

Middle East Oil And The Iran Dispute

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Workers Of The World, Unite!

THE MILITANT

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TRUMAN URGES MILITARIST POLICY

Strikers Fight Westinghouse Union-Busting

Westinghouse Electric Corporation, aided by municipal and state authorities, and police forces is conducting a brutal offensive to smash the three-month strike of 75,000 members of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers.

This bitter strike against one of the most powerful and ruthless international trusts has become the most critical labor struggle in America today.

Since General Motors failed in its attempt to beat the CIO United Auto Workers, Westinghouse Electric has become the spearhead for the union-busting program of the big corporations.

The intentions of the Westinghouse moguls to hold out against the union's demand for an 18½ cent an hour raise, such as was wrested from General Electric and the GM Electrical Division, has been made clear by a series of actions in the past three weeks.

TRICKY OFFER

Several weeks ago, the company made a tricky offer to settle the strike for what it claimed was an 18½ cent raise. This proposal was ballyhooed by the company in huge newspaper ads.

On examination, this claim of an 18½ cent offer was proved to be an outright fraud. Even the company representatives had to admit that with the conditions attached to the offer it "really" amounted only to 15½ cents. Federal mediators, who withdrew from the negotiations and assailed the company's conduct, stated: "The company's offer is substantially less than 15 cents an hour."

It is, in fact, as the union showed in detail, an offer of 9.7 cents. Large numbers of the strikers, including 10,000 lamp workers, are assured of no increases at all. Women workers face a cut of more than six cents an hour because of the company's refusal to eliminate differentials as ordered by a War Labor Board directive issued last December 29. Proposed elimination of a day workers' bonus would mean a slash of 7½ cents

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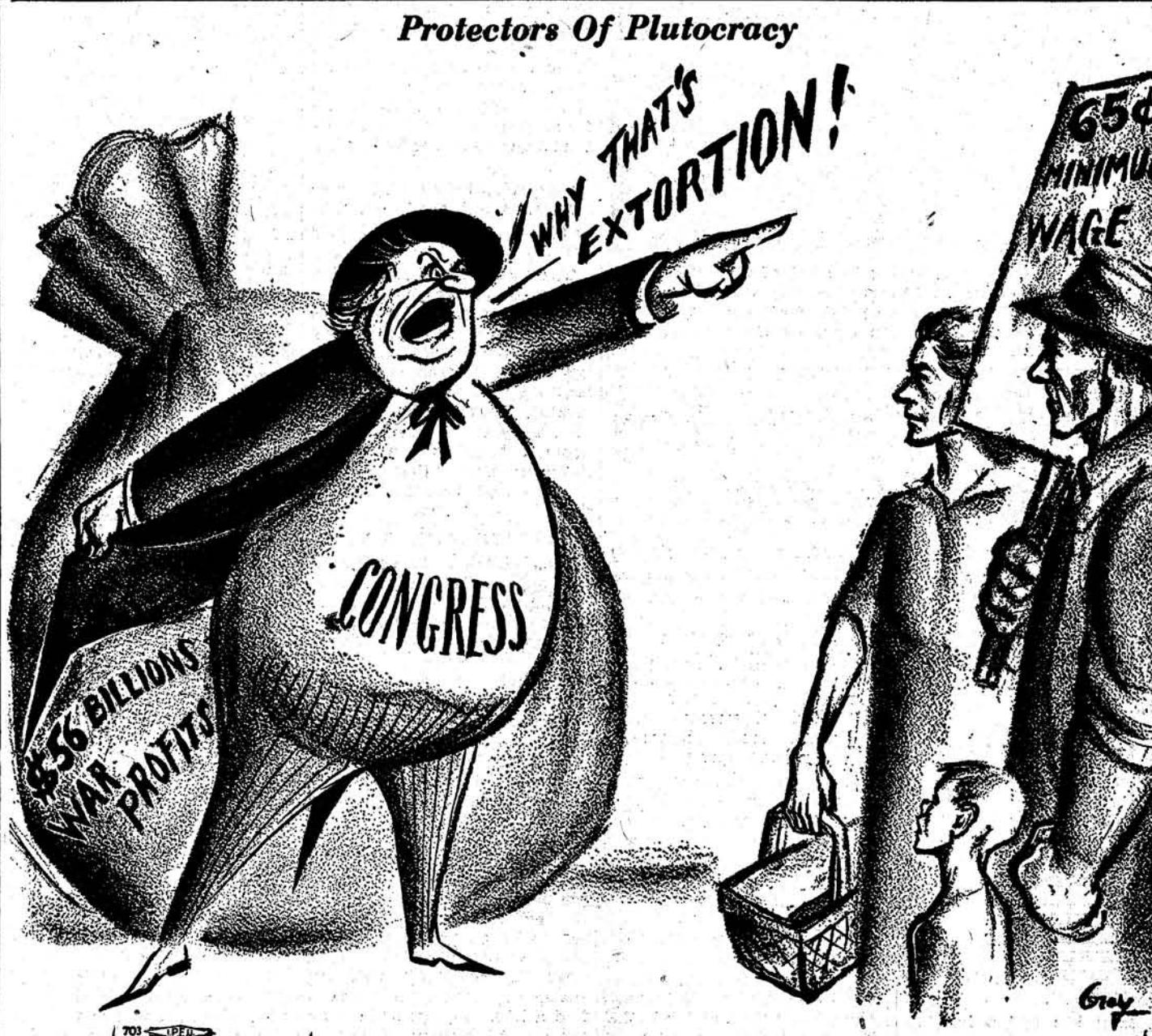
Labor Press Hit As Monopolists Grab Newsprint

Many labor, fraternal and veterans' papers have been delayed or threatened with suspension because newsprint manufacturers are diverting their supplies to more lucrative markets. This was revealed when a delegation of labor editors meeting in Washington April 2, asked the Civilian Production Administration to resume government controls on newsprint.

Since the lifting of government controls on January 1, supplies to independent printers have been drastically slashed. Two New York concerns printing some 50 different labor, fraternal and trade papers have received 40 to 50 per cent less paper than they were previously allocated.

The delegation represented many of the papers affected: Max Danish, editor of Justice, organ of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union; John Edelman, columnist for Textile Labor, monthly organ of the CIO Textile Workers; Lowell Chamberlain, editor of Pilot, organ of the CIO National Maritime Union; W. E. Blade, editor of Guild Reporter, CIO Newspaper Guild; and Henry C. Fleisher, associate editor of CIO News.

Other papers already hit include The Hat Worker, organ of the AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers; Shipyard Worker, Local 16 CIO Industrial Marine and Shipbuilding (Continued on Page 8)



Harassed Veteran Writes Congressman

An ex-GI from Missouri wrote Rep. Gillis (R-Ind.) in Washington this letter.

"The Army says I can't wear a uniform after I arrived home because I'll be impersonating a soldier. The stores say I can't buy a suit of clothes because they haven't my size. The police say I can't go on the streets naked because it is against the law. I would gladly stay off the streets but I can't find a house to live in and with the shortage of lumber I can't buy a barrel. Having been wounded, the Army won't take me back because I'm not physically fit."

Senate Passes Death Sentence On 65-Cent Minimum Wage Bill

By Larissa Reed

Millions of America's most exploited workers, now toiling for wages of 40 cents and less an hour, face continuation of living standards below 1929-39 relief levels.

That is the meaning of the Senate's actions last week on the Minimum Wage Bill.

After having been blocked for almost a year, the 65-cent Minimum Wage Bill was battered around during the last three weeks by the Big-Business dominated Senate. It was finally passed with such objectionable "riders" as to virtually ensure its veto by President Truman.

MILLIONS NOT COVERED

Before the bill's passage, a crippling "rider" was attached to provide a simultaneous rise in the price of farm products and thus boost food costs to the American consumers by \$4,500,000 (billions). President Truman declared that if the bill reached the White House with the "rider" attached, he would veto the whole measure.

In addition, a clause in the bill to expand the Fair Labor

Standards Act to cover an additional four to six million underpaid workers was defeated.

Among these are some two million white collar workers in big department and chain food stores, mail order houses, service companies, etc. Also some three million "first processing" workers in fish and food plants, canneries, gins, dairies and on farms in agricultural areas of production.

The only expansion of coverage contained in the bill, as it was passed, was the automatic inclusion of some two million workers earning less than 65 cents an hour, plus an undetermined number of merchant seamen, who, however, would not be permitted to collect pay of time and a half for work done after eight hours daily.

A 1944 Department of Labor study of living costs proved that

(Continued on Page 2)

IN THE NEWS

Atom Bomb A Day Keeps Doctor Away

"TOKYO, Apr. 4. (Reuters) —

The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where they killed and injured 102,150 and 77,425 persons respectively, also had 'certain beneficial effects' on the sick and aged. It was reported at a meeting of the Japanese Internal Disease Society today. The study of hundreds of cases showed that uranium radiation had increased the number of white blood cells from the normal 8,000 to 35,000, contributing greatly to early recovery."

Studying technique

Steven Nathan, 46-year-old Army cryptographer and regular

visitor to the meetings of the United Nations Security Council, was interviewed by a N. Y. World-Telegram reporter. Nathan, a veteran of both world wars, said he was interested in learning "how they get the next one ready."

Vanishing Act

Roscoe S. Conkling, former selective service official, speaking before the Senate Military Committee, against extension of the draft laws, said that early in 1944 the Army was "crying for more men".

"Then about April 5 of that year someone decided

to check up a bit and discovered they had lost track of 300,000 inducted men, that they had 300,000 more men than they knew they had."

What's In A Name?

On the veto of the Stalin government, the projected conference of the Big Powers to be held in France will be called "the Conference of Paris" and not "of peace".

Iranian Victory

"There was a good demand for Anglo-Iranian Oil on the news from the U. N., the price rising three-sixteenths." (Reports from London stock market, N. Y. Times, April 5).

Seeks Extension Of Draft, Universal Training For War

By Art Preis

President Truman's Army Day speech in Chicago on April 6 served notice that American imperialism is pushing the mightiest and most ruthless program of militarism ever conceived.

Behind the thin screen of Truman's diplomatic phrases could be heard the rattle of the saber.

His speech and program were a bellicose proclamation that Wall Street imperialism intends to impose its rule on the whole globe by force and threat of force.

The swaggering arrogance of American capitalism flaunted itself in Truman's pointed assertion: "The United States today is a strong nation; there is none stronger. This is not a boast. It is a fact . . ."

GRANDIOSE PROGRAM

To assure this position of supreme might, Truman made plain that the whole American people are to be regimented and Prussianized through a grandiose militarization program.

The heart of Truman's speech was his three-point program for

See Editorial 'War-Making Powers' Page 4

the maintenance of a military machine capable of sweeping any opponent or combination of opponents from American imperialism's path.

Truman demanded: "First, unification of all our armed services in a single department; second, temporary extension of the Selective Service Act; third, universal training."

Truman proposed the complete streamlining of the armed forces in keeping with technical advances, particularly atomic warfare, which have outmoded the previous military structure. Wall Street wants military organization designed to inflict atomic destruction to the maximum.

Simultaneously, it wants the extension of the draft—originally passed as a "temporary" (Continued on Page 6)

New York Veterans' Group Pushes Housing Program

By Evelyn Atwood

NEW YORK, Apr. 6—Thousands of homeless and desperate veterans in New York City, where the housing crisis has reached an acute stage, are being rallied behind the progressive Program for Action On Housing, submitted by the American Veterans' Com- mittee's Housing Committee to the AVC Metropolitan Area Council and approved by that body on April 3.

The Council is making this campaign for aggressive action on the housing problem its primary business.

