

Antoinette Konikow Mourned By Comrades

By Joseph Hansen

BOSTON, Mass., July 3—At 9:15 yesterday morning, Antoinette Konikow, one of the great pioneer builders of American revolutionary socialism, a founder of the Socialist Workers Party and an Honorary Member of its National Committee, died of a heart attack. One of the best-loved champions of the labor movement, the suddenness of her death came as a shock to thousands of workers in Boston and throughout the country. She was almost 77 years old.

Thus close, a most valiant career of self-sacrifice and devotion to the cause of world socialism. Antoinette Konikow was born November 19, 1869, in Czarist Russia. Almost six decades of life—since 1888—were spent in the battle to end capitalism and build a better world.

Although ill for some time, Comrade Konikow had been in excellent spirits. Never had she felt more confident of the final victory of socialism. In the morning, her daughter, Edith Konikow, had persuaded her to stay in bed while breakfast was prepared. When Edith called upstairs some ten minutes later, the old revolutionary did not answer. The end had come swiftly and painlessly. Neither artificial respiration nor the pulmotor of the emergency squad could revive the heart which had beat so long in the cause of the oppressed.

Funeral services were held today at 11 a.m. in accordance with wishes of the immediate family.

LAID TO REST

In charge was the Workers' Circle. Comrade Konikow was one of the founders of this workers' benefit organization. All her life had been spent in the cause of the working class. Now in death, the workers laid her tenderly to rest.

The services were simple—the plain casket of a worker and the words of close friends and comrades to bid her farewell. The most eloquent tribute came from the Boston workers who loved her. They banked flowers around her casket. Red carnations, the flower of working class revolution, and red roses. The floral offering that epitomized the life of Antoinette Konikow was a hammer and sickle with a "4" to represent the Fourth International. That tribute came from the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in token of the sentiments of the whole world—wide movement which is now advancing Leon Trotsky's program of revolutionary socialism as the only way

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ANTOINETTE KONIKOW
1869—1946

REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS SEND SORROWING TRIBUTES

We print below the messages sent by James P. Cannon, Rose Karsner and Natalia Trotsky to the family of Antoinette Konikow.

Farewell Antoinette Konikow. Your unceasing and devoted loyalty to the cause of the working class remains our heritage and an inspiration to our youth. Your death is a great loss to us. Your heroic spirit lives on. Farewell Antoinette.

James P. Cannon
Rose Karsner

I share with you the bitterness of your loss.

Natalia
Coyoacan, Mexico

SWP National Committee Expresses Grief Of Party

The Socialist Workers Party mourns the passing of one of the leaders of the Trotskyist movement.

Antoinette Konikow was one of our living links with the founders of Marxism. Frederick Engels headed the revolutionary socialist movement when Antoinette became a Socialist in 1888. She saw the rise of the Second International and then its decline. She participated in the founding of the pioneer Communist movement in this country and of the Third International. When the Third International died as a revolutionary force she helped found the Fourth International.

She was with Plekhanov, the founder of the Russian Marxist movement. She was with Lenin, the founder of the first workers' state in history. She was among the first to rebel against Stalinism. And she fought side by side with Leon Trotsky in the great historic struggle in defense of the conquests of the October 1917 revolution. For almost sixty years Antoinette Konikow stood in the revolutionary vanguard of the world working class.

This incomparable wealth of experience became part of the revolutionary heritage of American Trotskyism. As a youth Antoinette Konikow rebelled against the injustice, the vile prejudices, the exploitation and the degradation that belong to capitalism. She set out to build a better world. Taking her place with the revolutionary socialists, she gave her best energies to overthrowing the dying economic system that breeds depressions, unemployment, hunger, war and fascism. No one could swerve her from that path.

National Committee of the
Socialist Workers Party

Workers Of The World, Unite.

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New OPA Bill Will Not Halt Run-Away Prices

Detroit Unions Urge National Labor 'Holiday'

By Al Adler
(Special to The Militant)

DETROIT, July 5.—Over 1,200 officers, committeemen and stewards from the United Automobile Workers and other CIO unions at a meeting here Tuesday night vigorously applauded the program outlined by UAW President Walter Reuther "to re-open all wage contracts if a new and better OPA is not passed by Congress."

This meeting representing the leadership of the workers in the plants, enthusiastically supported every militant proposal presented.

Labor Holiday

The meeting called for a national labor holiday demonstration to protest the runaway inflation hitting the basic standard of living of the American workers. It further instructed the local unions to re-organize their flying squads. "So that the furniture of evicted workers may be put back into their homes as fast as the courts and police put them on the sidewalk."

After many delegates had spoken of the need for immediate action rather than adoption of well-sounding resolutions, chairman Richard T. Leonard, UAW vice-president and head of the Michigan PAC, was forced to promise that a proposed Cadillac Square demonstration and coordinated national demonstrations protesting the slashing of

(Continued on Page 6)

Jim-Crow Judge Aids Frame-up In Trial Of 25

By order of presiding Judge Ingram, 25 Negro victims of the February reign of terror by state troopers in Columbia, Tennessee, will be forced to stand trial in Lawrenceburg, where race-hate is even more rampant than in Columbia itself.

This is the answer of the Jim Crow Judge and State's attorney Paul F. Bumpus to requests by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for a change of venue. After cynically denying that race hatred exists in Columbia and refusing to transfer the trial, the court has finally agreed—to a new site which will still further endanger the Negroes who face frame-up charges of "attempt to commit murder."

Defense attorneys underscored the fact that the lynch atmosphere in Lawrenceburg exceeds that in Columbia. But Judge Ingram over-ruled a defense motion that the trial remain in Columbia rather than be moved to the even worse lynch atmosphere of Lawrenceburg. The frame-up is thus scheduled to proceed.

Meanwhile NAACP attorneys will open pleas of abatement in Columbia this week in the case of two Negroes indicted separately on charges of assault with attempt to commit murder in the first degree. As in the case of the 25, the NAACP asks that the indictment be quashed because Negroes were barred from jury service.

The lily-white grand jury which made the indictments denied that there had been any violation of the civil rights of the Negro victims of the February assault, despite wholesale evidence to the contrary. In addition it actually praised the 1,000 Tennessee state troopers who had stormed through the Negro community, destroyed homes and businesses, terrorized the people, arrested over 100 and shot down two Negroes in cold blood in the jail.

National Committee of the
Socialist Workers Party

Defying Bilbo's Threats



Here are two of the estimated 5,000 Negroes in Mississippi who were permitted to register and who defied Democratic Senator Bilbo's threats of lynch violence by voting in last week's primaries. Hundreds of thousands of white and Negro workers are still denied the ballot through poll tax and other restrictions.

Packing Union Seeks Cost-Of-Living Bonus

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, July 3—"A bonus based on rising living costs" is a main point of the wage program of the CIO United Packinghouse Workers, the union's paper, *The Packinghouse Worker*, announced on June 28.

This demand will be raised in next month's negotiations with Swift, Armour, Wilson and Cudahy. Other demands include a basic \$1 per hour minimum wage, a 12-cent an hour raise, a guaranteed annual wage and no wage differentials.

The UPWA Executive Board states that "fewer dollars are actually being taken home, on the average per week, than before the 16 per cent increase went into effect" last February. In addition, "the cost of living has continued to mount."

Therefore, the UPWA "will press during negotiations for the inclusion of a clause in the contract providing for a COST OF LIVING BONUS."

Details of the bonus have not

Meat Profits Up Production Down

CHICAGO, July 5.—In the first six months of its fiscal year, October 28, 1945 to April 27, 1946, Armour & Co., one of the "Big Four" meat packers, made more profits than during the previous entire year, a statement recently filed by the company reveals. This big jump in profits occurred, according to Lyle Cooper, UPWA-CIO Research Director, while hog slaughter fell off, plants were down during last January's strike, a 16-cent wage increase was paid since January 26, and cattle department operations almost stopped.

Despite OPA's generosity, the meat industry brazenly violated price ceilings. It black-jacked the people into paying illegal prices or going hungry. Now there is more meat—but most people can get it only by depriving themselves of other necessities.

CIO Packinghouse Workers officers pointed out in a statement last week that Truman did not hesitate to seize the packing plants when the workers exercised their rights to strike against low wages. But, they said, when the meat trust withdraws meat for months, the administration views the matter "with complete calm."

The people will be assured of meat at prices they can pay only when the monopolists are kicked out and the meat industry is EXPROPRIATED. The meat industry must be taken over and operated under workers' control.

This will eliminate the terrific profits which are reflected in skyrocketing prices.

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Antoinette Konikow -- Trotskyist Pioneer, Mourned By Comrades

(Continued from Page 1)

to escape atomic destruction under capitalism.

At a banquet in New York City on October 30, 1943, commemorating the Fifteenth Anniversary of the founding of the American Trotskyist movement, Antoinette Konikow declared: "I have always been a rebel and have led a life of struggle. But it has been a thrilling life. I probably will not see the time when you will win. When you do, please come and lay the red flag on my grave."

"ALWAYS A REBEL"

This indomitable spirit, characteristic of Antoinette, pervaded the funeral. All the speakers cited her life as the only kind really worth while. And thinking of Antoinette alive — her boundless vitality, her courage, her indomitable fighting will, her unrelenting struggle against the capitalist exploiters, the way she kept the goal of a socialist society before her for so many years when all the doubters and the weak ones dropped by the wayside — it was a sharp pain to remember that all this is gone now — all this, and her voice, and her hands and the way her eyes smiled.

PLEDGE TO CARRY ON

Sidney Crabb of the Boston Branch of the Socialist Workers Party presided at the services. He read telegrams from all over the country, grieving Comrade Konikow's death. The roster of the party's branches in great cities from coast to coast showed how deeply Antoinette is enshrined in the hearts of the political vanguard of the American working class. All the senders of these tributes pledged to carry on the great cause to which



Joseph Hansen speaking for the staff of "The Militant" at the funeral of Antoinette Konikow.

she had devoted her life.

Comrade Crabb introduced as the next speaker, Dr. Louis Silver, an old personal friend of

Antoinette, she learned Jewish in order to carry out her work for the Workmen's Circle. Comrade Konikow was not Jewish herself, but in the early days of the labor movement the program of revolutionary socialism found its warmest reception among the immigrants from Eastern Europe who were terribly oppressed in the sweat shops of America. In memory of Antoinette's work in those days, Comrade Friedman delivered part of his remarks in Jewish.

E. R. Frank represented the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party. In moving terms he told what Antoinette meant to the Trotskyist movement. She was "one of the rarest spirits of our time," he said. "Her entire conscious life from the age of 19 when she first entered the working class movement in 1888, right up to the hour of her death, was devoted to the revolutionary struggle. With fists clenched, the crowd gave the last Communist salute to this heroine of the Trotskyist movement.

Antoinette's words of eight years ago, commemorating the founding of the Fourth International in 1938, express exactly how we felt at the flower-strewn grave as we recalled that inspiring voice we would never hear again:

"We place in your hands a banner unsoiled. Many times it was dragged into the mud. We lifted it up and lovingly cleansed it to give it to you. Under the red banner of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky, you will conquer."

YOU WILL CONQUER'

"And when that great moment arrives, pause for a moment and think of us, who will not be with you at that glorious time, and say: 'Comrades, sleep in peace. The work has been done!'

Comrade Crabb then read a message from the American Committee for the Relief of European Workers, which Antoinette helped found and of which she was Chairman. The letter, sent by Rose Karsner on behalf of the Committee, declared that "Our best memorial to Antoinette is to redouble our efforts. She herself expressed this unflagging spirit and determination time and again."

Rose Karsner quoted the last letter sent by Antoinette to the Committee. Comrade Crabb brought the services to a close by reading this letter, which vividly conveyed the fighting spirit of the great pioneer Communist and Trotskyist.

