

# THE MILITANT

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401

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## Trotsky Memorial Articles

— See Pages 3 and 7 —

## Leon Trotsky's Heritage To U. S. Workers

An Editorial

Working-class militants throughout the world this week will commemorate the life and struggle of Leon Trotsky, co-leader with Lenin of the Russian Revolution and founder of the Fourth International. They will mourn his tragic death on August 21, 1940—when he was murdered by Stalin's hirelings.



Trotsky's imperishable contributions to the emancipation of the oppressed are becoming increasingly recognized. In America, as throughout the world, his ideas and program have taken deep root.

Like all the greatest leaders and teachers of the workers, Marx, Engels and Lenin, Trotsky spoke and fought for the workers of all lands. He was an uncompromising internationalist.

Socialist internationalism was the fortress he defended in his historic struggle with Stalin. In 1924 his battle began against Stalin's theory of "socialism in one country"—that is, against narrow-minded, reactionary nationalism.

Trotsky taught that only planned international organization of production and distribution—world socialism—could free the workers everywhere. Capitalism had become a world-wide system. It had long since outgrown national boundaries, which nevertheless remained as iron fetters.

In their mad efforts to save their decayed system, the capitalists can resort only to ghastly wars and terrible oppression. Only world socialism, the cooperative society of the free and equal in a system of production for use and not for profit, could dissolve national boundaries and open the way for the further progress of mankind.

Trotsky visualized the young, gigantic, undefeated American working class as playing a leading role in the coming titanic revolutionary socialist struggles. He wrote repeatedly of its elemental powers, its tremendous fighting capacities.

He hailed the CIO and every other advance of American labor. And he brilliantly analyzed the mighty tasks history has posed for the American workers.

"The problem of forming an independent labor party (in the U. S.) will be put on the order of the day," he said in his last and unfinished article. "Ahead lies a favorable perspective, providing all the justification for revolutionary activism. It is necessary to utilize the opportunities which are opening and to build the revolutionary party."

Along this road, pointed out by Trotsky to the American workers, lies victory.

## UNION LEADERS SPREAD FALSE WAGE THEORIES

The lie that higher wages cause higher prices is a standard excuse of profiteers for refusing to raise wages. Capitalists always try to whitewash profiteering and price-gouging by blaming inflation on wage increases.

Unfortunately, this false theory is now echoed by CIO and AFL leaders. They are fearful of leading a real fight for more wages to offset soaring prices. They are trying to justify their cowardice with the economic junk of the capitalist propagandists.

The current CIO Economic Outlook gives support to this phony wage-price theory. It argues against demanding higher wages "at this time" because "if won, they are likely to be promptly reflected in further price increases."

### IN CRUDER FORM

This same idea, in cruder form, is expressed in the AFL Labor's Monthly Survey for August. It blames the inflation on the CIO's strikes last spring. It even claims "practically the entire living cost rise" is due to the fact that the CIO steel strike "forced" a "price-celling break." As if price ceilings hadn't been "breaking" throughout the whole war while wages were frozen!

The CIO Economic Outlook concludes on the basis of its false wage theory that "at the present stage of events we can accomplish more by price action than by wage action . . ."

This program was proved bankrupt during the war. Instead of fighting for higher wages, the union leaders clamored for a "roll back" of prices. This did not halt inflation. Nor did it stop the greatest orgy of profiteering in history.

The capitalist monopolies, aided by their government, control

production and distribution. They seek to regulate prices in their own interests. The workers will be able to influence prices only when they intervene through independent mass action to take control over price-fixing.

This consumer mass action—not dependence on capitalist "price control"—is necessary. But only as a supplement to the most powerful action against the price-gougers—the fight for higher wages.

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on August 6 disclosed that "I gave the names of those six men (lynch suspects) to Attorney General Tom Clark in Washington, D. C. last Wednesday, July 31."

## Georgia Lynchers Known!

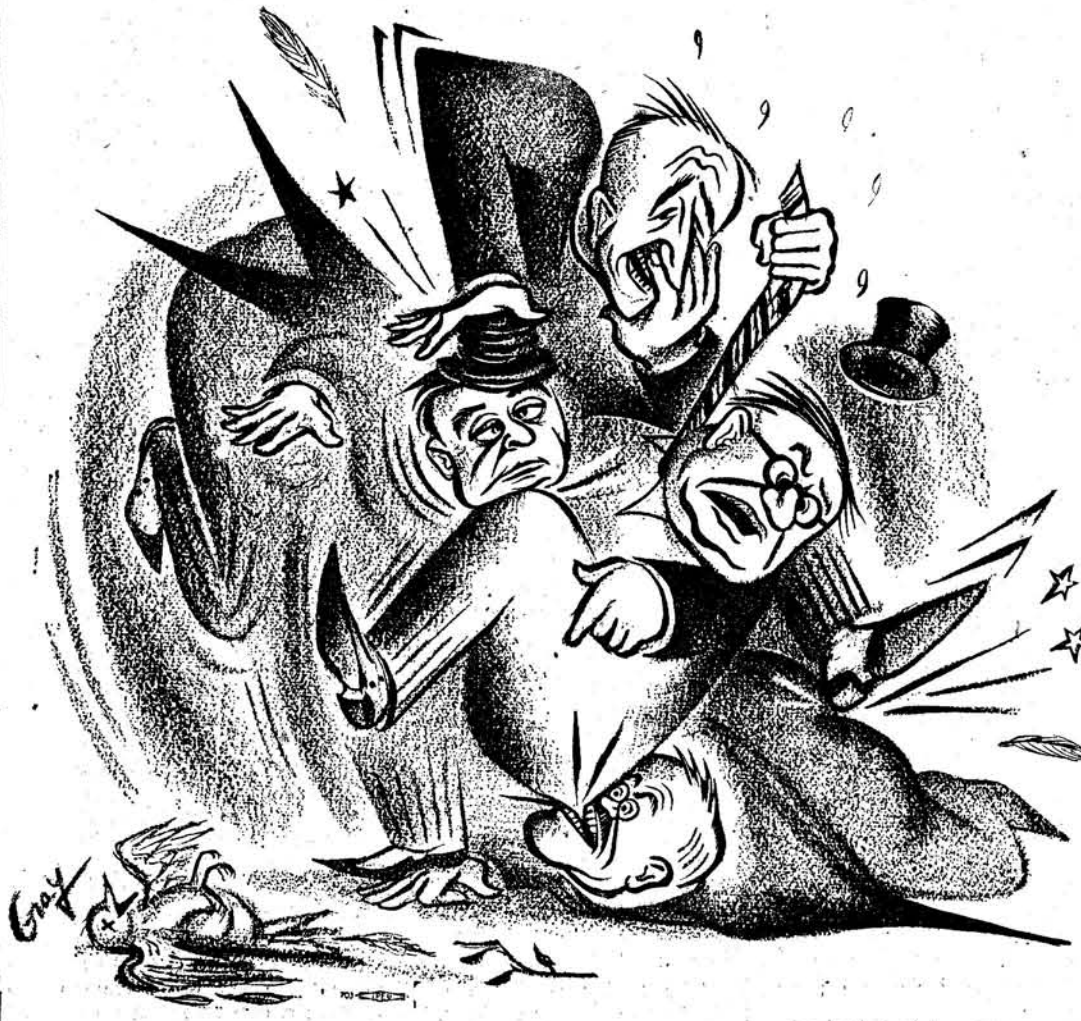
At least six of the Georgia lynch-murderers who shot down two Negro couples on July 25 are known to federal and state authorities. They have been known since July 31. But no action has yet been taken against these cruel killers of four poor Negro sharecroppers.

The leaders of the lynch mob of more than 20 whites are rich cotton planters. They are political backers of Governor-Elbert Talmadge of Georgia. Talmadge's recent election campaign was an open invitation to lynch rule.

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# BIG AUTO LOCALS DEMAND COST-OF-LIVING BONUSES

## "Peace" Conference



## U. S.-British Bloc Lays Down Line Against USSR At Paris Parley

The second week of the Paris "Peace" Conference ended with another diplomatic triumph of the U. S.-British imperialist bloc.

No decisive questions were settled by the 15 to 6 vote to permit the Conference to make recommendations to the "Big Four" ministers by majority as well as two-thirds vote. The "Big Four" still have the exclusive power to write the treaties fixing the fate of the defeated Axis satellites.

But by the debate on this question, the Stalinists enabled the U.S.-British delegations to appear "more democratic" and thereby to score considerable propaganda gains. The recommendations of the Conference—which will be dictated by Byrnes—will strengthen the bargaining hand of the U.S.-British bloc at the next "Big Four" conference. Moscow's resistance to these recommendations will serve as fuel for anti-Soviet propaganda and the diplomatic preparations for World War III.

The hypocrisy that marks the proceedings at this Conference is exceeded only by the harshness of the proposed treaties, which insure hunger and poverty for the people of the defeated countries.

Not a single one of the spokesmen nor "defenders" of the small nations took the floor to propose that the small nations have a real voice in deciding the nature of the treaties. Nor has a single delegate taken the floor to demand a just and durable peace—that is, a peace without revenge, reparations, annexations, new national boundaries, forcible transfer of populations, trusteeships and mandates.

In these respects the Paris Conference does not differ from the Versailles Conference which laid the foundation for World War II. The only difference is that after World War I there was one country that refused to participate in or take any responsibility for the "peace" conference. That was the Soviet Union, led by Lenin and Trotsky, which carried on revolutionary propaganda against the Versailles Conference and decisions, exposing their reactionary imperialist character and fighting for a Socialist United States of Europe and the world.

Stalin not only participates in, but sanctions the Paris Conference.

## IN THE NEWS

### Right Place

"Today the peace conference procedure committee met in the Salle des Pas Perdus—Hall of the Lost Footsteps."—United Press Dispatch, July 30.

### Hero's Reward

Joe Sanders, 36-year old veteran in Houston, Texas, has been refused a place to live by two landlords because he is blind. And a cafe owner has refused to serve him unless he comes in the back way "where the customers won't see him," the United Press reported July 30.

### Food Offiteer Gets Off The Hook

"ST. LOUIS, July 31 (Associated Press)—Dismissal of a \$3,000,000 treble damage action against the Ralston-Purina Co., largest suit ever brought here by the Office of Price Administration, was requested today in a joint stipulation filed in Federal District Court by the company and OPA . . . George L. Robertson, chief OPA enforcement attorney here, said he requested dismissal of the action at the direction of OPA's enforcement division in Washington."

### Everybody's Doing It

"WASHINGTON, July 31—Paul A. Olsen, former secretary to Rep. John M. Coffee (D.) of Washington, told the Senate War Investigating Committee today that the 'jails of America are going to be filled' if the Justice Department enforces a law barring government contractors from making campaign contributions."—Associated Press.

### No Bust-Control

"A bust is regarded by many as a necessary corrective before the country can settle down to postwar prosperity of a more stable sort. The trouble is that a bust, if and when it comes, can develop reactions that may not be so simple to control." (Report for The Business Executive, July 18.)

## 'Reopen Wage Contracts,' GM Workers Say

By Jerry Kirk

(Special to The Militant)

FLINT, Mich., Aug. 6—CIO United Automobile Workers General Motors Sub-Council of Region 1C, representing 65,000 GM workers in this area, at its last meeting declared itself in favor of reopening wage contracts and for an upward sliding scale of wages to meet rising living costs.

The Sub-Council recommended to the UAW International Executive Board that it "reopen wage contracts to regain the losses suffered during the war and postwar period by the working people." It was also proposed that "a clause for an upward sliding scale of wages be inserted in each union contract."

