sunday, and 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday.

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.

Friday night study groups: "Introduction to Trotskyism," 7:30 p.m.; "History of Democratic Centralism," 8:40 p.m.

SEATTLE — Study groups every

Friday, 7:45 p.m., at Seattle School of Social Science, 225 N. 3rd 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.

Friday night study groups: "Introduction to Trotskyism," 7:30 p.m.; "History of Democratic Centralism," 8:40 p.m.

ST. LOUIS — Visit our headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312; open Monday through Saturday from 12 to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 8 to 10 p.m.

Sat. Feb.

Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalesky

Owing to his intense activities in connection with the steel wage struggle, Comrade Kovalesky writes that he is unable to send his regular column this week. We are therefore reprinting his column from the October 28, 1944 *Militant*.

The word "Socialism" means a lot of different things to different people, but what it means to me I can write down in just a couple of words.

It means peace and plenty for all; it means sunshine and the laughter of children.

I guess it's the kids that interest me mostly. I know I've written things here before about the kids, but that's natural. I'll probably write a lot more

about them, too, because I feel that I'm fighting mostly for them. In a way, I feel as if writing words like these were sort of a monument for Little Dick . . . as if all the time I was saying, "Look, little fellow, this is for you and all the other kids that you used to play with. This is the sunshine, and the forests, and swimming holes, and the meadows that you never had a chance to see. This is the life that you might have had, the opportunities that you and all the other dirty-faced scampering little fellows never found."

"If you had lived longer, you'd have seen life get a lot tougher. More and more you'd have felt the hardships which bend the shoulders of the poor. Maybe you'd have found a girl to share your life, but if you had, you'd have seen the joy of loving loses its sparkle in most cases when poverty keeps gnawing and grinding at it, and when worry keeps scraping at it like the persistent hurt of a hungry stomach."

"So I'm using my big fists now harder than ever, because your little fists are lying still, down under the grass and earth, and they'll never be lifted to defend yourself and your comrades."

"Little Dick, I go out each day like one of the structural steel workers or bricklayers put-

Notes Of A Seaman

By Art Sharon

It makes no difference whether you walk into the American bar on 23rd Street in New York, the little joint next to the "dog house" at the foot of Broadway in Baltimore, the Sailors' Cafe on Clay street in San Francisco or the Post Keller on Seneca street in Seattle — all well-known sailors' hangouts — it is the same story.

The sailor talking over a bottle of beer might belong to the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific, his companion might be a cook from the CIO National Maritime Union. Or it could very well be a fireman belonging to the Independent Marine Firemen's Union talking to a messboy holding a book in the AFL Seafarers International Union.

Regardless of what union books they carry, their conversation revolves around a common interest and common problems. Here's where you get the real picture of shipboard conditions. A bottle of beer and a friendly table helps lift the barriers of rival affiliations. Here seaman talks to seaman exchanging the experiences of their last ship.

The sailor might be overheard telling of the outrageous action of the U. S. military authorities in Japan who refused permission to the merchant crew of his vessel to come ashore upon the flimsy legal pretext that only personnel in uniform of an American service could come ashore.

None of the crew wore uniforms. They, like the majority of merchant seamen, refused to be suckered into wearing uniforms at the very beginning of the war, because they did not wish any more regimentation than they already suffered. The sailor might add with indignation that the crew lined the rails and glumly watched the officers of the ship go ashore in uniforms covered with gold braid enough to dazzle a blind man.

FEPC Filibuster

By Joseph Keller

Last week the Southern Bourbon Democrats in the Senate were caught on the horns of a dilemma.

They were torn between two frenzied desires. While anxious to speed enactment of anti-labor legislation, they were confronted by the unexpected "emergency" called forth by the sudden presentation of a bill for establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission.

The Bilbo Bourbons decided that the most immediately pressing problem before the nation is to defend "white supremacy" against the ominous consequences of any federal law against racial discrimination in industry.