"I know that we now have an enthusiastic fighting group," said the letter in part, "which has the inspiration to continue the energetic struggle started by us older comrades; a young group with more knowledge, more assurance, historically nearer the goal than their predecessors."

"To these young comrades and friends, I appeal now to concentrate their well-proven energy, their splendid abilities on the important burdensome job of relieving the physical sufferings of our co-workers in Europe and other countries. I turn to you, my young comrades and friends, to take upon yourselves

the obligations which old and ill comrades like myself are not in condition to fulfill."

LAST FAREWELL

At the grave, comrades and friends assembled to bid Antoinette a last farewell. Comrade Frank called for a minute of silence. With fists clenched, the crowd gave the last Communist salute to this heroine of the Trotskyist movement.

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"Our Dead Comrade Was One Of Rarest Spirits Of Our Time"

(The following is the memorial address delivered at the funeral of Comrade Antoinette Konikow by E. R. Frank, editor of "Fourth International," who spoke on behalf of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party.)

Comrade Antoinette Konikow was one of the rarest spirits of our time. Her entire conscious life, from the age of 19 when she first entered the working class movement in 1888, right up to the hour of her death, was devoted to the revolutionary struggle; was dedicated to the cause of socialism, the emancipation of mankind from the horrors and fears and terrors of capitalism and the creation of a new society of brotherhood, of comradeship, of freedom, of peace and plenty for all.

The life and deeds of Comrade Antoinette Konikow seem almost unbelievable, unreal on the background of this society — this brutal and harsh and cynical class society we live in today which exalts the self-seekers, the scoundrels, the schemers, the liars and tyrants and oppressors. Look at the people who are pointed to as examples, who are honored and praised, and for whom statues and monuments are built! Why, nine times out of ten these people are nothing but hypocrites, worthless careerists whose main aim is to feather their own nests and save their own skins.

Antoinette Konikow was of a different mold. She was made of different clay. Her whole life she determined not by thought of her personal ambition or career, but by serving best in the great crusade to cleanse this earth of its evil and terrible plagues — of exploitation of man by man, of human degradation and want, of the scourge of capitalist wars. NEVER WAVERED

And in this holy crusade — the greatest and the noblest that there is in this world — she remained faithful and true throughout her life. Others fell by the wayside. Others grew tired, or lost faith or heart, or became terrified of the difficulties and dangers, or succumbed to the pressure or the blandishments or the fleshpots of the Stalinist bureaucracy or the capitalist powers-that-be, but not Antoinette Konikow. She never wavered. She never lost courage or strength.

The great revolutionary faith with which, as a young girl of 19, she first plunged into the struggle in Czarist Russia, she retained to the last. And through it all she retained her womanliness, her poise and her beauty. She provided us with constant living reassurance that the spirit of mankind, in its striving for truth, for justice, for the solidarity of humanity — that that she devoted her life.

And now I must in the name of the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party of which she was an honorary member, give the last word of farewell to this wonderful comrade, this great, indestructible revolutionary spirit. Of course, grief is in all our hearts. But it is not the grief of prostration, of helplessness. No, let us say farewell to Antoinette as she would want it. Let us say farewell standing upright, with our eyes dry and our fists clenched with resolution. And with the pledge on our lips that we will, regardless of everything, carry on the revolutionary struggle to which she devoted her life.

A Trotskyist To The End

By John G. Wright

Antoinette Konikow was a revolutionary socialist to the last day of her life. A striking incident the night before she died indicates her spirit.

One of her friends in the medical profession, a leading Boston psychiatrist, visited her. Antoinette has long been famous in the medical world. But the conversation quickly turned to questions far more important than shop talk. Antoinette raised the question of dialectical materialism. The doctor responded with an attack on the dialectical method claiming that it has not been borne out by latest developments in science.

Antoinette did not spend much time on the defensive. Almost 60 years as a Marxist had taught her the extraordinary importance of the dialectical method, and all her experiences in the medical field as well as study in other sciences had only confirmed what she had learned from the great Marxist teachers. She opened up with a counter-attack that quickly won her the upper hand. And then to pursue her advantage she persuaded her foe in dialectics to continue the subject the following night.

Antoinette wanted to pass on to the younger generation the lessons and truths gleaned in a long lifetime of hard experience. Three years ago, she retired from active practice, intending to devote the remainder of her life entirely to recording the most important things she had learned.

She assembled the great mass of notes she had jotted down from time to time and began putting them in order. First on the agenda was her memoirs. After writing about her childhood and youth in Czarist Russia and Germany as a background, she took up her political recollections. These begin with her impressions of George Plekhanov, the founder of Russian Marxism and teacher of Lenin.

Still Learning—At 76!

To facilitate her work she decided last winter to learn touch typing — at the age of 76! Her letters to the Political Committee changed all at once from the long-familiar, difficult-to-decipher handwriting to neatly typed communications.

But she did not succeed in finishing her memoirs. The considerable body of material she leaves will have to be assorted and woven together by someone else.

Her main objective in this work was to leave the younger generation with a true impression of more than a half century of revolutionary socialism. She had seen what damage opportunism can do. With her own eyes she saw the Second International brought to ruin and betrayed. In the light of this experience she understood to the full the need for battling Stalinism tooth and nail, for the Stalinist regime not only spreads the same poison of opportunism as the Second International, but wields totalitarian state power with utter ruthlessness.

Consequently she devoted a great deal of her last days to analyzing the revolutionary period of the Communist International in order to show what the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Trotsky really set out to do. The task of her generation, she felt, was to hand on the program of revolutionary socialism as Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky had shaped it. Her study of the First Four Congresses of the Communist International resulted in an outline for class use and much additional unpublished material.

She wanted especially to write down her impressions of the Bolshevik generation that led the October 1917 revolution. Many of them she knew personally. They were the men cruelly slandered by Stalin as fascist "dogs gone mad." She knew them to be victims of Stalin, framed up in the Moscow trials organized by the Kremlin dictator.

Busy With Party Tasks

It was here that Antoinette Konikow died, busy with party tasks up to the very end.

Antoinette was not only a great teacher and leader of the Trotskyist movement. She was an integral part of the Boston branch of the Socialist Workers Party. The members counted her as their closest friend and advisor. Most of them she had nurtured as budding revolutionary socialist politicians of the working class, and she took great personal interest in the development of each one. Her classes in speaking, in the principles of Marxism, and in the history of the movement gave most of the Boston comrades their first insight into Trotskyism.

No one saw through sham and pretense quicker than Antoinette. No one had more contempt for the traitors, the liars and the tyrants who occupy the high places. No one was more revolted than she over the medals showered by Stalin on his sycophants. But that did not prevent her from seeing the value of genuine leaders and of appreciation well earned. In fact she probably understood the pricelessness of these things all the more because she was a real iconoclast. One of the most moving incidents in her political life was her reaction to an autographed photograph and letter from Leon Trotsky on her Fiftieth Anniversary in the Marxist movement. In response to the tribute paid her by those present on the occasion, she responded:

Trotsky's Warm Tribute

"The comrades have received me with warmth and friendship. It gives me tremendous happiness. The kind words written by Comrade Trotsky on his picture presented to me remind me of the greatest honor — the honor that was given to me by comrades in Russia, the Order of Lenin pinned upon their breasts. I feel as if Comrade Trotsky has pinned the Order of Trotsky on my breast! Not that I am a hero-worshipper — for I have helped to pull down too many heroes from their pedestals. But in the last ten years of darkness, of despair, the words of Leon Trotsky have been like a bell for a ship in distress, leading it to safe harbor."

Antoinette Konikow was born November 19, 1869 in Orenburg, Russia (now Chklov). Her early childhood was spent in Germany, her youth in Czarist Russia.

Her interest in the labor movement began at the age of

seventeen. When she went abroad to Switzerland to study,

she joined the Russian So-

cialist movement in 1888, be-

coming a member of the first

Marxist organization in Rus-

the work she learned Jewish. Later she was one of those instrumental in founding the first mutual benefit association, the Jewish Workmen's Circle.

DE LEONIST LEADER

Throughout this period she was a member of the Socialist Labor Party, then headed by De Leon. She was active as lecturer, served on the Massachusetts State Committee and held other leading posts.

In 1897, upon expulsion from the SLP because of her opposition to bureaucratic methods and practices of the leadership, she immediately joined the Debs wing of the Socialist movement, which presently fused with other groups to found the United Socialist Party, later known as the Socialist Party.

In this period she remained in the extreme left wing of the movement, serving on the Massachusetts State Committee, and as member of the National Women's Committee.

The split in the Second International precipitated by the first imperialist world war found her on the side of the irreconcilable opponents of war, fighting the treacherous policy of "national unity" and social patriotism.

OPPOSED WORLD WAR I

When the United States entered the war in 1917, she made a national tour, speaking in opposition to the war before foreign-born audiences in all the major cities. As a demonstration of her international solidarity with the workers everywhere, even those dragooned into the armies of the "enemy," she spoke in German.

In the period of the October



At the age of 12. Within five years this strikingly beautiful girl was to become interested in the cause of labor and two years later join the first organized Marxist group in Russia. In those days, Frederick Engels, the closest collaborator of Karl Marx, headed the international revolutionary socialist movement.

1917 Revolution she rallied to the banner of Bolshevism, supporting Lenin and Trotsky.

Antoinette was one of the founders of the Communist movement in this country. She

participated in the underground conventions — among them the one held in Worcester, Mass., at the height of the Palmer raids against the Reds.

PIONEER COMMUNIST

In the pioneer Communist movement she held many important posts on the Massachusetts District Committee, the Working Committee on Russian Relief, etc.

When the Trade Union Educational League (TUEL) was formed for revolutionary activity in the organized labor movement, she took part on its leading body in Boston.

Within the American Communist Party she found herself once again, as so often in the past, in opposition to the policies of the official leadership. Her visit to the Soviet Union in 1928 strengthened her growing alarm at the menace of Stalinism.

Upon her return to this country, she began to show her opposition more and more openly. In the autumn of 1928, this pioneer fighter against Stalinism was among the first expelled as a Trotskyist by the CP leadership (then headed by Lovestone).

JOINS TROTSKYISTS

She joined the other leading Trotskyists on October 27, 1928, raising the banner of the Communist League of America (Left Opposition) — the original Trotskyist organization in the United States; and in the founding of the Fourth International a decade later in 1938.

The last 18 years of her life were spent under the banner of Trotskyism, to which she remained devoted and loyal to the day she died — July 2, 1946.



A graduate of Tufts College in 1902 at the age of 33. Although she had a family on her hands and was participating actively in the Socialist movement, she studied medicine in addition. Dr. Antoinette F. Konikow rapidly became famous as one of the founders of the movement for planned families through birth control. But throughout her life the field of medicine remained of secondary interest, including those phases most closely linked with social problems. Her primary life objective was a political one — to end capitalism and build a socialist society.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

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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

Rent Strikes

During the war, building labor and materials were diverted into war production. New construction of homes and apartment buildings was halted, while old dwellings rapidly deteriorated.

With the natural expansion of the population and the return of millions from the armed forces, the demand for housing has become extremely acute.

The government has stalled on housing construction. In addition, OPA fixed costs of building materials and rentals of new dwellings at outrageous levels.

That is the reason why the real estate interests and landlords are today in position to make demands for exorbitant rents. This is especially true in the workers' neighborhoods, where the housing crisis is most acute.

Rents soared during the first years of the war, just as did commodity prices. Rent controls were fixed last of all, based on the already inflated rentals of April 1943.

All sorts of dodges were then contrived by the landlords to increase their take, despite OPA. Customary concessions of a month's rent were eliminated. New tenants had to bribe real estate agents and superintendents for priority on vacancies. Dwellings were "reconditioned," divided up into smaller rooms, turned into "furnished apartments" — all permitting higher rents. Services and redecorating were eliminated.

With all vacancies filled the landlords now are going all-out for a real killing.

