

# Steel Workers Climax 50-Year Struggle, Close Down Entire Industry

## Historic Battles With Steel Kings Inspire Pickets

By Art Preis

(Staff Reporter, *The Militant*)

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 23 — South along the snaky Monongahela, northwest along the broad Ohio, northeast along the Allegheny, immense tentacles of steel plants reach out from this city of smoke and steel and stretch for scores of miles beside the river banks.

For the past three days, these plants have sprawled lifeless. No smoke or flame belches forth from the squatting steel monsters, with their huge spines of stacks rising from the open hearths and furnaces.

Those whose labor fed these monsters and pumped lifeblood through their iron veins have risen up in titanic revolt. Now the steelworkers of all races, creeds, colors and nationalities are on strike. 227,000 of them in this vast steel valley alone, 800,000 throughout the land, are engaged in the mightiest battle of their lives.

### New Fires Are Burning Now

When I saw the mills in their immense silence last night, only great ghosts of structures in blankets of snow-covered roofs stood dimly outlined behind iron-spiked or barbed-wire-topped surrounding walls. There was only blackness in the skies instead of fierce red glare and spurting flames.

Other and smaller fires are burning now, visible only as glowing red dots from a short distance. They are far different from the ore-eating, man-eating conflagrations that a few days ago roared and blazed inside the mills. These are friendly fires, meant to warm and comfort pickets in the long, freezing, vigil of the near-zero night.

These glowing coals in coke-fueled steel barrels, called salamanders, form a mighty chain up and down the valley and the river banks. They have become symbols of union strength and hope opposed to the tyrannical power of the steel bosses.

Hundreds and hundreds of these metal-barrel heaters burn night and day at the innumerable gates, entrances and possible entrances to the steel kingdoms. And always near and around them are the slow-circling clusters of men and women of steel, keeping their day and night-long guards in American labor's greatest strike siege.

Here at the moment there is no outward drama of clashing bodies, the sickening crack of state troopers' clubs, the metallic ring of the horses' hooves as they surge

(Continued on Page 2)

## POLICE TERROR HURLED AGAINST L.A. STRIKERS

By M. Patrick

(Special to *The Militant*)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 19 — Police terror and brutality stalked the streets of Los Angeles Thursday, January 17, as 100 police, armed with clubs and tear gas, routed a picket line of 1500 United Electrical-CIO strikers and sympathizers, at the United States Motors Corporation plant.

Trouble had been brewing since members of UE Local 1421 went out on strike against U. S. Motors on Friday, January 11.

On Saturday, January 12, office workers who had been ordered by the company to crash the lines or suffer loss of pay, attempted to go through, but were repulsed.

On Monday, police charged the line of 500 pickets, knocking one woman unconscious and injuring others in a attempt to get office workers through.

Tuesday, with the aid of 100 police who opened the line, office workers gained access to the plant.

### THURSDAY EVENTS

Thursday, 1500 pickets marched in solid formation, six abreast,

(Continued on Page 7)

## GI Describes How Soldiers On Okinawa Organized Mass Protest Demonstrations

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

(The following eye-witness account of GI protest meetings on Okinawa describes vividly how the soldiers there, inspired by news of the first GI demonstration in Manila, organized their own action to demand "Get Us Home!"

OKINAWA, Jan. 13 — The information that came over the radio a few weeks back that GIs in Manila had staged a demonstration against the demobilization snafu had a tremendous effect here.

Every place you went, where ever there were two or more soldiers, the subject was: "Let's call a meeting"; "Let's go on strike"; "They did it there, we can do it here." A rash of mimeographed leaflets sprang up. A couple of men were busted for mimeographing pamphlets.

Then on January ninth, an impromptu meeting of about 1,

### ON THE INSIDE

Buffalo Strikes ..... 2  
GIs Mistreated ..... 3  
Tobacco Strike ..... 6  
Fontana Victim Dies ..... 7  
Youngstown Steel Strike ..... 8  
COLUMNS AND FEATURES  
Veterans Problems ..... 4  
Workers Forum ..... 5  
The Negro Struggle ..... 7  
Diary of Steelworker ..... 8  
Notes of A Seaman ..... 8

VOL. X — No. 5

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

NEW YORK, N. Y., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1946

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

Workers Of The World, Unite!

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## CIO CHARGES GOVERNMENT FINANCES STRIKEBREAKING

### Ohio Strikers Demand State Jobless Aid

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 26 — The Mahoning County CIO Council set up a committee this Tuesday to launch an aggressive state-wide campaign to amend the Ohio Unemployment Compensation law to provide payments for workers and veterans out on strike.

This Committee is calling upon all other CIO bodies in Ohio to cooperate in its drive to force the governor to call a special session of the legislature immediately for favorable action on this matter.

Unemployment compensation is a burning issue here. In addition to the scores of thousands of steel workers on strike throughout Ohio, there are 10,000 CIO electrical workers on strike in this district alone.

### OFFICE JAMMED

The Bureau of Unemployment Compensation office has been jammed by workers and veterans filing claims since the companies started laying off men as they shut down plants in preparation for the strike. These workers and veterans will receive nothing unless the CIO-sponsored campaign to amend the law is successful.

In Pennsylvania, only five miles from here, strikers are entitled to compensation. But even in this neighboring state, the overwhelming majority of veterans are barred by law from receiving such benefits. A delegation of striking veterans has already marched on the State Capitol at Harrisburg to change the law.

Up to now, Governor Lausche of Ohio has given the CIO a run-around on this issue. The Mahoning County CIO Council is calling a mass meeting in Youngstown Sunday, February 3 at 3 p.m. at the Central Auditorium, 225 West Boardman, to force the capitalist politicians to make their stand clear.

**TEAR GAS!** Then the police moved in, swinging clubs at the heads of the pickets. Workers retaliated with fists and crash helmets, their only weapons to offset the riot clubs of the police. The police gave ground and the line was intact. Again the police tried to crash the line and failed.

As police retired to gather their forces for a third assault,

Continued on Page 7)



Smash It Open!

## Ford, Chrysler Agree To Wage Increases Of 18c, 18 1-2c Hourly

### IN THE NEWS

#### The Bigger The Lie...

C. E. Wilson, president of General Motors Corporation, told the Senate Labor Committee's hearing on the "fact-finding" bill: "I'd be a Socialist, too, if I thought the American people would be happier under any other form of government."

#### The War On Labor?

President Truman's executive order for government seizure of the strike-bound meat packing plants stated that as a result of existing and threatened strikes "the war effort will be unduly impeded."

#### Too Hot To Hold

Saginaw, Mich., officials last week removed firepots used by General Motors pickets to keep warm, when the Saginaw Manufacturers Association demanded enforcement of a city ordinance prohibiting fires on public property. The CIO auto workers union threatened to make it hot for city officials, so the City Council promptly amended the ordinance. The firepots were returned and are burning as usual.

#### Makes Them See Red

"States - rights" Congressmen on January 24 attacked as "communistic" the federal government's \$50,000,000 free school lunch program. Said Representative Clevenger of Ohio, "The same forces are back of this as the FEPC and other similar bills. This is one of those cases where we're going to make a detour at the Communistic road."

#### His Aim Realized

Right after Pearl Harbor Roosevelt secretly wrote Churchill, "I am frank to say that I feel better about the war than at any time in the past two years." An article in the January 23 issue, signed by Joseph and Stewart Alsop, declares:

### SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

DETROIT, Jan. 26 — The lengthy wage negotiations between the Ford Motor Company and Chrysler Corporation, two of the automotive industry's "Big Three," and the CIO United Auto Workers, terminated today in an agreement for an 18-cent an hour increase for the Ford workers and 18 1/2 cents for the Chrysler workers.

General Motors Workers, whose courageous 10-week strike has been responsible for forcing these wage concessions in the auto industry, are continuing to hold their picket lines firm.

They are determined to force General Motors to grant at least the 19 1/2 cents an hour which Truman's fact-finding panel recommended, but which the multi-billion dollar corporation rejected.

Although the GM workers returned to their original demand for a 30 per cent increase when GM failed to meet the union's deadline for acceptance of the government's proposal, Walter

Reuther, UAW vice-president, stated after the announcement of the Ford and Chrysler settlements that the union would not settle for less than 19 1/2 cents from GM.

So far, it was announced, only wage rates have been agreed upon in the Ford negotiations. Other contract provisions, it was reported, have not yet been worked out in detail.

If the union locals vote to approve the settlement, the increase for the Ford workers will amount to slightly over 15 per cent. Chrysler workers, whose present rates are lower than those at Ford, will receive a 16.7 per cent increase. These increases are slightly better than half of the original union demands.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Big Business Plot To Smash Unions

CIO President Philip Murray on January 22 charged a "sinister conspiracy" exists among the big corporations to raise prices, crush the unions and keep down wages.

The heads of the big corporations have hypocritically denied this grave charge. For instance, on January 25, a few days after Murray's declaration, C. E. Wilson, head of General Motors, swore before the Senate Labor Committee that "it would be impossible for us to get together on a mutual basis."

But Wilson lied. Even the N. Y. Herald Tribune, one of Wall Street's most conservative organs, has implied the truth of the union charges. An article in the January 23 issue, signed by Joseph and Stewart Alsop, declares:

## Murray Asks Prompt Repeal Of Tax Aid To Monopolists

CIO President Philip Murray, who also heads the striking CIO United Steelworkers of America, last week charged that the federal government is helping to finance strike-breaking and union-busting through tax rebates and similar measures to insure Big Business against any profit losses.

### Detroit Stalinists Try To Put Ban On "Militant"

By Kay O'Brien

(Special to *The Militant*)

DETROIT, Jan. 25 — Alarmed over the growing success and influence of *The Militant* and over their own loss of prestige among the workers, the Stalinists here are attempting to whip up a lynch spirit against the Socialist Workers Party members and supporters.

Unable to answer the factual reports and powerful working class political ideas in *The Militant*, these unprincipled agents of the Stalin bureaucracy are resorting to their usual filthy lies and slanders.

#### STALINIST FALSEHOOD

At a recent meeting of the Executive Board of Detroit Transmission Local 735, UAW-CIO, which is on strike against General Motors, the Stalinists jammed through a motion to bar the distribution of *The Militant* on the picket lines. They then rushed into print with an account of this shameful action in the *Daily Worker*, January 23, adding the falsehood that two other GM Locals in Flint had taken similar action.

Thus, the Stalinists are trying to replace labor's hard-won (Continued on Page 6)

PUBLIC MULCTED

The steel union's president declared that public funds are being mulcted for the benefit of a privileged few, drunk with the fantastic financial resources accumulated during the war.

He emphasized that this slush-fund is bolstering the union-busting campaign of the billionaires who are bent in sinister conspiracy to plunge the country into economic chaos.

Thus, while 800,000 steel strikers on the cold picket lines have to tighten their belts, the steel barons are sitting back in comfort, knowing they can tap the public treasury for \$149,000,000 in 1946, even if they throw away the keys to their plants for the whole year. The "carry back" tax provisions guarantee them 20 per cent more than their pre-war profit levels. This is one reason why the steel corporations are

(Continued on Page 7)

## CIO Meat Packers Return After Resisting Seizure

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to *The Militant*)

CHICAGO, Jan. 26 — After denouncing Truman's government seizure of the struck meat-packing plants as a "strikebreaking action" and refusing for 24 hours to call off the strike of 200,000 CIO United Packinghouse Workers members, UPWA-CIO conference delegates here to (Continued on Page 6)

ply with its commitments to the workers.