The Council's program calls upon the Federal government and the New York State and City administrations to proclaim a housing emergency, and to take the following immediate measures to alleviate the housing shortage:

SIX-POINT PROGRAM

1. Take over for the veterans all unoccupied housing.

2. Make available an increased percentage of the quarters in all clubs, hotels and resorts to house veterans.

3. Halt the wrecking of all housing suitable for veterans.

4. Take over and utilize all tax-delinquent land and properties to ease the housing crisis.

5. Take all possible measures to utilize available appropriations to build decent houses now.

6. Where feasible and practical, to transform available structures other than sub-standard

Reports On Housing Crisis See Page 2

National Association of Real Estate Boards, representing the big banking and insurance interests.

The AVC revealed that the Producers' Council has a five million dollar war chest to protect the interests of the big building material monopolists and that the National Real Estate Foundation campaigned for five million dollars to fight low-rent housing projects.

These other powerful lobbies are responsible for blocking any effective housing program," the AVC Council stated. "The only ones to benefit from the housing shortage are the real estate interests. A housing shortage

Expose Army Plot To Clear Lichfield Torture Officers

By Mike Cort

Capt. Carroll refused to be a party. In a seven-page letter of resignation on April 4, he charged that the trials are being "flagrantly mishandled" so as to whitewash the high ranking of officers really responsible for the cruelties.

The tactic devised by the army hierarchy in this case is to demand a separate trial for each of the accused enlisted men, thus dragging out the case so that it would be problematical whether the Lichfield officers would ever be brought to trial. In the words of Captain Carroll, this tactic would "necessarily impair the government's case against the higher-ranking officers."

The first step in the campaign to unloose all blame upon the enlisted men, occurred last February when Sgt. Judson Smith was court-martialed for cruelty to prisoners and sentenced to three years hard labor.

The day after Capt. Carroll's resignation, the defense men assigned to Lichfield as guards.

It was this maneuver to which

(Continued on Page 2)

HOUSE GROUP VOTES BILL TO HELP BOOST PRICES

The House Banking and Currency Committee on April 5 approved a year's extension of the Office of Price Administration to June 30, 1947. But at the same time it backed on two amendments aimed to cripple price-control and aid the Big Business in-

double-talking agency is assuring the American people that it is "holding the line" against price rises.

The CIO's Cost of Living Committee has prepared a list of 22 price increases which are immediately felt by the consuming public. These include price boosts on milk, meats, canned goods, fresh grapefruit, canned meats, pepper, bread and bakery products. In clothing the list includes price hikes on shoes, shirts, shorts, pajamas, work clothes, house dresses, men's and boys' suits, and all other textile products.

Other items include radios, fans, toasters, builders' hardware, kerosene, fuel and crude oil, lumber, automobiles. CIO President Philip Murray on April 4 charged Chester Bowles, Director of Economic Stabilization, and Paul Porter, head of the OPA, with increasing prices "far beyond anything necessary to offset higher wages."

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SCANDALOUS HOUSING CRISIS EXPOSED

Detroit Veterans Seek Homes In Vain

By Jim Ross

(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, Mich., Apr. 3 — The veteran in Detroit is seething with rage at the Home Owners' Association for its stand in defying the OPA by denying veterans and their families a place to live. That this is a planned conspiracy of the Real Estate Board to up the rent on their property and to keep out Federal Government intervention in the housing situation, is a fact known and proved by the despicable method used by the landlords.

One of the most heartrending stories is that of a young Detroit—a friend of mine—who was drafted into the army and forced to give up his home and move his wife and baby into a small apartment. On his return home, this veteran, whose family had now increased to three dependents, had to vacate his apartment because the landlord could make more money by renting it to couples.

In searching for a new home for his family, he was turned away everywhere because of the children, and because the owners preferred to keep their places vacant rather than yield to the OPA rent ceiling.

COUNTLESS numbers of such cases have been reported in Detroit, but to no avail. The law-making bodies of the city have rejected every attempt made by the Government to build houses and projects for the destitute and homeless veterans.

The returned servicemen are learning that the landlords who talked so loudly of their patriotism, are just greedy capitalists who wish to profit all at the workers' expense. The need for Federal housing projects cannot be denied, as the population of the city has increased twenty-four per cent, and families have multiplied due to the many marriages of returning veterans.

One of the main reasons for this rebuff of the Federal Government's attempt to build homes is the desire of the landlords to continue renting their old, rotten property which should long since have been condemned. That the Board of Health is not seriously interested in city health is verified by its policy of approving the rental of properties unfit for human beings.

To ask for a Federal investigation is useless, because the facts are already known. What the people need, and most of all the veterans, is action.

Chicago Vets Demand Housing



Union veterans demonstrating in front of Mayor Kelly's office in Chicago on March 30 carry placards demanding immediate action on housing. High point of the demonstration came when veterans pitched pup tents on the sidewalk in front of City Hall.

Ex-GI Dreamed Of Home, Can't Find One Now

A veteran in Detroit sent us the following letter describing his own experiences with the housing shortage.

Editor:

I'm not a fancy writer and I can't tell things like I like to hear them from The Militant. But sometimes things just happen to you and you feel like telling somebody and then you feel better.

I am a returned veteran from the South Pacific where I spent over a year in the jungles of New Guinea. All us boys dreamt about while we were there was the nice home we could return to. The loneliness of the jungle reminded us of the fancy promises the papers and everybody gave us. "Nothing is too good for our boys." I guess that's what they said in the first world war, too. Well, they kept their promise because when we came back that's what we got, nothing.

I had lived in Detroit for twenty-two years before but when I got back and finally discharged there was no place to live. It's funny how the government spent millions of dollars for big factories to give to the rich but couldn't spend any money to build houses for the poor people who fought this war.

I waited in line many hours at the Housing Commission for something. The few places that I saw wouldn't have any kids, so that left me out. I have a daughter four years old. The other soldiers who waited looked just how I felt inside. I guess they are sick of the mess too.

I guess this cock-eyed world is all shot. I'll sure be glad when the ideas that The Militant talks about will come around. There, I feel better now.

F. R.

Detroit

Wife Of St. Paul Vet Tells Housing Plight

Angered by the housing shortage in St. Paul, a veteran's wife wrote the following letter to "The Militant," calling for the expropriation and immediate use of empty homes and hotels.

Editor:

Every once in a while there is a story on housing in the paper, and I get burned up all over again. To make me still more angry, today I passed an empty house "for sale" on St. Paul's exclusive Summit Avenue. A large well-con-

structed stone home that looked as if it could accommodate easily and in comfort four or five workers' families.

Then I came "home" to the two light-housekeeping rooms that my husband, baby, and I were lucky—really lucky—to find when he became a "Master" again. And then I decided that the one place where I knew I could let off some steam is in The Militant.

St. Paul has had a housing shortage for years. For example, each spring several blocks of workers' homes near the airport are half submerged in water for weeks at a time. But the current shortage is even worse. There are no longer even any filthy, rat-infested tenements for workers and veterans and their families to rent.

LIVE IN PARK

And what solution is the city offering? They have erected a few so-called "Quonset" type huts in a park, settled veterans and their families there, and then charged them \$30 and \$33 a month rent for a temporary dwelling with stove heat and no plumbing or sanitary facilities. These working-class mothers must use laundry and sanitary facilities in a central permanent building. And even then the workers would be thankful for these small, overcrowded, temporary homes if at least the rent were reasonable.

Over three months ago the St. Paul Dispatch carried a story of two mansions on Mississippi River Boulevard, another of St. Paul's exclusive areas. These mansions are tax-forfeited property now owned by the city. With a little remodeling the two houses would provide homes for 12 families, with larger quarters and more convenient ones than most of the workers have had before.

NOTHING DONE

And yet in the three months that have passed, nothing has been done to convert these homes. And this primarily because of the exclusive zoning laws which the bosses use to protect the privacy of their home neighborhoods. Could it be that they are afraid we will discover the actual discrepancy be-

Minimum Wage Bill Receives Death Sentence In Senate

(Continued from Page 1)

a family of three persons, even at that time needed an income of \$1,950 after income taxes, in order to break even.

Today, with living costs at least 50 per cent higher than when the present 40-cent minimum became legal, and with prices soaring further week by week, millions at the 40-cent wage level are forced to subsist on an annual income of \$800, at \$16 a week for 50 weeks. A \$16 wage today admittedly provides one-third less purchasing power than a WPA wage in 1939.

In this the richest land in the world, even at the height of the war production boom in 1945, almost half of the American wage earners secured less than 65 cents an hour.

According to figures submitted to Congress last year by the Pepper Senate Committee on wartime substandard wages, there were more than 17,000,000 workers who received less than 65 cents per hour; 5,000,000 who received only 50 cents an hour and 2,000,000 who received less than 64-billion income in 1938."

than even the legal minimum of 40 cents.

The inadequacy of even a 65-cent minimum wage today, was emphasized by the majority of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, when it sent the bill to the Senate for adoption three weeks ago. According to the April 1 Advance, the Committee stated:

MINIMUM STANDARDS

"The Committee recognizes that 65 cents an hour—\$26 a week or \$1,350 for a full year's work—does not provide a minimum American standard of living for the average family of four . . . Even the inadequate maintenance budget developed for families on work relief would cost \$1,700 at current prices."

The Committee further pointed out that today, "with a national income of \$160-billion, a 65-cent minimum yields the sub-standard worker a smaller proportion of the nation's increased wages than a 40-cent minimum yielded him with a

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CHICAGO VETERANS DEMONSTRATE TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE HOUSING

Nick Bradford

(Special to The Militant)

The Chicago Labor Council of Union Veterans held a demonstration Saturday, March 30, 1946, in front of Mayor Kelly's office to demand immediate housing. Six leading unions, chapters of the American Veterans' Committee of World War II, and the Union Legionnaires of the American Legion were participants in this demonstration.

The highlight of the demonstration was reached when the veterans pitched pup tents on the sidewalk in front of City Hall. Each pup tent had a sign stating which groups were represented. Most of the placards carried slogans demanding housing now, not seven years from

now, and endorsement of the Patman, Ellender Housing Bill and of Wyatt's proposals on veterans' housing.

The veterans chose committee to present their demands to Mayor Kelly personally. When the committee reached the Mayor's office they were told that he was ill and was not in his office. The committee returned to the demonstration and George Danfield from the Union Legionnaires reported back to the demonstrators. He stated that this was only the beginning of the fight for veterans' housing, and that the Chicago Labor Council will have another demonstration when the Mayor gets back to his office.

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TRADE UNION NOTES

By Joseph Keller

The Bigger The Lie . . .

Someone observing Daily Worker reporter George Morris slowly and laboriously punching away at his typewriter in the press room during the CIO United Auto Workers convention last week, wisecracked: "Well, creative writing is always harder than straight reporting."

This remark was made by Armand Conti on November 16, 1945, to representatives of the Cleveland Press. At that time Armand Conti, his wife and his two year old son were living with Mrs. Conti's parents. Their bed—for all three—was a 3/4 size mattress made up on the living room floor.

"My wife's folks can't keep us forever," Conti continued. "I'm so sore about this I can hardly work."

The Contis had been looking for a place to live ever since his discharge from the army two months previously. At first they had hoped to build, but after talking to builders and being told that they would have to wait months, they abandoned the idea. They would like to buy a house but prices are beyond their means. They find it impossible to rent because of the usual paucity of action.

Do you want a picture of me throwing my medals in the furnace? Medals don't mean a thing when it comes to finding a house in this town. All of us veterans have found that out. Sometimes I think of all those homes I helped to knock down on bombing raids. I'd like to have one of them now."

This situation is duplicated with minor variations in the lives of thousands of returned servicemen in the Cleveland area. The bitterness felt by these homeless veterans was given expression by Wences Frank, who had been trying for weeks to find a home for himself and his family.

A few weeks ago, four young children were burned to death in a Portland fire. They were living in a woodshed. Photographs of the miserable hut where these children lived—three of them slept in one bed with their mother, the baby in a bureau drawer beside the bed—shocked Portlanders. They wrote indignant letters to local papers asking why this family was living in such conditions. Why didn't the welfare authorities do something about it?