If rents are permitted to soar, hundreds of thousands of families, unable to pay higher rent, will be evicted.

But the American people during the depression learned some effective methods for stopping evictions and dealing with rent hogs.

The mass organizations of the unemployed set up block and neighborhood committees which prevented eviction orders from being carried out, or moved evicted families back into their homes. These measures had a salutary effect in many communities.

Another form of mass action that made the landlords cry "Uncle!" was the rent strike. Tenants organized and by common agreement refused to pay any rents until a rent boost was removed or rents were lowered. And there weren't enough judges, courts, police and sheriffs to stop them.

If millions of tenants throughout the country organized and revived these militant methods today, the big real estate interests would pull back those rent hikes in short order.

Reparations

On July 4 the Foreign Ministers of the Allied powers meeting at Paris decided that vanquished Italy must pay \$100,000,000 in reparations to the Soviet Union. This robbers' agreement once again underscores the reactionary character of the Second World War. In demanding and accepting reparations, Stalin and his mouthpiece Molotov violated every principle that the Bolsheviks stood for in the days of Lenin.

In the Manifesto issued by the First Zimmerwald Conference held in Switzerland in 1915, Lenin, branding World War I as imperialist, declared: "The task is to take up this fight for peace — for a peace without annexations or war indemnities."

All the spokesmen of the imperialists, including the rabidly patriotic Social Democrats (Socialists) jeered at this slogan. But it expressed the needs and the wishes of the world working class. Within short order it was voiced by millions of workers who had been dragged into the armies on both sides of the warring powers. It became so popular that even Woodrow Wilson was forced to give it lip service through gritted teeth.

On the very day following the successful uprising in Petrograd, the Bolsheviks reaffirmed this slogan. In the "Appeal for the support of the New Soviet Government" dated November 8, 1917, the Bolsheviks told how the workers had thrown out the Czar and the imperialist government of Kerensky. The workers had established a new Soviet government. "Their first word is peace. They demand the immediate suspension of hostilities, immediate peace negotiations which will lead to

ward an honest peace without annexations and indemnities on the basis of the right of nations to self-determination."

Lenin and Trotsky followed this policy for the most realistic of political reasons. The oppressed masses from whom reparations are wrung are the principal victims in imperialistic war. Thus it is not only unjust to demand that they pay for the crimes of the rulers who oppressed them and plunged them into the slaughter, but politically false. The foreign power that demands reparations arouses the burning hatred of the masses. The desire for revenge helps breed another conflict.

By opposing reparations and annexations, the Bolsheviks won the sympathy and support of the masses in other lands for the Soviet Union. These masses became the most powerful ally of the Soviet people in resisting imperialist aggression.

The Stalinist regime pursues a policy that undermines and weakens the Soviet Union. The \$100,000,000 seized from the Italian people alienates their sympathies and turns them against the Soviet Union. On top of this they are disoriented and diverted from the path of socialist revolution.

Against the counter-revolutionary policy of Moscow it is necessary to raise once again Lenin's slogan: "Fight for peace — for a peace without annexations or war indemnities!"

The Hobbs Bill

Brushing aside the protests of all organized labor, President Truman on July 3 signed the notorious Hobbs bill. This tricky bill was designed to lay the basis for frame-ups of strikers and pickets on charges of alleged "racketeering" which in any way "obstructs, delays or affects" inter-state commerce. For violations, this broad act provides fines up to \$10,000 and 20 years' imprisonment.

What the CIO calls a "gross deception" was practised in the propaganda for this measure. The Hobbs bill was played up as an "anti-racketeering" bill. Actually, there is already an Anti-Racketeering Act. But this act provides that its provisions are not to apply to "the payment of wages to a bona fide employee" and that courts are not to construe it "in such manner as to impair, diminish, or in any manner affect the rights of bona fide labor organizations in lawfully carrying the legitimate objects thereof."

The Hobbs bill removes these provisions protecting labor and substitutes clauses aimed at labor.

This makes one more legal device which the Wall Street government in the past seven years has adopted to curb labor. In 1940, Roosevelt signed the Smith "Gag" Act over labor's protests. This was used in the wartime framework of the 18 Minneapolis Labor Case victims. In 1943, the Smith-Connally anti-strike law was passed and became the basis for breaking strikes through plant seizures.

Each time the union leaders voiced verbal protest. But the laws are made inside Congress — not outside. Labor's voice on the outside could not be heard above the howls of the anti-labor forces on the floor of Congress. Labor's voice will be heard only when it speaks up right inside Congress itself.

Terror In Balkans

Last week The Militant reported mass arrests of Trotskyists in Bulgaria. This is "an infallible sign," we declared, "that a blood purge of major proportions is now in progress in the Balkans."

This has now been confirmed by R. H. Markham, well-known staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor. Writing from Athens July 2, he describes conditions in Rumania from which he was just expelled by the Stalinist puppet government.

"The Government allows no oppositional Socialist paper to appear . . . It is absolutely forbidden to criticize Russian control, the Army, Mrs. Ana Pauker or other chief Rumanian Communist dictators in the service of Moscow," declares Markham. He speaks of the "action of state police against students," and tells about "provocateurs."

"Thousands of persons have been picked up in Rumania," he continues, "taken to Russia as a consequence of which the Russian threat arouses sinister visions."

Markham was an eyewitness at "political rallies, most of which were broken up by trained armed Communist shock troops."

But this is not all. "Arrests have become common throughout the whole country." He speaks of the "constant fear." "Real or fictitious conspiracies are constantly announced by press and radio, and they serve as justification for wholesale arrests. The prison regimes are bad, and the whereabouts of arrestees often kept secret. Persons are taken from their homes without warrants, and families compelled to search for them for days."

Markham draws the following conclusion: "According to a calm appraisal, the regime steals, intimidates, terrorizes, beats, murders, partly for personal benefits, but mostly for political aims."

Among the victims of the Stalinists in the Balkans are not only Trotskyists but Social Democrats, leaders of the peasants, and other political oppositionists. Those shot down include the best defenders of the Soviet Union. Many of the victims had fought heroically against the Nazis throughout the war. They survived Hitler's concentration camps only to fall before Stalin's terror squads.

The labor movement must come to the defense of Stalin's victims. Protests should be lodged with the legations of each of the Balkan countries, particularly Bulgaria.

Every worker who knows a Stalinist should lodge a personal protest against the terror in the Balkans. Ask these Stalinists to put the heat on their leaders. Only the most vigorous efforts can save the Balkan workers from the organized blood purge of the Kremlin bureaucracy.

"It is going to be necessary at a very early date to provide additional national cemeteries," continued Markham.

THE MILITANT



"Aren't people silly to crowd the beaches when it's so comfortable at home?"

Workers BOOKSHELF

HANDBOOK OF POLITICS and VOTER'S GUIDE, by Lowell Mellett; Penguin Books, 1946, 138 pp., 25 cents.

"It is usually the liberals who don't know their way around in the dark," says Lowell Mellett in his introduction to *Handbook of Politics*. Himself a liberal, he proceeds then to prove that he, too, is hopelessly lost in the maze of capitalist politics.

His book includes valuable material on election laws. He shows how every state erects barriers against independent working class parties, to aid the Democratic and Republican boss machines. He describes the cynical ward-heeler's who keep a grip on local politics by controlling a handful of "sure" votes. He lists the voting records of incumbent Representatives and Senators on many important measures from 1943 to 1946. He explains techniques by which congressmen evade a public record of their votes — burying bills in committee, forming "general pairs" with their presumed opponents, etc.

All of this information, which constitutes seven-eighths of the book, is enlightening and useful to any worker seeking to understand how the Democrats and Republicans hold their power. The introductory "explanation" however, is riddled with false conclusions deliberately aimed at discouraging the formation of a labor party.

"If you want to defeat a man who has made a bad record in office," says Mellett, vote "for the man most likely to beat him, not necessarily for your own No. 1 choice. It is always worth while to defeat a bad man . . . even if his successor is just as bad."

That, of course, is precisely the policy of the PAC in endorsing "progressive" capitalist candidates. The result, as all workers know today, has been a government war on labor: taxes which soak the poor while the rich get rebates; the most monstrous military machine ever built in peacetime.

Nowhere does Mellett propose voting for a program; for him, the entire struggle is one of individuals. And he hurriedly explains that a "good" individual must be excused for sometimes voting like "bad" ones, because "it is worth-while, from the stand-point of over-all influence, for him to maintain status of party regularity as far as his conscience will permit."

Mellett's facts show that it is futile for workers to continue to support "good" capitalist politicians who vote against the labor movement on all major issues; and that a small but determined group of voters could duplicate the efficiency of the boss machines. From this he concludes: "If you want political results you must work within one of the major parties." The worker who reads his book, however, is likely to decide that it's more practical to build a labor party.

Reviewed by Ruth Johnson

THE NEW SAD SACK by George Baker, published by Simon and Schuster, 162 pages, \$2, 1946.

The Sad Sack was one of the better comic creations of the war — like Bill Mauldin's characters, a great advance over those produced in the first world war. He was the private of the U. S. Army, caught in a military machine he did not like and did not fully understand, always the good soldier getting the short end of the stick, always the victim and the fall guy for the brass, always sadly disillusioned in the end. It is easy to see why millions of soldiers came to identify themselves with the Sad Sack.

Baker's hero is the Charlie Chaplin of the cartoons — a wistful, loveable "little man," dignified either foxholes or latrines, working hard, being shot at, hounded by fate and bullied by officers. He is always trying to improve things, to do his job conscientiously, to make life a little more liveable — but he is invariably defeated either by bad luck or red tape or some fang-toothed officer who takes credit for the Sad Sack's work or dumps the blame for his own errors on the Sad Sack. In the first strip the Sad Sack is usually happy, sometimes even jubilant as he starts out on his little adventure — in the last, he is either horribly deflated or unconscious.

This pattern is maintained even on that happy day when he finally gets his hand or his discharge papers. He leaps into the air with joy as he leaves the separation center, even jitterbugging as he goes down the street. But he is slowed down a little by a newspaper headline: Housing Shortage Worst in 100 Years. He recalls as he hears the blare of a radio: Inflation Spreads as Prices Rise. And so it goes: Another headline: International Diplomatic Crisis Looms. Another radio: 3,000,000 Unemployed by Spring. Another newspaper: Atomic Rocket Can Wipe Out USA in 30 Minutes. Finally, passers-by turn with curiosity to stare at the Sad Sack sitting on the sidewalk curb, holding his head in one hand and his discharge papers in the other, a look of profound woe on his face.

Together in a book, the Sad Sack cartoons read as well as they did in the pages of *Yank*. But something is more noticeable now than when they were read week by week. And that is the absence of the element of protest, the desire to rebel and get even — to which Mauldin's cartoons gave recognition once in a while. In that sense alone is the Sad Sack not faithful to the typical army private he is patterned after.

Reviewed by George Breitman

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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.

Luxuries FIN Ships As Millions Starve

Editor: As a longshoreman and a reader of The Militant, I'd like to tell you what I've seen of the government's supposed European relief work. From my own experience and from that of my fellow workers on other docks, we find that for every shipment of basic foods there are five shipments of luxuries that couldn't possibly be of any benefit to the millions of starving peoples.

For example yesterday we loaded several hundred washing machines, four new passenger cars, one truck, and we filled the remaining small spaces with cases of fancy meat dressings, tomato catsup, and Post Toasties! We all know how hard it is for the American workers to get most of the above items, so it's a little difficult to imagine starving workers in inflation-ridden Europe buying washing machines, new cars, or fancy sauce for non-existent meat!

If we, as workers, could control European relief through our trade unions it would certainly be a different story. At least we wouldn't starve the poor to let the rich live in luxury.

P. M.
New York

A Worker's Worry

Editor: I am ashamed that I did not renew my subscription as soon as it expired, but I didn't know from day to day just where my postal address would be, so I delayed writing to you.