Further, the UPWA states, "we of course reserve the right in the final analysis to be the judge of whether the increase made effective pursuant to the Secretary of Agriculture's telegram will be a substantial increase meeting the family needs of the workers of this industry, taking into account the low level of packinghouse workers' wages."

#### CHARACTERIZE MOVE

At the same time, the union did not withdraw its characterization of Truman's action as a strikebreaking move. It is clear that the union's previous resistance to the seizure forced the administration to hastily indicate that wage increase, the amount not yet specified, would be forthcoming shortly.

Immediately following the unanimous vote yesterday of the UPWA delegates not to call off the strike in the face of government seizure, the union's president, Lewis Clark, charged that Truman "has engaged in a strikebreaking action the sole effect of which can be to play into the hands of the packers."

He claimed that the union had received prior assurances (Continued on Page 8)

# STEEL STRIKE CLIMAXES 50-YEAR TRADITION OF STRUGGLE

(Continued from Page 1)

forward to ride down and crush the picketing workers, such as I saw in Bethlehem, Pa., in 1941.

But here there is an even more profound and stirring drama. Here there is the inspiring example of hundreds of thousands of workers, rising up out of a half-century of immense labors, hardships and tragedies, out of fierce and bloody struggles and terrible defeats, to forge a new and stronger unity in action.

Whatever the final outcome of the immediate wage issues in dispute, the steel workers have already gained a colossal triumph in the unity they have displayed in this unprecedented struggle for their right to live in decency, comfort and security.

## The Heart Of Steel

I spent all of today in Homestead and Braddock, two great citadels of Big Steel sprawling their miles of plants along the Monongahela. This is in the very heart of the nation's greatest steel area, where the steel industry grew from infancy and the earliest struggles of the steel workers took place.

Every foot of ground in these towns is rich in the traditions of the steel workers. Here a worker's child learns early in life to know the mills as well as its own mother's face. Here, the grandfathers and fathers of today's steel fighters fought and shed their blood and died in the cause of labor at a time when they had to stand alone and isolated against the armed brutality of the steel potentates and their government agencies.

Through the morning and afternoon I talked with men and women steel workers in their crowded, busy union halls, in taverns, on street corners and on the picket lines, where I did my turn with the men as I questioned them about their problems and their views.

"Just think," said Andy Steiner to me this morning at Sam and Jerry's, the only union bar in Homestead, "just think, it was 27 years from the 'Battle of the Pinkertons' in 1892, when we had the first strike, to the next strike in 1919. Now it is going on 27 years—and we got another strike. Make something of that."

Andy is one of the thousands of active CIO Steelworkers Local 1397 members who are doing their bit to keep a ring of steel-hearted men and women around the big Carnegie-Illinois plant in Homestead. He is doing a special chore helping to build shelters at the entrances to protect pickets from the biting cold.

## Building On The Old Traditions

Andy and the others are making something out of the traditions of the old struggles. After each bitter defeat, a whole new generation has risen and carried forward the battle to greater heights. Each generation has built anew on the fighting traditions of the old, transforming the heroic memories of the past into the inspiration for the present battle, the battle which every steel worker I have talked to is convinced must be and will be fought through this time, to victory.

There is scarcely a child in Homestead who cannot recount to you the story of the first great bloody struggle in July, 1892. There are still surviving a half-dozen or so men, now in their 70's, 80's and 90's, who stood with their fellow workers on the banks of the river and turned the Civil War memorial cannons against the boat-loads of Pinkerton agents coming in to break that first strike.

Then there are their sons, men in their fifties and sixties, who went down to cruel defeat in the 1919 steel strike but are today marching again in the class fight that can know no final end until the workers eliminate capitalist exploitation forever.

In the Local 1397 union hall, where Andy Steiner took me to see the old framed picture of scenes of the great 1892 struggle, I talked with several old-timers from the 1919 strike.

## This Is Different, This Is Better

All said the same thing, in almost the same words: "This is different—this is better—we're all together now, here and all over the country. Yes—this is different."

Among these old-timers, I spoke with several Negro workers who had been brought in from the South by the corporation during the last war to be used as strikebreakers. Then race hatred had been used to the hilt by the company to divide and disorganize the workers.

"Yes," said one of these veteran Negro workers who has toiled 30 years in the plant, "I worked during that strike. A lot of us did, and a lot of the white workers did. We didn't know any better then, we didn't understand what they were using us for. There never was more than 60 per cent of the men out then."

"But now it's different," he said, looking with shining eyes of pride around the hall at the workers, men and women, black and white, working and fighting together for their common betterment. "Today, we're all in this like we should be, standing together." And from every white worker I heard only glowing tribute to the union loyalty and fighting spirit of the Negro workers, who today are playing a truly significant role in this gigantic battle.

In the room used for the strike canteen, two motherly middle-aged women were serving coffee and doughnuts. They told me they worked as janitors in the plant.

Widows, with large families and dependents, one of them takes home \$43 every two weeks and the other, \$47. That's just one small but telling fact about the "big" wages the steel corporation propagandists have been lying about.

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## THE MILITANT

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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## Homestead Workers Picket Where Martyrs Of 1892 Fought



Members of CIO Steelworkers Local 1397 encircle the big Carnegie-Illinois plant in Homestead, Pa. This was the scene of the first great bloody struggle with the steel bosses in July 1892. Survivors of that historic battle re-

mind the present generation of steel workers how the corporation sent boat-loads of Pinkerton agents to smash the picket lines.

N. Y. Daily News Photo

in the press and over the radio.

Other workers, including one who had been 33 years in the mill, told me they have been working only two or three days a week since V-J Day. Some, among the skilled workers, who were getting \$1.24 an hour, have been down-graded to 96 cents, and in their last pay check took home the "magnificent" two-week total of \$31. One said, "I asked them to give me what they took off in taxes and insurance and I'd give them my pay check back. I'd be better off that way."

Are the men and women ready to hold out? A Negro worker told me with a chuckle, "We made it through the depression, didn't we? And this isn't going to be any worse than that. We'll make it through this no matter how long it lasts."

## Now Everybody's Together

That's the spirit of the steel strikers and that's the spirit I observed on the picket lines after we left the union hall. Out on the picket line at the Open Hearth No. 4 gate, I spoke to the young assistant picket captain, who said enthusiastically, "It's really surprising how everybody is doing his bit. Hardly anyone is renegeing on the picket assignments. Everything is pretty smooth and well-planned."

There on the line I marched around for a spell and talked with one foreign-born worker who had been in the midst of the bitterest clashes in the 1919 strike.

"You don't know what a difference. In the last strike, they called it a 'hunkies' strike,' a 'foreigners' strike.' Right here where we are picketing, the company police and the

state troopers beat us on the head with clubs. They went right into the workers' homes—smashed everything up."

"But now—we got everybody together—everybody," he said with intense feeling. "Even the company police—they're organized in a union, they don't even carry guns any more."

At that very moment, one of the two young company police sitting in the booth at the gate, came out and strode over to where Eloise Gordon, our Militant representative in this area, was talking to the pickets around the salamander while distributing last week's issue of the paper.

In the most friendly fashion, the company guard asked for a Militant and bore it off in triumph. A few moments later he came back and pleaded with Eloise for another copy "to take home for myself to read."

"You're working," said Eloise, to the delight of the pickets, "why don't you get yourself a six-month subscription for 50 cents?" "Oh, I will," he assured her, "only I can't right now and I want to take it home and read it first to see what it's like." Eloise gave him one more copy.

Later we walked into town to see the simple eight-foot white stone marker put up in 1941 by the steel locals at the entrance to the West Street High Level bridge to commemorate the courageous men who fought and died in the 1892 historic forerunner of the present battle. Right across the road is the Homestead "Roll of Honor" listing the names of the local boys who were taken into the armed forces in World War II. Most of them were the boys of steel workers. Thus stand the two markers symbolizing the steel workers who died in the class struggle and those who

mind the present generation of steel workers how the corporation sent boat-loads of Pinkerton agents to smash the picket lines.

N. Y. Daily News Photo

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## Stalinist 'Exception' To The GI Demands

An Editorial

The Stalinists have replied with cynical hypocrisy to the world-wide demands of the GIs for rapid demobilization. The Stalinists say they favor demobilization of all men in the armed forces "except those essential for occupation."

This formula which appeared in the December 23 *Worker*, official organ of the Communist Party, has since been repeated by the Stalinists in almost every article about GI demonstrations.

Why this duplicity of the Stalinists? Why don't they back the GIs 100 per cent? The reason is that, as faithful followers of the Kremlin, they insist on withdrawing U. S. troops from those areas such as China where Stalin wants them out.

But in those countries where Stalin's policy coincides with that of Anglo-American imperialism, the Stalinists actually support Wall Street's policy of maintaining capitalist rule by armed force against socialist revolutions or colonial uprisings.

The War Department, for instance, has "assured" men in the service that all will be demobilized *except those needed for occupation duties*. This is virtually the same formula advocated by the American Stalinists!

A January 8 editorial in the *Daily Worker* shows how the Stalinist leaders line up with Wall Street's counter-revolutionary objectives. "We have duties to fulfill in the armies of occupation," the American Stalinists declare. The "we" is Wall Street—not the American working class. The "duties" are the imperialist aims for which General Eisenhower says he needs a million and a half soldiers, the very dirty "duties" against which American soldiers are protesting.

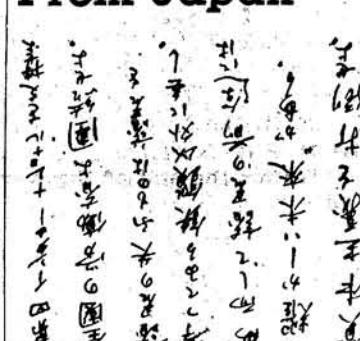
Every worker must back the demands of the protesting GIs to the hilt. No treacherous evasions!

Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!

## February F.I. Analyzes American Labor Upsurge

"There are two Americas: the America of the stock exchange and the banking houses; and the America of the toilers, the poor people who work for a living," states the leading editorial on "The New Upsurge of American Labor" in the February Fourth International, just off the

### Sends Message From Japan



This message from a Japanese worker who is now a prisoner of war was received recently by the Socialist Appeal, organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International, and published in their January issue.

Translated, the message reads:

"Support Fourth International. Workers of all lands unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains and a world to gain. Down with capitalism."

"the world today stands amazed, as well as aghast, at the military power which Wall Street has unleashed. The peoples of the world are due to be amazed—an amazement filled with admiration and solidarity—at the power of the American working class."

The February Fourth International also includes a timely article on "American Imperialism in the Philippines" by Chris Andrews and an article on "Democracy or Bonapartism in Europe" by Pierre Frank, written shortly before the French elections last October.

### ON PALESTINE

The third and last section of the important series on "The Middle East at the Crossroads" by T. Cliff, a Palestinian Trotskyist, deals with the policies of the various political tendencies active within the working class there. "The Arsenal of Marxism" features "Discussions on the Transitional Program" of the Fourth International held June 7, 1938.

But, the editorial sums up,

### Portland, Ore.

Myra Tanner Weiss

Los Angeles Organizer, SWP

### Will Speak On

"Vigilante Terror In Fontana"

Friday, Feb. 15

Socialist Workers Party

134 S. W. Washington

3rd Floor 7:30 p.m.

# Shocking Brutality Exposed By GIs Confined In U. S. Army Guardhouse

## GI Describes Mass Protests On Okinawa

(Continued from Page 1) speech over the radio. It could easily be sold to the *New Yorker* magazine as a typical army cliché article. It was full of such favorite bywords as "The Team," (i.e. the Army), "Our Mission," etc. In brief, he said that he needs men to set up installations and warehouses. And not one word on demobilization.