It is true that Garrison, a member of the convention Resolutions Committee, made a vicious and red-baiting speech against the proposal for a Negro board member. But, contrary to Morris' account, Garrison "led off" the debate for the Thomas-Addes group—he subsequently made the nominating speech for former UAW President R. J. Thomas. And delegates who were sympathetic to Trotskyist views supported the proposal for a Negro board member.

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Atomic Destruction And World War III

This is the fourth of a series of articles on the death-dealing weapons in the hands of the imperialist warmongers who in their lust for world-domination, threaten the destruction of modern civilization. The first article told how the destructive powers of warfare have multiplied. The second described the new air weapons, and the third discussed the use of disease germs as a war weapon.

By Eugene Varlin

Before August 6, 1945, it seemed that people could no longer be shocked by the mounting slaughters of the imperialist butchers. The cities of Europe were in ruins. Sixty million men had been slaughtered on the European battlefields alone.

In the months before August, thousands of Superfortresses had bombed the cities of Japan with incendiaries. Every Japanese city with a population of more than 100,000 had been burned out. Millions of charred skeletons lay in the shambles. Mankind was becoming accustomed to horrors without end. Men shuddered at their shoulders at the mounting statistics of destruction.

Then, on August 6, a lone American Superfortress, manned by a crew of ten, dropped a bomb on the Japanese City of Hiroshima. The whole world was aghast at the consequences. What had happened?

Simply this: one bomb carried by one plane had wiped a city of 343,000 people off the map. A force had been introduced into warfare, which in its first test, proved to be twenty thousand times more powerful than TNT. This force was atomic energy.

HORROR AT TRIUMPH

Since 1901, scientists had known that by destroying a very tiny quantity of matter, tremendous quantities of energy could be released. Solar energy which for billions of years had been traveling 75,000,000 miles to heat the earth, is produced in this way. For over forty years scientists grappled with the problem of producing atomic energy artificially. Success, they felt, would mean an era of undreamed-of advancement for humanity. Atomic energy would soon replace all existing sources of power—coal, oil, electricity.

Now, at last, they had succeeded. And the world recoiled in horror at their "triumph." In the hands of the imperialist war-makers, the first fruits of their success were the annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In the hands of these war-makers, atomic energy could destroy civilization.

On September 27, Walter H. Judd stated before the House of Representatives, "We face the prospect in the next half century of a return to the cliff dweller or cave-man stage of civilization. The scientists who created the atomic bomb have spent sleepless nights on the question of what to do with their bomb."

Today, the atomic bomb is an American monopoly. No scientist believes that this state of affairs will last very long. On October 1, 1945, a group of atom scientists declared, "There are no longer any fundamental secrets about the atomic bomb... Even those nations with lesser resources than the United States will be able to produce atomic

Control Of Oil Land In Middle East Involved In UNO Dispute Over Iran

Threaten Death Sentence For Leading Bulgarian Trotskyists

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

A letter from Bulgaria, dated February, brings news of the survival of the Trotskyist movement in that country. Organized into the Internationalist Communist Party, the letter says, the Bulgarian revolutionists stand fully on the program of the Fourth International. That party is forced to function illegally and has not, up to the present, been able to organize its legal press organ.

Several of the leading members of the Bulgarian ICP have been arrested and imprisoned. They have been threatened with death sentences.

The "Fatherland Front" government led by the ex-Fascist Georgieff supported by the Stalinists, has conducted particularly vicious persecutions against the Bulgarian Trotskyists. At the same time, fascist organizations are permitted to function openly and legally.

MILITANT RECORD

The Bulgarian ICP has a record of militant struggle against fascism and against the Nazi oppressor. While the Bulgarian Trotskyists were carrying on the fight against the Hitlerite invader, the Stalinists received the Wehrmacht with flowers in welcoming demonstrations at the time when the Stalin-Hitler pact was still in effect. Today, the Stalinists attempt to cover up their tracks with the usual calumnies against the Trotskyists as Hitlerites, etc.

The Bulgarian Trotskyists are

Report First Strike In USSR In 20 Years

For the first time in more than two decades the Kremlin censors have permitted news of a strike in the USSR to be cabled abroad. Even more significant is the fact that this strike action was authorized by the highest trade union body. Text of this important Associated Press dispatch follows from Moscow:

MOSCOW, April 6.—The central committee of an electrical trade union has ordered temporary cessation of work in the polishing and galvanizing departments in a Moscow factory, the trades union newspaper Truth reported today.

The newspaper said the ventilating system for the last two and one-half years had caused numerous employee complaints which the director did nothing to satisfy.

The union's central committee ordered a new ventilation system and other remedies. Although the director promised to carry out the order, the newspaper said he never did.

Imperialist Terror In Greece—Background Of The Elections

(The Greek elections of March 31 ended with the pro-monarchist Populist party receiving a majority of the votes cast. However, little less than 50 per cent of the registered voters went to the polls. The following article, written before the elections, graphically reveals the conditions under which the Anglo-American engineered elections were held.)

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

ATHENS, Greece—Greece continues to be agitated by open civil war and revolutionary ferment.

The defeat of the revolutionary movement of December 1944 provoked the counter-revolutionary terror. Reactionary and fascist bands thereafter committed daily acts of violence and crime against workers' organizations. The gendarmerie, the army and the British occupation forces participated in this organized terror.

But in spite of the military and financial support of British imperialism, the capitalists have not been able to improve the chaotic situation in the country, nor establish any political stability.

With the approach of the elections (set for March 31 by London, in agreement with the reactionary Monarchist wing of the Populist party), disorders are growing and reflect the exceptionally strong pressure exerted by the militancy of the masses. Even Premier Sounios regards the elections as lacking the most elementary guarantees of freedom and as designed to bring about a crushing victory for monarchist reaction.

A new wave of strikes, politi-

cally in character, are at present sweeping the country. The workers are everywhere demanding the postponement of the elections and an end to reaction's terror. This current strike wave is the second to occur in the course of the past two months.

Hundreds of thousands of workers, office employees and government functionaries have demonstrated against the terror and the high cost of living. The militancy of the strikers in Athens, Piraeus, Salonica, Kavala and other cities is in marked contrast to the capitulationist policy of the Stalinist and reformist leaders.

"For the first time since 'liberation,'" writes the Trotskyist weekly "Workers' Struggle," "the working class of our country is undergoing a veritable mobilization to reorganize its forces. A series of trade union conventions has been held, topped by the 8th national congress of the trade union confederation, which was a complete success."

In spite of the defeats which the Stalinist leadership has brought about, the Greek proletariat continues its liberating struggle with a high morale. The Greeks call upon these elements to reconcile themselves with the Stalinist party.



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WALL STREET'S MAN BYRNES

SUGAR BARONS PLUNDER PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE

Conditions in 'El Fanguito,' one of several equally poverty stricken sections of San Juan, Puerto Rico, give an indication of the dreadfully low living standard suffered by the Puerto Ricans. In *Dynamite On Our Doorstep*, Wenzell Brown describes this section:

CONSCIOUS POLICY

Col. James A. Kilian, former commanding officer of the Lichfield army prison, heads the list of the six officers who face court-martial should the military hierarchy's whitewash attempt fail. That the Prussian-like brutality practiced at Lichfield was no accident, but the result of conscious army policy, was proven last February during the first court-martial of one of the enlisted guards.

It was revealed at that time that Col. Kilian had instructed one of his subordinates on the proper method of handling prisoners. He bragged about "the way we used to do it in the cavalry," and explained the way he'd handle a "wilful" prisoner: "I'd take him down to the rifle range where it couldn't be seen and work him over: Just don't break too many bones."

The only pathway was of loose planks, crudely nailed together, and raised three or four feet above the ground. The houses were on stilts, but sometimes the flood waters seeped into them. The bay brought rusted tin cans, soggy paper, orange skins into the yards.

SEWAGE FLOWS IN

"The ground on which I trod," wrote Brown, "was black with human feces, caked, made solid, a part of the earth itself. During

storms the marshy water flooded the land, cleaning it a little,

taking away some of the filth,

pushing still more of it into the dank blackened earth. Sewage

flowed in streams between the houses.

"The stench of sewage was horrible," Brown continues. "I felt my gore rising and had to fight being sick. I was in the heart of 'El Fanguito,' which means 'The Little Mud'."

This is not a description of

India or China, but of a section of Puerto Rico, where U. S. imperialists rule. People are forced to live in these filthy slums because of their unbelievably low wages and long periods of unemployment.

The average income of workers on this little island in the Caribbean was \$135 a year in 1940. That is about 40 cents a day, and living costs are about the same as in the United States.

There is little milk on the island, about a teaspoonful a day

per person if it were distributed to all, and still less milk that is fit to drink. Even the water supply is contaminated and unsafe.

RAVAGED BY POVERTY

All the diseases of poverty and near starvation ravage the population. The infant mortality rate

is the highest in the world.

What is the cause of this terrible poverty in Puerto Rico?

One fourth of the arable land

is held by sugar companies for

cane farming. The rest of the

land is poor quality; some of it

has been "mined out" by cane

growing. This land cannot pro-

duce nearly enough to feed

Puerto Rico's 2,000,000 people.

The bill, however, contains

another important proviso.

Whatever the outcome of the

referendum, the United States

will retain all naval, military and

air rights on the islands. Wall

Street thus seeks to assure it-

self continued domination over

the political life of Puerto Rico.

In presenting his government's case against the Soviet Union last week before the United Nations Security Council, Iranian Ambassador Hussein Ala fleetingly referred to oil. He was promptly cut off by the U. S. Secretary of State Byrnes who said: "I respectfully suggest that the Iranian representative might be instructed to confine his remarks . . . to the issues under consideration."

During World War II, American imperialism took advantage of Britain's difficulties to muscle in on her Middle East oil monopoly. The Texas Oil Company and Standard Oil invested \$100,000,000 in a new venture, the American Arabian Oil Co. Roosevelt came to their assistance with a government-financed pipeline running across Saudi Arabia.

I. F. Stone had the following to say about Roosevelt's policy in the Nation of February 26, 1944: "To go into a colonial country and buy oil concessions by favors to desert sheiks, to embark on a long-range program for the exploitation of natural resources which belong to another people, is imperialism, however we choose to disguise it."

The U. S. High Command was eager to obtain an assured oil supply in the Middle East for its naval and air bases encircling the globe. Working closely together with oil industry representatives, Roosevelt's Secretary of the Interior Ickes negotiated an Anglo-American Oil Treaty which was very pleasing to the oil monopolists. On the basis of this agreement, Standard Oil and Sinclair Oil began dickering for concessions in southeast Iran.

KREMLIN WORRIED

Alarmed by the penetration of Anglo-American imperialism and seeking supplementary sources of oil, the Kremlin made its own bid for a share of Iran's oil. In 1944, reversing the policy of Lenin and Trotsky which scrupulously respected the rights of small and weak peoples, Stalin exerted pressure upon the Iran government for concessions in the northwest. Under counter-pressure from the British and American governments, the Iranian regime delayed the granting of any new oil concessions.

Now these behind-the-scenes conflicts over Iran's oil have entered a new phase. On April 7, Iranian Premier Ghavam announced a fifty-year oil agreement with the Soviet Union in north Iran.

Through this treaty the British-controlled Anglo-Persian Oil Co. took over the oil fields of southern Iran. Today British oil concessions in the Near East constitute the key source of supply for her Navy and air-force—and thereby maintain her Empire.

EXPOSED IN 1918 The Anglo-Russian Treaty enabled a Russian industrialist, Kochtaras, to obtain concessions in northern Iran in 1918. However, the Bolsheviks broke with these imperialist traditions of Czarism. One of the first acts of the Soviet government in 1918 was to denounce the Anglo-Russian Treaty and declare the Kochtaras concessions void.