The place I live in has been sold and I was not sure whether I would be able to stay. I am still not sure, but I am not going to wait any longer. You may renew my subscription from the date it was due.

I will notify you later when my place of residence changes, if I find a new place. A worker's worry!

L. P.
San Francisco



Nurseries Too Few, Cost Too High

Editor: I am the mother of a six-week old baby. Since it is necessary for me to work, I had to find an efficient nursery to care for her during the day.

After two weeks of writing to some half-dozen agencies "interested" in the day care of children of working mothers, I received a few discouraging replies. To my amazement I found that in the borough of Manhattan, which has a population of nearly two million, there are only THREE nurseries to care for infants of this age — and that includes both the private and the government-subsidized ones!

Two are in Harlem, one on the lower East Side. It is practically impossible to get a child into the two subsidized ones, because they are always filled to capacity.

At the private nursery I found a vacancy — the fee is \$12 a week. To many working women this fee would be too high even to consider. With prices going up so high and so fast, it is necessary for many mothers to contribute to the household funds. But how can we do it?

N. KANE
New York, N. Y.

Canadian Worker Endorses 'Militant'

Editor: The Militant is 100 per cent behind the workers of the world. This fact has made me very proud to subscribe to the

paper because other political organizations (their leaders especially) have been selling out the working man. Now at last after many years of struggling, an organization representing the workers is now in operation.

Let's march ahead for a democracy which is free from fear, starvation and discrimination.

I am supporting the 4th International wholeheartedly. Its battle to free the world from capitalist oppression should be supported by all workers of all color, races and creeds.

I greatly desire more news of world events in future Militants.

J. M.
Canada.

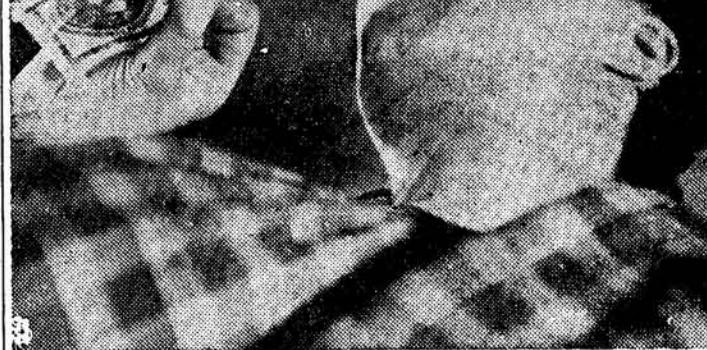
Socialism Is Constructive

Editor: In the June 22 issue, reader M. A. Wagner said The Militant incites chaos, "tears down," etc. The Militant has to — and does — do two jobs: it would be poor judgment to try to build a new lasting structure on the crumbling walls of capitalism!

It is necessary to tear down, discourage, get rid of the old system of legalized thievery. Labor cannot make gains by soft-pedaling its opposition to capitalism and the enemies of labor. As for replacing capitalism with something, perhaps M. A. Wagner did not observe in each issue of The Militant "Our Program" (page 5) and articles on socialism based on Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky and others, which show deep planning toward the beginning of and the keeping of socialism.

When simplified, the exploitative system of capitalism has only two parts: producers, the workers — and parasites, the bosses. The big monopolies control the best opportunities and intend to keep them forever by using the warriors to kill the workers if necessary. Bibles, flags, religions and patriotism are part of the capitalist means of warfare. Do you know of any way of reforming capitalism? I know of none. Socialism is a plan to replace capitalism, and the plan is ready to use.

In Mississippi, Georgia, North and South Carolina and so on



In Hungary, where the pengo is virtually worthless today as inflation soars out of control, a woman demonstratively lights her cigarette with a bill which in prewar years equalled \$210,000,000. Workers' wages lag far behind the fantastic prices of food and other necessities of life.

Federated Press.

Bilbo And The Negro Struggle: A Letter To Militant Readers

Editor:

With Bilboism spreading wide and smelling worse, it is time we begin to fight to crush the fascist doctrines he so ignorantly proclaims.

Bilbo is only one old man, but we must remember he is a man representing the interests of the ruling class of the south, whose profits are increased by dividing workers, black against white and white for white alone.

Bilbo as an individual is not a threat to Negroes, Jews or Catholics if workers are educated to the class struggle. In the south where the trade unions are weakest, where workers have a low standard of living, white workers in their misery accept the theories of Bilbo as the explanation for their exploitation and oppression. And Negroes, without an understanding of wages, prices and profits, are unaware of the cause of the discrimination we endure.

In the north where there is a higher degree of racial equality it is our duty to help ease the burden of our people who must live under the heel of Bilbo, as well as to fight the would-be Bilbos in our own cities.

In the north where there is a higher degree of racial equality it is our duty to help ease the burden of our people who must live under the heel of Bilbo, as well as to fight the would-be Bilbos in our own cities.

Reading of the KKK, the Freeport murders, the lynchings in Georgia, the race hatred in Detroit, the rent extortions in Harlem, the dozens of other evils forced upon the Negroes, these truths should awaken us by the thousands to the fact that our votes if cast year after year for Republicans and Democrats will only continue to hold us in bondage.

We, the members of the Socialist Workers Party, have the program to end these evils by the establishment of a new society, a society of socialism.

We in the Harlem branch of the Socialist Workers Party invite every worker to visit our branch at 103 West 110 St., Room 23, and meet our members, read our literature, join our party and fight with us for the freedom of all workers throughout the capitalist world.

All are welcome to visit us or write for further information.

If you hate the evils you now endure, let us hear from you.

C. HOWELL
New York

Notice To Readers

Because of space limitations, a number of regular and special features have been eliminated from this issue of The Militant. They will be resumed in next week's issue.

New York Youth Open Branch In Queens

New York, July 5 — The first

meeting of the Queens branch of the Trotskyist Youth Group was held this week at the Odd Fellows Temple in Jamaica.

Over twenty young people were present to hear a speech on "The Meaning of Socialism Today" by Sandy Robertson, Organizer of the New York Trotskyist Youth Group. A spirited discussion followed the speech.

Four comrades joined the newly-organized Queens branch after the meeting.

The establishment of a Queens branch of the Trotskyist Youth Group marks a new stage in its development.

It has begun to reach out into other sections of the city, bringing the fighting program of Trotskyism to wider and wider sections of worker and student youth.

The Queens branch is holding open forums every Wednesday night at the Odd Fellows Temple, 160th St. and 90th Ave., at eight o'clock. Refreshments are served after the meeting. Everyone is welcome.



MYRA TANNER WEISS
Los Angeles organizer of the Socialist Workers Party

raft and lie there in the sun or dive and play water games. The camp athletes occasionally play soft-ball and everyone plays shuffleboard and ping-pong on the large screened porch of the recreation hall overlooking the lake. Those looking just for rest can lounge on the deck and garden chairs and lazily watch the sun set and the last boaters and fishermen drifting on the water.

In the morning after breakfast we go to School. This week an experienced auto worker is leading a class on trade union problems in America. Railroad workers, rubber workers, steel workers and many others exchange their experiences. Each will be far better equipped to meet the problems in his union after a week or two of such ex-

perience and varied discussion.

Our "Dean," Comrade Wardie, is giving a series of talks on American History. Our session today under the trees, coinciding with the celebration of the 4th of July, dealt with the victory of the first great American Revolution.

The rich traditions and fighting courage of these rebels of 1776 serve as lessons for us in the revolutionary struggle for socialism today.

Oscar Coover who is in charge of organizing this wonderful school and camp is very busy now.

This week the camp is filled to capacity. There are comrades and friends here from the Atlantic to the West Coast. Socialist Workers Party branches represented include Detroit, Toledo, Chicago, Akron, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Reading, New York, Los Angeles as well as several comrades from Canada.

In order to accommodate all for the July 4th holiday, Oscar has been busy taking out of store all the extra beds and blankets.

The excitement of seeing old friends and meeting so many new ones will make the week-end a joyful occasion. We shall have plenty of talent for our Midwest Folies this coming Saturday night when every amateur be-

comes a star.

Friends and Militant readers

are urged to attend, and to bring

as admission any item of canned

or non-perishable food, clothing,

or a financial contribution. The

program will include games,

dances, entertainment by Men-

ard Wilson, well known Beth-

lehem singer, and a brief talk

by Max Goldstein.

Perhaps you think I'm trying

to tempt you to come to our

camp in Michigan for a week or

so out of the sweltering heat of

the city. Well, I am. My only

regret is that all workers can't

enjoy such a vacation and direct-

ly experience the cooperative and

comradely spirit that exists here.

Picture Of Inflation

The Militant

Pioneer Notes

Two new Pioneer pamphlets are just off the press this week: Veterans and Labor, by Charles Carsten, and Only Victorious Socialist Revolutions Can Prevent the Third World War!, which is the Manifesto of the 1946 World Conference of the Fourth International, held in April in Belgium. Each is priced at 10 cents.

Veterans and Labor, 24 pages, is a popular presentation of a program of united action by veterans and the labor movement. The attractive cover design is by Jean Morgan.

Only Victorious Socialist Revolutions Can Prevent the Third World War!, 22 pages, was first published May 11 in The Militant. It elaborates the fighting program of the Fourth International and is a document every revolutionist will want to study and propagate.

The largest book store in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and several other cities are now displaying and selling Leon Trotsky's latest works. Orders for The Revolution Betrayed (cloth \$2.00) and The First Five Years of the Communist International (cloth \$2.50) have been received in recent weeks from book dealers in Portland, Oreg.; Hartford, Conn.; Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Pasadena, Calif.; Cleveland, Cincinnati and Troy, Ohio; Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Boston.

Several stores also have ordered the No. 1 Pioneer Pocket Library, The Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth Internationals (25¢).

Even more numerous are the orders for these works from librarians, universities and organizations, including the Army War College in Washington, D. C.

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

Youth Group Activities

NEW YORK. — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 3, N. Y.

Every Sunday: Beach Party at Brighton Beach between Bay 7-8 (take BMT to Ocean P'way). Look for red flag. Bring lunch.

Open Forum: Every Friday, 8 p.m., at 116 University Place. Dancing, refreshments follow.

Brooklyn: Class on "Struggle for Negro Equality." Instructor: Harry Robinson. Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Brooklyn headquarters, SWP, 635 Fulton Street. Dancing, refreshments.

Queens: Open forums every Wednesday at Odd Fellows Temple, 180th St. and 90th Ave., 8 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA. — Youth Forums held every Saturday, 8 p.m., at 1303-05 W. Girard, 2nd floor.

LOS ANGELES. — Socialist Youth Club meets every Thursday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Educational speakers by Youth and SWP speakers.

Subscribe to "Young Militant," published semi-monthly, for truth of youth's struggles.

Watch this column for further announcements of youth activities.

BUFFALO

Picnic at Como Park SUNDAY, July 14 Bring Your Own Lunch Liquid Refreshments Served

Meet At The Militant Forum 629 Main St. 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

Public Meetings

STALINISM OR LENINISM

The Real Situation in the USSR

Meaning Of The New Purges

Speaker: JOSEPH HANSEN, former secretary to Leon Trotsky

The Fruits of Stalin's Foreign Policy

Speaker: DAVID WEISS

Stalinism: The Betrayal of Leninism

Speaker: M. STEIN, organizational secretary, SWP

Coming Week:

HARLEM

Thursday, July 18, 8 p.m. Joseph Hansen

103 W. 110th, Room 23

BRONX

Friday, July 19, 8 p.m. M. Stein

1034 Prospect

CENTRAL

Wages, Prices And Profits

The Propaganda Against Wage Raises

The employers of the United States are raising prices. As an important part of this process they have launched a propaganda attack against wages.

The capitalists have set all their newspaper writers and radio commentators to harping on one theme. Over and over they try to tell us that the workers are to blame for making the corporations raise prices.