When a Senate majority on January 17 passed Senator Chavez's motion to take up the FEPC bill, a bloc of 15 Southern Senators rose to arms and launched their mightiest weapon — the filibuster.

Again a handful of wilful, vicious Southern leaders of the Democratic Party, dredged from the malodorous swamps of Southern white ruling class anti-Negro hatred, prepared to rant indefinitely in order to block action on the FEPC.

Senator George of Georgia declaimed in outrage, against introducing the FEPC bill: "in a time of industrial crisis, when the very life of this nation is at stake."

But that did not prevent him and his colleagues from proceeding to gum up the machinery of the Senate indefinitely in order to ensure that 13,000 Negro citizens of the United States are kept in a permanent position of servitude and second-class citizenship.

Senators Eastland and Bilbo, white banner-bearers for the "white supremacy" scum, proclaimed their determination to talk the Senate to death, if need be. Eastland said he personally was prepared to talk two years against the measure. More modestly, Bilbo said, "I pro-

ting up a great building. It is the home of the people of the future that we're building. It is Socialism."

"Here men will approach each other not with a lunging bayonet, but with the helping hand of friendship, no bitter competition, but organized, fruitful cooperation."

"There will be great laboratories here. Would you have wanted to be a chemist? Here you could be. Our chemists will be chosen not by the weight of their gold, but by the keenness of their brains and by the intensity of their desire to serve the human race. And what will they do? Poison gasses and explosives to bring death, destruction, and misery to the people of the world will no longer be needed."

"White coated men and women will wage relentless and unceasing war upon disease. Boiling test tubes and steaming retorts will contain the weapons of the people's army, which we'll muster to fight against the enemies of mankind, polio, tuberculosis, syphilis, and even the common cold. And we'll defeat them all."

"You and your pals wouldn't be driven to steal guns and prowl about in the darkness, waiting to prey upon a fellow creature so that you might live, answering one violence with another, and you might keep a little self-respect. No, and there'd be no more broken fathers like old man di Rosa, who buttonholes you every chance he gets to tell you that 'Angie was a good boy. The cops, they shoot my Angie, but he's no bad boy.'

"We'll work. All of us will work, but we'll do it cheerfully and proudly, knowing that we serve ourselves and our brothers. That we produce and create every day new products that will help make life better for all the peoples of the world. People of all races, of all nationalities will live in brotherhood and mutual respect. Heroes (perhaps you might have been one of them, little Dick) will gouge out the minerals from the poles of the earth and gather the herbs and drugs of the tropics, and we'll take them, and with them, we'll raise life to an even higher level."

His companion, a cook, listens and nods grimly. It is a familiar story to him. He too has suffered the pain of no shore leave in some foreign port after weeks at sea and sometimes, after months without setting foot on solid ground.

He tells in turn the story of his last trip. He made a pier head jump and on his first day, on the job, found that the ship was carrying old stores with insufficient meats, eggs and vegetables but plenty of rice and beans. It was too late to do anything but try to make the best of a rotten storeroom. The meat and eggs lasted three weeks and the last of the potatoes went a week later. From then on it was rice and beans for breakfast, beans and rice for dinner, and rice and beans for supper.

The crew raised hell; accused the steward of selling the ship's food; threatened the Cook and 2nd Cook, and finally in a last desperate demonstration threw the entire lunch ration of one day over the side and refused to work. At a crew's meeting that evening the cook explained the fix they were in and got a vote of confidence from the meeting.

They resigned themselves to hoping for army supplies at one of the Pacific bases they were to hit. But at midnight they caught the steward frying up some eggs from his private supply. In vain his protestations that there were only a few eggs, not enough to go around.

The steward was jumped by several of the more furious members of the crew and only the arrival of the mate on watch with a gun in hand saved his hide.

This too is a familiar story to the sailor. He has been at the mercy of an incompetent "belly robbing" company steward a number of times.