The men got burned up about it. Especially about the part where he mentioned "the honored dead of Okinawa graveyards." The way they figure it — what the hell did he know about the honored dead?

So came this afternoon, at two o'clock. We had to drive a jeep about 20 miles to get there. I arrived a little late. I didn't miss anything at the beginning — just a recruiting speech or two for the AVC.

### 12,000 ROAR

They must have received permission to talk about demobilization, however, as the chairman of the meeting got up and said: "I understand some of you men have something to say about demobilization." There was a roar from the 12,000 throats. They took any man from the audience who wanted to speak and gave him a maximum of two minutes. Well, they took off—but good. They ripped into the General's speech.

Speaker after speaker said: "We can't trust the War Department," "We can't trust the brass hats in Washington," "We have to take things into our own hands." They asked a lot of embarrassing questions. They quoted the 13th amendment to the Constitution. A bunch of Negro soldiers got up and said their piece, to the effect: "We're all in this together, for better or worse." They got a big hand. The meeting broke up after a number of telegrams were sent to Congress.

### ATTITUDES CHANGE

A couple of months ago the men were almost solidly for universal conscription on the basis that this would allow them to get home sooner. Now, however, they see conscription and volunteering for the regular army going at an unprecedented rate and they're still being slowed down. They have turned against conscription.

There has also been a change in the attitude toward labor. A couple of months ago they were wont to say: "Those S.O.B.'s ought to be put in the army and take my place." But now they put it: "What the hell, they've got to live. Living is getting to be pretty tough, with layoffs, and so forth." And then, surprisingly often: "We ought to go on strike too, all over the world." Union terminology punctuates their statements these days: "Organize," "Sitdown," "Send our representative."

In addition to the military police, other American soldiers under the imperialist ideology of

the living conditions here are abominable.

### Give New Excuse For Retaining GIs In China

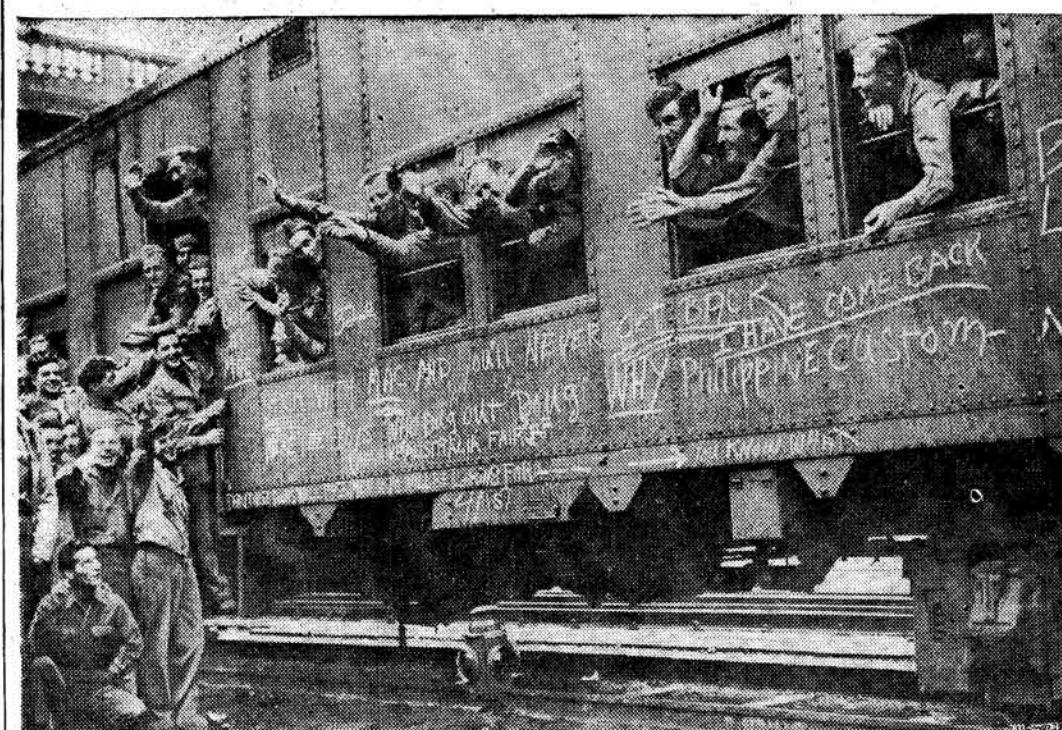
Spokesmen of U. S. imperialism have cooked up a brand new excuse for keeping the GIs in China. Representative George J. Bates of Massachusetts, a member of the House Naval Affairs Committee, declared while touring Tientsin January 21 that "the Marines may be kept here some time longer as a stabilizing force."

The first excuse for keeping Marines in China was to "disarm the Japanese." This excuse broke down when it became known Japanese troops had been ordered by Brass Hats to help U. S. troops stand guard over railways needed by Dictator Chiang Kai-shek.

The next excuse was an alleged "shipping bottleneck." But when the public learned ships were being used to haul Chiang's troops to North China, that excuse too was tossed into the ash can.

With their "stabilizing force" excuse, Wall Street's spokesmen are getting closer to the truth. U. S. imperialism wants GIs stationed indefinitely in China to "stabilize" Chiang's dictatorial regime against the will of the Chinese people.

## A Sample Of GI Protests



This picture taken last October expresses the feelings of members of the 32nd and 41st Divisions, first infantry outfits sent to the Pacific. The signs chalked on the sides of cars won these soldiers early release. Instead of being sent overseas, they were returned to Ft. Sheridan, Ill., for discharge. One of the quips directed against General MacArthur reads: "Move over God, it's Mac."

Acme Photo

## "Go Home!" Shout Students To American GIs In China

Twenty thousand Chinese students marching through the streets of Shanghai on January 13 defied police efforts to disperse them and shouted at Americans along the route: "Why don't you go home?"

Leaders of the students said the demonstration was part of a nationwide movement demanding establishment of a democratic China and withdrawal of United States forces.

The following day thousands of students again paraded in Shanghai's streets. They demanded that American troops quit China and shouted "Down with imperialism!"

Besides the desire of the Chinese people to solve their problems without interference from Wall Street's forces, they have other reasons for urging immediate withdrawal of American troops.

The Chinese people suffer daily from the brutality of American military police. "In railroad stations crowds cringe back from the ugly little batons that American M.P.'s carry," says Robert P. Martin, correspondent for the N. Y. Post. "Those clubs have been used."

In addition to the military police, other American soldiers under the imperialist ideology of

the Brass Hats likewise treat the Chinese most brutally. "Every night in Tientsin, Peiping and Tsingtao," Martin declares, "the shattered bodies of Chinese killed by American trucks and jeeps are dragged from the narrow winding streets."

Although Chinese police are empowered to hold American drivers involved in accidents, bribery and intimidation set them free.

### SMASHED RICKSHAS

"Almost any hour of the day one can see smashed rickshas and bicycles — which may mean bankruptcy to each owner," Martin reports. The Chinese do not understand the "turbulent violence of American vehicular traffic," he explains. And Americans do not understand the value of these possessions to the Chinese.

"Much of the blame," Martin declares, "can be placed on higher echelons which have not enforced Marine discipline and have refused to sponsor edu-

cation which would enable the youngsters to understand China."

Brass Hats are only interested in enforcing discipline relative to military courtesy (saluting officers), standing inspections, doing guard duty and so on. They disdain to teach the men even the most rudimentary courtesy toward the people of China.

U. S. imperialist policy is calculated to discourage friendly relations between troops and the populace.

### GIs ARE BITTER

However, according to Martin, only about 10 per cent of the servicemen have been guilty of crimes against the Chinese. The vast majority of the GIs condemn the actions of this misguided minority.

American soldiers and Marines are embittered and dissatisfied because they are forced to remain in China. They would be only too glad to accede to the demands of the Chinese people and go home. But Washington does not guide its policy either by the desires of the American soldiers or by the demands voiced by Chinese ricksha men, peasants, laborers and students.

### CONCENTRATION CAMP

In contrast to the attitude of the guards Kobliski gave the prisoner's viewpoint: "There wasn't any more reason to fight after being beaten up—we were fighting to break up concentration camps, and we got one right in our own army."

The motive for this calculated cruelty was disclosed by prison officer First Lieutenant Granville Cubage who told Kobliski in an interview: "You fellows don't learn by being here once or twice. The only way to keep you away from here is to take a club and knock you all over the floor."

Another officer, First Lieutenant Leonard W. Ennis, who will face trial for mistreating prisoners, was even more brutal in his treatment of enlisted men. According to Kobliski's testimony Ennis told men in the guardhouse: "All you guys have Purple Hearts but you are just a bunch of bums."

### THE HOLE

Aubrey Ritchie testified that he was beaten over the head with a club while confined during November 1944. He showed the court the scars left by the wounds and declared he was beaten over the head for not double-timing. Receiving no medical treatment, he was placed in "The Hole" for 16 days with two other men.

"The Hole" is an eight foot square, barren, unheated room.

It has no lights and a completely boarded-up window. Men thrown in "The Hole" received only a loaf of bread a day and water.

They were allowed one blanket

from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. They had to sleep on the concrete floor.

As in Ritchie's case, other witnesses testified they were put into the solitary confinement cell while still bleeding from head wounds.

"No reading material whatso-

### By Charles Carsten

The sensational testimony of brutality against U. S. Army enlisted men, imprisoned for infractions of Army regulations, revealed at the important trial of guards now going on in London demonstrates the urgent need for democratic army reforms advanced by the "GI Liberation Committee" in Paris on January 15.

These disclosures regarding the treatment of prisoners by officers and guards at the 10th Reinforcement Depot guardhouse, Lichfield, England during the winter 1944-45 have barely been mentioned or have been ignored by the American press, although they have received considerable attention in Army publications for enlisted men.

A succession of witnesses have testified that guards "brutally beat," "marked up" and "cut" prisoners for the slightest infraction of rigid guardhouse rules.

### NEGRO SOLDIER DEAD

A Negro, Pvt. Eric L. Bolton of the 3433 Trucking Co., died March 15, 1945 from a "massive intra-cerebral hemorrhage" possibly caused by having his head rammed against a cement wall, according to Inspector General reports submitted to the court.

Further evidence of murder at Lichfield was given by Pfc. Thomas P. Capello who testified that while he was a prisoner there he had heard rumors that "inmates had been killed."

In one case of extremely harsh

penalties for small offenses, Mike Kobliski told the court, he was under a 40 year sentence

merely for overstaying his pass

two days after being released

from a hospital in England. He

had served in a combat tank outfit from June 20 through Au-

6, 1944.

While suffering deep emotion Kobliski described in court one of his combat experiences. "Approaching Le Mans, the tank on which he was assistant driver burst into flame from a direct hit, and the driver's severed arm suddenly dropped into his lap," reported Stars and Stripes.

Kobliski's hair was burned off, his hands, arms and shoulders severely scorched. Later he was hospitalized in England.

Kobliski said prisoners were told by the guards: "You won't have to worry about going back to the front if you come back here again."

### CONCENTRATION CAMP

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The motive for this calculated cruelty was disclosed by prison officer First Lieutenant Granville Cubage who told Kobliski in an interview: "You fellows don't learn by being here once or twice. The only way to keep you away from here is to take a club and knock you all over the floor."

Like all the other prisoners, Capello declared complaints were useless because officers knew about the beatings. In fact a prison officer, Lt. Ennis, struck him with a billy club three or four times after shouting: "You S.O.B.'s . . . got you now . . . your no dam good."