GM locals in the Sub-Council are Oldsmobile and Fisher Body in Lansing; Fisher Body, Buick, AC Spark Plug and Chevrolet in Flint.

Pete Schumacker, chairman of the Region 1C Sub-Council and member of the AC Spark Plug local executive board, told this reporter:

"GM workers in our region are only averaging three and four days a week of work. No worker can support his family on the wages he is now getting with prices soaring out of reach. With tax rebates General Motors corporation can profitably keep workers employed at a minimum."

Schumacker also said: "Inflation is here and we need some wage guarantees to meet it. A sliding scale of wages in every union contract will go a long way towards solving one of our problems. The UAW should take action on this immediately."

## Bosses Gyp Vets On Job Training

Repeated charges by The Militant that the veterans' "on-the-job" training program is being used by employers to get cheap labor were confirmed on August 6 by General Omar N. Bradley, Veterans Affairs Administrator. Bradley called the operation of the program a "national scandal."

Under the pressure of mounting veterans' complaints, Bradley was forced to admit that "the dishonest employer" has "already infected the program in many states."

Employers are paying standard wages to veterans listed as "trainees" and "apprentices" long after they are skilled in their jobs. Bosses are illegally deducting the amount of government subsistence allowances, \$65 a month for single and \$90 a month for married men, from veterans' pay checks.

"Something is wrong," said Bradley, "when it takes three years to learn to be a stock clerk in one state and three months in another and when training establishments lower the beginning wage of its trainees by an amount equal to their subsistence allowances."

One garage owner in a Southern town, Bradley reported, lowered the wage of a mechanic from \$35 to \$23 as soon as the veteran applied for training to become a foreman. The owner told the veteran his subsistence allowance would make up the difference.

Records in the files of the Veterans Administration, made available to the United Press and reported on August 7, further revealed the widespread wage-chiseling. "Most cases centered around veterans who accepted or were forced to accept sub-standard wages while their regular jobs suddenly were classed as on-the-job training," the UP reports.

## Ford, Chrysler Unions Urge UAW Fight On Wage Front

By Art Preis

AUGUST 12.—Two powerful sections of the CIO United Automobile Workers this week urged a renewed fight on the wage front to combat the rising cost of living.

## Angry Veterans Give Details On Defective Shells

Letters from 95 ex-GIs who saw their battle-front buddies blown up by defective shells were made public last week by the Senate War Investigating Committee. The Committee has been holding hearings on the scandalous war frauds and profiteering.

The angry veterans sent their eye-witness testimony to answer claims of the Army Big Brass that only a "few" American boys were killed and wounded by premature explosions on the battle fronts.

The vets also gave precise information on lot numbers and records to determine what crooked war profiteers made the shells. Army officials had claimed it was not possible to fix responsibility on guilty manufacturers.

One former supply sergeant, told about many shells being impounded, despite an ammunition shortage, after gun crew members of the 61st, 86th and 87th Chemical Mortar Batteries were blown up in 1944. Others told of tragedies at Camp Shelby, Miss., in 1944, after VE Day in Germany, on the Italian front, the Pacific, etc.

After "a shell burst in the barrel of the gun and killed as high as three or four men" on the Anzio beachhead, one soldier, "we were forced to discard countless rounds." Previously, in Africa, he wrote, after similar experiences, "I furnished the lot numbers and the arsenal to the proper authority in my battalion."

## 18,140 SIGN ELECTION PETITIONS IN NEW YORK

By Carolyn Kerry

NEW YORK SWP CAMPAIGN MANAGER

NEW YORK, Aug. 12—We're over the top! 18,140 names of New York voters were counted today on petitions to place the Socialist Workers Party (Trotskyist) ticket on the ballot. This high figure is the result of only two weeks' work by the most ardent and energetic group of campaigners the Trotskyist movement has ever known.

The legally required total of 50 signatures in each county has been surpassed by a wide margin in every one of New York state's 62 counties.

A surplus of 6,140 signatures over the legally required 12,000 is now inscribed on S.W.P. petitions.

With four weeks still to go, the petition-campaign is speeding towards its established goal of 25,000 with every indication of completion in record-breaking time.

Only the most flagrant abuse of state laws by the Election Board can now prevent the names of Farrell Dobbs, SWP candidate for Governor, Milton Richardson for Lieutenant-Governor, Joseph Hansen for U.S. Senator, William Kitt for Comptroller and Sylvia Blecker for Attorney-General, from appearing on the ballot this fall.

By far the most productive evening's work in the campaign was experienced by petition workers in New York City last Saturday. In two hours, the campaigners rolled up 4,040 signatures.

Reports from both New York City and upstate contrasted

85,000 members of the Chrysler locals and 80,000 members of giant Ford Local 600 demanded that the UAW International Executive Board reopen wage contracts.

They called on the Board to negotiate with the auto corporations for an adjustable cost-of-living bonus to offset all price rises. This demand is a modified form of the sliding scale of wages long advocated by The Militant. It is already being pressed in current negotiations by the CIO United Packinghouse Workers.

The proposal of the Ford and Chrysler workers—which has wide support among General Motors workers as well—came as a sharp rebuff to the policies advocated by UAW President Walter Reuther and CIO President Philip Murray.

### CIO LEADERS RETREATED

These CIO leaders had endorsed wage-increases just before renewal of OPA. Then they retreated and urged the dropping of wage demands. Instead they have been pushing a milk-and-water policy limited to the ineffective so-called buyers' strikes and to asking the capitalist government to "roll back" prices.

The demand for a cost-of-living bonus was adopted by the Executive Board of Ford Local 600, largest local union in the world. Their proposal provides that the union research staff, rather than the Bureau of Labor Statistics, will determine the amount of price increases on which the bonus will be based.

According to the Local 600 plan, all bonus increases would be permanent until the next regular wage negotiations, except (Continued on Page 2)

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# Detroit Auto Union Local Presidents Join Protest Against Arson-Attack On Detroit SWP Headquarters

(Special To The Militant)

DETROIT, Aug. 10—Presidents of many CIO United Auto Workers locals here have joined the widespread labor protest against the fascist terrorists who recently set fire to the Detroit headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party. The fire endangered the lives of over a hundred workers at a meeting.

The arsonists escaped after they were seen sprinkling inflammable fluid on the stairway and setting it on fire. No one was injured because the SWP audience coolly filed out a rear exit.

Top officers of Briggs Local 212, Packard Local 190, Cadillac Local 22, Ford Local 600, Chrysler Local 490, Production Foundry and Press Steel Units of Ford Local 600, Amalgamated Local 174, Dodge Local 3, Plymouth Local 51, Tool and Die Local 157, and Amalgamated Local 155, have publicly voiced their indignation at the arson outrage.

They added their voices to that of Walter Reuther, UAW President, R. J. Thomas, UAW Vice President, and George Addes, UAW Secretary Treasurer, who last week denounced the fiendish attack on the SWP as a threat to the whole labor movement.

James A. Tamoor, Ford Local 600 vice president, said: "I, too, want to add my voice of condemnation along with other liberal and progressive minded people against the perpetrators of such an un-American deed. I feel the rights of free speech and assembly are jeopardized should acts of this nature go unheeded."

In a letter to the Detroit SWP, Frank Danowski, president of Local 51, said "It is high time that our law enforcing agencies start moving in the direction of apprehending and bringing to justice these forces of lawlessness and violence. . . . Although I am not affiliated with any political group myself, I maintain that no political group should be molested or interfered with by mobs or fascist terrorists."

Dale Harris, president of Local 157, said, "I condemn the setting fire to the building in which the Socialist Workers Party meeting was being held and I call upon law enforcement agencies to not rest until the guilty persons are apprehended and punished to the fullest extent of the law."

## STRONG STATEMENT

Tom Clamplitt, president of Briggs Local 212, issued an especially strong statement. "No section of the labor movement can afford to remain indifferent to the attack by gasoline and fire made on the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party. Such incendiary assaults are never perpetrated by opponents within the labor movement but by fascist-minded reactionaries outside of organized labor. History proves that if such elements can get away with assailing left-wing political groups today, they will be emboldened to make onslaughts against labor unions tomorrow. However much the various genuine working class organizations may differ among themselves on program and tactics, they must stand together to scotch the terrorism of incipient fascism before it invades the labor movement like a deadly plague."

Even well-known Stalinists in the UAW and CIO were forced to condemn the attack on the Detroit Trotskyists. John Anderson, President of Amalgamated Local 155, and Sam Sage, president of the Wayne County CIO Council, both issued statements against the attack. "While disagreeing sharply with the SWP," said Anderson, "I am vigorously opposed to the torch as a political weapon. Incendiarism is the weapon of reaction and fascism."

However, the Daily Worker, Stalinist organ, last week published the weird slander that the SWP set fire to its own headquarters and meeting.

## Detroit SWP Protests Notice Of Eviction

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 10—As an aftermath to the incendiary firing of the Socialist Workers Party headquarters on July 25, the Building Department of the City of Detroit has now served notice on the Party that the premises must be vacated by August 12.

Arthur Burch, Detroit organizer of the Socialist Workers Party, stated: "Our alleged violation of the city zoning laws is nothing but a flimsy pretext to deprive us of headquarters where workers of all races can meet together peacefully and harmoniously. We have occupied these premises for eight months and passed numerous city inspections, with no 'violation' ever being brought to our attention."

"It is obvious that the city authorities want us to cease holding meetings as much as did the anti-labor, race-baiting fascists who tried to burn us to death. We shall fight this ouster move as vigorously as we have fought all other attempts in the past to curtail the democratic rights of free speech and freedom of assembly."

## Seattle Packing Union Demands Escalator Clause

(Special To The Militant)

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 5—AFL Amalgamated Packinghouse Workers Local 186 is stubbornly resisting employers' demands that the question of an escalator wage agreement be dropped from present negotiations. At stop-work meetings this morning here and in Tacoma the local's members voted to press for an escalator clause as their main aim.

Negotiations with the Puget Sound Meat Packers, representing eight Northwest packinghouses, are deadlocked. Charles J. Mentrin, union business agent, charged the stalemate to the companies, because they oppose making present wage levels the base below which wages could not go and granting higher wages as prices rise.

The Local 186 members are especially aroused because the companies are refusing to put back a clause which had been in the contracts for five years before the war. The clause was suspended under pressure of the government's wage-freezing policy and the union's helplessness due to the no-strike pledge.

At the request of the U. S. Conciliation Service, the members here voted to return to work and to resume negotiations this afternoon. In the event of no results, which the workers expect, they will ask the AFL Central Labor Council for a strike sanction. The Tacoma meeting made the same decision.

William Bibby, chairman of the union negotiating committee, said: "The escalator provision is the only logical answer to rising prices. With it, the unions can't be accused of spreading inflation. It's the only real protection we've got. Yes, it's a relatively new idea—for other unions, but not ours. We've set precedents before and now we want to get back what was abrogated during the war."

## Tugboats Picket Against Scabs



When the Phelps Dodge Corporation imported armed scabs to break the 7-month strike of the CIO United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers at the Elizabeth, N. J. plant, tugboats continued their water-borne picket line. The picket line was designed to prevent the importation of strikebreakers from New York by boat. When strikebreakers shot two pickets, boatloads of pickets landed and fought it out militantly.

Federated Pictures

## MAZEY, SCHOLLE STATEMENTS DENOUNCING ARSON-ATTACK

The following statements condemning the arson-attack on the Detroit SWP headquarters were issued by Emil Maze, UAW-CIO Regional Co-Director of Detroit East Side, and August Scholle, President of the Michigan State CIO Council.