Thereupon Kochtaras sold the Anglo-Persian Oil Co. and Standard Oil of New Jersey equal shares in these same forfeited oil concessions in northern Iran. The Soviet government then stated that it opposed the granting of oil rights to the imperialists in the former Russian sphere. As a result, a movement arose among the tribes of northern Iran which was successful in

months. One third of the workers cannot find jobs during the months of highest employment. U. S. "LIBERATION"

The United States has owned the island for nearly half a century. When American armies came in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, they were hailed as liberators. The Puerto Ricans thought the United States was aiding them in their four-century struggle for freedom.

But in the wake of the American armies came Washington-appointed officials to impose the yoke of another imperialist power on the people. Soon American capitalists had bought all the best land for cane plantations. The sugar barons turned the island into a sugar factory. They drained the country of its wealth and mined out the land.

The power and wealth of the sugar companies has steadily increased as the people have been driven to ever more desperate poverty.

With full justice the Puerto Ricans hate the Wall Street bandits who are sapping the country's life-blood. Time and again they have demanded independence in huge demonstrations which were often suppressed with bloodshed.

What is the cause of this terrible poverty in Puerto Rico? One fourth of the arable land is held by sugar companies for cane farming. The rest of the land is poor quality; some of it has been "mined out" by cane growing. This land cannot produce nearly enough to feed Puerto Rico's 2,000,000 people.

The bill, however, contains another important proviso. Whatever the outcome of the referendum, the United States will retain all naval, military and air rights on the islands. Wall Street thus seeks to assure itself continued domination over the political life of Puerto Rico.

APPEASE STALINISTS Among those arrested in recent raids are Yousef el Mandarck and his fellow delegates to the World Trade Union Conference held last year at Paris, as well as the well-known socialist leader Salama Moussa. All are held incommunicado and without formal charges being lodged against them.

The Egyptian government's announcement, according to the *Middle East* writer, came as a result of its fear of pressure from Moscow. The Stalinist M. P. Piratin had protested in the House of Commons against the arrests. The announcement was made to

appease and reassure these circles. Sablier further commented: "In a new country like Egypt, progressive ideas are still the prerogative of small groups of intellectuals. Those among them who devote themselves without prejudice to the study of Marxism find the opportunity of the official communists (Stalinists) today hardly intelligible. Thus they are drawn for the most part towards the undiluted Leninism which is incarnated by the Trotskyists."

Moreover, while the solicitude of Soviet Russia for the Arab peoples is visibly inspired by its own strategic or diplomatic interests, Trotskyist propaganda is based on the instinct of defending the proletariat.

Furthermore, Trotsky's revolutionary doctrine are feared as much if not more, by the official communists as by the reactionary circles. Thus, by applying the label Trotskyist to the people arrested, the Egyptian government is seeking, no doubt, to avoid Soviet remonstrances of the type which Ankara recently experienced during the anti-communist demonstrations."

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

—Leon Trotsky

War-Making Powers

While the earth still reeks from the destruction and death of World War II, President Truman in his speech on Army Day has brazenly heralded another war—World War Three which threatens to obliterate civilization.

Only yesterday the American people heard the official propagandists assuring them that a victory in the Second World War would bring "peace, democracy, security and freedom."

Today, the President of the United States demands an unprecedented "peacetime" program of militarization to ensure Wall Street's control and exploitation of the whole world.

In place of the promised "peace, democracy, security and freedom," the capitalist rulers of America are bent upon Prussianizing American life. They seek to impose the cost and burden of a permanent war machine on the American people and threaten to thrust the nation into another war at a moment's notice.

Twice within 25 years the American people, like the masses under capitalism everywhere, were deceived and dragged into war. They never wanted war. They would never, of their own free will, have gone to war. But they were denied the right to decide this life and death question.

That decision was made by a handful of highly-placed conspirators in Wall Street and Washington. That decision was made by the financial magnates, the big monopolists, the privileged military caste who alone profited from the war.

They not only prevented the people from having any real voice in the question of war, but they opposed by every means at their command any proposal to give the people control over the war-making powers.

Now in their new drive along the road to war, the Big Business bandits are trying to keep the usurped war-making power concentrated completely in their own hands.

That power must be wrested from them. The American people must demand the democratic right to decide for themselves whether or not this country shall again be dragged into war. Truman's militaristic Army Day proclamation gives added urgency to the demand: **LET THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES VOTE ON THE QUESTION OF PEACE OR WAR!**

Minimum Wage

The Senate last week gave another vivid demonstration of the kind of "progressive victory" (as the CIO-PAC leaders called it) American labor won in the November 1944 elections through the policy of supporting capitalist "friends of labor."

Those "friends of labor" in effect scuttled the bill for the establishment of a minimum 65-cents an hour wage. After stalling and haggling for a year, the Senate passed the bill with "riders" attached that were deliberately calculated to ensure its presidential veto.

Even a 65-cent minimum wage means the barest subsistence standards for tens of millions who now receive less. But the department and chain store magnates whose profits increased 1,500 per cent during the war, the canneries and corporation-farm interests, all the rich exploiters of low-pay labor—put their hooks into the Minimum Wage Bill.

For reasons of political expediency, the Big Business agents in the Senate didn't dare put themselves on record as opposed to a miserly minimum income of \$26 a week in this period of soaring inflation. But they made sure the bill was passed in such a form as to guarantee its defeat.

The brutal and cynical politicians of the Republican and Democratic parties of Wall Street are interested in only one thing—to use the powers of government to protect the profits and privileges of the capitalists. They have handed tens of billions of dollars from the public treasury to the big corporations. And they want to ensure the continuation of super-profits even at the expense of millions who now work for "not enough to live on and just too much to die on."

The entire labor movement backed the demand for adequate minimum wage legislation. Yet a handful of corrupt capitalist politicians can thus brazenly disregard the will of 15,000,000 organized workers and millions of other progressive-minded people. With the

utmost contempt for labor's demands, the Wall Street legislators could knife a bill which might raise millions one small grade above starvation living levels.

How can they dare to do this? Primarily because these Senators realize that labor is tied to the political machine of Wall Street by its present leaders and is in no position to counterpose its own independent political power against capitalist reaction.

The time is rotten ripe to put an end to the Big Business rule which wants to maintain \$16 a week wages. But that will never be accomplished until labor builds its own political instrument, a labor party that will fight for political power for the working class. Only through an independent program and party of its own will labor be in a position to smash the political rule of the profiteer-parasite class and ensure decent living standards.

Food Relief Policy

After this war which was supposed to bring "freedom from want," 500 million people are in dire need of food to keep them alive.

While these starving millions beg for bread, the American imperialists, who are sitting atop the greatest available food sources and supplies, are haggling amongst themselves within such agencies as UNRRA over the precise amount of food they shall send abroad.

That is the main point of the dispute between retiring UNRRA Director Lehman and Herbert Hoover, now in Europe as chairman of the Famine Relief Committee. Neither of these spokesmen for Wall Street is primarily concerned about relieving the immeasurable misery and agony of the masses or in removing the root causes of famine. Behind the propaganda of sweet charity, each is interested in forwarding the deadly game of imperialist power politics being played by Wall Street.

Food is an important element in American monopoly capitalism's plans for world domination. Power-drunk U. S. imperialism is using food today, just as it did after World War I, as a weapon against revolutionary movements of the masses and to bolster the most corrupt regimes.

But the agents of Wall Street are at the same time determined not to ship an ounce more of supplies than is required to accomplish these reactionary ends. Not how much can be sent, but how little is needed to prevent mass revolts abroad—that is what Hoover and Lehman are really arguing about in such cynical fashion. Meanwhile the representatives of American imperialism haggle like pawnbrokers with bankrupt regimes over what supplies the latter will receive in return for submission to the dictates of Wall Street.

The American workers and farmers will gladly provide as much food as they can for the famine-stricken peoples in other countries. But they do not want the food they produce to be misused as an instrument of imperialist subjugation and oppression, as UNRRA and other capitalist-dominated agencies are doing.

To ensure that relief supplies go to the needy many, and are not abused by the greedy few, administration and control of food and other supplies should remain in the hands of labor and farmer organizations, from their collection in this country to their distribution in foreign lands.

Free Press

"Freedom of the press" is a hollowed slogan of the so-called "democracies," and one of the four freedoms promised to the war-torn world. But what is the real status of "freedom of the press" in the United States today?

In this issue of *The Militant* we report a dangerous threat to the labor press. Curtailment of newsprint deliveries to two New York printing concerns has already menaced 50 labor, fraternal and veterans' publications.

"When a labor journal can't print for lack of paper, it means that it is suppressed," wrote the *Hat Worker*, organ of the AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers. "No newsprint, no *Hat Worker*."

And it might be added that if a paper does not meet post office requirements of regular publication, it can be deprived of second class mailing privileges. This would be a further means of crippling the labor press.

The Big Business press faces no danger of a paper shortage. The major capitalist publishers own vast tracts of forest, pulp mills and paper mills, guaranteeing them a steady flow of newsprint. They have ample funds from their advertising revenue to gobble up additional millions of tons of newsprint on the open or black market. Their monopoly of the major sources of newsprint is supplemented by control over the radio and movies, through which they spread their anti-labor poison at will.

While the Big Business papers expand in size and circulation, they choke off supplies formerly allowed the labor press. Workers' papers are being told, first that they would have to cut the number of pages in half, and "then that they would not be able to print even half a paper," the *Hat Worker* reveals.

Thus it is clear that despite formal "freedom," the workers' publications are at the mercy of the labor-hating manufacturers and black marketeers who can silence their opponents by withholding supplies.

The *Hat Worker* says it "raised holy hell and got some paper" for its March 15 issue. It exposed the stand of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, organization of the big publishers, which heartily approves the diversion of more and more newsprint away from the labor press.

The voice of labor must not be gagged! Every workers' organization must "raise holy hell" and keep on raising it to make sure that adequate newsprint is assured to every working class publication.



"You coward! For heaven's sake get down before the help sees you—or they'll ask for a raise!"

MOVIE REVIEW

OPEN CITY, a Minerva Film (Italian) with English subtitles by Pietro Di Donato, and Herman G. Weinberg. Directed by Roberto Rossellini; released through Foreign Film productions, Inc. Now showing at World theater, New York City.

Open City is a simple and powerful story of the Italian partisans, courageously fighting under the iron heel of the Nazi oppressor. Its actors are men, women and children who lived through the heroic years of struggle. Its scenes were shot in Rome, and on the walls are still scrawled in chalk the symbols of the people's aspirations—Viva Lenin! and the hammer and sickle.

Francesco and the priest are arrested; Francesco by chance eludes the storm troopers. At Gestapo headquarters, the excruciating torture of Manfredi begins, while the Gestapo chief and his woman assistant are skillfully portrayed as sadists and perverts, the scum of society.

EVADE PROBLEM

But it is here, in the scenes which purport to explain fascism, that the picture is weakest, for the producers do not dare to go beneath the surface of the problem. They attempt to show that fascism is a matter of character, a psychological problem related to an "inherent" and "German" lust for domination. That it is the degeneration of capitalism itself which produces the scum and pushes the vilest individuals into power, is carefully concealed.

Manfredi refuses to give information about the partisan movement, though he is tortured into unconsciousness. Desperate, the Gestapo chief tries a new attack: "You are a communist," he taunts Manfredi. "But your party has made an alliance with re-

actionary forces. Do you think that when you occupy the city—or liberate it, as you call it—the alliance with the monarchist crew will last?"

Manfredi has no answer except to spit in the face of the Nazi. But the taunt lays open the terrible crime of Stalinism. By its false and futile alliances with capitalist reaction, Stalinism betrays not alone the Manfredi who are themselves in part responsible for propping up Stalinism. It betrays also the masses of courageous working people who in every country fought for an end to capitalism, only to find the Stalinist leaders tying them with new ropes to the most reactionary forces.