This sadistic outburst occurred when Capello failed to turn around fast enough upon Ennis' order.

Major Richard LoBuono, former Lichfield provost marshal, who was in direct charge of the prison during the time prisoners were mistreated, is not on trial.

On January 2, 1946, LoBuono admitted to the court that the general policy at Lichfield was

"We've got to make life so tough for these prisoners that they'll be glad to get back to combat."

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## NEWARK MILITANT LABOR FORUM

Sunday, February 10

### "The Meaning of the Strike Wave and the GI Demonstrations"

Speaker:

William Warde, Associate Editor,

# THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Vol. X-No. 5 Saturday, February 2, 1946

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

PARRELL DOBBES, Managing Editor

THE MILITANT follows the policy of permitting its contributors to present their own views in signed articles. The views therefore do not necessarily represent the policies of THE MILITANT which are expressed in its editorial.

Subscriptions: \$1.00 per year; \$60 for 6 months  
Foreign: \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months  
Bundle orders: 3 months 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

## Build A Labor Party

The actions of Congress and the Truman Administration in the present crucial labor struggle have underlined the role of the government as an instrument of Big Business.

This is demonstrated by President Truman's strikebreaking seizure of the meatpacking plants. Previously he attempted to force the GM workers to end their strike without any gains. The administration's fundamentally anti-labor policy is still further shown by Truman's attempt to impose semi-compulsory arbitration through his so-called "fact-finding" bill.

In Congress Democrats and Republicans are competing in unrestrained attacks upon labor and in cooking up new legislative restraints upon the unions.

Meanwhile Congress is taking good care of the monopolists through numerous measures to protect and guarantee their profits.

This anti-labor, pro-Big-Business government is displaying no less hostility toward the demands of the millions of soldiers overseas. Such GI slogans as "No Boats—No Votes" express their growing distrust of the capitalist politicians.

The Senate filibuster against the Fair Employment Practices Commission shows how little regard this government has for the rights of 13,000,000 Negro people and other minorities.

The workers, the GIs, the oppressed minorities—the overwhelming majority of the population—have no voice and no representation in the present government. Both the Democratic and Republican parties stand more clearly revealed than ever as the servants of a tiny clique of ruling billionaires.

The labor movement which heads the economic struggle for decent wages and working conditions must now take the lead in mobilizing the political power of the masses against the domination of Big Business. That can be done only through a labor party based upon the trade unions—a labor party completely independent of and opposed to the reactionary parties of Wall Street.

## Our Program

We call our readers' attention to three changes in "Our Program" printed on page 5. The first change is the discarding of our slogan: "Withdraw union representatives from the War Labor Board!"

We put forward this demand throughout the war. The War Labor Board was an instrument created by the Government to aid the bosses in chaining the labor movement. The WLB blocked wage rises and defended the interests of the profit-mad corporations. The files of the WLB resembled a graveyard in which union complaints were given quiet burial.

The presence of union representatives on such employer-dominated government boards did immense harm to the workers. The acquiescence of union heads in WLB decisions and their participation in its reactionary work constituted betrayal of the union cause and a vote of confidence in the bosses and their government.

The War Labor Board was one of the first casualties in the great wave of strikes following V-J Day. It has been scuttled by the political representatives of Wall Street as no longer effective in curbing the trade unions. The WLB is therefore no longer a current problem.

The principle of trade union independence expressed in this slogan remains as important, however, as in the past. Militant workers who stand on this principle are duty bound to defend it against any violations. For instance, they will oppose union participation on the National Wage Stabilization Board which the corporations and their government have set up as a successor to the WLB.

The second change in "Our Program" is dropping of the slogan: "Working class political action!" This formulation has been subject to misinterpretation. Democratic and Republican agents in the CIO Political Action Committee, for instance, twist this slogan to mean labor support for candidates of the boss parties. We advocate genuine independent political action which means oppo-

sition to the boss parties and support only of working class candidates. This position is best expressed in our slogan: "Build an independent labor party!"

The third change in "Our Program" is a shift in the order of our slogans. The final slogan is now: "For a workers' and farmers' government!"

The establishment of a workers' and farmers' government is the goal of our activity. The other slogans are designed to further this aim. Moreover, the full realization of such key slogans as "Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans" and "Full equality for Negroes and national minorities" is only possible through the establishment of such a government. We have, therefore, shifted this slogan to the place corresponding with its character as the crowning reward of our present program of action.

## Pickets' Rights

The employers are making provocative attempts to crash through picket lines in the current strike struggle. Naturally and justifiably the workers have vigorously defended their lines against such provocations.

The corporation spokesmen howl that, by regulating or restricting entrance into struck plants, the 1,800,000 strikers are robbing a few corporation executives, foremen and unorganized office employees of their rights.

The American Civil Liberties Union has intervened through a public letter to the AFL and CIO, condemning "the use of force by pickets to prevent access to plants on strike by those who are willing to cross picket lines."

The ACLU in the past has performed many good services in the cause of democratic rights. But in this instance the ACLU actually lends a "civil liberties" cover to scab-herding and thereby gives aid and comfort to the worst enemies of labor and democratic rights.

Mass picketing is the only effective way to keep scabs and strikebreakers out of strike-bound plants. That is, why workers insist on holding their lines solid against any attempts to pass through without union authorization.

Employers are deliberately sending supervisory employees through picket lines to provide pretext for police assaults on strikers. Thus, in condemning the use of force, the ACLU should address the employers and their government agencies who are alone responsible for initiating and employing violence.

From Los Angeles to New York employers have incited one assault after another upon peaceful pickets.

At the United Motors Plants in Los Angeles, for instance, police came fully prepared to follow through on a corporation provocation. They clubbed and tear-gassed pickets who refused to admit company-intimidated office workers.

In New York City hundreds of police escorted scabs through Western Union picket lines and clubbed and arrested strikers.

The ACLU in effect places the "right" of scabs to go through picket lines with the aid of police violence above the rights of millions of union members to protect their working conditions and living standards by effective picketing and strike action.

## Damaging Admission

Herman Goering has made an admission as damaging to the Stalinists as to the Nazis.

Goering's admission, placed in the record of the Nuremberg trial on January 16, was made last October during a prison interrogation. This leading Nazi confessed that he accused the Communist Party (Stalinist) of responsibility for the infamous Reichstag fire in 1933 without any evidence whatever.

The fact was long ago established that the Nazis themselves burned the Reichstag and then tried to pin the guilt on the Stalinists in a frame-up trial. Goering consequently added nothing new about Nazi crimes.

The main importance of Goering's admission lies in his explanation of Hitler's reasons for staging the fire: "Communist activity was extremely strong and our Government as such was not very secure."

To stabilize his regime, Hitler, it will be recalled, utilized the fire as an excuse to crush the Stalinists. He then smashed all the workers' organizations and instituted a reign of terror. In this way Hitler bound together the broken barrel of German capitalism with the iron hoop of fascism.

Goering's confession of Nazi weakness even after the seizure of Government power shows that the workers could have stopped Hitler in time. Goering's revelation confirms the analysis made by Leon Trotsky from 1929 on when he urged the Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party to unite their forces and battle irreconcilably against the rising Nazi danger. The Hitlerites, Trotsky pointed out, could not resist the mighty power of the German working class once its ranks were closed against the common enemy.

But the Stalinists as well as the Social Democrats ignored Trotsky's warnings. Stalin declared that the "main enemy" in Germany was the Social Democratic Party. The Social Democrats and the Nazis, Stalin proclaimed, "are not antipodes, but twins." Moscow commanded the German Stalinists to direct their heaviest blows at the Social Democrats rather than against the Nazis. This treacherous advice, carried out by the Stalinist heads of the German Communist Party, enabled Hitler—despite his weakness—to march into office and then consolidate his power on the bones of the divided labor movement.

Goering's confession provides occasion for every militant worker to again examine the circumstances of Hitler's rise to power. Nazism triumphed in Germany only because the false policies of Stalinism and Social Democracy opened the way.



"Goodness—another strike! It's lucky our tickets were for tonight!"

## Watkins' BOOKSHELF

### STEELWORKERS NEED A \$2-A-DAY INCREASE

by Philip Murray; CIO United Steelworkers of America, 17 pp., no charge.

Through their Iron & Steel Institute the steel barons are spending millions of dollars in a national advertising campaign to try to persuade the American public that the steel workers are not entitled to their \$2 a day wage demand and are unjustified in going on strike. The corporations complain moreover that they are too poor to pay this wage increase.

This new pamphlet just published by the CIO United Steelworkers of America proves in carefully documented facts and figures how vital this wage-raise is for the steelworkers in view of the reduced pay checks and constantly mounting cost of living. It makes an excellent companion to the USA-CIO pamphlet reviewed in this column January 19, revealing the fabulous wealth coined by the steel barons in the five war years.

The steel workers have been seeking a wage increase since December 1943. For over two years they have been stalled by the corporations, aided and abetted by the War Labor Board.

Through the stiff-necked arrogance of the corporations, negotiations repeatedly broke down during these two years until finally on November 28 the steelworkers voted 5-1 for strike action to back up their demands. Even after this action the union representatives endeavored—with out the least success—to arrive at a satisfactory agreement. As a last resort on January 21, one week after the strike was scheduled to take place, 800,000 indignant steel workers walked out and completely shut down

the basic industry of America. The first section of the pamphlet explains why steel workers deserve a wage increase. It begins with the unassassable premise that the workers must "have a standard of living, consistent with the minimum requirement of health and decency."

Philip Murray, author of the pamphlet, states that the steel workers were "deprived of a single general increase in basic wage rates for four years."

He points out how severely the end of the war has deflated their earnings. The average weekly pay, based on a return to the 40-hour week from the wartime 48-hour week, will be \$42.70 compared with \$56.32 in April 1945.

But rising prices make the situation even worse. Because of the skyrocketing cost of living, the real wage in 1946 "will be \$4.15 a week less than in 1941!"

Even the wartime figure of \$56.32 would be inadequate today. According to the Heller Committee for Research in Social Economics of the University of California, a worker's family needs at least \$56 a week to maintain a minimum standard of health and decency.

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scheduled to take place, 800,000 indignant steel workers walked out and completely shut down

the basic industry of America.

The total assets of the industry increased more than one billion dollars, or 23 per cent between 1939-1945. They rose from \$4.86 billion to \$5.91 billion. All this fantastic wealth went into the bank vaults of a handful of multi-millionaires parasites who today plead "poverty" and demand a huge price rise for steel products in order to maintain their superprofits.

Murray further points out the huge profit-making possibilities for the steel industry in 1946. The steel moguls now have the benefit of the reduction of overtime labor costs. They have reductions in federal income tax rates.

They will have increased productivity through new and more efficient facilities. Certain price increases have already been granted in 1945 by OPA on some products. Thus, the industry can pay the \$2 a day wage increase and still make profits after taxes of \$482,880,000 in 1946."

But the wealthy owners of the steel industry prefer to sit tight and let government "carryback" tax refunds guarantee their profits even while the plants are shut down. They are bent on disrupting the entire economic life of the country and starving out the steel workers rather than yield them a decent living wage.

This pamphlet can be obtained without charge by writing to the Publicity Department; CIO United Steelworkers of America, 1500 Commonwealth Building, Pittsburgh 22, Pa. Every steel worker and supporter of their struggle should obtain a copy to combat the false arguments of the steel corporations and their agents and prove how necessary and justified is this strike.

Reviewed by Larissa Reed

## Congressmen At Work

Representative Ludlow of Indiana is worried about World War III. Recently he wrung his hands over unbridled growth of militarism in the United States.