Although I am not in agreement with the program or philosophy of the Socialist Workers Party, I deem it my duty as a citizen of the United States to strenuously object in the attempt to deny this group the rights of Freedom of Speech and Assembly through terroristic actions, such as the burning of their meeting hall.

The attack on the Socialist Workers Party in this meeting was very similar to the tactics used by Hitler in Germany which led to the destruction of all workers' political parties, trade unions, and other progressive organizations. We must defend the rights of the Socialist Workers Party to be able to conduct its meetings and activities if we expect to be able to defend these rights for all the citizens of the nation.

In our opinion, the arson act was the act of American Fascist organizations and must be completely and thoroughly investigated and those responsible for this act must be apprehended and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Emil Maze

Every democratic-minded citizen must recognize that such tactics represent a familiar threat in our own backyard from the very forces we have just fought a war to destroy.

August Scholle

## SWP Organizer Describes Benefits Of Midwest School

By Myra Tanner Weiss

One or two weeks at the Midwest Vacation School on Little Pleasant Lake, near Jackson, Michigan, certainly makes a difference in the people who have come here from all over the country. Arriving tense and tired from their jobs in the hot summer cities, they leave fully rested and bronzed by the sun. Every time a newcomer arrives we anticipate with pleasure the transformation he or she is about to undergo.

Our program of activity for the evenings this week has included a series of reports from branches represented here. Brief accounts of branch and trade union work in cities from coast to coast have given us a more intimate knowledge of the Socialist Workers Party. We have heard reports from Flint, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Philadelphia,

### LABOR DAY JAMBOREE

We are particularly happy about the plans for the Labor Day Jamboree. Oscar Coover, our Camp Director, has announced that it is possible for the School to offer three days at Midwest at the low rate of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Many workers who couldn't manage a whole week's vacation will be able to participate in the School for this Jamboree. All available extra cabin space is being procured to house our visitors.

Comrade Coover requests advanced reservations as room is limited even with the expansion of our facilities. Just write to Oscar Coover, Midwest Vacation School, Grass Lake, Michigan, Aug. 31, through Sept. 2 (Saturday through Monday) should be red-letter days for the Midwest Camp and unforgettable days for every participant.

Minneapolis  
Buy THE MILITANT  
AT THE  
LABOR BOOK STORE  
10 S. 4th Street

## Prices Hit New High; Worst Still To Come

AUGUST 12—Hearings on whether to continue "decontrol" of prices of five basic commodities, including grains and meats, will be held this week by the three-man Decontrol Board of hand-picked bankers and corporation representatives.

## Ford, Chrysler Locals Demand Wage Bonuses

(Continued from Page 1)

for further upward increases in the bonus with each price rise.

### CHRYSLER DEMANDS

The demands of the Chrysler workers, similar to those of the Ford local, are described in a statement sent by Tom Cunningham, president of Chrysler Local 7, to the meeting this week of the UAW Board. Cunningham's letter said the Chrysler workers want:

"Either the re-opening of the Chrysler contract for a wage increase based on the increased cost of living, or:

"A cost-of-living wage grant equal to the rise in prices since June 30 or the roll-back of prices to that date. The wage grant can be made directly by the corporation and the price roll-back can be granted by Congress and the Government. The 'cost-of-living grant' does not change the basic hourly wage scales in the corporation but is an added amount to weekly pay checks."

The wage demand, as stated by Cunningham, is weakened somewhat by the alternative proposal of a roll-back in price. OPA in its hey-day in 1943, ordered such a "roll-back." It was never enforced. Any program fostering hope of the capitalist government rolling back prices—even if Washington promises to do so—serves to build illusions.

The major emphasis of the Ford and Chrysler workers, however, is on wage increases. This is in sharp conflict with the policy of Reuther and Murray who place sole emphasis on government "control" of prices.

This conflict was reflected in the heated UAW Board meeting this week. The decision of the Board is not yet public. Reuther stated it would be placed before a wage policy conference of the CIO leaders on August 15.

### SHORT-LIVED PROGRAM

Reuther's short-lived program to combat inflation through a union-corporation conference to get "more production," has already proved a fiasco. GM, Ford and Chrysler ignored Reuther's invitation, blamed low production on "strikes."

The auto workers are not falling for the employers' propaganda—echoed by the CIO leaders—that higher wages mean higher prices. They know that present price rises have meant higher profits. Higher wages means silencing those profits and giving the workers a greater share of the product.

The demand for a cost-of-living bonus is a big step in the direction of the sliding scale of wages, based on a fixed minimum. With a sliding scale of wages automatically rising with every rise in living costs, the auto workers would have real protection against constantly mounting prices.

## SWP Candidates Demand Action In Lynch Terror

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Aug. 11—The three Socialist Workers Party candidates—Dr. Grace Carlson for Senator; Warren Creel, for Third District Representative; Dorothy Schultz, for Fourth District Representative—today issued a statement demanding that President Truman reconvene Congress to enact effective anti-lynching legislation. The statement follows:

"With the lynching of four Negro farm hands in Georgia and a Negro sharecropper in Mississippi, the reign of terror against colored citizens of the United States has reached a bloody climax."

"We call upon President Truman to indict those responsible for the lynching-incitation campaigns and to reconvene Congress for the purpose of enacting effective anti-lynching legislation."

# AFL Threatens General Strike In Los Angeles

By Lois Saunders

(Special To The Militant)

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 9—Representatives of 500,000 American Federation of Labor members here tonight set up machinery for an area-wide general strike against the open-shop, union-busting policies of the Los Angeles Merchants and Manufacturers Association.

Date of the strike was not set. There was indication, however, in a resolution unanimously adopted by well over 1,000 union representatives constituted as a Committee of the Whole, that the strike might be called at any time after 10 days.

This time margin was allowed to enable delegates to contact authorities, "fair-minded" industry associations, and the press in an endeavor to force a halt to the M & M "hot cargo" and open-shop drive.

The strike resolution instructed the chairman to appoint subcommittees of the existing Strike Coordinating Committee to handle plans for a "joint work holiday," a picket pool, organization, emergency service, legal matters, and other groups, all of which point toward the nature of the "united action in this emergency" called for by the resolution.

A companion resolution, also unanimously adopted and calling for "joint AFL economic action, legal protection and publication of information," catalogued outstanding aspects of the M & M "declaration of war against organized labor." It was charged that "more than a dozen prolonged AFL strikes have been provoked in Los Angeles in the last few months over the issues of recognition and the open shop."

One of the most bitterly contested of the local strikes has been in progress for months at the Pacific Press, west coast printers of Time and Life magazines.

There is reason to believe that the other sections of organized labor in this area—the CIO and the Railroad Brotherhoods—will give support to this AFL-initiated move, since the fight against the Merchants and Manufacturers and similar employer organizations is the fight of all labor against its common enemy.

But there was no hint at tonight's meeting that the AFL was making any effort to involve other unions in the struggle against those interests which lash out indiscriminately at all organized labor.

The call for united action of the 500,000 members of the organization is also strangely at variance with the all-out red-

baiting campaign likewise launched here this week by the AFL leadership. This campaign can only serve to divide the forces of labor at the very moment when a united offensive is being undertaken.

The manufacturers and other employers in this area and throughout the country are tightly organized in their hard-hitting, vicious attacks against labor. To deal the death blow to these tactics, workers must likewise pool their strength. This is the road to victory. There is no other.

It is to be hoped that, even though the AFL leadership refuses to take this mandatory step for the solid unity of all workers in this area-wide general strike, the demands of the rank-and-file workers and the development of the movement itself will bring about this coalition of combined effort.

## Ferguson Case Petitions Filed By SWP In N. Y.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10—The New York State Committee of the Socialist Workers Party, (Trotskyist) announced today that petitions bearing the signatures of six thousand New York residents had been sent to the State Commission against discrimination calling for a public investigation, under provisions of the Ives-Quinn Law, of Jim Crow conditions in Nassau County which led to the death of the Ferguson brothers in Freeport, L. I., last February.

At the same time, Farrell Dobbs, editor of The Militant, and Socialist Workers Party candidate for Governor, sent the following telegram to Governor Dewey who accepted the findings of Lawrence S. Greenbaum and ordered the now famous Ferguson case "closed":

"Your whitewash of the murderer of the Ferguson brothers is one of the most brazen acts of injustice in the history of New York State. By this action your administration joins company with Bilbo, Talmadge, Rankin and the entire Southern lynch mob."

"You have given a green light to Klu Kluxers and other native fascists in and out of police uniform to wantonly murder innocent people. An administration which permits killers to roam the streets at large is a danger to the peace and security of the citizens and cannot be entrusted with public responsibility."

"We are forwarding to you six thousand signatures on petitions by indignant New York citizens demanding application of the Ives-Quinn Law."

"These petitions demand that SCAD invite all interested public organizations to participate in a genuine public hearing on the Freeport case. They demand that you enforce the law of this State, wipe out the miscarriage of justice for which you share responsibility and safeguard the lives and homes of Negro people and other minorities."

## Seattle Social For Relief Nets Food, Clothing

SEATTLE, Aug. 9—Stacks of clothes and canned foods plus \$70 in cash were accumulated last week by the Seattle branch of the Socialist Workers Party at a social held to aid the work of the American Committee for European Workers Relief.

The social, which attracted sixty people, including many new friends, was the most successful affair the Seattle branch has held to date. The large headquarters was arranged cabaret style, with small tables surrounding the dance floor. An especially entertaining floor-show was presented, featuring dancers, vocalists, comedians, and a serious sketch depicting the plight of four co-thinkers abroad.

Many of those present were introduced to Trotskyism for the first time, and signified their interest and approval by buying subscriptions to The Militant and other literature and asking to be informed of all meetings.

## California AFL Launches Red-Baiting Drive On CIO

By James Dall

(Special To The Militant)

SAN PEDRO, Calif., Aug. 7—Launching a reactionary witch-hunt against "communism" and the CIO in the San Pedro-Long Beach harbor area, the AFL today shut down all business and industry under its jurisdiction and held a mass meeting and demonstration at the Wilmington Bowl this afternoon for the avowed purpose of "rooting out communism" in the harbor area.

Called under the joint auspices of the national, state, and harbor area councils of the AFL, the meeting was addressed by Daniel Flanagan, William Green's personal representative and Western Director of the AFL; Harry Lundberg, president of the Seafarers' International Union, and C. J. Haggerty, Secretary of the California State AFL.

Underlining the reactionary nature of this meeting to organize jurisdictional war on the CIO, an AFL aid in the San Pedro News-Pilot openly stated, "This is not a mass meeting against employers." Letters sent to local employers by AFL officials apologized for the work stoppage and declared, "Please be advised that this is not a meeting against any employer in this territory. We seek your cooperation and understanding."

Twelve CIO unions in the harbor area denounced the work stoppage and meeting in a full page counter-advertisement in the San Pedro News-Pilot, entitled, "We Don't Want A Third World War, Do You? Don't Be Misled." The statement charged the AFL move constituted: 1. A drive against the CIO; 2. support to Wall Street's plans to lower workers' living standards, and 3. Propaganda for war with the Soviet Union.

Despite threats of heavy union fines ranging up to \$25 for non-attendance, less than 6,000 of an estimated 30,000 AFL members in the greater harbor area headed the meeting call.

As revealed in the speeches,

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By Charles Carsten

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## Six Years After Trotsky's Death

When Leon Trotsky was assassinated six years ago, the enemies of the Fourth International predicted—and hoped—that Trotskyism would die too. But the movement Trotsky built on granite foundations has not only survived—it has grown stronger than ever.