Open City provides honest glimpses into the struggles of these working people. The food riot, which Pina smugly admits she helped to start, centers on the raid of a bakery. As the hungry men and women scatter, with their precious booty, a black market operator brazenly approaches them with offers of food at fantastic prices. Francesco chases him off, burning with indignation at the abundance to be had by the rich.

Children of the partisans, with their own heroic little band under the leadership of a crippled boy, appear again and again throughout the picture. They become a symbol of the continuing struggle, fearlessly fighting on when their parents fall.

Although *Open City* fails to tell the full truth of the workers' struggle against fascism, it is unquestionably the best picture yet produced as a record of the Second World War. It is a picture which should be seen and remembered.

Reviewed by
Ruth Johnson

Congressmen At Work

It's not every day that Congress gets something as exciting to experiment with as the atom bomb. "I have not been able to get it out of my mind," remarked Representative Voorhis of California on March 11, "that when mankind comes to the place where the fundamental energy that is in the basic element out of which all things on this earth and in this universe are made, when mankind comes to the place where he can release that energy and does so, he is unlocking the ultimate storehouse of God Almighty Himself."

In fact the majority of Congressmen consider the atom bomb so sensational that they are even willing to postpone appropriating money for the Navy until they know what the new explosive power will do to the same thing they did in World War I and refuse to admit the effect of this bomb as they refused to admit the effect of the bomb that Billy Mitchell dropped. We do not want to prepare for another war with the methods which have been used in the war just ended and which are now obsolete because of the development of atomic energy."

SAVING FOR ALL!
Rankin of Mississippi, one of the most cunning and cagey parliamentarians in Congress, met the economy-minded minority on their ground: "And this experiment will probably not only save this country billions of dollars but will save the other nations of the world billions of dollars

in building battleships that will prove to be useless in years to come."

Representative Vinson of Georgia explained in greater detail precisely how this "saving" is to be accomplished: "We are coming here in a day or two asking for three and a half billion dollars to support the Navy. You would be in a far better position knowing what effect the most modern destructive weapon ever devised would have on the ships of that Navy. It will guide the Government in the building of its future navies."

"Of course, I recognize the fact, and so does the gentleman, that the atomic bomb can destroy a city. We recognize the fact that it will kill human beings. But cities will continue to be built and human beings will continue to be born. We are going to try to find out if it can destroy navies. Regardless of the result, we know that in all probability nations will continue to build navies, but you would build your navy based around the results of tests that will be made . . . Why should you appropriate billions and billions of dollars to build submarines when you do not know what effect the atomic bomb will have upon the submarines you are building? I say again I consider it a wise thing to find out exactly what effect the atomic bomb will have on ships."

(To be continued.)

PROBLEMS FACING WAR VETERANS

By CHARLES CARSTEN

What Minimum-Wage Fight Means To Vets

An Army recruiting advertisement reads: "Book Your Foreign Tour With the Regular Army.—Millions year for extensive travel! . . . Best sellers are based on the romance and mystery of foreign lands—the stuff of which dreams are made . . . the Regular Army offers a job with a future . . . opportunity for education and advancement."

These ads, now blanketing the country, must indeed appear ludicrous to ex-GIs who spent years in the "conducted tours" of the Army.

At the same time in Washington, D. C., Senator Smith denounced the 65 cents an hour floor on wages proposed by the minimum wage bill as an attempt to "go too far too soon." The proposed changes in the minimum wage law, he asserted, "may undermine a sound minimum wage program and might affect the whole national economy. We should 'digest' the advances" of a much lower increase "before making further advances mandatory."

The connection between the Army recruiting posters and the attack on the minimum wage bill by the Senators may not be immediately apparent. However, viewed in the light of a recent statement by the National Citizens' Political Action Committee that "veterans offered less than 65 cents an hour are reenlisting for better pay," the connection becomes obvious.

The minimum wage increase bill would raise wages from the present 40 cents an hour minimum to 65 cents an hour this year and to 75 cents an hour by 1950. The bill proposes to extend the coverage of the law to 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 "white collar" and "first processing agricultural workers."

About 2,500,000 manufacturing workers would be affected by the increase. Raising their wages to the proposed minimum "would require an increase of 2 per cent of the total 1945 wage bill," according to Senator Barkley.

Even this slight increase for workers, who are not earning enough to buy sufficient food at the present high prices, is considered "inflationary" by the Senators. A bare subsistence wage of \$26 a week, which the minimum wage bill would guarantee, is in their opinion too much for workers.

They had a different opinion about legislation which handed billions of dollars from the public treasury to the big corporations in the form of tax rebates. That was neither "unsound" nor "inflationary" in the minds of the Senators. The government grants price increases to the corporations and the Senators raise no objection.

Why War Department Objects

On this question of the minimum wage bill the Senators are working hand in glove with both Wall Street and the War Department. Wall Street wants a big Army with which to impose its domination upon the peoples of the world. The War Department finds it difficult to make Army enlistment attractive enough to fool veterans who know the truth about it. Therefore the Big Brass banks on using economic compulsion to drive ex-servicemen back into the Army.

Despite the low-paying jobs ex-GIs are being forced to take, they haven't reenlisted in any great numbers. Any increase in wages would tend to cut down recruitment even further. So, the War Department is dead set against increasing the minimum wage and Congress is cooperating wholeheartedly.

On the other hand, the labor movement is making a vigorous fight for enactment of the minimum wage bill in its original form, because it would raise the wages of millions of the lowest paid workers. On this issue as on others, the unions are demonstrating that they are the only force in the country that really fights in the interests of the worker veterans.

UAW Convention Assails Jim Crow, Race Hatreds

In a resolution adopted March 23 at its National Convention, the CIO United Auto Workers racial discrimination and sharply protested against recent anti-Negro outrages in Columbia, Tennessee and Freeport, New York.

The resolution warns that "forces of reaction" are attempting to divide labor and the Negro people, "by increased attacks against the Negro people and other minority groupings."

It cites other manifestations of discrimination, including the "quota system" which limits the number of Jewish students in schools; the failure of the government to increase immigration quotas to save displaced Jewish persons in Europe; and the United States Employment Service's acceptance of discriminatory work orders.

Hits Tennessee Terror

In Tennessee, the UAW charges, Democratic Governor McCord has "done nothing to prosecute the members of a white mob who stormed the jail . . . in an effort to lynch James C. Stephenson, a 19-year old Navy veteran and his mother, who were the innocent victims of an assault by whites. He has done nothing

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.

Expose Red Cross As Political Weapon Of Imperialism

Editor:
On the time clock, this morning, as I punched in still sleepy-eyed and tired, I noticed a company announcement in glowing and heartbreaking terms, to be certain to contribute to the Red Cross. Donate a day's pay, just like that, and enlighten the heavy hearts of the millions of poverty stricken peoples throughout the world.

The Red Cross pretends impartiality in aiding all who are in need. Friend and foe alike. Very well, then, let the Red Cross explain why they did not offer this assistance to the needy, GM strikers and the many other workers who found themselves in dire need because of the arrogant attitude of the capitalist class in their attempt to smash the unions and usher in an era of open shop "free-enterprise" competition.

To assist in a case like this, they will argue, still pretending impartiality and benevolence, will encourage the continuation of the strike. We can add therefore, namely, that hunger is used as a weapon to drive the workers back and accept the terms of the bosses.

If assistance to the striking workers will encourage and prolong strikes, by that same token, assistance to the war victims of imperialist greed will, too, encourage and prolong wars.

But imperialist wars are struggled strictly in the interest of the capitalist class; and it's wonderful for the working people to finance the healing of their own bruises. The capitalist class will even spend ten millions of dollars to advertise for the Red Cross to receive ten times the amount from the pockets of well meaning workers.

The Red Cross is an institution of the capitalist class and used as a political weapon by that class. Has the Red Cross assisted the victims of the Independence Movements in India, Java, Indonesia, Egypt, etc.? I have never heard that they have. Perhaps The Militant can answer this question.

We must extend our willing hand to all the victims of imperialist rapacity. The aims given to them by the Red Cross will prevent the pangs of hunger for at most a day. Their only salvation lies in the overthrow of the system that makes the Red Cross a necessity, which is an organization that attempts to camouflage the brutality of its hypocritical masters.

Congratulations to The Militant which speaks for our solution.

Fred Riggs
Detroit

INDONESIA

Heaps of burned and twisted rage.

Plunging about with lack of grace; here, no glory, pomp or flags—This, that was a market place. Awkward things they seem to be. Some sit up, and others lay; Strange, this bloody misery—Once was children at their play...

Eddie Dumaine

We'll All Be Free Or All Be Slaves

Editor:
I suppose I have always been a militant person even before I ever joined the Socialist Workers Party. I have always stood for the things that are right, regardless of race, creed or color.

If the political parties would practice what they preach we would see that this fight for a Labor Party and the FIFC is for real democracy. The case of the Ferguson Brothers, the Tennessee riots, and the many other Jim Crow ideas and practices have to go. Jim Crowism has got to go, before we'll all be free. If it doesn't go, we'll all be slaves.

R. B.
Philadelphia

The Privileged People And Workers In The Soviet Union

Editor:
When I read "The Revolution Betrayed" recently, I found particularly revealing that portion of Trotsky's masterful analysis of the Soviet state dealing with the social aspects of the bureaucracy. The revolting spectacle of a highly privileged social stratum in a country where the workers took power and seriously hoped to erect the classless society on the backward foundations of Russia, is particularly repugnant to class-conscious workers in general, and revolutionary Marxists in particular.

To the allegations that the Stalinist bureaucracy is living like a collective leech on the real creators of wealth in the Soviet Union—the toilers in city and country—the skeptics have demurred: "You Trotskyists," they say, in effect, "are all wet when you speak of sharp differentiations in the Soviet Union. To be sure, there is no complete equality, but there is no marked disparity in living standards, and anyway, the situation is improving."

Trotsky threw this lie into the faces of the ostensibly "objective observers" of the "Russian experiment."

The author of "A Bell for Adano," John Hersey, sheds some more and recent light on the situation. In an address before the New York Herald Tribune Forum, he reported on his recent visit to the Soviet Union. The speech was reprinted in "International Digest,"

Overseas 3 Years Drafted For More

Editor:

I met my friend Jim on the street the other day. He was wearing khaki pants and had a discharge button in his lapel. He was just celebrating his twenty-sixth birthday, but he didn't seem happy about it at all.

"What's the matter, Jim?" I asked. "Aren't you happy to get out of that outfit?" and I pointed to the button.

He smiled bitterly. "Yeah, I thought I got out of that outfit. I sneaked in when I was sixteen because I looked older. They sent me over to Burma for three years. That taught me. They finally found out about my age and discharged me. And now, after spending three years over there, I get a letter to report to my draft board."

"You see," and Jim gave me a knowing look, "I never was officially. Now I got to go and serve my turn."

Yes, Jim knows that this imperialist army will stop at nothing to keep its forces to one million men. And what do the Brass Hats care if a kid of sixteen (after all the propaganda about saving democracy!) was foolish enough to sneak into the army.

Laura Falk
Trotzkyist Youth Group
New York City

April, 1946, under the title "Russia's Privileged Class."

Hersey's speech was not all chaff. Some of the grain is of significant import! . . . Russian creative artists are among the most wealthy, influential and honored people in the Soviet Union. This fact both rewards them for their hard work and constantly reminds them of their responsibilities as engineers.

"The best paid people in Russia today, aside from the highest ranking officers of state and army, are writers, composers, actors, movie stars, musicians, architects, directors, painters, sculptors, and dancers. Last year Dmitri Shostakovich earned about 250,000 rubles"—at the standard rate of exchange, \$50,000.

A skilled Russian worker earns 1,000 rubles a month, and a member of the "aristocracy of talent" earns 250,000 rubles cash a year and lots more . . . "things which no amount of rubles have been able to buy in wartime Russia," including a car, country home, etc.