They put this one story into various forms. One form is that the present high cost of living has been caused by wage increases which the workers have won. Another form is the charge that the workers cause inflation by striking for higher wages. Still another form is that the workers cannot win real gains by getting higher wages, because the bosses will just raise prices and take the money back. So, even with more money, the workers cannot gain in their real wages, which are measured by the goods they can buy with their money.

They end by advising that the workers will really be better off with low wages, because low wages will keep prices down. They say low wages will keep inflation away.

Under cover of all this talk the bosses are busy raising prices, whether they have raised wages or not. And all of them began by raising prices before they had to pay any wage raises. Then when strikes come they tell the public, "If the workers win you'll have to pay even higher prices."

The labor movement has to find the best tactics to meet these moves by the employers. For that purpose we need to look into the economic facts about wages and prices. That is what this series will cover.

The Workers Face Special Problems

Besides the usual wage-price situation, the workers today face special problems coming from the fact that the government has inflated the nation's money. Currency and credit inflation has taken place already. This inflation isn't caused by workers' wages. It is the act of a government, when it creates artificial money and pumps it into the country's supply. The United States government carried out a tremendous inflation during the war, creating over a hundred billions in artificial dollars, mostly in the form of bank credits. This huge supply of false purchasing power was used to pay war profits to the corporations and great investment banks of the United States.

Up to now the inflation has only begun to produce its effects on prices. The money inflation that they have already accomplished will push prices much higher than anything we have felt so far. So the workers are in for a long struggle with rising prices, not just a short campaign. This also means there is nothing to their talk about a merely temporary rise in prices, followed by a fall to the old level. Inflated money is cheapened money, and it buys less. After inflation the money-price of goods goes up to a new level and stays up. This price problem will stay with us, and get much worse.

That's one reason why the bosses are in a hurry to hide the fact that the government inflated money, and that the bosses cashed in on it. They are desperate to unload the blame onto the labor movement, before the real pinch begins.

However, it would be a mistake to look at this special feature of money inflation as the whole picture. We need to look first at the basic laws of wages and prices, and then take up inflation as a special part. This method is necessary anyway, because inflation grows out of these basic laws.

In the past, unions could fight for wages and let prices take care of themselves. But today, when conditions allow

Standing In The Way



the bosses to raise prices, they are using the threat of price increases as a club to beat down wages. When a union demands a raise the employer goes to the public with the claim that he will be forced to raise prices. He tries to link up wages and prices, even though he has plenty of room to raise wages without raising his prices. Today, in defending their wage demands, unions have to meet this price issue.

In the General Motors' strike the workers met the issue by demanding that the corporation "Open the Books." Let the public see if the company was telling the truth about needing higher prices, or whether perhaps it was just hungry for some super-profits. But the corporation couldn't stand the truth. The slogan "Open the Books," threw it on the defensive, and it had to run away from its own issue.

The auto workers' tactics and victory put the whole labor movement in a stronger position on the wage-price issue. It was a sharp set-back to the whole price-raising campaign. The present newspaper and radio drive of the employers is in large part an attempt to win back the initiative which the workers seized by the slogan, "Open the Books."

On this matter the facts are on the side of the workers, and winning tactics come from the facts. In this series we will examine the truth about wages and prices.

Curran Issues Public Blast Against Stalinist Machine In Maritime Union

NEW YORK, July 5. — The Pilot, weekly organ of the CIO National Maritime Union, today published in full a statement of NMU President Joseph Curran attacking the anti-democratic and corrupt policies of the Stalinist machine inside the NMU. The statement had been made at a large closed membership meeting here on June 24, which overwhelming voted to accept his report.

Curran's charges are the out-growth of a clique conflict among the top NMU leaders. This conflict became intensified after V-J Day, when the leaders began to blame each other for the then weakened position of the union as a consequence of the Stalinist sell-out policies during the war.

The NMU president exposed the operations of the Stalinist machine in the recent union elections. "In these elections just concluded . . . I think that one of the worst machine jobs I have ever seen was done," Curran told the NMU members.

Curran, long a follower of the Communist (Stalinist) Party line, still insists that the practices he condemns are not the "policy of the Communist Party." He merely claims that these practices are being carried out by "individual members in that party."

MEMORIAL MEETINGS

1869—Antoinette Konikow—1946

In honor of her six decades of service to revolutionary socialism

New York

Sunday, July 14 8 p.m.

Speakers:

E. R. FRANK GEORGE WEISSMAN

SYLVIA BLECKER

Chairman: GEORGE CLARK

Labor Temple 242 E. 14th St.

Boston

Friday, July 19 8:15 p.m.

Speakers:

Lawrence P. Trainor MARY DANTE

Louis Samuels, 30 Years A Co-Worker

30 Stuart Street

New OPA Measure Will Not Halt Skyrocketing Prices

(Continued from Page 1)

and has been accelerating steadily since V-J Day.

Prior to the expiration of the old OPA, the Truman administration had been whetting the profiteers' appetites by sanctioning one price increase after another. The wage increases for which labor fought to compensate for previous big price increases were used by Truman as a pretext for granting huge profiteering price rises to virtually every industry. OPA completely "de-controlled" thousands of commodities.

PROFITEERS GOUGE

While Truman and Congress are going through their fancy maneuvers and shadow-boxing, the food profiteers and rent hogs are digging their claws deeper and deeper into the workers' pockets. At the same time, the capitalist press runs advertisements, editorials and angled news stories to give the false impression that the profiteers themselves are exercising "self-restraint" in their price demands.

According to the wholesale food prices index of Dun & Bradstreet, on July 2 prices of 31 basic commodities had risen to the highest peak since July 29, 1920—high point of the post-

World War I inflation. Tens of thousands are threatened with evictions as rents are being hiked almost everywhere.

Most of the union leaders, who want an excuse for holding back struggles for higher wages, are urging the workers to fight for a "good" OPA along the lines Truman is proposing.

They are spreading illusions about reliance on government "price control," as they did during the war with their ill-fated campaigns for the "roll-back" of prices and "make OPA work."

All the efforts of the workers should be directed instead toward independent mass struggle on an independent labor program of combatting the consequences of inflation.

REAL BATTLE

The workers should be mobilized for a real battle for higher wages, and especially for a sliding scale of wages, automatically rising with every rise in living costs.

Workers, poor farmers and the lower middle class must be organized into their own mass consumers' and tenants' committees. They must directly resist exorbitant prices and rentals by mass pressure means.

As usual at NAACP conventions, too much time was devoted to listening to the speeches of "important" people like La Guardia, Kenney, etc. And not enough time was devoted to considerations of resolutions and problems facing the members.

The resolutions adopted were so worded as to please all and offend none. For example, in encouraging the fight of the colonial people in their fight against imperialist domination, no exposure of the reactionary role played by U. S. imperialism was allowed to come out in the resolutions.

The delegates were Jim Crowed by most of the big restaurants in Cincinnati.

Ask "Flying Squadrons" To Stop Rent Evictions

By Sol Dollinger

(Special to The Militant)

FLINT, Mich., July 3. — Twenty-one top officers of CIO and AFL unions here proposed at a joint meeting yesterday to request their internationals to reopen negotiations for wage increases to meet price rises and to revive the auto workers' "flying squadrons" to prevent evictions of union members whose rents are being hiked by greedy landlords. They also called for a local rent control ordinance.

The joint meeting included representatives of the Greater Flint CIO Council, AFL Building Trades Council, and presi-

dents of CIO United Auto Workers locals and the AFL carpenters, plumbers, steamfitters and truck drivers.

A mass meeting, arranged on 24 hour notice by the joint conference of union officials, was held here tonight. Jack Holt, UAW regional director, and F. H. Bancroft, AFL Building Trades Council president, were the co-chairmen.

Warm approval was expressed by the assembled workers to the announcement at the start of the meeting by Holt that the UAW is proposing a joint conference of the CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods in Washington and that the suggestion had been made for a one-day general strike to oppose the ending of price ceilings.

Several of the leaders spoke about organizing a "hunger strike," but it was not clear what they had in mind. They did not think, however, that such an action would be successful because the ranks would not go for it. The workers feel there is no reason why they should go more hungry to force down high prices of plentiful commodities. They want a more effective program.

A note of clarity was struck when a Buick worker proposed to combat the rising cost of living through the inclusion of an escalator clause for a rising wage scale to keep pace with rising living costs.

"OFA NOT SOLUTION"

This worker stated: "We seem to have forgotten that only a week ago prices were soaring with the OPA. Obviously merely fighting for a new OPA bill is not the solution."

Good progress has been made in bringing the unions together. But unity in action will be cemented more firmly only as the leading committeemen and stewards on the job, who are close to the ranks, are enabled to participate in the joint conferences along with the top leaders.

Detroit UAW, CIO Unionists Urge National Labor 'Holiday'

(Continued from Page 1)

the workers' standard of living would be organized.

The meeting was called on 24-hour notice by officers of the UAW, and Wayne County CIO and Political Action Committee. Although Leonard opened the meeting with the remark that it would be turned over to discussion by the rank and file, he introduced nine speakers who took up more than two hours.

BUYERS' STRIKE

In his own introduction he proposed a "national buyers' strike." One of the delegates declared later that a buyers' strike would be ineffective, because working people spend almost all of their money on the necessities which cannot be reduced.

Secondly, Leonard proposed that tenants should resist rent boosts by going through the courts. He stated they had received promises from the Circuit Court Commissioners that they would handle only two or three cases a day. The Stalinist Sam Sage, secretary of the Wayne County CIO Council, repeated these two proposals only throwing in a bit more radical phrasing.

Leonard's final point, however, aroused the meeting to enthusiastic support. It was for calling a national labor holiday.

Walter Reuther, in a militant speech, called for the immediate convening of the National Emer-

gency Labor Conference. He stated that he was already getting in touch with Philip Murray and other labor leaders, to make it possible to "transcend the various union rivalries, in order to fight this basic problem confronting the American workers united."

He further proposed that the rent problem should be fought as the UAW had done in 1938, by utilizing the flying squadrons to prevent evictions.

Most important, he stated, "we'll not stand shackled with frozen wages while prices skyrocket." This, he said, "is serving notice that all UAW wage contracts, whether they have provisions to do so or not, will be reopened if a new and better OPA is not enacted."

FOR RISING SCALE OF WAGES

After two hours of speechmaking by official speakers, Erwin Baur of UAW Budd Local 306 took the floor and proposed that "in order to set the tone for the national labor movement we immediately call for a Cadillac Square demonstration."

He further stated: "Realizing that the cost of living will continue to rise it is not only necessary as Walter Reuther has said to re-open wage contracts but it will also be necessary to insert in each contract a clause providing for an automatic rising scale of wages to meet each new rise in the cost of living."

Once the discussion had begun, speaker after speaker rose and demanded militant action. Tom Cunningham, president of UAW Chrysler Local 7, stated he agreed with the previous speaker, Baur, and again stressed the necessity of the Cadillac Square demonstration.

Urban, president of UAW Packard Local 190, speaking on the rent profiteering, placed a motion which was later adopted: That all UAW locals immediately reorganize their flying squadrons if they had not already done so.

The tremendous ovation received by Walter Reuther when he proposed re-opening the wage contracts is an indication that the workers are becoming disillusioned with the "roll-back of prices" and the OPA as the solution to maintaining their standard of living.

What Do You Say?

QUESTION: The meat packers have publicly threatened a meat famine unless they get the prices they ask. Would you favor having the government take over the meat industry to guarantee meat deliveries to the people?

PLACE: La Grange, Ill., Electro-Motive Division, General Motors Corp. (Asked of members of Local 719, United Automobile Workers, CIO.)

ARTHUR WORMWOOD, 19 N. State St., Aurora, Ill.

YES. Things are getting into an awful mess. Look at the way prices are going up, for example, the day after OPA is removed. If the meat industry has its way, the few people who can pay high prices will get the meat and the working man will have to do without.