How totally different are these experiences from the glorious pictures painted by the War Shipping Administration to prospective recruits for the industry! What a challenge to the vain boasting of the class-collaborating union leaders on the "conditions" their leadership has brought to the seamen.

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Thirteen More Mine Disaster Victims Die Due To The Negligence of Greedy Owners

By Evelyn Atwood

Once again murder for profit stalked the coal mines when a violent explosion blasted through the shafts of Havaco No. 9 coal mine in Welch, West Virginia, on January 15, killing 13 mine workers and injuring at least 38 of more than 200 others who escaped the burning trap.

The same criminal neglect by the coal operators of even the simplest precautions and the same cynical disregard of danger warnings by federal mine inspectors which cost the lives of 22 mine workers in the recent Pineville, Kentucky, tragedy, added these new victims to the unending list of mine workers who every year are doomed to violent deaths by the greed of the mine owners.

DANGERS KNOWN

A purely perfunctory report last September by Inspectors from the Bureau of Mines, which every year reiterates it has no power to enforce its findings, listed at least three danger points in the New River and Pocahontas Coal Company mine. The mine was gassy, and equipped with dangerous electric installations. Safety inspections by the company were totally inadequate. The company operated no safety training program for the miners.

Thus it was inevitable that this mine would explode. When it did, "it looked like an atom bomb explosion," said E. V. Becker, Welch Postmaster. Flames shot more than 300 feet into the air. Not only were mine workers killed and injured, but many buildings in the immediate area were wrecked.

Five women and children who were in the company grocery store at the time were taken to a hospital for treatment of injuries resulting from the blast. School children in a building 500 feet away were injured by flying glass. The entire tipple construction at the entrance was wrecked. It is not known how far into the deep mine the blast left its trail of wreckage.

Throughout the whole day, as crowds of relatives and rescue

The "Bright" Side Of Mine Tragedy

Although 13 mine workers were killed and 38 seriously injured in the Welch, W. Va., mine explosion due to the operators' disregard of inspection warnings, the N.Y. Times, a chief apologist for the criminal capitalist system, did not fail to point out the "brighter" side of the disaster.

The Times, January 14, reports cheerfully: "The unusual aspect of the explosion was that with so many in its area, so few were killed or injured."

Workers assembled around the scene of the disaster, the miners who were not killed, emerged one by one. Some appeared dazed and leaned heavily on their buddies. Others had to be half carried or dragged. Some of the more seriously injured were hoisted out by an improvised cable and bucket arrangement through an air shaft, because the elevator was wrecked. Some 200 units of blood plasma were rushed in for use in treating victims.

This is the 80th disaster in West Virginia bituminous mines since official records have been kept. In these 2,214 workers have been needlessly slaughtered. But now, as in previous disasters, the coal operators have no comment to make.

Neither has the State Mine Inspection Bureau, which is supposed not to serve the coal operators, but to enforce safety regulations for the mine workers. After the disaster a state mine inspector arrived upon the scene for an inspection! But after each disaster, the coal operators continue to reap their profits by sending men to their deaths in dangerous and neglected mines.

Minnesota Packinghouse Workers Firmly Support National Strike

By Barbara Bruce

(Special to The Militant)

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 16 — Packinghouse workers in the Minnesota area walked out nearly 8,000 strong today and closed up the nation's second largest meat-packing center 100 per cent.

Plants affected in this area include Armour, Swift and Rirk in South St. Paul; Superior and Bartusch in St. Paul; Cudahy in Newport, C. and Wilson in Albert Lea and Faribault. The Wilson plant involves some 1,200 workers; the others are employed in the St. Paul-Newport area.

Picketing of the struck plants began at 4 a.m. today in accordance with strike strategy laid down here. Union leaders point out that the plants operate on skeleton crews of maintenance and janitorial workers and could be closed with the greatest ease at that time.

Key men in all locals of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers reported for picket duty at the appointed early morning hour. Other workers, told to report to work as usual Wednesday morning, were greeted by picket lines and immediately became part of them.