Sam Taylor
Madison, Wis.

Steel Worker's Wife Sends News Stories

Editor:

Enclosed you will find \$1 for a year's subscription to The Militant. I find it very interesting.

Somehow I can hardly believe that the things that I read can keep going on in a civilized world! I am sending you two clippings from our local paper, the Allentown Morning Call.

"(One clipping is a photo of two Chicago cops brutally dragging a woman picket to a police wagon, while a third officer looks on, smirking. The incident occurred during a strike at the W. A. Jones Foundry and Machine Company. The second clipping tells of the arrest on an assault and battery charge, of veteran Charles Kendrick, member of the CIO Steelworkers. When scabs tried to crash the picket line at Emerson Electric Company, one man received a broken nose. A striker, not a scab, was arrested.)

Thanks so much for sending me The Militant after my sub had run out, I would have renewed sooner, but my husband, a steel worker, was out on strike, and so we were very low on funds. Thanks again for sending me The Militant until I was able to send the money.

Mrs. K. S.
Allentown, Pa.

J. PIERPONT MONEYBAGS says: "WAGE RAISES MEAN INFLATION. WHAT WE NEED IS HIGHER PRICES"



Scab Murders Union Head Of Family



Mrs. Ella Mae Campbell, widow of an organizer of the Southern Cotton Oil Company in Little Rock Arkansas, who was knifed by a scab because of his union activities. Her daughter is five years old. The murderer was let off scot-free. The same jury sentenced three of Campbell's fellow-pickets, members of Local 90, CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers, to a year in jail.

Pioneer Notes

"A small section of Atlantic City's Boardwalk took on a red glow during the past week and it was not the reflection of a resort sunset.

"At 2227 Boardwalk, in the shadow of the big Municipal Auditorium, where 2,300 United Auto Workers (CIO) were in session, the Pioneer Publishers, 116 University Place, New York, has set up headquarters."

So writes the reporter for the Atlantic City Press in a story which appeared on page 1 of the March 30 issue. The story goes on:

"Two representatives of the publishing firm—of undoubtedly foreign extraction (I.D.) stood barricaded behind counters heaped with literature ranging from Wartime Crimes of Big Business to Jobs for All . . . Among the thousands of pamphlets on sale for from five cents to 25 cents, Stalinism and Bolshevism and American Workers Need a Labor Party were hawked to the interested stroller who halted at the stand."

Among the many "interested" strollers were large numbers of UAW convention delegates who stopped to look over and buy the literature and take subscriptions for The Militant and The Fourth International. Other pamphlets which interested these union workers were Trade Union Problems by Farrell Dobbs, and The Case for Socialism—the four attractively boxed pamphlets on the famous Minneapolis Trial. A Practical Program to Kill Jim Crow, The Struggle for Negro Equality and Negroes in the Post-War World were also sold in large numbers.

The reporter goes on:

"They readily admitted that they were disciples of Lenin, Trotsky and Marx and preached the precepts of Communism to all Boardwalk strollers who stopped to listen. But they disavowed Premier Stalin of Russia and decried his breakup of the Communist International a few years ago."

"They asserted that the world is one big economic unit and we believe that Communism as preached by Marx, Trotsky and Lenin should be spread all over the world."

For any of the literature men

tioned in the Atlantic City Pres

story, write to Pioneer Publish

ers, 116 University Place, New

York, 3, N. Y.

Submits Poem On War Slogans

Editor:

Recently I chanced to find the following poem while rummaging through some old school not I do not know who the author is, but I am sure there is place for his poem in The Militant—the most courageous battle in the United States against capitalist wars.

SLOGANS

"Carthage must be destroyed" an old man spoke, And thousands, answering his cry, Laid down their lives — their Bright young lives, that foreign gold Might flow unchallenged into Roman marts.

"A war to end all wars!" or if that seems

Too wild a dream, "A War to Make the world Safe for Democracy."

Again they went, the youth With souls uplifted, giving all they had to give.

O, wild-eyed youth who look at war today And see it as it is, beware the time

When those who deal in death Shall find the words

For some new slogan—with its shining lie.

Jack Miller
Philadelphia

A Correction On Piecework In UAW

Editor:

There is an inaccuracy in The Militant of March 30, 1946. I refer to the article, "General Motors Still Tied Up on Local Issues." Toward the end of the article, one of the paragraphs states that the Stalinists foisted the piecework system on some locals under their control during the war. The article goes on to state: "A notorious example of this is the Fisher Body Plant in Cleveland, where the workers are now fighting to get rid of the incentive pay system the Stalinists had shoved down their throats."

The facts are as follows: During the war there was no piecework in any of the GM plants under contract with the UAW. The piecework system is used as a method of pay in automobile production. It was eliminated in a majority of plants in the strike of 1937, but remained in about a dozen plants. The Fisher Body plant is one of those. With the end of the war and the resumption of automobile production, piecework was re-established on the production lines. The union raised as its chief local demand the elimination of piecework and the establishment of equitable day rates.

Enclosed is an article I found in the New York Herald Tribune of March 10, and in its proper setting—the financial section of the paper. There are so many appropriate titles that article could be given.

The article, complete with pictures, describes how the Freeport, Long Island Bank provides relaxation for its customers. It presents daily organ recitals, and on special occasions such as Christmas, adds loudspeakers to transmit the music to passers-by.

There are any musicians subscribing to The Militant I suggest they write a composition to be played on that organ for the citizens of Freeport. The work should be entitled:

"Capitalist Sonata for Bank Organs" (in three movements)

I-Scherzo — Allegro molto or Whistle While You Feed Our Tills

II-Marcia Funebre — Andante con Variazioni — or The Freeport Disgrace

III-Finale—Allegro Vivace—or We Shall Always Aim to Divide and Conquer

Anyway, I am passing the article on to you.

New Subscriber
Baltimore, Md.

MILITANT ARMY

"So far 65 people have written in, and after they have had an opportunity to see what The Militant represents we will write and ask them for regular six-month or one-year subscription."

"This radio station has quite a varied coverage and includes among other points, Sharon, Pa., West Virginia, Ashtabula, etc. In any case, you can't complain that Youngstown is neglecting The Militant."

From Philadelphia we received this note: "The consistent and evergrowing attendance at the forums and socials of the Philadelphia branch is indicative of the effectiveness of The Militant and how well it is accepted by workers in our area."

"With 10 newsstands spotted in all sections of the city carrying The Militant, we find that our paper is being readily accepted by the workers of SKF, Baldwin Locomotive Works, Westinghouse, General Electric and the Budd plant."

The Tampa Bulletin, a leading Negro paper in Florida, reprinted another of Charles Jackson's column in its March 30 edition. The reprinted column appeared originally in The Militant of March 8, and was entitled "Origin and Significance of Race."

Our statistics place March among the top ranking Militant Army months. The Militant has been introduced to 642 new readers. In addition 401 renewals have been secured. A breakdown of the various categories follows:

465 new six-month subscriptions, of which 100 were obtained from striking workers.

77 new one-year subs.

229 six-month renewals.

172 one-year renewals.

15 new and 26 renewals on the combination offer to The Militant and Fourth International.

22 of the new subs, of which 8 were for six months and 14 for one year, were sent to us on The Militant coupon clipped from page 2.

George Weissman of Youngstown writes: "Incidentally we're competing with your office in mailing out copies of The Militant. We went on the radio for 15 minutes to answer a Stalinist attack on us and since we didn't want to waste all our time on them, we told the listeners what The Militant's program was, and offered anyone who was interested a trial copy."

Subscribe To The Militant Use Coupon On Page 2

OUR PROGRAM:

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

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

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

Government operation of oil, coal and government-built plants under workers' control!

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

2. Independence of the trade unions from the government!

No restriction on the right to strike!

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

4. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!

Down with Jim Crow!

5. Build an independent labor party!

"MILITANT" FUND SCORE RISES TO \$3,969

\$1,350 Received During 3rd Week

By Justine Lang
Campaign Director

Inspiring support from comrades, friends and Militant readers to the Militant Sustaining Fund Drive has resulted in the largest weekly total contribution to date of \$1,350.85! This brings our total at the end of the third week of our Militant Fund Drive to \$3,969.17. The scoreboard now records 27 per cent of our national quota of \$15,000 already realized.

Many of our comrades and friends in Detroit, Buffalo, Flint, Youngstown, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, as well as other steel and auto centers, after long weeks of being on strike, have now gone back to work and have begun payments on their pledges. Despite all their other heavy obligations, they are stepping up contributions from those particular centers.

A check of our scoreboard shows some interesting changes over last week. We're especially proud to list the achievement of the New York Trotskyist Youth Group. In third place last week with only 54 per cent of their quota realized, they quickly rallied support from their members and friends and climbed over the 100 per cent goal to attain 101 per cent. They have thereby established themselves as the champion section nationally. We hope the Philadelphia and Los Angeles Youth Groups will recover from their silence and give New York some lively competition.

GIVES LUNCH MONEY

The spirit of our New York Youth is evidenced in this note from their campaign director, Grace Wayne: "I would like to pass on to you a most inspiring incident that occurred at our last membership meeting. At our previous meetings, the youth have been urged to contribute as generously as possible to the Militant Sustaining Fund Drive, and evidently our words made a deep impression on them.

"While I was collecting for the fund, one of the comrades came over to me, extended his hand and dropped 30 cents into mine, and said: 'Here's 30 cents I saved from my lunch money last week. It's not much, but I want to help the Militant Fund Drive.'

With three of our cities already "over the top," other branches of the Socialist Workers Party are very steadily aiming in that direction, as illustrated in the climb being made by Baltimore, San Francisco and Minneapolis. The latter two branches have proportionately high quotas to meet, and have by the end of the third week of our campaign attained over 50 per cent of their respective goals.

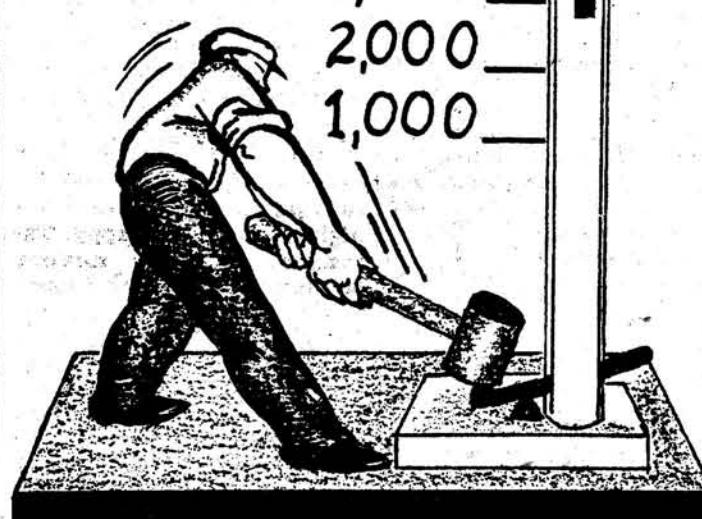
Interesting data has been received from all sections of the country this week. Below we quote in part from some of these communications:

B. Colman of Milwaukee writes: "Enclosed is a money or-

\$15,000

Ring
the
Bell!