ANTONIO SISON, 53 W. Superior, Chicago, Ill.

NO. To have the government take over the meat industry would foment a socialistic system and free enterprise would be destroyed.

HOWARD MAYHEW, 5524 S. 58 Ct., Chicago, Ill.

YES. The government was quick to use the armed forces against the railroad workers, the coal miners, the merchant marine while it was in the bosses' interest to prevent a strike. The fact that Congress has not moved against the meat industry even though they threatened the people, shows that the government even though they threatened the people, shows that the government really represents the bosses and that the unions must lose no time in organizing a labor party so that we can send our representatives to Congress.

JOHN BLAZEK, 2516 So. 58 Ct., Cicero, Ill. Turret lathe operator.

AS LONG AS THE MEAT INDUSTRIES ARE STRIKING AGAINST THE PUBLIC, IN ORDER TO GET THE PRICE THEY WANT, I'M IN FAVOR OF HAVING THE GOVERNMENT RUN THE PLANTS.

SAM OKAL, 1818 S. Sawyer Ave., Chicago, Ill. Drill press operator.

THE HUGE PROFITS THE MEAT COMPANIES ARE MAKING TODAY DOES NOT ENTITLE THEM TO MAKE MORE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PUBLIC. I'M IN FAVOR OF HAVING A FAIR AND EQUAL DISTRIBUTION UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

GUS NAMORS, 2326 So. 59th Ave., Cicero, Ill. Bullard operator.

THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS RUN BY THESE BIG CORPORATIONS, WOULD NOT OPERATE THE PLANTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WORKERS, THAT IS LOWER PRICES AND MORE MEAT, BUT WOULD BE USED AS A CAMOUFLAGE TO PREVENT THE WORKERS BELIEVING IN THEIR INTERESTS. THE PLANTS SHOULD BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF TRADE UNION COOPERATIVES IN ORDER TO CONTROL PRICES AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRODUCT.

FRED THOMAS, 2216 So. 6th Ave., North Riverside, Ill. Engine lathe operator.

I THINK THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE INFORMED AS TO HOW MUCH MONEY THESE COMPANIES ARE MAKING. MAYBE WITH THE GOVERNMENT RUNNING THE PLANTS WE WOULD HAVE MORE MEAT AT LOWER COSTS.

Buffalo UAW Groups Discuss Political Action

(Special to The Militant)

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 5—Some 125 representatives of CIO United Auto Workers locals in this area at a conference last Monday adopted resolutions for independent labor action and labor unity to initiate the building of a party of labor on a nation-wide scale.

While these resolutions did not clearly characterize the Democratic and Republican machines as parties of Big Business and failed to indicate the decisive role labor must play in building and leading a labor party, they did represent a big step forward in making a break with the bankrupt policy of supporting so-called progressives of either capitalist party.

A proposal was adopted calling for a mass meeting to help arouse the entire union movement to the need for independent labor political action.



Indian Trotskyist Exposes Fraud Of British Plan For "Independence"

BOMBAY, India, June 22 (Airmail)—A slashing attack on the "independence plan" offered by the British Cabinet Mission to India, and a denunciation of the Indian capitalist parties for agreeing to the continued rule of British imperialism, are high points in the interview of a leading Trotskyist printed in the Bombay Free Press Journal today. The Trotskyist was Dr. Colvin R. de Silva, general secretary of the Bolshevik-Leninist Party, Indo-Ceylon section of the Fourth International. The full statement reads as follows:

The Cabinet Mission constitutes the first stage in a gigantic political maneuver of British imperialism. Its aim is not any transfer of imperialism's power in India but its consolidation anew. This it seeks to achieve by negotiating a re-arranged imperialist - bourgeois - feudal alliance against the masses. And in this it is on the eve of complete success.

The alliance is being cemented at Delhi behind a smoke-screen of irrelevant controversies. Congress and the Moslem League are engaged not in a tussle for power but in a quarrel over commission agency rights. What-

Where is the Soviet Union Going?

The 5-Year Plan And The New "Left Turn"

By Ernest Germain

As a consequence of the war and the weakening of the USSR in relation to imperialism, as a consequence of the reactionary policies of the Stalinist bureaucracy which, from fear of the proletariat and its revolutionary traditions, appealed during the war to the most reactionary instincts of the most backward layers of the population; as a consequence of all these factors, the elements of a new exploiting capitalist class came considerably strengthened during the war.

In the year that followed termination of the war, a series of internal struggles within the bureaucracy led to a new consolidation of the Bonapartist party apparatus around Stalin. This consolidation expressed itself in a new and pronounced "left turn" that is to say, in a resumption of the struggle against capitalist elements in industry and agriculture as well as in a further tightening of the party's grip on the state apparatus and the official ideology.

AIM OF PLAN

In the field of industry, the looseness of planning in heavy industry and its virtual disappearance in light industry, which took place throughout the war, were successfully overcome and replaced by the first applications of the Fourth Five-Year Plan. This plan sets a very definite goal: the reconstruction of the devastated regions of Russia, an increase of steel production, and in general the attaining of higher levels of production than on the eve of the war.

Thanks to the abundant contributions from the newly industrialized regions of East Russia and Siberia; and tanks above all to the ruthless pillage of occupied countries, this reconstruction is well on its way. The total of Russian industrial production already surpasses the 1940 level. The industrial production of the Ukraine, notably the Donets Basin, has already reached 60 per cent of the pre-war level. It should be noted, however, that the Fourth Five-Year Plan once again sacrifices the sphere of consumers' goods to means of production, that is to say, ignores the most pressing needs of the masses, and thus becomes the source of grave social disturbances.

AGRICULTURAL CRISIS

At the same time the Soviet press has engaged in a violent campaign against the new exploiting elements in the countryside. Hitherto it had ecstatically reiterated that "classes have completely disappeared." Now, recognizing for the first time in ten years the existence of these elements, the Stalinist journalists have launched harsh attacks against "peasants who monopolize the land of the collectives for their personal profit." They denounce the "persistence of the capitalist spirit in the countryside" and instruct the local party bodies to implacably eliminate all abuses.

As a matter of fact, the government has taken Draconian measures to force the collective farmers to comply with the plan. A rigid control of planting has been introduced, and a discriminatory policy in granting credits, material aid, seed, tractors, etc., is pursued in the devastated regions in order to favor the "loyal" agricultural enterprises which fulfill the plan.

In the realization that without the technical base of mechanization, the collective farm system must necessarily fall apart, a number of prewar machine and tractor stations have been

alist struggle reviving.

In face of the mass resurgence, the Indian bourgeoisie tremble no less than their imperialist masters. The recentering of their alliance, which was broken politically in 1940-42, was therefore a mutual necessity. Their economic partnership during the war is being rounded off politically today. The Simla surrender of 1945 is being formally completed in 1946.

The sole victim of the settlement will be the Indian masses. The plan is to appoint local jailors for imperialism's Indian prison house.

The Cabinet Mission's award leaves the power question exactly where it was. We are to have a Constituent Assembly it seems. But what is this so-called Constituent Assembly?

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Firstly, it is to function under the aegis of imperialism. Whoever heard of a Constituent Assembly functioning under the aegis of the very state-power whose displacement is being sought? A genuine Constituent Assembly arises under the aegis of a new power which has already displaced the old. It presupposes freedom and is in no way freedom's prerequisite; for its function is only to systematize in legal forms the exercise of the power which has already been won.

Secondly, this constitution-making body does not even base itself on the masses. It is being set up over their heads. It is an assembly of the exploiting few, with the exploited majority carefully shut out.

Thirdly, this assembly hasn't even the right of making a constitution. It can only draw a constitution for the British Parliament's consideration. Imperialism has the last word.

Finally, and above all, imperialism holds its own in any event. The crux of the power question lies in the adumbrated treaty. Its terms are unknown, but they are to be prepared by the British Government. Everything is subject to the acceptance of the treaty. And the treaty will be the instrument for safeguarding imperialism's essential interests.

What we shall have therefore is neither a Constituent Assembly nor even a constitution-making body. What is being set up is merely a constitution-drafting agency of British imperialism, working to imperialism's mandate and subject to imperialism's self-interested decisions. It is not even a fake Constitu-

tional Assembly for a fake transfer of power. It is a carefully designed instrument for negotiating the permanent framework of a long-term imperialist-bourgeois-feudalist alliance.

Pending the long-term arrangement, an interim instrument is being fashioned. The Viceroy's Executive Council is being reconstituted so as to provide imperialist with a popular facade. The Viceroy's councillors

British Murder Indian Demonstrators



Scenes like this, showing brutal assault on workers demonstrating for independence in Bombay on January 24, 1946, have been common throughout India since the end of the war. The resurgence of the masses who are fighting courageously for freedom is the background for the current negotiations between British imperialism and the Indian capitalist class.

ent Assembly for a fake transfer of power. It is a carefully designed instrument for negotiating the permanent framework of a long-term imperialist-bourgeois-feudalist alliance.

Down with the Cabinet Mission! Down with the collaborationist parties! Down with the fake Constituent Assembly! On with the struggle for India's independence!

These are the central agitational slogans of the anti-imperialist struggle in its present phase.

is that our party has put forward the following inter-related slogans:

Down with the Cabinet Mission! Down with the collaborationist parties! Down with the fake Constituent Assembly! On with the struggle for India's independence!

These are the central agitational slogans of the anti-imperialist struggle in its present phase.

Nazi Terror Survivors Killed In Polish Pogrom

The terrible plight of the Jewish people in Europe has once again been forcibly called to the attention of the world. On July 4 in Kielce, 39 Jews were killed in the worst pogrom since the Kremlin set up its puppet government in Poland. According to dispatches, the pogrom was set off by a 9 year old boy's repetition of the medieval atrocity

story about being kidnapped by Jews and seeing the mutilated bodies of Gentile boys they had killed.

The Jewish victims of the anti-Semites were beaten, clubbed, stoned and kicked to death. The dead included nine women and one prematurely-born girl. In

addition 42 were injured.

Where does the guilt lie for this horrific slaughter? The July 7 N. Y. Times, authoritative mouthpiece of American capitalism, declares that although the prewar Jewish population of 3,500,000 in Poland was liquidated by the Nazis so that only 100,000 are left today, "Yet anti-Semitism in Poland still survived."

The Times makes no attempt to explain why this foul prejudice "survived" nor does it offer any hope for the Jewish people.

OPEN GATES OF U. S.!

The American workers must come to the aid of the survivors of Hitler's terror. Fight for the ancient democratic right of asylum. Let the gates of America be opened wide to the Jews of Europe. Truman has promised them "transportation." Let the ships bring them to this country!

The July 6 Daily Worker, official mouthpiece of the Stalinists in America, attributes the pogrom to the "fascist banditry in Poland" but declares that "The primary responsibility falls upon our State Department and the Attlee Government."

By "our" State Department, the Stalinists mean Wall Street's State Department. The Stalinists argue that their late Allies in the Second World War "deliberately incite these disorders."

Meanwhile the July 7 Times reports that the Jews "want only one thing: to leave Poland. Streams of Jews, estimated at over a thousand a week, trek westward in the hope of finding a haven in the American and British zones of Germany or getting to an Italian port and gaining passage across the Mediterranean."

IMMIGRATION STOPPED

It is this terrible fear among the Jews—a thoroughly justified fear as for the Kielce pogrom demonst-

—that is at the bottom of the present civil strife in Palestine. For the British government, working hand in glove with Washington, has stopped immigration there. The Palestinian Jews are trying to aid the hounded, victimized survivors of Hitler's terror who are still left in Europe.

The role of the Stalinists and of the American government in this situation is especially atrocious. Washington has offered "to assume technical and financial responsibility" for the transportation of the Jews to Palestine! But the gates of America are locked fast against these helpless refugees.

And what mockery are the crocodile tears of the Stalinists!