In this country the Socialist Workers Party was compelled because of the reactionary Voth Act to disaffiliate from the Fourth International a few months after Trotsky's death. But it remains true to the Trotskyist program.

During the war the SWP was singled out for persecution by the government, and 18 of its leaders were sent to prison for their revolutionary opinions and activities. The Post Office repeatedly interfered with the mailing rights of *The Militant* and of the theoretical magazine *Fourth International*.

### GROWN STEADILY

Despite this, the SWP has grown steadily during this period. Today most of its members are workers, rooted in the trade unions, with ever-widening influence in the basic industries. *The Militant* has expanded from four to eight pages, and the number of its subscribers has multiplied more than five-times.

Today, on the sixth anniversary of Trotsky's death, the SWP is engaged in the most ambitious electoral campaign of its history. Running 16 candidates in five states, this campaign is a preliminary step to contesting the Presidential elections in 1948. The SWP is today on the threshold of becoming a mass party of the American working class.

On the international arena, the growth of the Trotskyist movement in most countries was temporarily checked by the repression and casualties of the war. But today on every continent, there are active and flourishing Trotskyist parties—both the pre-war groups and those created in the midst of the war. The Fourth International in 1946 is stronger than ever before.

### ON ALL CONTINENTS

In Europe, the Trotskyist movement has sections or strong groups in Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Norway and Spain; in the western hemisphere—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. Among the strongest sections and groups are those in the colonial countries: China, Egypt, India (Ceylon and Burma), Indo-China, Indonesia, Palestine and South Africa. Trotskyists are also active in Australia.

In India, the Bolshevik-Leninist Party, a young section of the Fourth International, was offi-

cially launched in May 1942. Despite persecutions and imprisonments by the British colonial despots, the party grew in this sub-continent whose 400,000,000 natives are desperately exploited. This significant advance reflects the mounting revolutionary struggles for colonial liberation.

The Trotskyists are in the vanguard of the Indo-Chinese struggle for independence from French imperialism. They have also emerged as a force in the Indonesian struggle against the Dutch imperialists. In China, despite the frightful toll taken by Chiang Kai-shek and the Stalinists, the Chinese Trotskyist movement is still alive, and drawing together its forces.

In Egypt a Trotskyist party emerged during the war in 1943. It is active and growing in influence despite mass arrests, imprisonments and the suppression of their paper. Similar Trotskyist parties are participating prominently in the mass struggles in Palestine and Syria.

On the European continent—in France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Greece and elsewhere—the Trotskyist cadres were decimated by Hitler's murder machine and persecuted by the capitalist liberators. But the parties of the Fourth International are making their voices heard throughout the continent. In the recent French elections the Trotskyists polled the relatively large vote of 45,000. The Trotskyists are likewise active in Italy, where the party was formed in the midst of the war.

### STALINIST TERROR

In Greece, where the fascists murdered many leading Trotskyists, the Stalinists tried to finish the job of destroying the Fourth Internationalist movement by assassinating over 100 of its leaders in the civil war of 1944. In Bulgaria, where the Trotskyists survived the terrible Nazi repression, the Stalinists have launched a wave of terror which led to the incarceration of the heroic Trotskyist leaders.

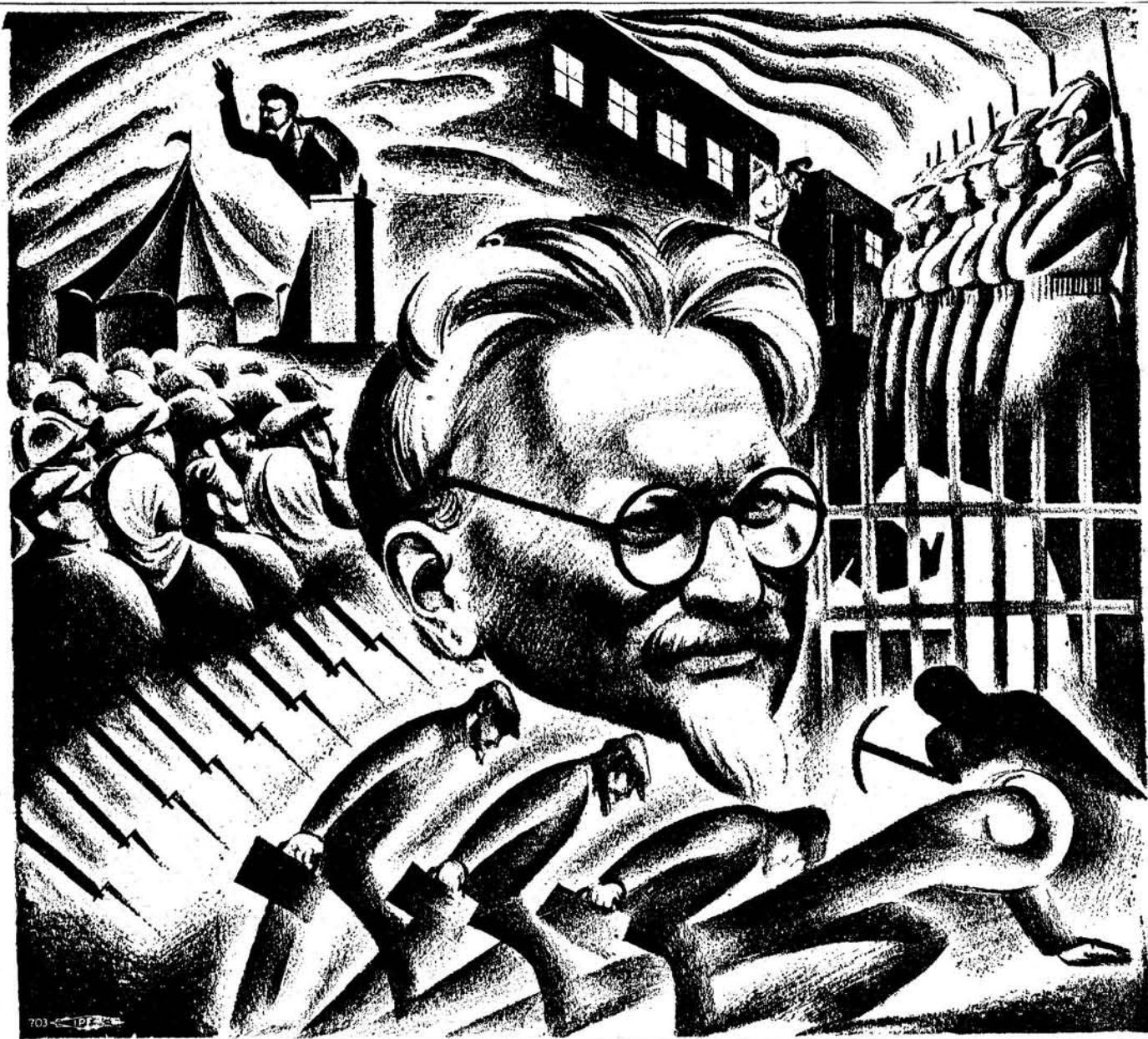
In England, as in the U.S., Trotskyist leaders were arrested for their opposition to the imperialist war. But this did not halt the growth of the movement. When Trotsky died, the British party was split in two. During the war it unified and became the Revolutionary Communist Party. It has run candidates in the elections and made significant gains in the unions.

### PRODIGIOUS VITALITY

Proof of the prodigious vitality of the Fourth International was most sharply expressed by the postwar Conference of the Fourth International held in April of this year. Convened under difficult conditions in Belgium, the Conference represented a greater membership and number of sections than at the Founding Conference in 1938. The 1946 Conference rendered more precise and reaffirmed the transitional Program adopted in 1938 under the guidance and leadership of Leon Trotsky.

Thus, six years after the death of Trotsky, the movement he founded, fights on. Its rise and growth on all continents is a reflection of the rising tide of revolution. Trotsky the man is dead, but the mighty program of Trotskyism lives and will conquer.

# Peace Or War--How Trotsky Posed The Basic Question Of Our Times



## 44 Years In The Struggle To Free Humanity From Capitalist Slavery

By Larissa Reed

Leon Trotsky, a great revolutionary Marxist, was born on a Ukrainian farm in 1879. For 44 years out of his life span of 61, he fought with ideas and deeds to free the working men and women of the world from capitalist slavery. In many books and pamphlets,

and through his great gift as an orator, Trotsky taught the workers first of all how to think out and understand their problems. Then, each time through his own heroic example, he showed them how to carry out these ideas in action.

His ideas, as well as his capacity for action, represented a constant menace to all enemies of the working peoples. Because this rare combination of revolutionary thinker and doer was personified by Trotsky, he was one of the most hated and persecuted men in all history.

Trotsky was hounded by the Czar from the time he was a youngster of 17, when he began his revolutionary career in the workers' circles of Nikolayev. In 1898 he was exiled to Siberia by the Czar. But soon after Trotsky escaped and went to London, where he met Lenin for the first time and became his collaborator. Trotsky was elected a delegate from the Siberian League to the Second Congress of the Russian party.

### EXILE AND EMIGRE

During the 1905 revolution, Trotsky was elected Chairman of the First Petersburg Soviet of Workers' Deputies. After the 1905 revolution was defeated he was arrested, together with the Soviet's Executive Committee, and exiled for life to Odorsky by the Czar. But again Trotsky succeeded in escaping. For the next ten years Trotsky lived as an emigre in France, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. In Vienna he issued a popular labor newspaper, *Pravda*, which was circulated in Russia. Throughout the years of his exile, he never ceased writing, teaching, explaining and fighting for revolutionary socialism.

When the First World War broke out, Trotsky was among the first to explain its character and condemn it as an imperialist war. He adhered to his internationalist position, teaching the workers that their main enemy was their capitalist rulers at home. At that time, Trotsky, like Lenin, predicted that without a revolutionary victory of the working masses of the world, new and more terrible wars would follow. Lenin's and Trotsky's predictions were borne out to the hilt when World War II followed in a generation.

For his revolutionary anti-war activities, Trotsky was expelled from France and deported to Spain, then to the United States. After the 1917 February revolution broke out, Trotsky returned to Russia, where he from the first stood side by side with Lenin and the Bolshevik Party. After the July days he was arrested by the Kerensky government, but was freed through the

intervention of the British government, and most heroic years were still ahead of him. He watched with alarm the gradual rise of a bureaucracy within the Soviet Union, led by Stalin. He sounded a warning call that Stalin's revisionist policy would inevitably lead to betrayal of the world working class. He predicted that this in turn would undermine the Soviet Union.

In 1923, while Lenin was on his death bed, Trotsky formed the Left Opposition within the Communist Party to fight against the abandonment of the internationalist program. When, under Stalin's false policies, disasters followed in England in 1926, in China in 1925-27, Trotsky's predictions were borne out in real life. In 1927, Stalin, determined to silence his Marxist opponent, expelled Trotsky from the Communist Party. Stalin suppressed Trotsky's brilliant "Criticism of the Draft Program of the Comintern," prepared by him for the Sixth Congress of the Comintern in 1928. In 1929

Trotsky was deported to Turkey. From then on, Trotsky was hounded from one country to another; France in 1933, Norway in 1935, and finally he was granted refuge in Mexico in 1937. All this time Trotsky never ceased writing and speaking and building anew a Bolshevik party. When in 1933 Hitler came to power, aided by Stalin's criminal policies, Trotsky declared the Third International was dead. History had proved it. He proclaimed the need for a Fourth International.