14,000
13,000
12,000
11,000
10,000
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000



APRIL 4 - \$3,969.17

SCOREBOARD

QUOTA	PAID	PER-CENT
NEW YORK YOUTH	50	50.50
ROCHESTER	50	100
PORLAND	25	100
Baltimore	25	60
San Francisco	1000	55
Minneapolis	500	297
St. Paul	250	115
Milwaukee	100	37.60
Flint	100	35
Newark	300	100
Buffalo	500	157.50
New York City	3500	1,047.72
Akron	300	82
Cleveland	250	65
Connecticut	100	26
Detroit	1250	305
Boston	400	85
Chicago	1500	299.35
Bayonne	75	15
Youngstown	400	61
Philadelphia	500	70
Los Angeles	2000	368
Seattle	500	50
Reading	100	7.50
St. Louis	50	5
Allentown-Bethlehem	75	0
Cincinnati	25	0
Los Angeles Youth	75	0
Philadelphia Youth	25	0
Pittsburgh	100	0
San Diego	100	0
Toledo	200	0
General	575	49.00
TOTAL	15,000	3,969.17

Flint NAACP Protest Rally Hears Talk By SWP Speaker

By Jerry Kirk

(Special To The Militant)

FLINT, Mich., Mar. 31 — A large protest meeting held under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, heard a rousing talk by Genora Dollinger, representative of the Socialist Workers Party, condemning the recent bloody assault against the Negro people in Columbia, Tennessee. Mrs. Dollinger, a well-known UAW unionist in Flint and Detroit, delivered the main address.

Other speakers who addressed the 150 present were Jesse Governor, president of the Local NAACP branch, Joe Brandt, organizer of the Flint Communist Party; John Young, Flint attorney, and George Stevens, candidate for State Legislature on the Democratic ticket.

Mrs. Dollinger reviewed the facts behind the recent wave of anti-Negro terror sweeping the country, terming it a part of the boss offensive against the labor movement. "The powerful unity of the workers in the recent huge strike wave," she declared, "has shown the capitalist rulers how great, how mighty is the working class united . . . The bosses recognize this threat to their imperialistic interests and are beginning to build up their fascist organizations to spread their gospel of hate and poison among us."

STANDING OVATION

Advocating an independent labor party, she continued, "The politicians of the rich in our Congress at one and the same time kill FEPC and draw up legislation to smash labor unions."

In conclusion she stated, "The Socialist Workers Party, which I represent, will leave no stone unturned until the Columbia Tennessee victims are freed and vindicated and their murderers placed behind bars. The Socialist Workers Party will leave no stone unturned until this rotten system of discrimination, wars, poverty and misery is replaced by a system of true equality and justice and real liberty for all."

Her address was greeted by a standing ovation from all present. The audience composed primarily of GM workers and their wives, contributed \$165 for the defense of the Columbia Tennessee victims.

NEWARK

April Dance

Sat., April 13

Music Refreshments
423 Springfield 8 p.m.
Auspices:
Socialist Workers Party

BALTIMORE

Open Forum On

"Postwar World and Tasks of Labor"

Speaker: TED BARR

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Progressive Labor Lyceum

1029 E. Baltimore St.

8 p.m.



How the Factory Worker Was Born

By V. Grey

Was your father a worker in the shop like you? Maybe. Was your grandfather? Not very likely. How about your great-great-grandfather? Why, no. Definitely no. He was a farmer, or a farm laborer, or maybe a skilled craftsman on his own. Hardly anybody's great-great grandfather was a factory worker.

If you question typical American steelworkers you will see that they come from Poland, Ireland, Hungary, Serbia (Yugoslavia), southern U. S. — and if they didn't that's where their fathers came from. If you question the auto workers you will find that many came from the mid-west, from Kentucky and Tennessee. And their fathers and grandfathers from Ireland, Italy, Germany, England, Poland, etc. All of them farmers or farm hands before they came in the shop.

Everybody says we live in a changing world. Well that's part of the changing of it. People changed from farmers and craftsmen into factory workers—from working for themselves to working for a boss whom they never even see. This has happened on a tremendous scale. The number of American workers has jumped from a few hundred thousand in 1846 to forty million today.

A person can't help thinking. Where did the forty million come from? Suppose they did come from the farms and tiny shops of Europe and America? There were farms for thousands of years, weren't there? What did the forty million do then, when no charitable Henry Ford gave them jobs to sweat in the nerve-racking din of the production line?

It used to take a lot of people to run a little farm. When they cut wheat and oats with a hand scythe, it took more than the hired man to do the work. The farmers used to run to big families. Their sons and daughters found it a full-time job to do the chores and keep the beans hoed, to plant and harvest the grain and weed the corn. When McCormick invented the reaper in the 1840's he gave Henry Ford many thousands of his labor force. Only Ford did not get them at that time.

Instead of throwing people off the farms, this invention led to more farms being started up — and the great mid-west being opened up to wheat production. The country was still expanding. The farmers' surplus sons started new farms.

But when all the land had been taken up, and the reaper had been surpassed by the harvester and combine, more and more farm boys had to go to the cities to "seek their fortunes." And now with the tractor methods and still more advanced farming equipment, whole communities of farms and buildings are wiped off the earth (as in Oklahoma and Arkansas) to make way for the big capitalist farms. And thus new recruits join the industrial army.

The farmers of Europe starve (and want to leave there) for a different reason. America's wheat is produced so cheaply that it can undersell the rest of the world. The ox-drawn plow and the man with the hoe or scythe cannot stay in business and prosper. American capitalism makes the European children come and work for it, or wait for work at the plant gate.

When capitalism first started in England, it got its labor force even more brutally. Besides running the hand-workers out of business, and hiring their children at literally starvation wages, the capitalists passed special laws forcing people off the land. They made begging a crime, and paupers were put in a work-house so horrible that they were glad to work in the mills for a few pennies a day.

The modern wage worker was whipped, driven and forced into his present servitude. The factory system, which produces so much and has the power to emancipate the worker from his chains, is now his master. To get his freedom the worker must master the factory system. And, to accomplish this, he must understand the secret of capitalist exploitation. He must understand the product he makes, and how the boss makes his profit out of the worker's labor on it.

(Next Week: The Things We Produce)

City Payroll Tax Opposed At Polls By Toledo Labor

By M. Walker

(Special To The Militant)

TOLEDO, O., Apr. 5—Next Thursday, April 11, the voters of Toledo go to the polls to vote up or down on a one per cent payroll income tax to finance the city. This tax was passed by City Council after the electorate had voted down every levy and bond issue proposed by the administration last fall. The payroll tax provides for a flat one per cent of income to be deducted from earnings, with no exemptions whatsoever.

This tax plan had been opposed by the Railroad Brotherhoods and by the CIO Political Action Committee. The PAC initiated petitions to put the payroll income tax proposition on the ballot in a special referendum. The balloting next Thursday is the result of its successful petition campaign.

TEST CASE

The outcome of this tax proposal in Toledo is being watched with great interest by the municipal politicians of scores of other cities. If it is successful in Toledo it will undoubtedly be imitated elsewhere.

The city administration in Toledo reports that dozens of inquiries have poured in from other cities all over the country which are considering the same type of taxation. Minneapolis is reported to have already taken steps to introduce a payroll tax there.

The CIO is leading the campaign for the defeat of this measure. Fighting for it are the United Toledo Committee, the business associations, and the daily press. The favorite argument of the proponents of the Payroll Income Tax is that it is the most just form of taxation. You see, it is a flat one per cent regardless of the amount of your income. If you make \$10 a week you pay one per cent. If you

make \$100,000 a year you also pay just one per cent.

Representatives of the CIO have pointed out that to take 10 cents from a man making \$10 a week is to take a loaf of bread from the mouths of his children. But to take one per cent from the man whose income is in the five-figure bracket, still leaves him more than he can use. Further, they have shown that the tax falls less heavily on the higher income groups due to provisions of the federal income tax laws.

OPPOSED BY SWP

The Socialist Workers Party branch in Toledo has opposed this tax and has applied for time on the radio to explain our views on this unjust tax. Whether we will get time is still uncertain.

Members and friends of the SWP are active in the campaign of the CIO and the Railroad organizations, urging the workers of Toledo to go to the polls Thursday and defeat this "Soak the Poor" tax bill.

BRONX
Open Forum
Eyewitness Report on
'UAW Convention And Its Lessons'
Speaker: SARAH ROSS
Sunday April 14
Questions Discussion
1034 Prospect Ave. 8 p.m.

Diary Of A Steelworker By T. Kovalesky

We bled the iron out of the trough, and in a few minutes the bright orange light had faded from the furnace floor. A dull red glow piled mostly up to the high crossbeams, and beyond it, through the long ventilating slots in the roof, I saw a translucent blue.

"Daylight already?" I said to Slim.

Slim yawned. He looked tired just as all of us did on the night shift. "Springtime," he answered, adding hopefully. "Time to go home pretty soon."

I thought of the bitter cold of the steel plant during the long winter months. The early dawn made me feel good; it meant no more snow, no more screaming blasts of wind that froze the sweat on your heavy underclothing. I wanted to talk about it, wanted Slim to talk to me about it.

"Springtime!" I said to Slim. "It won't be so tough around here for a while."

"Yeah."

"Feel a little more like a human being."

"Yeah!"

"Winter sure is hell on a blast furnace."

"Yeah... Say, I wonder what time it's get ting to be?"

We picked up the water hoses to cool down the runners. Slim yawned. Silly to talk about the weather, I thought to myself, but springtime does something to a man. When you feel it coming, you don't want to let it go... breezes that don't hurt, no more snow to trudge and slip through, green things growing.

My thoughts had been jostling around, all the different pictures of springtime bumping together. Then one picture began to stand out, the picture of green things growing.

I began to think of fields and forests and meadows full of green life springing up from the earth. Some of these things, I mused, were watched over, cared for, cultivated. If that care were taken from them, they'd die or grow up stunted and malformed. But the great trees of the forests, the sturdy, timeless ones, these had no care. These stood off the elements and grew and grew, gained strength and size.

And the weeds: try as the gardeners and farmers might, the weeds would always spring up again. Even though they were pulled out by the roots and burned each year, the next spring

Notes Of A Seaman

By Art Sharon

In the March 22 West Coast Sailor, organ of the AFL Sailors Union of the Pacific, there is a picture of the leading figures at the unveiling ceremony of a memorial monument to the SUP war dead. In the middle of the picture stands Earl Warren, present governor of California, flanked on one side by Harry Lundberg, secretary of the SUP, and on the other by C. J. Haggerty, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor. Warren as the guest of honor made the principal address.

To thousands of west coast seamen Warren's name is associated with the bitter days during and shortly after the 1934 maritime strike, when the newly-reconstituted maritime unions fought for survival. Warren played a particularly vicious anti-labor role, for which he was eventually rewarded with the governorship.

He was the organizer of the notorious frame-up of King, Ramsey and Conner, Marine Firemen's Union members, who were railroaded to San Quentin penitentiary.

Warren displayed such zeal as a District Attorney in the King-Ramsey-Conner frame-up that his political fortune was made with the shipping fraternity on Montgomery Street in San Francisco.

Although Sacramento is the capital of the state of California, and presumably its political center, the real power is in the offices on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. There side by side are the big banks, brokerage houses, oil corporation offices, the shipping operators and the silk-hat "farmers" of Montgomery Street, corporation owners of California's giant agricultural "factories in the field."

In this "Wall Street of the West" the parasite shipping fraternity plays the dominant role. Their leadership on the "street" goes back for over seventy-five years of California history. They are the chief manipulators of the capitalist political machines. Governors' and Mayors' offices are decided by them.

Earl Warren came to the attention of Montgomery Street at a very critical time. The 1934 general strike in San Francisco had just passed.

Success Story

Among the most familiar of capitalist-inspired fables is the one entitled: "Poor Boy Makes Good In A Big Way." This theme has become as standardized as Helms' catup, Campbell's Beans or Truman's speeches.

Story writers for the popular fiction magazines usually refer to it as "literary sandwich filling between advertisements." Hollywood's scenario writers term it the "gimmick." University sociologists give it the fancier label of "The American Dream."

Everyone knows the basic elements of the story. Poor boy: hard-working, ambitious, loyal, likeable. He attracts the attention of the big boss by some unusual stroke. After amazing, outwitting and confounding enemies and competitors, he arrives at the end of the last reel or paragraph with the boss's daughter in one hand and a top job or lush contract in the other.