The Soviet border is only a few miles from the scene of the latest pogrom. Yet that border is sealed just as tightly as the borders of imperialist America.

HARTFORD—P. O. Box 905.

LOS ANGELES—Visit Militant Publishing Assn., 316½ W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Phone Richmond 4644.

FLINT—SWP meets every Friday, 8 p.m. at YWCA, 1st and Harrison.

PITTSBURGH—Militant Reading Room, 141 S. Highland, Room 21 (corner Highland and Central Ave.), E. Liberty. Phone, EBM 4839. Open Wednesday, 7 to 10 p.m., Sunday 3 to 8 p.m.

PORTLAND, Ore. — Visit the SWP headquarters, 134 S. W.

The NEGRO STRUGGLE

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

—KARL MARX

by CHARLES JACKSON

The End Of The FEPC

The Fair Employment Practices Committee folded up at the beginning of this month. It had been in existence for five years and during most of that time it was largely ineffective because of lack of authority to enforce its decisions and lack of funds.

The wartime gains of colored, Mexican-American and Jewish workers are being dissipated through an unchecked revival of discriminatory practices," the FEPC's final report admitted.

Since the end of the war, in six of seven areas studied by the FEPC, there was "a heavier loss of jobs by Negro than white workers and a necessity on the part of Negro workers to accept the lowest paid jobs."

Similarly, Negro and other minority veterans have greatly restricted job and training opportunities, and there has been a great increase in discriminatory advertisements in the press.

The FEPC's report recommended passage of permanent federal legislation against job discrimination, enforcement of equal job opportunity policies in the government and by government contractors, and collection of statistics by government agencies so that there could be adequate information about discrimination in employment.

Significantly, 25 per cent of complaints received by the FEPC had been against various government agencies. No single industry in the country today can compete with the government in fostering Jim Crow.

The FEPC was created by Roosevelt's executive order 8802 in June 1941. Its primary purpose was not to tackle the problem of job discrimination but to prevent the threatened Negro march on Washington.

But it was set up as a wartime measure only. Which meant that whatever progress was made through it would be threatened when the war ended. As the committee's final report shows, most of these gains have already been lost less than a year after V-J Day.

As a matter of fact, the effectiveness of the FEPC has been greatly exaggerated. Most increases in Negro employment from 1941 onward were due not to the FEPC's activities, but to the manpower shortage. Even the most hardened Jim Crow employers abandoned their "jobs for whites only" policy (temporarily) when they couldn't hire enough white workers to meet their needs.

They are thinking about cooperation with the labor movement in a political war to the death against all the defenders of Jim Crow and Judge Lynch in Washington. They are thinking about political action which will lead to the election of white and Negro candidates on a program of struggle in defense of the interests of white and Negro workers.

That can't be done by supporting the cohorts of Bilbo in both capitalist parties.

What is needed, and what the Negro masses are thinking about, is an independent labor party based on the unions and supported by the Negro people. Any other kind of political action today is company union politics, Uncle Tom politics — in short, a snare and a delusion.

Come and meet other 'Militant' Readers At these Local Activities of

The Socialist Workers Party

AKRON — Visit The Militant Club, 405-6 Everett Bldg., 39 East Market St., open daily except Sunday, 2 to 4 p.m.; also Wed., 7:30-9:30.

MINNEAPOLIS—Visit the Labor Book Store, 10 South 4th St., open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

NEWARK—Branch meeting every Friday at 423 Springfield Ave., at 8:30. Reading room and office open Mondays to Thursdays, 4 to 10 p.m.

Tues., 7:30—Basic Training class.

NEW YORK CITY HQ., 115 University Place, GR. 5-8149.

Sat., 4:30 p.m. Tues., 7:30, rehearsal of Militant chorus.

HARLEM: 103 W. 110 St., Rm. 23, MO. 2-1866.

BRONX: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TI 2-0101.

READING room open Mon. to Fri., 7 to 10 p.m.

CLEVELAND—Militant Forum every Friday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Pk.)

BUFFALO—Open every afternoon except Sunday. Militant Forum, 629 Main St., 2nd floor.

CHICAGO—Visit SWP, 777 W. Adams (corner Halsted). Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Sunday. Tel. Dearborn 4767. Library, bookstore.

SAT. night, open house.

DETROIT—Open house every Saturday, 8 p.m. at 6108 Linwood. Office open daily 12 to 5. Phone Tyler 7-6267.

MONDAY, 8 p.m.—Class on "Program of SWP."

CHELSEA: 130 W. 23 St., phone CH 2-9434.

OAKLAND, Calif.—Meetings Wednesday, 8 p.m., at Oddfellow's Temple, Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

ST. LOUIS—Visit our Headquarters, 1023 N. Grand Blvd., Rm. 312, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Forums every Thursday, 8:30 p.m. Phone Jefferson 3642.

SEATTLE—Visit our Headquarters, 1919½ Second Ave. Open Saturdays 12 to 5, Sunday 7:30 to 10, Wednesday 7:30 to 10.

SUNDAYS at 7:30, Discussion on Militant. Wednesdays at 7:30, Class: "In Defense of Marxism."

DETROIT—Open house every Saturday, 8 p.m. For information, write P.O. Box 1351.

BROOKLYN: 635 Fulton St., Phone ST. 3-7433.

MON. CLASS—"Program of SWP" 7 p.m.

CLEVELAND—Militant Forum every Friday, 8:30 p.m. at Peck's Hall 1446 E. 82nd St. (off Wade Pk.)

PHILADELPHIA—SWP Headquarters, 1303-05 W. Girard Ave., 2nd floor. Open daily, 8 p.m. Phone Stevenson 5820.

PITTSBURGH—Militant Reading Room, 141 S. Highland, Room 21 (corner Highland and Central Ave.), E. Liberty. Phone, EBM 4839. Open Wednesday, 7 to 10 p.m., Sunday 3 to 8 p.m.

TOLEDO—Visit our headquarters, 213 Michigan St. Open Monday through Friday, 11 to 5.

Saturday, forum 8 p.m. Open house 9:30 p.m.

Diary Of A Steel Worker

Old John Gave All That Was His

By Theodore Kovalesky

The brown dust lies flat in the sunlight where, half a year ago, our pickets plodded through the snow. The blast furnaces roar and light up the night skies, orange bars stream through the mills, and narrow-gauge tugs the glowing ingots from the open hearths.

In the early morning, under the burning afternoon sun, and in the cool of the night the shifts go in and out of the gate of the steel plant, packing the brown dust under their feet. The routine of work rolls automatically on.

But, day by day and sometimes minute by minute, there are little things that remind us of the struggle that we have passed through and won.

When we take our work clothes from the hooks of our lockers, still wet and rank with the sweat of yesterday's heat and toil, we see a bent, wrinkled old man sweeping up the dust and torn papers from the locker room floor. Sometimes he stops, leaning on his broom, to chitter with some old buddy of the last thirty years, babbling happily in his native tongue.

He is old John, the sweeper of the locker room, the little old man who has worked so many years out of his life on the furnaces and on slag dump in the bitterest weather (the men say he "froze his brains" out on the dump), that he is good for nothing else than swabbing the toilets and sweeping the brown dust and papers from the locker room floor.

As a man, I suppose you'd have to admit that John's not worth much any more. The unceasing press of toil has bent and warped his body, crushed from it the vital juices of energy: he



On the Railroads

A Sign Of The Times

By Henry Adams

A. F. Whitney's announcement that the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen will affiliate this fall with either the AFL or the CIO has tremendous significance. Shifting from their traditionally isolationist policy, the 270,000 members of the Brotherhood are expected to take definite action in this direction at the convention scheduled to begin in Miami Beach on September 16.

In a United Press dispatch of June 27, Whitney is quoted as saying: "The day is past when labor can operate successfully on an independent basis. This is the age of mass production and the best results can be obtained by a unified front." Adding that entry of the Brotherhood into a national organization has been under discussion for some 20 years, Whitney points out that now affiliation sentiment is at its height.

Militants in the ranks of the BRT and other railway unions have been urging for years that the five big brotherhoods line up with the rest of the labor movement. But not Whitney! Until the recent rail strike, he had been perfectly willing to play a lone hand. Like all of the other railroad labor bureaucrats, Whitney was trying to get a better deal for the operating men instead of fighting for the labor movement as a whole.

The railroad strike taught Whitney some harsh lessons about the "unified front" of the bosses and the government. He may have learned

Veterans' Problems

Veterans Turn To The Labor Movement

By Alvin Royce

Nowhere has there ever been assembled such a bazaar of capitalist lies as we met constantly in the army.

I recall the first time we gathered together to become initiated into the wonderful sport of close-order drill. The old army sergeant in charge summed up the attitude of the War Department to the GI: "You boys are in the army now. I don't know who did the thinking for you before but we'll do it now. When we want you to do any thinking, we'll put bars and stripes on you and pay you to think." That was step number one. A man's head in the army was intended by the brass to serve solely as a support for his steel helmet.

The next step in preparing us to be good soldiers was the weekly orientations that some OCS-educated Lieutenant would furnish. I used to feel sorry for these shavetails as they tried, very unsuccessfully, to convince us that we were fighting for a just cause.

The brass also had a paper that was supposed to give these overworked 2nd Lieutenants a hand in orienting the EM. Anyone that took this paper, the Stars and Stripes, seriously, was sure that every casualty, every piece of defective equipment, every cold K-Ration meal we had to

Gov. Dewey And Freeport Case

By Bill Morgan

Elections are coming! Election time! A time for magic and capitalist promises. Speeches full of promises. Promises as round and tempting as piecrusts. Big, thick and attractive promises. Election time! A time when boss politicians whitewash their sins with promises. A time when every political faker can turn a new leaf — with promises!

Last February — six months ago — four Negro brothers named Charles, Alfonso, Joseph and Richard Ferguson were stood against a wall in Freeport, N. Y. and shot down like victims of Nazi terror. Charles and Alfonso died with bullets in their heads. Joseph was severely wounded and lay six hours waiting for an ambulance. Richard was dragged off to the Freeport jail, subjected to "trial" and sentenced to pay \$100 or serve 100 days in a cage.

A storm of widespread public protest raged over this shocking case of Lynch Law in New York State. Mass meetings, demonstrations, petitions, publicity in the working class and Negro press all demanded that an investigation be made and that the murderer and his political machine be removed from office.

Charles, Joseph and Richard Ferguson were

veterans. Charles had left a widow and two children. The fourth brother, Alfonso, was a civilian only because of a physical disability. The officials of the Army and Navy were forced to investigate. Official boards of the services exonerated Joseph Ferguson. The Army officially declared Charles had died in the line of duty. Even the reactionary political machine in Nassau County backed and after reversing the charges against Richard repaid the \$100 fine.

But all efforts to indict the policeman for murder and remove the criminal politicians from office were heard with a deaf ear by State officials — including Governor Dewey. He even refused to meet with delegations sent to demand action on the case.

But now it is July. The election campaign has begun in New York State. The Ferguson case continues to live in the minds of the workers and Negro people of New York. The murderer and his friends are still at large. Justice is demanded. So, now, six months later, Governor Dewey has ordered an "investigation"! Here come the promises! Here comes the whitewash!

CIO's "Operation Dixie" Forges Forward Despite Jim-Crow Campaign Of Employers

AVC Pickets Realtors Who Bar Nisei Vet

By Nora Scott

(Special to The Militant)

MINNEAPOLIS, July 6 — "Japanese-American Veteran Finds Prejudice in Country He Fought For" states a sign carried by picketing members of the University of Minnesota chapter of the American Veterans Committee.

Members of the AVC since Saturday, June 29, have been picketing the offices of Dickenson & Gillespie, Inc., real estate agency, in protest against exclusion of a Nisei veteran from a housing development planned for 50 campus veterans in Minneapolis.

The Nisei veteran, Jon Matsuo, and his wife, Ruth, were told by the agency that their lot at the Oakhill project would have to be plotted outside the area which was being sold to 49 other veterans. Jon Matsuo is still on duty in the armed forces of the United States.