### COMMISSAR OF WAR

Thereafter, as Commissar of War, Trotsky organized the Red Army to defend the life of the young Soviet Union. For four years he led the Red Army against the armies of 21 capitalist nations, sent to destroy the Revolution, and defeated them in battle.

By this time Trotsky was about 44 years of age, with a record of 27 years' unbroken struggle behind him. But the most terrible, and most heroic years were still ahead of him.

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The Fourth International was founded in September 1938, with Trotsky as its guide and leader. Stalin's persecutions against Trotsky mounted through the years. Trotsky's children were murdered, one by one. A number of his secretaries were murdered. Inside the Soviet Union, Lenin and Trotsky's co-workers were murdered in the frightful purges of 1936-38. Finally, on August 20, 1940, Trotsky himself was assassinated by Stalin's hired killer in Mexico City.

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How would Trotsky regard the United Nations Organization, the Foreign Ministers' parleys and the Paris "Peace" Conference? As sincere attempts of great statesmen to achieve lasting peace? Or as calculated steps of bandit conquerors toward a new and more terrible war?

Trotsky's writings contain abundant material on the relation between capitalist imperialism and peace. He exposed the League of Nations after the First World War, showing how it was an instrument of war. He foresaw the possibility after World War II of a new League such as we see today in the UN and he predicted what would happen to it.

At the First Congress of the Third International in March 1919, Trotsky was assigned to write the *Manifesto of the Communist International to the Workers of the World*. In this historic document, Trotsky outlined the most crucial issue facing humanity:

"Is all tolling mankind to become the bond slaves of victorious world cliques who, under the firm-name of the League of Nations and aided by an 'international' army and 'international' navy, will here plunder and strangle some peoples and there cast crumbs to others, while everywhere and always shackling the proletariat—with the sole object of maintaining their own rule? Or shall the working class of Europe and of the advanced countries in other parts of the world take in hand the disrupted and ruined economy in order to assure its regeneration upon socialist principles?"

Change the name of the League of Nations to the United Nations and the above sentences still apply.

### AN INSANE ASYLUM

At the Second World Congress of the Third International, July-August 1920, Trotsky again declared in the *Manifesto* he was assigned to write: "Official, governmental, national, civilized, bourgeois Europe—as it has issued from the war and the Versailles Peace—resemble an insane asylum. Artificially split-up little states, whose economy is choking to death within their borders, snarl at one another, and wage wars over harbors, provinces and insignificant towns."

"They seek the protection of larger states, whose antagonisms are likewise increasing day by day. Italy stands hostilely opposed to France and is inclined to support Germany against France, the moment Germany is able to raise her head again. France is eaten by envy of England and in order to collect her dividends is ready to set Europe on fire again from all its four corners. England, with the help of France, keeps Europe in a condition of chaotic impotence, thus unifying her own hands for world operations aimed against the United States."

"In harmony with this picture of world relations Marshal Foch, military oracle of the French bourgeoisie, has issued a warning that the next war will begin where the last one left off, namely, with airplanes and tanks, with automatic arms and machine guns instead of hand weapons, with grenades instead of bayonets."

Today the generals who replaced the Fochs and Pershings predict that World War III will begin where the last one left off—with atomic bombs and annihilating rockets. Otherwise Trotsky could have written those paragraphs today.

In a speech at the June 23, 1921, session of the Third International Congress of the Third International, Trotsky said: "After the war it might have seemed that the triumph of pacifism was about to arrive and that the League of Nations was its manifestation. Today we see that the calculation of pacifism was a miscalculation. Never before has capitalist mankind engaged in such frenzied preparation for a new war as at the present time."

### PREDICTION OF WAR

In the *Theses on the International Situation*, written by Trotsky for the same Congress, the aftermath of a Second World War is already envisaged: "It is absolutely self-evident that the more protracted the world proletarian revolutionary movement is in its character, the more inevitably will the bourgeoisie be impelled by the contradictions of the world economic and political situation to engage in another bloody denouement on a world scale. This would signify that the task of 'restoring capitalist equilibrium' after the new war would have for its basic conditions of economic havoc and cultural savagery in comparison with which the present state of



Europe might be regarded as the height of well-being."

Trotsky wrote about the League of Nations in 1934 as follows: "Europe, the recent arena of the greatest of wars continually heads toward decline, pushed by victors and vanquished alike. The League of Nations which according to its official program was to be the 'organizer of the peace' and which was really intended to perpetuate the hegemony of the United States and to create a bulwark against the Red East, could not withstand the impact of imperialist contradictions. . . . The League of Nations became a secondary figure on the chessboard of imperialist combinations."

"The main work of diplomacy, now carried on behind the back of Geneva, consists in the search for military allies, that is, in a feverish preparation for a new slaughter. Parallel with it goes the constant growth of armaments. . . ."

Again substitute the UN for the League, remember that the new edition of the Versailles Treaty has not yet been written, and you get a startlingly accurate picture of what has already happened to the pretentious UN "organizer of the peace" in its first year.

### CAPITALIST "PEACE"

Finally, in 1940, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Trotsky discussed the possibility of "peace" under an Allied victory: "Victorious France could re-establish her position as a great power only by dismembering Germany, restoring the Hapsburgs, Balkanizing Europe. Great Britain could again play a leading role in European affairs only by refurbishing the game of playing on the contradictions between Germany and France on the one side, Europe and America on the other. This would signify a new and ten times worse edition of the peace of Versailles with infinitely more malignant effects upon the weakened organism of Europe."

Sounds like a report from Paris. Yet this was written six years ago!

The program of the Allied bandits is to carve up the world. This only sows the seeds of fresh and more terrible wars. Against this reactionary aim, Trotsky advanced the slogan of uniting all countries in a Socialist United States of the World. Enduring peace is possible, he explained, only through uniting countries and areas and building the planned economy of socialism. Trotsky devoted his life to the fight for this simple idea. Two quotations will illustrate his conception:

### UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

In 1934 he pointed out, "The task of complete national determination and peaceful cooperation of all peoples of Europe can be solved only on the basis of the economic unification of Europe, purged of bourgeois rule. The slogan of the United States of Europe is a slogan not only for the salvation of the Balkan and Danubian peoples but for the salvation of the peoples of Germany and France as well."

And in 1940, he repeated: "Against the reactionary slogan of 'national defense' it is necessary to advance the slogan of the revolutionary destruction of the national state. To the madhouse of capitalist Europe it is necessary to counterpose the program of the Socialist United States of Europe as a stage on the road to the Socialist United States of the World."

### READ

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"If the rulers of the Kremlin want to complain that through my writing I am aiding a future victory of the Soviet people over their reactionary bureaucracy, then I can reply, yes, I am guilty of that."

—Leon Trotsky

## Our Program

In this issue of *The Militant* we have shifted the box containing "Our Program" from its usual place on page 5. To give it greater prominence during the election campaigns, we have moved it to page 8.

We have likewise made several changes in the points of the program to correspond with the shift of issues on the political front.

Our basic program is Marxism, today known as Trotskyism. This program is contained in documents of the Fourth International and in the works of our great working-class teachers and leaders, Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

The aim of this basic program is to do away with the out-moded capitalist system and its wars, unemployment, racial discrimination and poverty. In place of hunger and bloodshed, this program aims for a socialist society based on production for use and genuine, lasting world peace.

The ability of the working class to build socialism develops through the daily struggle against the corporations and for the improvement of the standard of living.

The slogans in "Our Program" indicate the road to success in this daily struggle. At the same time they lead toward the abolition of capitalism and the construction of socialism.

"Our program" thus must answer two requirements. (1) It must show the way to socialism. (2) It must meet the needs of the working class in their daily struggle against the capitalists. That is why we make changes in it from time to time.

The first change is the addition of these slogans: "Organize mass committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!" "Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers' control!"

These slogans are designed to widen the struggle of the workers against sky-rocketing prices. They are supplementary to our key slogan in labor's fight against inflation: "A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!"

The next change is the re-wording of a slogan to correspond with a shift in emphasis in the struggle of the unions against government domination. During the war when the trade union bureaucracy sat on government boards and took orders from Wall Street's political representatives, we called for "Independence of the trade unions from the government!"

The great strike wave smashed the effectiveness of government strikebreaking boards. Today Wall Street's political representatives seek to hog-tie the unions with vicious laws and open strikebreaking. The struggle has therefore taken a different form. Our slogan on this question now reads: "Against all anti-labor laws and government strikebreaking!"

Under this slogan we have added as specific points: "No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!"

As prices continue to sky-rocket, the tax burden is felt more and more grievously by the poor. It is high time for the working class organizations to begin a serious struggle to end taxation of the poor and slap taxes where they belong—on the rich. As specific points we have added: "Repeal the payroll tax!" "No sales taxes!"

The housing shortage has become so bad that millions of families are now affected, particularly the veterans. Wall Street's government continues to stall on building new housing. Yet Congress has earmarked \$18,000,000,000 for one year's expenses in preparing the Third World War!

We propose these huge war funds be used constructively. We have therefore added to our program: "An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!"

Almost a year has passed since V-J Day. This is sufficient time to reveal what the post-war world looks like. It is a world of colossal ruin and devastation.

The Atlantic Charter turned out to be lying propaganda, precisely as *The Militant* predicted. Nowhere are the "Four Freedoms" being carried out. Right here in America, lynch-murders are mounting.

In Java, Indo-China and other colonial areas, imperialist armies are re-imposing the old despotic rule of foreign capitalism. China is torn by a civil war with the hated dictator Chiang Kai-shek backed by Washington.

At the same time the Bikini atomic bomb

demonstrations show that Washington has no intention of organizing enduring peace. Instead Washington is preparing for another world war that will be waged with atomic bombs, ocean-spanning rockets and deadly germs.

Thus the problem of finding a road to genuine peace is up to the working class. The capitalists can do nothing but guarantee another war.

We have, therefore, added the following slogans: "Take the war-making powers away from Congress!" "Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!" "Against capitalist conscription!"

To block the will of the people for a world of peace, the capitalists have imposed the Prussian military system on the armed forces, denying them their democratic rights.

To grant the workers and farmers in the armed forces their right to participate in the political life of the country we propose: "Abolish the officer caste system!" "Full democratic rights in the armed forces!"

As before, "Our Program" ends with the main slogan, "For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!" This slogan points the only political road for the labor movement. In the final analysis all questions are decided on the political front. To win its battle, labor must put its own government in Washington.

## Troops And Strikes

Some 200 battle-equipped troops of the National Guard were used at Connersville, Indiana, on August 5, to smash a picket line of CIO workers and herd strikebreakers into the Rex Manufacturing Company plant.

Once again American labor receives an object lesson in the government's use of armed forces to protect the interests of labor-hating capitalists.

The National Guard is an appendage of the federal armed forces. It has been employed traditionally against striking workers.

Every minority ruling class peddles the myth that its armed forces exist to protect "the people." Actually, these forces are organized for the sole purpose of guarding the exploiters against the wrath of the people.

This is true of the American capitalist class and its military arm. The capitalist class controls the state and the government. It controls the military. That is why, at times of critical struggle between the workers and the owners, the armed forces are always sent to aid the owners.

Truman used the threat of troops to break the railroad strike. He sent troops into Kentucky mine fields during the coal strike. He threatened to use the Navy to smash a CIO seamen's strike.

Just as these armed forces of the capitalist government are used to defend the capitalists and their profits here at home, so they are used throughout the world to safeguard Wall Street's imperialist interests.

Labor must pay particular attention to the real function of the armed forces under capitalism. Events like those in Indiana further demonstrate that the armed forces are instruments of the capitalist government to terrorize the people.

That is why labor must oppose every measure to strengthen these forces—compulsory conscription, military appropriations, the officer caste system.