"I think that all observers who have discerning minds have noted with sinking hearts that the light that shone through the Atlantic Charter and the San Francisco Conference is becoming a little bit dimmed."

In fact the light has become so dim that Ludlow felt very pessimistic: "The prospect for world peace is growing dimmer and dimmer as the world loses sight of the lights on the highlands and slips back into the welter of militarism."

Ludlow groaned over the way the government fosters militarism. The following items in particular bothered him:

"First. A War Department function to destroy and kill.

"Second. A Navy Department function to destroy and kill.

"Third. An Office of Scientific Research and Development function to invent the instruments that destroy and kill.

"And so on."

In the face of such a powerful combination, the outlook for peace would seem almost hopeless. Fortunately, however, Ludlow put his brains to bear on the problem. And with brains like that at work, a sure-fire remedy was bound to come up:

"Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced a bill to create a Department of Peace and Good Will to be administered by a Secretary of Peace and Good Will in the President's Cabinet."

Ludlow bubbled with enthusiasm over his genius-like pro-

posal. He described it as nothing less than "an antidote for the resurgence of militarism." It will be a "challenging call to the colors" to "all Christians," he orated, because "it would seem like an anachronism to maintain a full-panoplied Department of War and no Department of Peace."

Ludlow conducted a model fight for peace according to the standards of a Wall Street Congressman. He even held out the olive branch to the militarists. Setting up a Department of Peace, he explained, doesn't at all mean an end to the Departments whose function is to destroy and kill. "Quite the contrary."

"I would not eliminate or deprecate any of these. In the present posture of world affairs we must have, and must continue to have until peace is secured, an adequate Army and Navy."

It looks like a natural. While the other Departments work night and day to destroy and kill, Ludlow's Department will line up the "forces of good will and mutual understanding throughout the world." Thus when World War III breaks out and the other Departments destroy civilization with the atom bomb, Ludlow's Department of Peace and Good Will can play a mighty role compiling and filling any complaints that might be addressed to Wall Street militarism.

### New York Open Forums

Sunday, Feb. 3

Downtown:

"The Meaning of de Gaulle's Resignation"

Speaker: Dave Stevens

116 University Place 8 p.m.

Harlem:

"FEPC—What Are The Facts?"

Speaker: Louise Simpson

103 West 110th St. Room 23 7:30 p.m.

## PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

Why Vets Support Strikes

Why veterans are in the forefront of the gigantic battle for higher wages is explained in a recent pamphlet entitled *Ex-GIs and the Steel Wage Fight*, issued by the CIO United Steelworkers of America.

Eight hundred thousand steelworkers are fighting on the picket line for a \$2 a day wage increase and "that's where the ex-GI comes in," says the pamphlet. "He's Joe civilian now, having to earn a living just like anybody else."

By one of the most cunning propaganda campaigns in history, calculated to turn veterans against workers, Wall Street led servicemen to believe most workers were earning \$150 a week.

These lies were quickly exposed when GIs came home and began looking for jobs. Instead of the fabulous wages they have heard about, they are offered jobs at \$20 to \$30 a week for "beginners." Many have refused to take these low-paying jobs because they can't support themselves, let alone a family, on

# 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.

## A Letter From Holland Expresses Confidence In Fourth International

Zutphen, January 10, 1946

Dear Comrade,  
I member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Holland, read The Militant and will ask you if you know somebody in your Party who will correspond with me. I am glad to know that in the U.S.A. a party is, which fight for Socialism. The Socialism from Lenin and Trotsky. Five years, long years, we have only heard the voices of our enemies, Hitler and Churchill. But after these five years we know now that all over the world are parties of the Fourth International.

We have lost many of our best friends. Here in Holland our leader Sneevliet.

Our party is not big, but we know one day the 4th International will come over the world.

I know the English I have written is not without mistakes, but I hope, you can understand me and one of yours will write me back.

I am 28 years old and since a long time member of the Revolutionary Labor Party. As I was 14 years old, I was member of the

Independent Labor Party, later the Revolutionary-Socialist Labor Party from Sneevliet. In the war our leaders have been executed through the Nazis. After that our Party was no more, many comrades have got fear. Others are more revolutionary than Marx, they say, we don't want a Party, we don't want the mass. We have instituted now our Party, our Trotskyist Party. We are glad that we belong to the 4th Int. Write me, who has been voted in the N. Y. election and what the S.W.P. has made.

I have read that in the S.W.P. Negro's are organized. That is fine. Everywhere in the world the coloured people is fighting for its freedom. Black, brown and white labourers in one Party, fighting for one ideal, against our enemy, the international capitalism.

I hope I will soon here from you or another comrad. When one of yours will correspond in the German language, that is all right but I hope he can read my English.

With kindest regards,

J. D. B.

### Returning GIs Refuse to Scab

Editor:  
After travelling over 4,000 miles on a troopship from Japan, over 4,000 GIs arrived at Seattle in December.

The camps were overcrowded and we were quartered on the ships, some of us for two days, others longer.

I remember the big "Welcome Home Boys" signs at the pier. I also remember the phonies who approached us when we were on our first pass to town. They were looking for scabs to work for \$2.50 an hour at a bakery whose workers were on strike.

As far as I learned and saw, none of the GIs applied.

A lot of people might think we were but for a good time on our return to the States. That's true! But it's deeper than that.

Take a look at the picket lines around you. The ex-GI is there.

And if it isn't the strike fever the boys have who have been demonstrating overseas, then you name it.

S. K.  
Brooklyn, N. Y.

### UE Workers In N. Y. Picket Night and Day

Editor:  
Despite below-freezing temperatures and bitter winds, over a hundred striking electrical workers at the General Motors Frigidaire plant in Long Island City are "maintaining day and night picket lines. The Frigidaire workers, members of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, are striking with 200,000 of their union brothers for a \$2 a day increase. On the first day of the strike,

### AKRON

All Militant Readers Are Invited To Hear  
"The Forward March of Labor"

A series of discussions on the fight of the American workers for security.

Led by Mary Clark at the MILITANT CLUB  
405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 E. Market St.  
Every Friday Evening at 7:30 P. M.

Feb. 8: THE PIONEERS OF UNIONISM.

Things you were not taught in school about the workers' role in the early history of America.

Feb. 15: THE INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION AND THE GROWTH OF LABOR UNIONS.

Labor's bitter fights with the robber barons of industry.

The Molly Maguires . . . The Knights of Labor.

... Railroad Strike of 1877.

Feb. 22: THE GREAT STRUGGLE FOR THE EIGHT HOUR DAY.

Haymarket . . . Internationalism

Mar. 1: THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR & THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD.

Samuel Gompers . . . Big Bill Haywood

Mar. 8: WORLD WAR I AND LABOR

Eugene Victor Debs . . . The Russian Revolution

Seattle General Strike . . . Tom Mooney

Mar. 15: POST WAR PLANS . . . 1919 STYLE

The Palmer Raids . . . The Strike Wave . . .

Sacco and Vanzetti

Mar. 22: THE WORKERS' ANSWER TO THE DEPRESSION

Labor strikes back:

Minneapolis, San Francisco, Toledo

Mar. 29: THE CIO AND THE SITDOWN STRIKES

Auto . . . Steel . . . Rubber



## GM Tag Day Experiences Told By SWP Members

### Soldiers, Civilians Give to GM Strike

Editor:

Together with other Socialist Workers Party members, my sister and I went out with cans to help raise money for the GM strikers on the day that they were having the big parade here of the 82nd Airborne Unit 504. Before I was honorably discharged I was in the air force myself. We met with very sympathetic response, and although I couldn't count the money in the can, I know it was considerable, with many bills.

Hardly a man in uniform passed us, including officers, who didn't give us some money for the striking workers. We started on Third Avenue, around 10th Street and walked over to Washington Square on Fifth Avenue. One soldier said: "I don't know how long this has been going on, but I've been giving money the past three days to this cause." And he smiled.

One woman said she was on strike herself. She remarked that if the GM workers win, then "all of us will win." Many other contributors commented to the effect that "we realize the GM workers are fighting our fight."

I felt very inspired, since I had not expected such a good response. As a matter of fact, in the beginning I felt shy and didn't quite know how to go about it. But as soon as I put on the picket sign and took out my can, I didn't have to say anything. People just came over and dropped money into the can. Within five minutes I felt that I was doing them a favor to give them a chance to help the GM strikers.

Dan Shelton  
New York City

On the way back we stopped in a restaurant. We didn't ask for any money there, just left the cans on the table. But almost everyone in the place came over to drop something in the can.

One man, who at first had refused my sister, came over and said: "I didn't know what this was for." He put some money in the can. "The only way the workers are going to get a decent wage is by striking. I'm a worker myself. And my son who has just returned from the army can't get a job yet."

Kent Darroff  
New York City

Two of us went out on the New York University campus on GM Tag Day. Those young veterans, back at school after discharge from the army, were by far the most generous. One of them put a \$10 bill in one of the cans. They never failed to remark: "Keep up the good work."

Even among those young veterans who were not particularly familiar with what is going on in the country today, there was a general tendency to support the GM strikers because they were engaged in "fighting action."

One of the most interesting things for us was to observe the sharp class lines which show up among the youth as well as in society as a whole. Those students who refused to give generally made a remark to that effect. For example, one of them said: "I won't give; I'm a capitalist, my father owns a factory."

Sandy Robertson  
Laurie Falk  
New York City

### Poorest Give Pennies

Editor:

On GM Tag Day I went to the streets around Macy's Department Store. The response was so warm that I filled three cans. It took less than one hour to fill each can, which is considered a good average. Something that interested me very much was that I received more contributions on Eighth Avenue than on

### Toledo

#### Delicious Home-Cooked Duck Dinner

and

#### Gala Housewarming

Saturday Night, February 23

at the New SWP Headquarters

213 Michigan Street

Duck Dinner at 7 p.m. .... \$1 (includes Social)

(Tickets by reservation only. Call AD 2304 or write

213 Michigan not later than Feb. 21)

Housewarming at 8:30 p.m.

no reservation needed.....50c

### Open-Shop Spreads In Garment Industry

Editor:

Because of mass unemployment, brought about by the cancellation of war contracts, open shops are springing up in the small communities throughout the country. This is characteristic of the garment industry.

In order to increase their profits at the expense of the workers, money mad manufacturers who operate organized shops in the main centers are subsidizing these small town sweat shops.

Sweat shop operators, while paying starvation wages, assemble garments that have been cut in union shops. These completed garments are shipped back to organized plants, given a label and sold as union-made products.

This situation, if allowed to continue unchallenged, will seriously endanger hard won conditions and wages brought about through the efforts of militant trade unionists.

Pressure must be brought to bear on the leaders of both the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and International Ladies' Garment Workers unions by their respective memberships, forcing them to carry on an extensive and relentless campaign to organize these small-town open shops.

Complete organization of the industry alone can guarantee the higher wages and better working conditions of the metropolitan workers and at the same time raise the living standards of the small-town workers.

Clara Raymond  
Reading, Pa.

## Pioneer Notes

Two branches of the Socialist Workers Party, now engaged in calling on Militant readers for subscription renewals, have sent us enthusiastic reports on the pamphlets they have sold in this manner.

Newark writes:

"Please send us at once 100 copies of the new edition of Jackson's *A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow*. We have been out of them for months and need them very badly in connection with our current Calibach Campaign. In the two weeks of this campaign, in addition to selling a high percentage of Militant renewals, we have sold a total of 54 pamphlets, mostly James P. Cannon's *Socialism on Trial* and *The Struggle for Negro Equality*."