Attempts are being made to suppress the growing publicity by red-baiting and pressure on the University of Minnesota chapter of the American Veterans Committee by the board of regents through the real estate agency.

GENERAL PATTERN

The real estate agent, defended his race discrimination by pointing out that "other realtors do the same thing" and that he is "merely following the general pattern." He added that National banks and trust companies, Federal Savings and Loan associations all deal in restrictive real estate practices, inasmuch as they offer larger loans on "restricted" property.

A number of working class, Negro, Jewish and other groups have pledged support to the veterans in halting race restrictions on the Oakhill project and fighting restrictive covenants generally.

Unity Slate Wins Nine Posts At Inland Steel

(Special to The Militant)

INDIANA HARBOR, Ind., July 2 — Nine out of the 12 candidates of the Unity Ticket, who campaigned on a sliding scale of wages program, were elected on June 27 to the executive board of Inland Steel Local 1010, third largest local in the CIO Steelworkers Union. This local union election was one of the most spirited ever held in this region.

Of the old leadership, only John Sargent edged into office. He was elected president by a bare majority of 16 votes over Manuel Trgovich, who headed the Unity Ticket. Two additional members of Sargent's slate squeezed through for guard and journal agent posts.

The key point in the program of the Unity Ticket was the proposal for the sliding scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living. Sargent and his ticket clung to the moth-eaten Stalinist wage program which advocates "fighting" for a "good" OPA.

Sargent was not as discredited as other members of his slate, which was backed by the Stalinists. He had been away in the armed forces during the period of the war when the Stalinists were going all-out in their strike-breaking policy. However his running mate Nick Migas, wartime president, was decisively defeated for Financial Secretary.

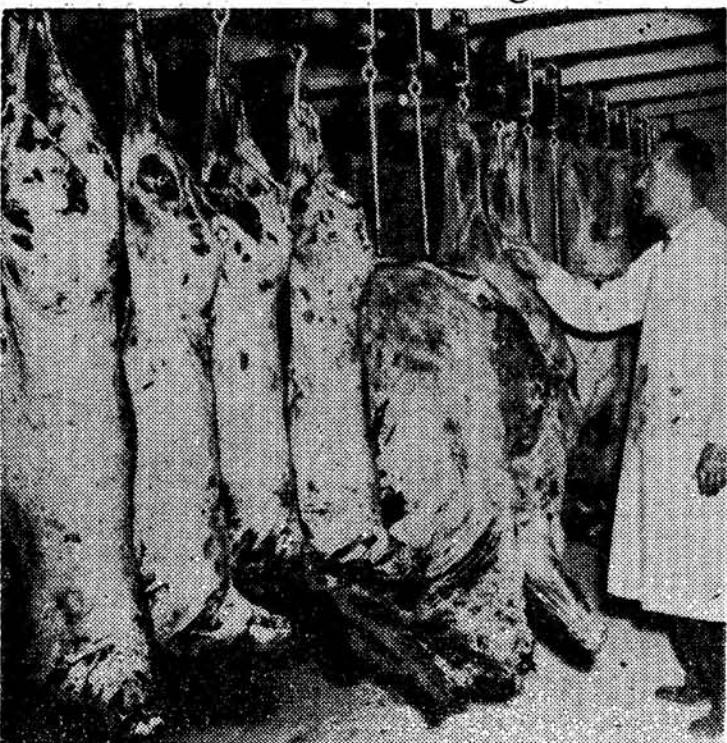
CANDIDATES ELECTED

Candidates of the Unity Ticket who were elected are Peter Calaceti, vice president; George Sopko, recording secretary; Tom Conway, financial secretary; Mike Gresko, treasurer; Earl King, guide; Thomas Surovec, outer guard; Archie Breen, trustee; Don Lutes, trustee; Glenn Cramer, compensation committee. Jerry Ford and Harry McCoy, of Sargent's slate, were elected inner guard and journal agent respectively.

Approximately 50 per cent of the Local 1010 membership voted. Balloting took place in a specially erected building near the plant gates.

The defeated grouping around Sargent had held the leadership of the local and a majority of the executive board for the past four years.

What Meat Shortage?



While workers' families suffered a meat-famine imposed by the profiteering packing trust, this picture was taken of a loaded cold storage plant. Meat in cold storage was reported almost as high as a year ago, though housewives found the counters bare.

Anti-Negro Vandals Continue Terror In Chicago District

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, July 4 — Negro-hating terrorists struck twice on the South Side in the past week.

A second attempt was made to destroy the home of Mrs. Grace Hardy, 315 West Garfield Blvd., despite the fact that the property was being guarded by a policeman.

Mrs. Hardy, a widow, has been in the hospital since May 1, when white arsonists seeking to drive her from her home in a "white" neighborhood hurled an incendiary bomb through her kitchen window. The Socialist Workers Party here exposed the facts which local authorities tried to conceal.

Last Sunday night anti-Negro vandals also set fire to the garage in the rear of the home of Dr. Eugene Cooper, 7200 Eberhart Avenue. The fire was started in a pile of dry grass on which gasoline had been poured.

The second attempt on Mrs. Hardy's home happened near midnight on June 25. John Bogan, patrolman on duty, heard a noise in the rear of the house. Upon investigation, he saw a white youth running away. Al-

though he called the youth to halt and then fired two warning shots into the air, the arsonist escaped. The fire department was called and extinguished a fire of oily rags and paper on the back porch before much damage resulted.

Another attack on the Cooper home was made by a gang of young white hoodlums at 9:30 Monday night, while two police officers were "guarding" the house. They were watched by a crowd of an estimated two thousand white adults gathered together by Jim-Crow elements trying to force the Cooper family to move from the "all-white" Park Manor neighborhood. They had spread the rumor that Mrs. Cooper had "burned the garage herself" to get police protection" and that Negroes were planning to march on the neighborhood.

STRIKE IMPETUS

According to an obviously pre-arranged plan, the street lights were put out. Giant firecrackers and stones were thrown at the house, breaking four windows. Despite the fact that 20 squad cars had been called to the scene, no arrests were made. Investigations made in the neighborhood the following night by the Socialist Workers Party revealed that police are very friendly with the white residents and inclined to "look the other way."

Henry McGee, newly-elected president of the Chicago branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has announced that "Together with the Chicago Industrial Union Council, CIO, the Chicago Urban League, the Socialist Workers Party, the Council Against Racial and Religious Discrimination, American Civil Liberties Union and the American Council on Race Relations we are launching a conference to combat terrorism against minority groups in Chicago." The conference, to which all labor and progressive groups are invited, is scheduled for July 17.

The strike began 12:01 a.m. on June 30, when the municipally-owned street-car system was completely halted as Carmen brought their cars to the barns and joined quickly-formed picket lines around the buildings.

3,000 members of the AFL Carmen's Union Division 1380 and CIO Transport Workers Union Local 250 joined in striking for identical demands: \$1.25 an hour for conductors and motormen and \$1.30 for bus drivers.

They were joined by the AFL employees of the Independent California Cable Car Company.

The AFL workers were the first to vote for strike. When their intention to strike was announced, the CIO union at a special membership meeting voted to observe all picket lines and to press for similar demands.

Despite a strikebreaking propaganda campaign of the boss press and "city fathers," the overwhelming majority of workers in this union town supported the strikers.

CIO and AFL strikers began attending each other's meetings. This was opposed by AFL leaders. But on the demand of the AFL rank and file, official joint meetings were then held.

Reports from the South, both from union and capitalist press sources, indicate that the CIO's million-dollar "Operation Dixie" to organize the exploited Southern workers is making slow but sure gains.

One week after the Southern campaign was officially launched, Van A. Bittner, the campaign director and CIO Steelworkers vice president, announced on June 13 that "real progress is being made."

This was substantiated by the report of NLRB elections from the start of the drive. Eleven elections had already been won by CIO unions in lumber, steel and textiles, at plants throughout the Southern area, which includes 12 states from Virginia to Florida and west to Texas.

INDICATES TREND

These, of course, are only a drop in the bucket compared to the million or more industrial workers waiting to be organized. But, with further evidence reported since, it indicates the trend.

Despite the campaign of the employers to use race prejudice and Jim-Crow restrictions to divide the white and Negro workers, the receptivity of the workers to unionism is being acknowledged even by the Big Business press.

"Opposition to unionization is notably less than it has been in the past in the South," states Harold B. Hinton, Nashville, Tenn., correspondent, in the N. Y. Times, June 30. "There was a time when the labor organizer's quickest enemy was the worker himself, who had been taught to look on him as a Yankee interloper."

This means that the workers, kept down by violence, intimidation and systematic anti-union propaganda, have become so eager for unionism that the employers' methods for halting unionization are no longer so effective.

Actually, as the records of the NLRB show, unionization of the South is not just starting. Petitions for union representation elections have tripled since December.

Industrialization of the South has proceeded ever since World War I. It was accelerated during World War II. But the Southern unionization drive was held back for six years because of the wartime policies of the union leaders.

Organization of the South meant a struggle, which the union leaders opposed in line with their no-strike pledge and collaboration with the government war machine.

STRIKE IMPETUS

The great strike wave and wage victories of the CIO last winter and spring has given a powerful impetus to the organization of Southern workers. Birmingham and Atlanta steel workers,

organized solidly, participated in the strikes and shared in the 18½ cents increase.

There are more than 500,000 textile workers to be organized in the South. Two recent "test cases" indicate that the CIO can do the job.

At Rock Hill, South Carolina, last month the CIO Textile Workers won a nine-month strike at the Industrial Cotton Mills Co., which had refused a maintenance of membership contract. The workers have held out in another nine-month strike at the Athens Manufacturing Co., Athens, Ga.

The drive will not be all strawberries and cream. It will be tough and has barely commenced. Ku Klux Klan terrorists have begun to rear their heads. Negro unionists have been beaten. White organizers have been threatened. But the tide is with the CIO. Its organization of the Southern workers, Negro and white, will lead, in many respects, to a veritable revolution in the backward social, economic and political relationships in the South.

Mack Local 677 Supports Labor Unity Conference

(Special to The Militant)

ALLENTOWN, Pa., July 6 — CIO United Auto Workers Local 677, representing the Mack Truck workers here, at its last membership meeting adopted a resolution in support of a National United Labor Conference of all unions and to initiate a joint action conference of local labor organizations.

The resolution endorses the proposal for a "National Labor Conference of all unions, CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods, to formulate and carry through a program of united action on the pressing political and social problems facing labor today."

"The scope of the problems facing organized labor today demand that nation-wide, rather than local, action be taken," says the resolution.

It says "present price control methods have proven completely ineffective in maintaining a reasonable price structure and are thereby wiping out the gains for which organized labor has so bitterly fought." It also scores Truman and Congress as "increasingly reactionary in the advocating of restrictive labor legislation."

CHICAGO WORKERS FACE WHOLESALE EVICTIONS

By Bruce Oxford

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, July 5 — Organized mass action to halt evictions, put evicted families back into their homes and withhold rents until rent increases are withdrawn, is being increasingly discussed in workers' districts here, especially in the South Side "black ghetto" where the Negro people are segregated under the worst housing conditions and pay relatively highest rents.

The situation facing the low-income earners, with thousands of eviction notices issued and rents soaring phenomenally, has been dramatized by the case of Jeff Milton, 34-year-old Negro laborer. Mr. Milton and his wife Emma, with their 19 month old baby, have set up housekeeping outside the La Salle St. entrance of the City Hall in Chicago. They had been evicted from their tiny two-room apartment, following OPA advice and refusing to pay the extortionate rent the landlord demanded.

NEIGHBORS HELP

A week before the eviction, a notice had been served them and their furniture was moved into the street. Indignant neighbors, both white and colored, banded together and moved their furniture back into the apartment that same day.