## Election Laws

Just before going to press we received a wire informing us that the Lucas County Election Board in Toledo, Ohio, has ruled the Socialist Workers Party candidates off the ballot.

The technically used as the pretext to bar the only workingclass candidates from the ballot in Northwest Ohio, was that their petitions were not filed as a unit. This technicality was not applied to Republican and Democratic candidates under similar circumstances in the past.

Our experience with all election laws tells us that in Ohio, as in almost every state in the country, the boss politicians suffer no lack of technicalities to deprive workingclass political organizations of the right to appear on the ballot.

The capitalist politicians and the ruling Democratic and Republican parties have built up a tangle of restrictions especially designed for this purpose.

This is part of the method for preserving the political monopoly of Wall Street's parties. Among the methods used are the requirements for the number of signatures on election petitions to place candidates on the ballot. These figures are often so large, or the procedure so complicated, as to present an almost impossible obstacle to small and financially-poor parties.

Where this obstacle is surmounted, the minority party then confronts the barbed-wire of innumerable legal regulations—trickily designed to permit of varying interpretations. That's where the Election Boards come in.

Since these boards are composed of Democrats and Republicans, usually professional political agents of the bosses, they "interpret" the rules to "find" a minority party in violation of election procedure.

There is nothing the boss parties fear more than competition—especially and particularly labor competition. Their greatest anxiety is to prevent the workers from building their own party and running their own candidates.

So long as they can prevent workers' political parties from getting on the ballot and running candidates, the capitalist politicians can maintain their monopoly of the electoral machinery and prevent political competition.

Part of the fight to preserve labor's political rights and to build a labor party is a vigorous national campaign to abolish these restrictive laws rigged up to keep labor candidates off the ballot.

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"And does it say that our investments in China are protected, or should we send more Marines to safeguard Democracy?"

## Workers BOOKSHELF

UP FRONT by Bill Mauldin  
Henry Holt & Company, 228  
pp. 1945, \$3.00.

This book of cartoons and the artist's commentaries is about several hundred thousand men of the millions drafted into the U. S. Army in World War II—the combat soldiers. More particularly, it is about the infantryman, the "dog face" and still more about the basic unit of the army, the rifleman—"up front." The book isn't really about them either. The cartoons were drawn for them and express their own war-weary humor, grim and casually direct, innocently brutal, in places naively, touchingly human and always hopelessly homesick. Only those who after years of the deadly know-how of war "accepted with deadened senses" what to others would seem impossible conditions of life, can fully appreciate these sketches.

Most of these cartoons appeared in *Stars and Stripes*, the overseas Army newspaper, and were turned to by the men even before reading the news or the comic strips. No other drawings drew so closely to the moods and thoughts of the front-line soldier. They stood with the bearded, mudcaked foul-smelling, dog-tired, sleep-forgotten, drenched, freezing or sweltering and frightened foot soldier; against the officer caste, the privileged, the more comfortable and even the rear echelons. One is tempted to say—against the war itself! But that is not true.

The 23-year-old Mauldin remained on the level of uncrystallized discontent. His humor provided the soldier, as he writes, "with a safety valve to blow off their feelings about things." His object was to make them "feel better inside." For "it is not good for them to sit in their holes and brood about it and work up a

steam." The big brass... most of them, anyhow... tolerated his "insubordinate" cartoons. His excellent drawings and humor were not the kind that teach lessons and guide bitter resentment against the real enemy, the capitalist war-mongers and profiteers.

It can be regretted that he chose to write as well as draw. His comments, although partially supplementing and amplifying the spirit of what is best in his drawings, also contradict much of it. With the typewriter he portrays most officers as good, totalitarianism in the army as necessary, the war as a just war, the German masses as all Nazis, etc.

Stating as he does, that because of his youth, he didn't know what it was all about, he could only fall into the official imperialist clap-net when he attempts to give a political appraisal of various aspects of the war. One can hope that the young artist who understood so well the mind, heart and racked body of the soldier "up front" will learn to understand the world-wide struggle against imperialism on the class front.

Reviewed by  
Dave Stevens

PRIMER FOR WHITE FOLKS edited by Bucklin Moon, Doubleday, Doran and Co., Inc., New York, 1945, 491 pp., \$3.50.

According to one reviewer, this anthology is the story of "how the Negro got to be looked upon as a second-class citizen... and why he doesn't intend to stay that way." And that is as far as Bucklin Moon's compilation goes. Of the 41 articles and stories he has selected as the best writing on the Negro in America, not one offers any kind of hope to the 13,000,000 colored citizens

of this country for obtaining economic and social freedom.

The book is divided into three parts—"Heritage," in which articles by E. B. DuBois, Carey McWilliams and others tell of the Negro people's struggle against slavery; "Black and White Mores," which describes day-to-day aspects of living Jim Crow through stories by writers such as Ray Boyle, Richard Wright and Dorothy Parker, and "Today and Tomorrow," including selections from Roi Ottley, Langston Hughes and Lillian Smith on what they think about the Negro question.

Moon's collection is a fairly impressive gathering of writings on the race problem and its history—even taking into consideration the fact that he leaves out all mention of the important period during Reconstruction days when Negroes played a successful role in government administration. On the other hand, Moon includes apologies by Wendell Willkie and Chester B. Himes on why World War II was the colored American's "War for Democracy" despite the lack of democracy in the armed forces and at home!

"The Races of Mankind," presentation of scientific proof of the brotherhood of man by Columbia University anthropologists Ruth Benedict and Gene Weltfish, is included—the same pamphlet which was banned from distribution to the U. S. Army as having "no place in the Army program." This is the most worthwhile piece of reading in the whole book, and should be read by every worker, as an explanation of how race prejudice grew up—a weapon to "divide and rule"—and how science has disproved the theory that some races are inferior.

Reviewed by  
Winifred Nelson

## Congressmen At Work

### Saving British Capitalism

How closely Congress follows the views of Big Business in reaching its decisions was revealed with unusual clearness in the debate over loaning Great Britain \$3,750,000,000.

Representative Wright Patman (Democrat of Texas) supported the loan July 11, arguing, "The British Government will be forced toward socialization much faster if we refuse the loan than if we make the loan." As authority for his argument, he quoted Michael A. Heilpern, economic adviser to the Bristol-Meyers Co. of New York:

"An interesting question is the future of leadership within the Labor Party itself. Whether the moderate elements will remain in control or will have to give way to the left wing will depend, among other factors upon the decision of our own Congress concerning the loan to Britain. The Attlee government has staked its reputation upon the success of that loan. Our refusal would very likely increase the prestige of the more extreme Socialists."

Representative W. Sterling Cole (Republican of New York) agreed. "British socialism has little in common with totalitarian communism. It is far better for us to strengthen a British Government which has socialist leanings than to allow that country to fall prey to the seeds of communism which have found fertile soil in the areas on the continent of Europe which were devastated by the war."

Representative A. S. Mike Monroney (Democrat of Oklahoma) added: "Britain cannot carry on under the capitalist system of free enterprise trade in foreign markets unless she has this new



capital added to her battered financial structure. We have the choice of trying to get all of the world—and together we do get 75 per cent of it immediately—on a capitalist free enterprise system of world trade, by making this loan of \$3,750,000,000 at this time."

On July 12 Patman placed in the Congressional Record the testimony of two witnesses before the House Committee on Banking and Currency. They were W. Randolph Burgess, Vice Chairman of the National City Bank of New York and W. L. Hemingway, president of the Mercantile Bank and Trust Co. of St. Louis. These two bankers on May 24 testified in behalf of the American Bankers Association.

Burgess was not very worried about the Attlee government carrying out genuine socialist measures. He compared Attlee with a previous labor prime minister who betrayed the workers and saved British capitalism: "Ramsay MacDonald was a Socialist and Labor man before he came to the Government, and his government made a few changes and

then they settled down and behaved very conservatively." Burgess figured on Attlee doing the same. "The Bank of England socialization, for example, they call it socialized and yet the same people are running the bank under the same principles under which it was run before, so it is a little hard to get worried about the policies of the Bank of England."

Hemingway felt that "by making this loan and helping England to stabilize its economy we might be able to help the conservatives and those who are opposed to socialism in England to stop it. In other words, it was our feeling that socialism thrives in an atmosphere of economic disorder and dissatisfaction. If England could again become prosperous that socialism would gradually slip away. That was the view of our committee" (of bankers).

Summing up the viewpoint of the American bankers, Hemingway admitted they would be opposed to the loan "if these were normal times." But with the world coming out of this terrible conflict which lasted for 6 years, with things literally shot to pieces in so many parts of the world, it is advantageous from our own selfish standpoint to help get these people back on their feet and doing business again. That is really the gist of our argument."

The Congressmen repeated the arguments of these bankers with all possible variations. Then a big thumping majority voted to save capitalism in Great Britain by opening up the sluice gates of the U. S. treasury.

## Two Of A Kind — Political Swindlers

By George Clarke

To cover up their crimes, crooks often yell "thief" the loudest. This applies to the Communist (Stalinist) Party and to Norman Thomas' Socialist Party.

Both are now engaged in a big election fraud in New York State. Both are throwing sand in the eyes of the workers.

The Communist Party seems to be trying to place its own independent ticket on the state ballot. In reality, it is doing nothing of the kind. If the "anti-Dewey" candidate on the Democratic ticket is acceptable to the Stalinists, according to their own announcement, they will withdraw in his favor. Just another way of tricking their own members and sympathizers into support of a Wall Street Party. In other words — a swindle, pure and simple.

Norman Thomas' Socialist Party also is trying to get on the state ballot. Ordinarily no one would pay much attention to this decrepit sect which has neither spirit, program, principals nor membership.

The S.P. is about to give up the ghost. On July 2 their national committee decided to approach the Social Democratic Federation for organic unity. The Social Democratic Federation is the backbone of the Liberal Party which is supporting Democratic Senator Mead for Governor in keeping with its practice of supporting capitalist politicians in all elections.

In other words, if the merger with the Social Democrats goes through before the election there may not be any S.P. ticket. If the merger is delayed until after the election, workers who have voted for the S.P. will have thrown away their vote on a dying sect breathing its last gasp. Another swindle.

## BELLOW WITH RAGE

Both the S.P. and C.P. appear to be having a lot of trouble getting the required number of signatures to place them on the ballot. Thus both of them bellow with rage at the warm welcome Socialist Workers Party campaign workers received from workers and farmers throughout the state. In less than two weeks we collected 12,000 signatures and a number far in excess of the legally required totals for the 62 counties of the state. The campaign is now rolling forward to its goal of 25,000 signatures.

The Daily Worker accuses us of "provocation" to incite the American Legion against them. What provocation? Give names and places or shut up! What stupidity! If the Legion succeeded in driving one minority party off the ballot, how would that help the SWP which comes under the same election laws?

Norman Thomas writes a frantic letter to his "friends" in which he accuses us of attempting to "steal" the name Socialist. He compares us with the Nazis who "once stole the name Socialist for use in their nefarious propaganda." We heard that a me-up before from the Kremlin. That's where Thomas got it.

What gives the S.P. the monopoly on the name "Socialist"? Not their program. Not their propaganda. Not their action. Not even history. For the Socialist Labor Party used the name Socialist years before the S.P. was formed.

Two of a kind. Both engaged in a swindle. The working class should remember that on election day.

## Higgins And Kaiser, 'Self-Made' War Profiteers

Two more war-born "self-made" multi-millionaires, Andrew J. Higgins and Henry J. Kaiser, are under fire for war fraud and profiteering. Risking scarcely a nickel of their own, these "industrial geniuses" each snared more than \$300,000,000 of government war contracts. In five short years, they raked in scores of millions in profits and held title to vast plants.