From the newly-formed New York Bronx branch, we hear:

"Last week our new branch mobilized to visit our neighborhood subscribers of the Militant. Ten teams went out, and in addition to a very high percentage of renewals, we sold 25 pamphlets; 12 copies of *A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow*, 7 copies of *Jobs for All*, and 6 of *American Workers Need a Labor Party*. We plan to go out again very soon. The friendly response we met in our first mobilization, the eager desire of many of the people to talk both about the paper and the pamphlets, gives our new branch just the send-off it needed for its work."

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New York City

### Veteran Gives \$10

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Even among those young veterans who were not particularly familiar with what is going on in the country today, there was a general tendency to support the GM strikers because they were engaged in "fighting action."

One of the most interesting things for us was to observe the sharp class lines which show up among the youth as well as in society as a whole. Those students who refused to give generally made a remark to that effect. For example, one of them said: "I won't give; I'm a capitalist, my father owns a factory."

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# Detroit Stalinists Seek To Suppress 'Militant'

(Continued from Page 1)  
right of free speech and a free press by repressions of which the workers are the first victims.

On the same day the *Daily Worker* story was published, a four-man delegation appeared at the headquarters of the Detroit Branch of the Socialist Workers Party, with the well-known Stalinist, Fred Fish of Local 735, as their spokesman.

Refusing to give their names or show any credentials, these four claimed to have been sent by Local 735 to order *Militant* representatives to stay away from the local's picket lines. When pressed for a reason, the four began denouncing *The Militant* in typical Stalinist fashion, claiming that it was "against the workers," that it criticized the UAW leadership and "caused disunity," that it was trying to "break the GM strike" and was "backed by corporation funds."

The *Militant* and SWP representatives pointed out to the "delegation" that such views could have only one source—the Communist (Stalinist) Party and its *Daily Worker*.

Thereupon one of the four pulled out a *Daily Worker* and another said he read it, but "not every day."

The SWP spokesmen proposed to Fish that in the interests of the truth and free speech he utilize as much space as he wished in *The Militant* to dispute any facts or ideas presented by *The Militant*. He was promised that whatever he wished to say to the Local 735 members as well as other GM strikers would be printed in full and distributed free of charge.

## TURN DOWN OFFER

Of course this opportunity to give an honest answer to *The Militant's* point of view was turned down, since the Stalinists have no honest answer to their working class critics. That is why they must resort to threats, slanders and lies.

To prevent the Stalinists from bringing further harm to the working class, the Detroit representative of *The Militant*, Arthur Burch, has written to the Local 735 Executive Board, pointing out that the board's action against *The Militant* was a "clear violation of labor's democratic rights" which could have come about only through a "misunderstanding on your part."

Comrade Burch requested that the board permit a representative of *The Militant* to appear

at its next meeting or at the next membership meeting of the local "to explain the situation and answer any questions that you might care to ask."

These attempts to muzzle the working class, or any section of it, hurts all workers, as was shown by recent Stalinist attempts at anti-Trotskyist red-baiting in Flint, Michigan. The Flint campaign was initiated with a story by William Allen which became a springboard for a corporation-inspired red-baiting drive to divide the GM strikers.

## HURTS LABOR

Allen's story, which contained a tremendous falsehood to the effect that Flint Chevrolet Local 659 had passed a motion barring *The Militant* from the Chevrolet picket lines, was completely exposed when Tex Owens, president, and Tom Kelly, recording secretary of Local 659, immediately denied that any ruling against *The Militant* had ever been passed by the local. *The Daily Worker* was forced to publish a retraction.

The Stalinist red-baiting against the Trotskyists and other genuine militants in Flint enabled GM, with the help of a few company stooges inside the Flint AC Spark Plug Local, to attempt a large-scale red-baiting drive. This was aimed not only at the Trotskyists and other real militants, but also against the Stalinists, who had instigated the dirty business.

## CAMPAIGN SMASHED

However, as reported from Flint in last week's *Militant*, an aroused labor movement there has smashed the red-baiting campaign. The Greater Flint Industrial Union Council issued a strong denunciation of four AC local members who, in their position as members of the local's top bargaining committee, sought to remove Robert Carter, the committed chairman, on the grounds of "Trotskyism." The red-baiters had also issued a public statement calling for dissolution of the Flint CIO Council, of which Carter is president, as a "breeding ground for Communism."

## DENOUNCED BY CIO

A membership meeting of the AC local voted overwhelmingly for the immediate restoration of Carter to his bargaining committee post. None of the four AC members who issued the red-baiting attack on Carter and other militants dared to appear at the Flint CIO Council meeting to support their lies. Carter was

given a vote of confidence. The Flint Weekly Review, organ of the CIO, denounced red-baiting and the red-baiters as "serving management rather than labor." Tex Owens, Chevrolet Local president, said that "people who run to the public press with red-herring stories... can be either over ambitious local union politicians or company stooges." Everett Francis, Fisher Body Local president, stated: "It is significant that management in the past used the 'red-scare' in order to weaken the morale of the workers."

Nevertheless, the Stalinists both here in Detroit and in Flint, acting on dictates from the reactionary bureaucracy in Moscow, are continuing with their irresponsible and vicious anti-Trotskyist red-baiting despite the opportunities this offers the bosses for attacking union militants and dividing the workers.

## Glass Workers End Strike After Thirteen Weeks

By M. Walker

(Special To The Militant)

TOLEDO, O., Jan. 25—CIO glass workers in Toledo went back to work this week ending their 13-week strike against Libbey-Owens-Ford and Pittsburgh Plate Glass.

The strike was originally called because the company refused to negotiate with representatives of the union. Also involved were union demands for pay increases to maintain their standard of living.

The final settlement includes a 10.7 per cent increase with a reopening clause on wages which will give the glass workers an opportunity to demand further increase after the settlement of the wage question on a national scale. They also secured a company commitment that wages will be adjusted in accordance with the national settlement in other industries.

## MORALE HIGH

William Akos, President of Local 9, CIO Flat Glass Workers, told this reporter that the morale of the men is high and that they feel that they have won a partial victory.

In a weakened position due to the prolonged period of strike, they had to make a settlement and go back to work. The Glass Workers International has only about 16,000 workers and the entire organization was on strike. Consequently, the union had no financial reserves with which to provide long-time relief for the strikers.

Akos reports that the glass workers feel they have won the point over which they went out. They have forced the glass trust to bargain with them. Further, they have won a small wage concession against great odds and after a long struggle.

The glass workers are not beaten. They went back to work as solid as they went out. And they will be heard from again.

## Philadelphia SWP Holds Successful Lenin Meeting

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18—With one of the largest audiences of its weekly forum series, the Philadelphia branch of the Socialist Workers Party tonight held a very successful Lenin-Liebknecht-Luxemburg memorial meeting.

Several distributors of *The Militant* appeared on the line to distribute the paper. Reactionary Stalinists, who were in the line, gathered around the distributors to hide the Stalinist hoodlum methods, seized the papers, tore them up and drove the distributors away. The police and Stalinists were in agreement on this action. The police, who are so anxious to protect Western Union scabs, offered no protection to the *Militant* distributors.

The Western Union strikers, led by the American Communications Assn., CIO, are standing solid in their determination to win their strike and force Western Union to its knees.

## Vets Demonstrate To Aid Western Union Strikers

By John Fredericks

(Special To The Militant)

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—Several hundred veterans in uniform gathered at Franklin Street and West Broadway here today at the call of the CIO to demonstrate solidarity with the three-week-old strike of Western Union employees, and to protest an arbitrary Navy ruling prohibiting the wearing of uniforms on picket lines. By the time the marching veterans reached the Western Union Building, 60 Hudson St., their ranks had swelled to 1,500.

The police sought to prevent the huge picket line from encircling the building, which occupies an entire city block. Strike leaders and veterans, in conference with police, forced the issue and the police finally allowed the picket line to encircle the building for 15 minutes.

## SCAB-HERDING COPS

The mass picket line, led by the vets, formed a continuous double line and carried slogans like "CIO Veterans Support Western Union Strikers In Their Wage Fight," and "We fought a war, now we must fight for decent wages." Speakers atop a sound truck at the entrance to the building explained the strike issues and vets urged that their buddies overseas be sent home at once.

300 uniformed police, armed

with clubs, stood shoulder to shoulder along the entire front of the building and 16 mounted cops were in readiness to protect the scabs now employed by Western Union. There was no violence and no arrests as strike leaders seemed anxious to avoid a recurrence of the clashes on Friday when police assaulted pickets, injuring several and arresting 10.

The military authorities backed down on their arbitrary ruling against wearing uniforms on picket lines despite their threats to make this a test case. There were no signs of Shore Patrolmen or Military Police at the scene.

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## Seattle Hear Trotskyist Analysis of "The Communist Party"

Sunday, Feb. 3

Speaker:

DAN ROBERTS

Seattle Organizer, SWP

Socialist Workers Party

191½ Second Ave. 8 p.m.

right of free speech and a free press by repressions of which the workers are the first victims.

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# 4th Fontana Fire Victim Dies; Home Burned After Vigilante Threats

By Jean Simon

(Special To The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 26—O'Day H. Short, courageous Negro fighter against race restrictions, was buried today in Los Angeles.

Critically burned in the mysterious Fontana fire which destroyed his home last month, killing his wife and two children, Short lost all interest in battling for his own life when he heard of their deaths some time later, according to his attorney and friends who visited him. He died Monday night in the Fontana hospital.

Many workers, both Negro and white, attended the funeral services held at 10 o'clock this morning, to pay their respects to the memory of O'Day Short and his family, and to demonstrate their determination to continue the struggle he undertook against housing restrictions for Negroes and threats of vigilante violence.

Short was threatened with physical violence early in December by a "vigilante committee" attempting to enforce their race prejudice by restricting Negroes to one side of Baseline Street in Fontana.

#### REPORTED THREATS

Refusing to be intimidated into moving, Short reported the threats to his attorney, the sheriff, the FBI, friends and relatives, and the Los Angeles Negro press.

No measures were taken to protect the family, and two weeks later a mysterious fire of unknown origin destroyed his

family and left Mr. Short in critical condition.

Local authorities treated the fire from the first as an accident, whitewashing the vigilante terror and the scandalous actions of local deputy sheriffs. The latter had warned Short of objections of local persons against his living there instead of protecting him and taking action against those who threatened violence.

#### TESTIMONY BARRED

District Attorney Jerome B. Kavanaugh of San Bernardino County, in which Fontana is located, refused to permit any evidence or testimony of vigilante threats at the coroner's inquest which was held after public interest compelled it.

At the inquest a transcript of an interview with Short which was introduced as evidence by the district attorney revealed that Kavanaugh had been the first to inform Short of the deaths of his wife and two children.

Up to that time hospital authorities had taken extraordinary measures to prevent anyone from mentioning anything about the deaths of his family, insisting that Short's condition was so serious that he could not withstand another shock. Yet Kavanaugh stated at the inquest that he had not been cautioned against such mention.

## Steel Strikers Shut Down Mammoth Bethlehem Plant

By John Fitch

BETHLEHEM, Pa., Jan. 21—Over 25,000 steel workers of the Bethlehem area, organized under the banner of the CIO United Steelworkers, have shut down the Bethlehem plant and 12 other concerns in the Lehigh Valley and as far east as High Bridge, N. J.

Minutes before the men hit the picket lines at the mammoth plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co., last Sunday night, they were encouraged by a report from C. B. Newell, district director of USA-CIO, that a break had already come in the united front of the employers, and that further dents in the bosses' ranks were expected.