An increasing number of workers, who have watched this version of life and labor in these United States unfold on the movie screen, have become skeptical about its correspondence to reality. Looking around them at work and in their neighborhoods, they haven't noticed their relatives or acquaintances mount the ladder of business success in any such spectacular fashion. Most of them remain fixed in the same sort of jobs or occupations, with little or no advancement.

On the other hand, they see a millionaire's grandson like Henry Ford II jump clear to the presidency of the giant Ford Motor Company before he reaches the age of thirty. And the son of the Morgan partner Stettinius moved ahead so fast that he became head of U. S. Steel, Secretary of State, and permanent U. S. Delegate to the UNO in one decade.

Can it be that America today is "the land

always saw them pushing their way up stubbornly out of the ground. You can't kill them, I thought. They are rough and uncultured. They are unloved by the farmers. They are attacked time and time again, but they always return to the fight. Small as they are, they are strong in their numbers.

It didn't take long for the idea to hit me. The weeds, the wild trees, these are the workers! It's this way. They don't want us to get at their cultivated flowers, and they cut us down. They cut us down when the ancient slave rebellions were crushed. But we grew back up again.

They cut us down when they cut down the Paris Commune, the first workers' government in the world's history.

Over here in this country they cut us down at Haymarket. They cut us down in the railroad strike and the mine strikes. They cut us down in the steel strike of 1919 and they cut down ten of our brothers in 1937 at Chicago for trying to organize the steel plants. BUT WE GREW UP AGAIN! They can't beat us. They can NEVER beat us, for we have the will and the stamina they lack.

In the never-ceasing class struggle, the capitalist class is like a bed of rare orchids. They are weak and must be guarded. They have their gardeners with their scythes, who keep cutting down the weeds as they come creeping toward the orchids. They cut them down to protect the expensive crop, but the weeds keep springing up, keep closing in.

The time will come when gardeners and scythes won't be enough to keep the weeds out of the flower beds, and then the crop will be choked off, and the weeds will reign supreme, because they have the stamina, the hard-bitten strength to survive.

This thought was in my mind the other morning as Slim and I watered down the trough and runners, cooling them so we could clean the scrap iron and slag out of them. I started to mention it, but then I thought it would sound sort of silly... like a fairy tale. But the thought stuck with me, and going home I put the finishing touches to it, the part that really sounded like a fairy tale:

After the weeds conquered the whole earth, I thought, that's where the magic would come in. The whole world would turn into a garden!

It may sound funny to you... but think it over.

Notes Of A Seaman

By Art Sharon

The water-front unions had come through a tough battle and were preparing to fight again for their right to existence. The "street" and especially the shipping fraternity there were terrified at the rise of the new young labor giant. The shipping parasites were determined to force the seamen and the longshoremen back to their pre-strike status of virtual slavery, when they were at the complete mercy of Montgomery Street.

But these were new times and the maritime unions organized in a Maritime Federation of the Pacific were exchanging blow for blow. Montgomery Street had met its match. To the shipowners organized in a Waterfront Employers' Association it looked as if the day of expropriation had arrived.

In the midst of a tanker strike going on at that time an engineer on a ship was mysteriously killed. Earl Warren, then an obscure District Attorney in Alameda County, had his opportunity to serve Montgomery Street. He became the crusading hero of the shipowners. Arresting two officials and one militant rank and file of the Marine Firemen's Union, King, Ramsey and Conner, he led the hysterical campaign for their conviction as alleged murderers. These innocent men were railroaded to San Quentin for long sentences. Earl Warren's political fortune was made with the governorship.

He was the organizer of the notorious frame-up of King, Ramsey and Conner, Marine Firemen's Union members, who were railroaded to San Quentin penitentiary.

Warren displayed such zeal as a District Attorney in the King-Ramsey-Conner frame-up that his political fortune was made with the shipping fraternity on Montgomery Street in San Francisco.

Although Sacramento is the capital of the state of California, and presumably its political center, the real power is in the offices on Montgomery Street in San Francisco. There side by side are the big banks, brokerage houses, oil corporation offices, the shipping operators and the silk-hat "farmers" of Montgomery Street, corporation owners of California's giant agricultural "factories in the field."

In this "Wall Street of the West" the parasite shipping fraternity plays the dominant role. Their leadership on the "street" goes back for over seventy-five years of California history. They are the chief manipulators of the capitalist political machines. Governors' and Mayors' offices are decided by them.

Earl Warren came to the attention of Montgomery Street at a very critical time. The 1934 general strike in San Francisco had just passed.

By William F. Warde

of opportunity" only for the rich and well-connected? Do you have to belong to the aristocracy of wealth and privilege in order to get a place at the top?

In answer to these questions we should like to submit the case of Riccardo Salmona. His unorthodox success story is told in the April 3 N. Y. World-Telegram, by Charles Ventura in the column appropriately headed "Society Today."

"For years Ricky went his graceful way playing a fair game of tennis, being a charming companion at bridge and doing useless things well. He and his attractive wife, Daphne L. C. Kane O'Connell, flitted about from Newport to Palm Beach to Paris, and life was just one long carefree idyll."

"Overnight Ricky's whole life has changed. He now has one of the most important jobs in the Kaiser-Frazer automobile company. Did he burn the midnight oil? Did he marry the boss's daughter or do any of the things young men are advised to do to succeed? The answer to all these questions is no."

"Ricky took his little daughter to have her hair fixed one day. He met Mrs. Joseph Frazer, who was an old friend, in the elevator. She invited him to a cocktail party. Mr. Frazer was there. Mr. Frazer was an old friend."

"Ricky said (just for a laugh), 'How about a job, Joe?' Joe said, 'Sure. You're just the man to handle our foreign agencies. Report to Harry Dodge.'

"Mr. Salmona leaves this Friday via American Airlines for Europe."

So you see, all it takes to make good under capitalism is honesty, hard-work, sobriety, perseverance, intelligence, initiative, etc., etc.

'The Miners Will Not Forget Their Dead! Writes West Virginia Striker To 'Militant'

Where Mine Owners' Greed Brought Disaster



This is Pineville, Kentucky, where 24 miners died on December 26, 1945, because the mine owners place profits above human life. Relatives and friends of the 31 men trapped in an explosion, gather at the entrance of the mine (indicated by arrow). The dismal shacks in the foreground are the "homes" in which the miners are forced to live.

Westinghouse Strikers Parade Around Philadelphia City Hall

SPECIAL TO THE MILITANT

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 29 — Militant members of striking Locals 107 and 111, CIO, United Electrical and Radio Workers, today paraded through 60 blocks of the busiest downtown section here in protest against Westinghouse Electric's continued brazen refusal to grant the just minimum demands of its 10,000 employees in this area and against Republican Mayor Samuel's order barring mass picketing.

that every ward-heeler and politician could hear them.

BUMPER TO BUMPER

For half an hour the union autos, rolling bumper to bumper, circled City Hall. Unable to break the auto picket line as they had the picket lines in the recent General Electric strike, the mounted police, known as "Cossacks," and other city strike-breaking forces merely stood by and watched closely.

Despite the dramatic and effective character of the large demonstration and the great response of the local populace, the boss-controlled press here gave only the barest mention of the demonstration and concealed the issues behind the protest.

General Electric and General

Motors in the same industry have settled the strike, which began January 15, for an 18½-cent an hour wage increase. Westinghouse, however, is trying to force its workers to accept a settlement, falsely claimed to be 18½ cents, which would amount in actuality to only a 9.7 cents average raise. It has also attached conditions to its wage offer that are aimed directly at undermining and eventually destroying the union.

INSULTING OFFER

The last insulting offer of Westinghouse provides no wage increase at all for lamp workers. It would slash six cents an hour from the present basic wage rate of women workers and eliminate the policy of equal pay for equal work which the union won years ago and which the NWLB approved by a directive at the start of the war. It would reduce vacation pay. There are other tricky wage proposals, all of which taken together would average out not to the claimed 18½-cent raise but to a miserly 9.7 cents.

UNION-BUSTING CLAUSES

Aside from its phony wage offer, the company proposes that the union, give up virtually all its hard-won contractual safeguards for union security and agree to "company security." Its brazen proposal would eliminate seniority clauses and permit the company to fire the best union militants for strikes that may be provoked by the company.

Among the banners being carried by the strikers before the two closed Westinghouse plants here are: "Prices going up, How about wages?"; "Westinghouse made profits from both sides"; "30% of Mitsubishi owned by Westinghouse"; "From bayonets to riot sticks"; "We get storm troopers—No work"; "Everyone settled but Westinghouse"; and "Lockout at Westinghouse."

The main opposition arose around the action of the top leadership in changing Rule No. 27 in March 1945 without consultation or approval of the membership.

Rule No. 27 originally provided for a reduction of hours and division of the work to prevent layoffs. It was revised to permit maintenance of a 48-hour week regardless of layoffs.

Despite protests and resolutions opposing the change, the General Chairmen proceeded to put the revision into effect. This has resulted in continuation of the 48-hour week while numerous workers have suffered unemployment.

WANT UNION DEMOCRACY

That the railway shop workers here are fed up with the bureaucratic, undemocratic tactics of the leadership was demonstrated by the big turnout at yesterday's meeting. It was the largest of its kind in many years despite efforts of leaders of some of the crafts to discourage attendance. Among the unions represented were the blacksmiths, boilermakers, carmen and machinists.

Member after member spoke and pulled no punches in their attacks against the General Chairmen, whose chief interests seem to be to collect their salaries and dupe the membership. Some typical statements heard

One General Chairman was roundly booed, to his visible embarrassment, when he tried to claim that the railroad setup is the "most democratic" union structure in America.

FOR WORKERS' CONTROL

A highlight of the meeting was the remarks of a Machinist union member, who said: "If the management can only operate the shops by laying off workers to maintain its profits, let's cut out the profits and let the workers operate the shops. Then there will be no layoffs."

This was greeted by a cheer that would have given the profiteering rail barons little comfort.

The membership at the meeting determined to push their fight until union policies and actions are returned to the membership where they rightfully belong.

Suggestions to have regular meetings of this type were met with approval. The indications are that the rail shop workers here are going to play an important progressive role in the next period.

The following story was sent to the "The Militant" by one of the miners now on strike. "I hope you will be able to use it," he wrote. We know our readers will find it a powerful argument for the miners' just demands for adequate safety measures and a welfare fund to protect their union brothers and provide for the bereaved families of men killed through the mine-owners' greed.

By Gus Nikolas

Special To The Militant

WHEELING, W. Va., April 1 — Today the men who toll in the dark caverns far down in the earth will not go into the pits, for this day is their traditional holiday in honor of John Mitchell, pioneer of the 8-hour working day. And it is also the beginning of the national soft-coal miners' strike.

Parades are scheduled in several communities, with Welch, deep in southern West Virginia, expecting one of the largest crowds in history. Also the miners from Webster, Monongah, Marion, Harrison and Taylor Counties will parade through the streets of Fairmont, W. Va., in one of the northern coal fields' larger celebrations.

Yes, it seems strange that the men who labor against the greatest odds of any found in American industry could have cause to celebrate. As a personal witness to the Willow Grove explosion and Powhatan mine fire, I can find no words to describe the horror that the gaunt black tipples, the burning piles of gob; the crushed, burned bodies carried out of the dark pits, some in rubber bags, brings to my mind. Nor of the human suffering, of waiting brothers, wives and mothers, of grim children clinging to their mothers' dresses. Nor of black coal dust, methane, and black damp, of which one-half per cent concentration in air will kill immediately.

Small wonder then, that the American coal miner is the most militant of the earth's exploited.

Here are some figures. Fellow workers, look at them:

FOR EVERY 350,000 TONS OF COAL, ONE HUMAN BEING MUST GIVE HIS LIFE.

March 6, 1900	Red Ash, W. Va., 46 killed.

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