Higgins, a pre-war small-time builder of pleasure craft, became a big-time builder of military craft at a huge shipyard the government set up for him down in New Orleans. When V-J Day came and government contracts dried up, Higgins shut down the New Orleans yard and fired thousands of workers on the pretext of "union trouble."

## FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

Last week, the Department of Justice sent a special attorney, J. Frank Cunningham, down to the Mississippi Delta city to investigate the money-making activities of Higgins. Cunningham charged Higgins, his son Frank, and other associates with "making and causing to be made and presented for payment and approval false claims against the United States government, knowing such claims to be false, fictitious and fraudulent."

Now most people will admit that it isn't a very nice thing for a "rugged individualist" like Higgins to defraud the American people of millions. Some people might even say that maybe labor-hater Higgins ought to be "put up against a wall and shot at sunrise"—like his good old friend Admiral Land of the Maritime Commission once advocated for union organizers.

"The Saga of Henry J. Kaiser" was described in *The Militant*, June 6. Between hundreds of millions in government hand-outs and selling tens of millions in shares to stock suckers, Kaiser came out of the war, as the saying goes, "well-fixed."

## WAR PROFITEERING

Now he too has the spotlight cast on him. Senator Styles Bridges, Republican of Maine, has demanded that the Senate War Investigating Committee take a peek into the many and profitable activities of Kaiser. The Senator went so far as to insinuate Kaiser might be guilty of war profiteering and to have benefited from government "favoritism." And all Kaiser did was to ante about \$100,000 up to more than \$300,000,000 by pluck, hard work—and a pipeline to the U. S. Treasury.

The exposures of Higgins and Kaiser are a by-product of the war scandals revealed by the Senate War Investigating Committee. This committee has been directing most of its attention to one gang of small-time crooks, the Garsson munitions combine that broke into the arms racket during the war. The big "well-established" crooks—like U. S. Steel, General Motors, du Pont, Ford, Bethlehem Steel Standard Oil—don't mind the heat being turned on outfits like Garsson's which tried to muscle in on the big thieves' territory.

Higgins and Kaiser are independent capitalists in the Garsson class who tried to squeeze between the big monopolies and lap up some of the war profits gravy. They are being made scape-goats for the crimes of Big Business. So now Kaiser proposes to turn "states evidence" and spill the beans about U. S. Steel and others. When thieves fall out, the truth will out—if the old whitewash brush isn't applied all around!



# 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.

## Reader in England Appraises British Labor Party Policy

The Labor Party in England has doubled its membership votes over the 1938 figure which is testimony to the magnitude of the left swing of the workers and radical middle class, as well as to the depth of the growing political crisis.

The annual conference of the Labor Party has recently taken place. We note that the rank and file delegates were more critical of the leadership's reactionary policies than they have been for a number of years. This is shown by the defeats the Labor Government representatives suffered in a number of questions, agricultural policy, education.

On most other questions the rank and file were highly critical; on nationalization, where speakers demanded greater participation of voters' committees at every stage of production; in foreign policy where Bevin, Labor's foreign minister, had a very rough time over his defense of the Labor Government's continuation of Tory, i.e., capitalist foreign policy.

It is clear that the Labor Party Left Wing is beginning to emerge. It is reflected in Parliament by such persons as Silverman, Williams, Mikado, but it lacks a perspective and a program.

The food situation is gradually worsening here and workers are complaining that they are worse off than during the war. "Victory" has meant little to them. The housewife's shopping basket is becoming lighter, and it is taking her twice as long to obtain the extra bits which she used to get during the war. None but a labor government could remain in office in Britain today and ration bread — not with the workers in their present mood.

A Reader  
Nottingham, England



BEVIN

## Petition Gatherer Proud of Her Achievements

Never in my life have I gone out for signatures for any purpose whatsoever. But I decided to try my luck at it after my husband, Abe Davis, told me so much about the hard work the Party members were going to have securing the signatures required.

I had Abe go out with me one night, and I listened to him explain the reason for the required number of signatures and the work of the party. He secured a few signatures while standing on the street corner and the next morning I decided to go out on my own.

I put the petition blanks in my shopping bag and on the way to the market succeeded in getting 51 signatures from men and women, and also from the women who were busy picketing the meat shops. I did this in about two hours.

I felt very proud of my achievement and the next morning went

out again. One butcher called me in, and signed the petition and told his employers to also sign. This gave me an idea to try other stores, which I did. I went into luncheonettes and other places of business and received a very good response. Everyone seemed to be willing to take a chance on better conditions whether or not they were workers or little business people.

Out of my own experience, I told Abe that approaching people and walking around was more successful than waiting for people to pass by.

Betty Davis  
New York

## "No Draft at All," Says 'Militant' Reader

I am against any draft of young men or old, as long as the Republican Party or Democratic Party is in power. I have been watching them for 40 years, and am not giving them any leeway. They are Siamese Twins.

We are in danger, and it is getting worse all the time, but there are some people who hate to give up. They believe in purgatory and Hell, the devil, Uncle Sam and Santa Clause. But there is nothing except the grave for the wicked.

No draft at all under the present system. That is my idea, and the way I look at it.

L. B. Courts  
Hamilton, Ohio

**BOSTON  
PICNIC  
at Houghton's Pond  
Sunday, August 18  
Meet at Manhattan Square  
at 11 A. M.  
Swimming, Games,  
Refreshments**

## Two Ends Of The Same Chain



## "My Day" -- Experiences Of A Working Mother

By Mille Fredreci

I have never tried to write a column before. I am such a busy mother and housewife who works out that I wish I could travel about from home to shop and work by atom

rocket. I don't have time to make up my face, to say nothing of making up a column, so I'm telling this while my husband types it for me. Here's a sample of "My Day."

After staying up all night carrying buckets of water last Tuesday because my roof was leaking, I went to court to get a summons for my landlord. Water has been pouring from the electric socket for over a month whenever it rains. I was so afraid this would cause a short in the fixtures that I called the Fire Department in advance and told them about it and I took out

en to ask for what they came for or to defend themselves. Some of them brought lawyers they couldn't afford.

Since March the OPA has turned over its investigation of repairs to the Tenement House Department, so I called them and they promised to send someone to investigate the next day. (I'm still waiting after a week.) I had forgotten all about Buyers' Strike Day until I reached Norton's to return a pair of shoes. The pickets were calling out: "Stay out of the stores." "Don't Buy — Prices are too high." I said to the picket captain: "I'm not buying, I'm taking these shoes back for a refund." So he let me pass. If I'd kept the shoes another day, I'd have lost the price of the shoes and I worked too hard to get it.

## THE POOR PAY MORE

I have a big gas and electric bill for the last two months — \$15.99. That is \$5 more than my Madame's gas and light bill. She lives on East 77th St. and her three-room apartment, with a terrace, costs \$108 a month. My tiny four rooms could fit into her living room easily, but I pay a higher gas and light bill. It's not right that the poor should pay more than the rich.

Fluorescent lighting might help me get my bill down somewhat if the landlord would put it in. If I have to install it, I'll buy the kind I can move. Fluorescent lighting gives twice as much light for the current compared with incandescent. Abraham Straus has a fluorescent floor lamp for \$49.95 which I won't get because you know why.

Electric refrigeration is nice if you can get it. Consolidated Edison advised me if I order now I might get a refrigerator in six months — about \$182 up. You pay off the bill added to your regular gas and light bill and Edison gets a rake-off for the sale.

I bought a second-hand refrigerator during the depression for \$10 plus hauling cost. The last three years it has cost me about \$60 a year to repair it (the company patches it up). I had it cleaned last week for \$5 and then it wouldn't run.

The mechanic said it stopped because the float was choked with carbon and it needed another "overhauling." So I told him nothing doing, if it wouldn't work I'd take a hammer and bang until the carbon was loosened or smash it and sell it for junk.

**SOME BREAK DOWN**  
Out shopping, I priced a piece of oil cloth for my kitchen table. The price was \$1.15 for a piece that used to sell for 59 to 79 cents. I bought two pounds of peaches instead, but when I got home I found those on the bottom of the bag were rotten.

I also bought a five-pound piece of pork. I got six to eight chops out of six inches square of meat encased in a layer of fat — cost \$2.50. Butchers stopped trimming fat off soon after the war began.

When I got home they were taking my neighbor away in an ambulance accompanied by a policeman. She just broke down from the bad housing and bad food and nervous exhaustion so they were taking her to a charity ward. The usual crowd of neighbors, gathered. Some of them saw a stray cat with a broken leg in the gutter and gave it water.

The cop pulled out his revolver to kill the cat. But the bullet bounced off the pavement and wounded another of my neighbors sitting on stoop number 4. My day!

## THE MILITANT ARMY

### Novel Idea Puts Zest In San Pedro Sub Drive



San Pedro Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has worked out a novel way of increasing subscriptions to The Militant. Yetta Fine, San Pedro's energetic literature agent, writes:

"To put a little spirit into this work, the branch is running a 'handicap.' We have a large race track posted at our headquarters. Each comrade selling a sub gets a horse to ride. Each sub sold moves him up a peg on the race track. At this writing Comrades Elsie (our newest comrade in the branch) and Eugene are running neck-and-neck for first place.

"Subscription work has become a regular part of the branch activity. Many new subs are obtained at homes visited on call-backs where the subscriber has moved and the new people buy a sub. Also, the comrades are doing a fine job of selling subs to their shopmates."

Rudy Rhodes of St. Louis reports a very high percentage of renewals: "About a week ago I visited 14 subscribers in one evening and obtained seven renewals and one new 6-month sub from a neighbor of one of the subscribers. That was the best average of renewals I had ever made. It was a colored neighborhood. Several of the subscribers remarked about our action in defending Negroes. They mentioned the Ferguson case, etc."

Despite summer handicaps, branches are digging into subscription work with fine determination.

Irene Fitzgerald, Philadelphia: "The work goes slowly. Summer has hit us. We can get the subs all we have to do is to go out and get them. Seventeen comrades have scored in all the subs in July. Scores range from nine to one. Max Geldman has nine, Herb Maxwell nine, Mike Davis five, Abe Pollin six. Clyde, a young woman sympathizer, has taken over a housing project in which she lives and has brought in four renewals so far."

## Pioneer Notes

Chicago Branch is getting good subscription results through Red Sunday mobilizations. "The 42 subs you recently received," writes Sara Preston, "were gotten on our first mobilization for renewals. Although only 10 comrades were able to get out, they did a swell job. Some of the subs are new ones, incidentally, which were gotten just by talking to people on their porches, etc. . . . The 17 subs enclosed were gotten on our last Red Sunday renewal drive. Calumet Branch came through with 11 of them. The renewal drive here is 'going very well.'"

Four Militant boosters joined the ranks of The Militant Army this week.

A subscriber in San Francisco sent in five 1-year subs for the King Jazz Shoe Shine Parlor, N. Y. Shoe Shine Parlor, Smoky Dog Smoke Shop, and Main Event Pool Hall. Through this source, The Militant will undoubtedly be read by many workers every week.

W. Smith of Chicago subscribed to The Militant and sent a sub for a friend at the same time.

Henry Hill, a merchant seaman, made friends with three workers on a trip to Belgium. "It is hard for them to get revolutionary papers," he said, "so I am sending them The Militant." He is sending each a one-year sub.

Paul Siegel, Cambridge, wrote us as follows: "I am enclosing \$1 for a subscription to a friend . . . Congratulations on the many excellent articles which have appeared in recent issues of The Militant."