#### FIGHTING TALKS

Newell, addressing an overflowing prestrike rally of the steel workers in Quinn School, climaxed a vigorous speech urging all hands to conduct an orderly strike, with the statement that the Lehigh Foundries, Inc., at Easton, Pa., had agreed to pay 18½ cents per hour. The news electrified the audience. The big assembly hall, packed to the roof, rocked with applause and from outside came cheers from hundreds of strikers who stood in the snowstorm listening to the talks through amplifiers.

Short fighting talks were the order of the day. "This is not round one of a fight of four or five rounds, but a fight to the finish." "The issue is not \$2 a day. They are out to destroy our unions." "We will fight to maintain order." These were among

the remarks made by various speakers.

"It's in the wood, we are on our way," shouted Newell just before the curtain was rung down on the rally.

The strike was well organized. Picket schedules were distributed and all workers had been assigned to picket duty well in advance of the deadline. Although the wild enthusiasm of the strike of 1941 was absent, in its place was a businesslike determination of the workers to win a victory.

The well picketed, sprawling steel plant with its 18 gates was later provided with salamanders (huge oil drums converted into stoves) and large windbreaks to shelter the snow-covered pickets from the bitter cold and wind.

Resentment ran high against Mayor Pfeifle of Bethlehem who had hired a hundred extra policemen. This move was intended to keep the sheriff from being called in case of trouble. Previous to the strike the sheriff had deputized 50 UNION men to help preserve order.

#### FOOD COMMITTEES

Food committees with a traveling coffee and sandwich shop were set up for the comfort of the pickets. Local stores offered to provide bread, and a bakery asked for volunteers of union men to help bake bread for the strikers.

Friehofers and Brickers Bakers, under pressure of the AFL unions, agreed not to furnish bread to the steel company to feed scabs and strikebreakers. AFL and Railroad Brotherhood unions promised support and declared they would not cross picket lines.

The Steelworkers Union has opened a drive to organize the office workers, a large number of whom have signed a desire to be members of the union and share in its benefits.

#### SAN FRANCISCO

Public Meeting to Protest

#### VIGILANTE TERROR IN FONTANA

hear:

Myra Tanner Weiss  
(Los Angeles Organizer—Socialist Workers Party)

speak on

"The Facts of the Case  
and  
How to Combat Vigilante Actions"

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Booker T. Washington Center  
2031 Bush St.—Between Buchanan & Webster

Auspices: San Francisco Local—Socialist Workers Party  
ADMISSION FREE

## Murray Charges Tax Laws Aiding Strikebreakers

(Continued from Page 1)  
in no hurry to arrive at a settlement with the strikers.

One employer, Harold Lamb, president of the Union Manufacturing Company in Georgia, openly boasted in a circular to striking workers: "We think it will take four months before our strikers decide to come back to work. Any losses we sustain in 1946 will be made up to us by the Government out of our profits in 1944 and 1945."

#### 'MILITANT' GAVE WARNING

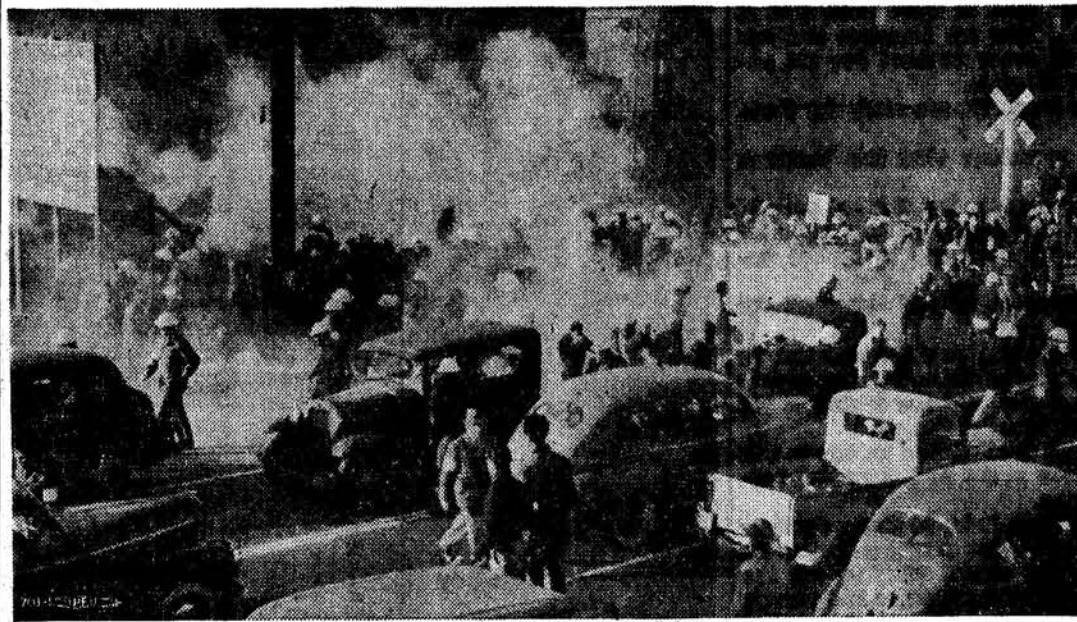
When the Federal Revenue Act authorizing this tax steal was first passed in 1942, The Militant warned that the corporations were planning to use these lush refunds for union-busting purposes. Immediately after General Motors forced its auto workers out on strike, the December 1 issue of The Militant explained how "the government helps the world's most profitable corporation put the squeeze on the workers." GM, if it doesn't turn a wheel, can secure \$160,000,000 from the U. S. Treasury in 1946 tax refunds.

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Up to that time hospital authorities had taken extraordinary measures to prevent anyone from mentioning anything about the deaths of his family, insisting that Short's condition was so serious that he could not withstand another shock. Yet Kavanaugh stated at the inquest that he had not been cautioned against such mention.

More than a score of persons were injured when gas-masked police attacked the picket line at U. S. Electrical Motors, Inc., on Jan. 17. Courageous pickets picked up tear gas shells before they exploded and hurled them back at the cops.

#### Postwar Battlefront In Los Angeles



Acme Photo

## Police Assault UE Picket Line In Los Angeles With Tear Gas

(Continued from Page 1)  
Captain Wisdom ordered the use of tear gas. Fifty shells of tear gas were fired into the line. Many shells were picked up and hurled back, but the police were protected by gas masks. As the rising stream of gas floated out over the lines, the unprotected strikers were forced to fall back.

Brutality and force had won the day for the strike-breaking Metropolitan Squad. About 60 office workers then entered the struck plant, only to be sent home by the boss an hour later because there was NO WORK.

#### LEADERS ARRESTED

During the assault 20 persons were arrested, among them Philip Connelly, Secretary-Treasurer of the Los Angeles CIO Council, and Carl Brant, International Representative of the UE. Connelly charged that he and the others were locked in "Black Marias" and left there during the gas barrage. Nine were overcome. When the rest demanded to get out, the cops jeered. "Our hearts bleed for you."

Scores of strikers were maimed by the tear gas. Many had bruised heads and bloody noses.

Edmond Johnson, a General Motors striker and member of United Auto Workers Local 216, went to the aid of a woman striker who was being beaten by the cops. At least four police jumped him and clubbed him, breaking his collar bone.

One striker, a war veteran, was

attacked by 12 policemen who beat him unmercifully time and time again with their clubs as he tried to shield his face with his arms.

After the pickets were dispersed the police hunted up and down both sides of the streets within a two block radius, clubbing and grabbing anyone in the vicinity whom they thought might be a striker.

Undoubtedly it was one of the most violent picket line battles in Los Angeles history.

A great many of those on the line were former GIs who thought they had fought a war

and signed by President Roosevelt.

At a press conference on this question, Murray declared that "if Congress didn't do something about the situation, the people would." But it is up to the unions themselves to lead and mobilize the movement to eliminate these tax refunds which place so powerful an anti-labor weapon in the hands of the big corporations.

#### WHAT MURRAY FORGETS

CIO President Murray rightly assails these tax laws as "hijacking" and "rank robbery." But he conveniently forgets to mention that this tax bill was passed with the votes of many PAC-endorsed congressmen as other workers receive because they have not worked long enough to accumulate benefits.

#### FOOD COMMITTEES

Food committees with a traveling coffee and sandwich shop were set up for the comfort of the pickets. Local stores offered to provide bread, and a bakery asked for volunteers of union men to help bake bread for the strikers.

When Representative Bailey of West Virginia introduced a bill in Congress last week to repeal the "carry-back" provisions on the tax law, he said: "The U. S. Treasury is silent present in what appears to have all the earmarks of a conspiracy on the part of a few to destroy our economy in their frantic efforts to crush organized labor." A Big Business-dominated Congress has met his proposal with hostility.

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## The NEGRO STRUGGLE

by CHARLES JACKSON

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

—KARL MARX

#### Support the Strikers

Equally as magnificent and encouraging a spectacle as the returning veterans sticking with the labor movement, has been the way in which the Negro workers have lined themselves up so solidly with the white workers in this present nationwide working-class upsurge.

So obviously solid has been the cohesion of Negro and white workers on the picket lines that not once have the bosses even attempted to recruit Negro strikebreakers with fantastic wage and job security promises and send them into the plants through the picket lines.

This is a remarkable testimonial to the power of economic forces to solidify all workers. Especially when we pause to realize that the opposite was the case on the American scene during the previous decades. This, therefore, really IS an achievement. It is not the increased number of Negro lawyers, Negro preachers, or Negro undertakers, during the past twenty-five years that reflects real advancement for our cause but this heightened political consciousness among Negro workers. That is the thing really worth bragging about when we start launching into a discussion of how much "progress" the Negro has recently made in this country.

#### ON THE PICKET LINE

Hundreds of thousands of Negro workers, many of them new to the trade union movement, have been walking the picket lines in militant fight against the oppressors of all the workers. In the General Motors strike, the steel strike, the meat packers' strike and the electrical workers' strike, brown men, too, have braved the wintry blasts of sleet and snow, fought off non-union foremen and office workers, had their scalps laid open by policemen's sticks and been jailed and fined by the capitalist government.

Some often narrow Negro middle-class spokesmen have been driven by this example of the Negro workers into a new channel of broadened political outlook. Characteristic of this newer analysis, newer alignment and newer perspective was an editorial in the January 26 issue of the Pittsburgh Courier, in California.

"As soon as the boss told us to go home I knew the cops were going to start something."

Then he had given the orders to wipe out all picket lines in Los Angeles, finally agreed to meet with a CIO committee and Chief of Police C. B. Horral, to see if further violence could be averted.

The UE strikers are not dismayed by their defeat today because of police brutality. Far from it; they are more determined than ever to win their fight, and all CIO unions in the Los Angeles area are pledged to help and support them.

Reading room and office open Mondays-Thursdays, 4 to 10 p.m.

Militant Readers' Discussion Group meets every Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Round table discussion.

NEW YORK—Registration open at 116 University Pl. for classes in Principles of Marxism, Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure.

SAT. FEB. 2, 8:30 p.m. Beachcombers Get-Together at Chelsea Branch 130 W. 23 Street.

SAT. FEB. 9, 8:30 p.m. Welcome Home Party for Our Veterans, 116 University Pl.

SEATTLE—Visit our Headquarters, 1919½ Second Ave.

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.

TOLEDO—Forums every Tuesday, 8:00 p.m. James Apartments, 213 Michigan St. Open evenings, 7-9 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

YOUNGSTOWN—Youngstown School of Social Science, 225 N. Phelps St., open to public Tuesday and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 5; also 9:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

WED. FEB. 6, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

SATURDAY, FEB. 10, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

SATURDAY, FEB. 31, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 8 p.m. "The Negro in the Abolition Movement."