Before 7 a.m. in South St. Paul, instead of the familiar stream of men, women and automobiles choking the streets and sidewalks approaching the plants, there appeared hundreds of men carrying strike banners, on guard

plants to prevent spoilage of meat on hand.

There is not much meat in any of the plants today, however, since an embargo was placed on livestock and most of the stock on hand was processed and shipped out before the strike began. Stockyard workers are in complete solidarity with plant employees and are also striking 100 per cent.

The militant spirit of the packing workers here was demonstrated last Sunday at a mass meeting sponsored by the UPWA in St. Paul. Well over 1,000 CIO members resounded their approval of the union's strike program. CIO spokesmen were cheered by union members who jammed the hall.

Joseph Ollman, district director of the UPWA, described working conditions in the packing plants from his own 23 years of experience as a packinghouse worker. "The meat packing workers get the lowest wages in the country, next to textile workers," he said. "Their conditions are worse than in any other industry." He told of workers wading in blood up to their ankles, of the stench of the packing houses and how it gets into the very skin of the men and women who work there. Dozens of workers nodded their heads in agreement as he talked.

STOCKYARD WORKERS

No one is allowed to cross the picket line without an official union pass. This includes office workers and plant officials. Plant managers have remained inside both Armour's and Swift's rather than subject themselves to the supervision of the union. Maintenance workers in charge of refrigeration are allowed in the

What Strikers Must Guard Against

By The Editors

American labor stands at the most crucial juncture of a titanic battle for tremendous stakes.

In this battle, now spearheaded by 1,700,000 strikers, every worker understands the dangers threatening from the enemy camp of Big Business. The workers are prepared to fight these dangers to the utmost.

There has been NO WEAKNESS in the ranks of the workers. The rank and file have shown, and are showing, iron will and determination.

The two-month long strike of the GM workers plus a thousand picket lines throughout the land testify to their willingness and readiness to fight stubbornly for their just demands.

All the evidences of weakness, vacillation and timidity in this struggle have been exhibited by the top union leaders—and by them alone.

How Demands Were Compromised

It suffices to show how the wage demands of the workers have been seriously compromised IN ADVANCE OF THE REAL BATTLE.

In the case of the steel workers, the union originally advanced the demand for a 25 cent an hour raise, \$2 a day. This wage increase can easily be paid by the steel companies without price rises and they will still make enormous profits.

At the first crack, Philip Murray under pressure from the government and in fear of militant action, reduced this demand to 18½ cents, a more than 20 per cent retreat.

Then Murray retreated another step by quickly yielding to Truman's proposal for an 18½ cent settlement.

Before a single real blow had been struck, Murray, entirely without consultation with the union ranks, had already given away 25 per cent of the union's demands.

This process has been repeated by the leaders of other major unions now on strike, notably the CIO Electrical and Packinghouse Unions.

The UE leaders retreated, even before the strike, from their original demand for 25 cents to a proposal to settle for 15 cents and negotiate the remainder. Before a picket line was set up, they handed away 40 per cent of the workers' demands! Similarly, the Packinghouse union leaders, who like UE had received only the most insulting and miserly wage offers from the profiteering trusts, were will-

ing to settle without a real fight for 17½ cents instead of 25 cents.

It was only the tremendous pressure from the workers on the one hand, and the completely contemptuous and uncompromising attitude of the corporations on the other which forced these union leaders to finally, though reluctantly, give the signal for battle.

BUT THEY HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THEMSELVES TOO READY TO YIELD ON THE WAGE ISSUE UNDER GOVERNMENT PRESSURE. AND THAT REMAINS A GRAVE DANGER AT THIS MOST CRITICAL STAGE OF THE STRUGGLE.

But there is a still further danger, which was first clearly revealed in the Ford negotiations. There the CIO United Auto Workers leaders, in response to an arrogant demand from Ford, submitted a proposal for COMPANY SECURITY which would give the corporation the right to fine and fire union militants who might be provoked into so-called "unauthorized strikes."