## 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 6, 1945, Militant.

### Brother Steel Workers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

And how did we gain that subsistence wage? We gained it by years of struggles for organization.

Our fathers fought the gunmen and Pinkertons at Homestead.

Our brothers met violence and murder in 1919.

## Notes Of A Seaman

By Art Sharon

I received this interesting letter last week.

Dear Brother Sharon:

I am writing you about an outrageous stunt pulled by some sailors aboard my ship while we were in Norfolk. These guys who had just shipped as replacements ganged up on their colored messman who had been with the ship since we left the coast. They worked him over and he had to be taken to the hospital.

"This messman packed a book in the CIO Marine Cooks and Stewards. The sailors had trip cards (permits) in the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific. A couple of these heroes were 'three sheets to the wind' and while being served dinner the first day began to ride the messman.

"According to the story I got later, the messman at first ignored them and went about his business. Not satisfied, one of the heroes proceeded to call him by the usual insulting names that are so common down in Norfolk. But that colored messman had guts and proved it. Despite his being alone against this gang he stood up against them and expressed his willingness to fight.

"Well you know the old story. They claimed he threatened them with a knife so in self defense they had to attack him.

"These attacks upon Negroes are taking place more frequently than ever before and are becoming an ugly sore inside the AFL seamen's unions. I think you ought to say something about it in your 'Notes.'

"Steady as she goes.

Curly."

You are right, Curly. The official Jim Crow policy of the SIU-SUP seriously weakens those

organizations. Nothing pleases the shipowners and their government agents more than to see the SIU-SUP hold on to this dangerous and reactionary policy which sows division in labor's ranks. This outrageous incident you tell about is matched by dozens of a similar character.

Most of these incidents can be traced to the agitation of a tiny minority of race hate peddlers, who are themselves unconscious victims of vicious prejudices coming from the camp of labor's enemies. Look these race haters over. Few of them went through the big maritime strikes. Many of them deliberately joined the SIU-SUP because of its Jim Crow set-up.

The official union policy allows a tolerant attitude to their race-hate agitation. Certainly no veteran of the big maritime strikes can doubt the importance of unity and solidarity of all seamen regardless of color or race. Not so long ago I was shipmates with an SUP old-timer, a veteran of the 1921, 1934 and 1936 strikes. His talent for relating sea yarns about the "orient run" earned him the nickname of "Singapore." I got to know him pretty well as he was my watch partner. He was a loyal and devoted SUP militant. He did not happen to be a radical, but voted the straight Democratic ticket.

One day Singapore spoke the mind of many others in the union after watching the colored crew of a Navy ship work smartly and efficiently in real sailor fashion to get our ship out of a bad spot in one of the Alaska bays. Later at coffee time in the mess room he held forth predicting that the time would come, and very shortly, when the SIU-SUP must give up its Jim Crow policy.

So the next time the race-hate agitator raises his head, Curly, do not fear to take him on. He is using the poisonous arguments of superstition and blind prejudice which serve only to injure labor and benefit the operators. You on the contrary will be defending the very best interests of the union and the working class.

Directing attention to the section of the seizure order authorizing use of U. S. armed forces to drive the men back to work, Clark emphasized: "It is significant that although the government is unable to bring our soldiers home from China and other foreign countries they have ample forces available appar-

## Youngstown Pickets Keep Vigilant Guard, As Locked-In Scabs Suffer Malnutrition

Children Join Parents On The Picket Line



Kansas City youngsters carry appropriate signs with their fathers and mothers in a pre-dawn demonstration in front of the Swift & Co. meat packing plant.

Acme Photo

### SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

YOUNGSTOWN, O., Jan. 26—This eastern Ohio-Western Pennsylvania district presents a picture of industrial paralysis proving the effectiveness of the mighty steel workers' strike and the walkout of CIO electrical workers. From Sharon, Pa. to Warren, Ohio, the picket lines are holding firm.

The lines around the steel mills have grown steadily from day to day despite near-zero temperatures and snow. There is continuous improvement in technical arrangements for picketing, feeding and dispatching of Flying Squadrants.

There are now at all main gates, snug little bungalows which permit the men to fulfill their picket duties in comfort. Youngstown Local 1331 of Republic Steel was the first to start a building program with a fancy shanty at Stop 5. Local 1330 of Carnegie-Illinois (Big Steel) appears to be competing with the Republic strikers with their new picket strikes at No. 3 gate.

Some people are a bit puzzled because in this strike the Little Steel corporations have been as meek as lambs while Big Steel has been acting tough. This is evidenced by the fact that Republic, with its bloody record of 1937, shut down in cooperation with the union, with necessary plant maintenance done by union men assigned by the local.

### DIVIDING THE JOB

On the other hand Big Steel here broke its maintenance agreements with the union, brought foremen into the plant to live and do maintenance.

However, most militants are not convinced that Little Steel has reformed and become peace-loving. Rather they see a division of labor among the steel corporations and just now it is Big Steel's turn to be tough.

All this doesn't mean that Republic may not try to pull some fast ones. Right now the Republic pickets are looking suspiciously at some 300 cars of coal that the company claims were loaded at the mines before the strike started and are therefore entitled to entry under the union-company agreement.

When Carnegie-Illinois started to act "tough" Local 1330 gave the company a lesson in real toughness. The union rule was: those in will stay in the plant, and those outside will stay out. This has been enforced to the letter except for doctors, nurses, patients receiving treatment in the plant hospital, and plant protection men.

### RATS SCURRY OUT

A phenomenon of the past few days has been the exodus of the rats (the four-legged variety) from the factory. Some of the pickets maintain this is because these four-legged rodents can't stand the company inside, while others ascribe the exodus to the great shortage of food crumbs and garbage.

Throughout the valley veterans are playing an ever increasing part in the strike. In many places they are the leading element among the militants.

Local 1330 is lending a helping hand to UE-CIO girls on strike at GE's Mazda plant. Steel workers have been taking over the graveyard shift on the picket line there.

## Packinghouse Strikers Return After Resisting Plant Seizure

(Continued from Page 1)

from the government that the seizure order "would contain certain provisions for making effective increases that the panel might recommend. The order for seizure, however, is a complete double cross in that no such provision is contained therein."

### SEIZURE "FICTION"

He further pointed out that Department of Agriculture officials designated to operate the seized plants are "notoriously sympathetic" to the profit-greedy meat barons. Clark called the seizure a "fiction" under which the plants will still be managed by the present management personnel of the anti-labor packers.

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Directing attention to the section of the seizure order authorizing use of U. S. armed forces to drive the men back to work, Clark emphasized: "It is significant that although the government is unable to bring our soldiers home from China and other foreign countries they have ample forces available appar-

ently to attempt to break a strike and maintain the packers' profits."

Although the packinghouse workers expect to get a portion of the wage increase they have been demanding as a result of their militant strike action, the strikebreaking intervention of the government was calculated to force them back into the plants with the least gains the government, in cohorts with the profiteering packers, dares to recommend.

Unquestionably the government's recommendation will provide far less than the workers might have forced from the packing profiteers had the administration not intervened to halt their strike and whittle down their demands.

As all previous cases of such strikebreaking seizures have demonstrated, the government agents, usually military officials, do not permit genuine collective bargaining or recognize union grievance procedure while the packers are under government control.

### STILL DANGER

There is also the danger that after government control is withdrawn, the corporations may still refuse to meet the workers' terms. That is what happened, for instance, in the Montgomery Ward case.

Moreover, the government is primarily concerned with preserving the fat profits of the packers, who have received close to a billion dollars during the war in government subsidies and are confidently expecting to get enormous price increases now.

In this connection, UFWA President Clark, prior to today's decision to return to work, declared:

"If the Government were sincere in the action . . . the least they could do would be to insure that during the period of government operation, the owners of the packing companies would make no profits but that the cost of meat to the public would be reduced . . . (and) give assurances to the workers that their just request for wage increases would be met. Neither of these assurances have been forthcoming but rather, groups sympathetic to the packers are placed in charge of the operations of these plants and no assurances are given to the work-

ers.

The bulletin called government seizure a "strikebreaking move which favors the big packers and disregards workers. Such a move, therefore, is a step toward compulsory government settlement of strikes to the advantage of an employer . . . It represents a dangerous precedent to the entire labor movement."

## Sparrows Point Workers Close Bethlehem Plant

### SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

BALTIMORE, Jan. 26—Twenty thousand workers in this area have joined the nationwide CIO Steelworkers' strike against the giant steel corporations. At the Sparrows Point plant of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, 15,000 men have left their jobs and are taking their turn at picket duty.

Lines have been set up at all of the gates and at strategically located places. Picket captains check up on every person or truck entering the plant. To protect the pickets from the winds blowing in from the bay, wind shelters have been set up.

Around the home-made stoves the relief pickets warm themselves and drink coffee brought by the union's mobile canteen. No one gripes, and the talk is of how soon the corporation will have to give in, in face of this 100 per cent solidarity of the steel workers.

This same determination to "dig in" and continue the picketing until the union's demands are won is expressed on the picket lines in front of the Rustless Iron and Steel plant and the local plant of the American Can Co.

## CITY COUNCIL VOTES STRIKERS' RELIEF FUND

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 23—The city council of Clairton, south of here, site of the Clairton Works and Coke and By-Products Plant of Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp., has voted to borrow \$50,000 if necessary to provide relief for some 3,000 steel strikers residing in the town.

The action was initiated by Mayor John J. Muller, a staff member of the CIO. Mayor Muller explained, "We felt we had an obligation to the people here. Unemployment compensation may be slow in coming through, and veterans will not be able to get any at all."

A Councilman stated: "If other communities would do the same thing, perhaps the steel companies would change their position on this strike."



### SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 17—Today 1,000 AFL Metal Trades workers invaded the State Capital, Sacramento, protesting the refusal of the State Unemployment Insurance Commission to pay them unemployment benefits. The action was sponsored by the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council with 17 of its member locals represented at the demonstration.

Caravans of cars and busses streamed out of San Francisco and Oakland early Thursday morning. Upon arriving in the state capital the workers assembled in mass meeting at the Labor Temple. From there they marched upon the capitol building and entered the Senate, crowding the main hall and gallery.

### ABLE PRESENTATION

As previously arranged, Joe Roberts of the Shipfitters acted as spokesman. In a brief and able manner he presented the workers' grievances to the Senators. He pointed out that the State Department of Employment was functioning as a tool of the employers. When he stated that workers had "paid for it, but they are not getting it," the pickets nodded in approval. The procedure was next repeated in the Assembly.

The pickets then marched to the Department of Employment. While they picketed the offices, a delegation presented their protests to the officials. From there the demonstrators marched to the Governor's chamber where the delegation repeated its grievances. Workers filed through the Governor's office holding their banners aloft. At the close of the interview the Governor,

### A SUBTERFUGE

This action resulted from the State's policy of refusing to pay legitimate claims to locked out workers. For the past 12 weeks 55,000 workers have been locked out because of the machinists' strike. When they began applying for compensation, the state officials, acting in the interests of employers, contended that the workers were not entitled to benefits because they refused to cross picket lines. This, however, is a vicious subterfuge.

Even prior to the strike deadline, workers had been informed that there would be no work. Equipment had been serviced and stored. The employers, acting in united fashion, had girded themselves for a long siege.

Meanwhile the joint strike of Machinists' Lodge 68 and East Bay Machinists' Local 1304, CIO, which began October 30, remains solid. Shipyards and machine shops remain closed as union ranks remain firm. The workers understand more and more clearly that the outcome of the auto and steel strikes will largely govern their own gains in their struggles against organized industry.