## Youth Group Activities

**NEW YORK.** — For information on the Trotskyist Youth Group send name and address to 116 University Place, N. Y. 2, N. Y.

Every Sunday: Beach Party at Brighton Beach between Bay 7-8 (take BMT to Ocean Pkwy).

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, 160th St. and 90th Ave., 8 p.m.

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

**LOS ANGELES.** — Socialist Youth Club meets every Thursday, 8 p.m., at SWP headquarters, 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Educational by Youth and SWP speakers.

Watch this column for further announcements of youth activities.

**NEW YORK**  
**Indonesian Republic**  
**Anniversary Rally**  
**FRIDAY, AUG. 16, 8 p.m.**  
**LABOR TEMPLE**  
**242 East 14th St.**



1879 - 1940

## Trotsky Memorial Meetings

THE MILITANT invites all its readers and friends to attend the memorial meetings in the following cities, under the auspices of the Socialist Workers Party.

### New York

MEMORIAL ADDRESS BY  
**JOSEPH HANSEN**

Former Secretary to Leon Trotsky and  
SWP candidate for U. S. Senate  
also:

**Sylvia Blecker**

SWP candidate for Attorney General  
Film Showing of

**"Ten Days That Shook  
The World"**

Based on John Reed's famous book  
on the Russian Revolution.

**Wednesday, August 21  
8 p.m.**

**WEBSTER HALL**

119 East 11th St.  
(Between 3rd and 4th Aves.)

### Baltimore

MEMORIAL ADDRESS BY  
**MAX GELDMAN**

Philadelphia SWP Organizer

**Saturday Aug. 24, 8:15 p.m.**  
Baltimore Interracial Fellowship House  
21 West Preston Street

### Allentown

SPEAKER:  
**MAX GELDMAN**

Philadelphia SWP Organizer

**Sunday, August 18, 8 p.m.**  
Militant Labor Forum  
S. E. Corner of  
Front and Hamilton Sts.

### Akron

MEMORIAL ADDRESS BY  
**JOSEPH ANDREWS**

**Sunday, August 25, 8 p.m.**

Socialist Workers Party

405-6 Everett Bldg.,  
39 E. Market St.,

### Flint

**WILLIAM F. WARDE**

National SWP Educational Director  
will speak on

**"The Meaning of Trotskyism  
to the American  
Working Class"**

**Sunday, August 18, 8 p.m.**

First meeting at opening of  
New Flint Headquarters

215 East 9th St.

### Twin Cities

MEMORIAL ADDRESS BY  
**DOROTHY SCHULTZ**

SWP Congressional Candidate,  
4th District St. Paul

Chairman:

**Warren Creel,**

SWP Congressional Candidate  
3rd District, Minneapolis

**Wednesday, Aug. 21, 8 p.m.**

Socialist Workers Party  
10 South 4th St.  
Minneapolis

### Los Angeles

**MURRY WEISS**

National Committee, SWP  
will speak on

**"Trotsky and the American  
Socialist Revolution"**

Other speakers:

**Rose Karsner, on**

**"Trotsky — The Man"**

**Al Miller, on**

**"Why You Should Join the Socialist  
Workers Party"**

**Sunday, August 25 8 p.m.**

Embassy Auditorium

North Hall

847 South Grand Ave.

### Portland

**JOYCE HESSER**

will speak on

**"Trotsky and the Fourth  
International"**

**August 24, 8 p.m.**

Socialist Workers Party  
134 S. W. Washington  
3rd floor

### Chicago

**WILLIAM F. WARDE**

National SWP Educational Director  
Will speak on

**"What Trotsky's Teachings  
Mean to the American  
Workers Today"**

Chairman:

**Mike Bartell**

Chicago SWP Organizer

**Friday, August 23, 8 p.m.**

Socialist Workers Party  
777 West Adams Street

### Boston

SPEAKER:  
**S. M. BROOKS**

**Friday, August 23, 8 p.m.**  
Workers Educational Center:  
30 Stuart St.

### Newark

**ALAN KOHLMAN**

SWP Candidate for Governor  
of New Jersey  
will speak on

**"Trotsky's Program in the  
1946 Elections"**

Other Speakers:

**William E. Bohannon**

SWP Candidate for U. S. Congress

**Arlene Phillips**

SWP Candidate for U. S. Congress

**Friday, August 23 8 p.m.**

423 Springfield Ave.

### Philadelphia

**JOSEPH HANSEN**

Former Secretary to Leon Trotsky, and  
SWP Candidate for U. S. Senate  
will speak on:

**"The Teachings of Leon  
Trotsky"**

**Friday, August 23, 8 p.m.**  
1303 W. Girard Ave.

### San Francisco

MEMORIAL MEETING TO HONOR  
**TROTSKY—KONIKOW**

Heroes of the working class

Hear:

**"Trotsky's Teachings"**  
**"A tribute to Antoinette  
Konikow"**

Also:

**A recording of Trotsky's voice**  
**Sunday, August 25, 8 p.m.**  
305 Grant Avenue at Sutter  
4th floor



# Conditions In Soviet Union Worsen For Factory Workers And Soldiers

## Unpaid Men Live Like Slaves Under Corrupt Stalinist Rule

The purges are continuing in the Soviet Union. Dispatches from the USSR, based on articles in the Soviet press, confirm not only this, but also:

1. The masses' living conditions are more unbearable than ever, while the bureaucrats occupy an even more privileged position than before the war.

2. The top Stalin bureaucracy is trying to shift off of itself and onto subordinate bureaucrats the responsibility for the conditions which have aroused the discontent of the masses.

For the first time, Pravda prints reports criticizing Stakhanovism—the use of "storm" or "shock" groups who speed up production and receive special bonuses for setting high production norms.

"The storm tactics so widely practiced in the Don Basin mines lead to an increase in accidents, disorder in the mines and weakening of labor discipline," wrote one Pravda reporter about mines which fell below their quota in June.

The local bureaucrat gets the axe for something like this—but it was the top bureaucracy in the Kremlin which introduced, extended and widely praised the use of Stakhanovism.

### HOLD BACK WAGES

Probably the most striking reports are those dealing with the withholding of wages, which has apparently become a widespread abuse. A letter in the August 6 Trud charged that the bureaucrats at the head of various industries in the Sverdlovsk and Tugulyum regions were holding back more than 3,719,000 rubles due to workers, and that former officials of the Tugulyum industrial combination were

keeping 43,854 rubles owed to workers.

The letter, written by the manager of the state bank's regional branch in Sverdlovsk, asserts that in the case of Tugulyum, the officials were using wages to line their own pockets.

The next day the same paper printed a letter from a worker in the Don Basin coal energy trust, reporting that "none of the workers remember when they got their wages on time. We have no pay books." Living conditions there are "bad," people "sleep in corridors" and quarters are "dirty and uncomfortable." Furthermore, the head of the local "trade union" is "unconcerned about improving our working and living conditions."

Trud's own correspondent in the Don Basin confirms the above charges, adding that many workers "have not been credited with wages for several months in succession" and that crews erecting Diesel installations in the Rostov region "have not been paid for at least six months." He says that local "trade union" leaders know of "these infamous doings" and pass "lengthy decisions" about them but "there the matter ends."

### CHEAT THE WORKERS

Another letter from a miner in the same issue complains that the dining room manager of the Dzerzhinsky mine administration in the Voroshilov region "shamelessly cheats the workers" and criticizes the administration for forgetting "the workers' elementary daily needs."

Trud editorially thunders against "the soulless, formal bureaucratic attitude to complaints and requests."

On the same day Pravda tells the story of four veterans "shamelessly" deprived of their old apartments in Kiev, which were occupied illegally for 20 months by relatives of officials. "Comrade Chebotarev, chairman of the city Soviet, has played no small role in this lawlessness," says the Pravda correspondent.

On August 9 Trud continued with reports and warnings about conditions in the Don Basin mines. Five workers in one mine reported:

"From January until June we received no wages. In January, February and March we did not get rations on our meat, fish, sugar and fat ration cards and now we are told it is too late to get them. During the last few months we have not been getting our full rations either."

"For the past five or six months we have not been getting our coal. Our mine trade union committee is inactive. When some workers started demanding their wages, Mustchenko, the director, fired them."

Trud's special correspondent corroborated these reports, and found many other violations of Soviet legislation. Even Stakhanovite miners who had overfilled their quotas were not getting the second hot dish due to their meals and "more than half of the rations designated for supplementary feeding remains in the offices of the mines."

The same correspondent charged that the Central Committee of the Coal Mining Industry and its district committee in Shakhty were playing "a very unenviable role" and that the "district commissioner did not take any real measure to liquidate the shameful state of affairs and prosecute the guilty ones."

## Opposition To C.P. Developing In Prague

(Special to The Militant) PARIS, Aug. 2—A report of Trotskyist activity in Prague, Czechoslovakia was recently featured in a Swiss newspaper. This report, while highly dubious and unverified in its details, at least indicated the beginning of a revolutionary internationalist opposition to the counter-revolutionary policies of Stalinism in Czechoslovakia.

The existence of such an opposition is borne out, indirectly, by the remarks contained in the June 29 issue of the London Economist. Its correspondent, in speaking about the new Czech Constitution and the movement for a Soviet form of Constitution, stated:

"Only some irresponsibles among the rank and file of the Communist Party have so far shown any such inclination (for a revolutionary struggle)."

In the language of capitalist writers "irresponsibles" is synonymous with revolutionists. The Bolshevik-Leninist elements in the Czech Communist Party were among the first in the 1920's to fight against the Stalinist degeneration and to support the struggle of the Trotskyist Left Opposition for a return to the policies of Lenin. In some areas a majority of the C.P. membership came over to the Left Opposition.

Against this background the bits and pieces of news would indicate that such an opposition is again developing within the C.P., an opposition already active and strong enough to cause journalistic impressions in two capitalist papers.

### Puerto Rico

Strange as it may seem, the people of Puerto Rico want their children to be taught the 3 R's in their own language—which is Spanish. But if ex-Governor Rexford G. Tugwell has his way the island's school system, from first grade through university, will be conducted in English only.

In one of his last official acts before resigning as Governor, Tugwell vetoed a measure passed by the Puerto Rican legislature which would have required the use of Spanish in the schools. Just as the Nazis forced the German language upon many of the conquered peoples of Europe, so would Wall Street force the English language upon the

conquered peoples of the Caribbean.

The issue is now before President Truman for final decision.

### Palestine

No further "illegal" immigration by Jews into Palestine will be permitted by the British government, and all Jews caught trying to penetrate this blockade will be sent to a concentration camp in Cyprus. This news was released on August 7 in London as the British cabinet was waiting President Truman's stand on their proposal to partition Palestine. The British openly hint that they are ready to back up their immigration ban with full military force, including a naval blockade of Palestine's coast.

## "Big Four" Plotters



Representatives of the "Big Four" powers at the not-so-peaceful Paris "Peace" Conference. Top, left to right, President Georges Bidault, France, and Prime Minister Clement Attlee, Great Britain. Bottom, left to right, Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov, Soviet Union, and U. S. Secretary of State James Byrnes.

Federated Pictures

## Dutch Trotskyists Hit Moves To Crush Indonesian Republic

(Special to The Militant) AMSTERDAM, July 29—The Dutch authorities have reestablished themselves in Indonesia, except in the areas of Java, Sumatra and the archipelago of Riau, reports De Tribune, newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party, Dutch section of the Fourth International. After bloody suppression of the heroic Indonesian struggle, British troops have been withdrawn and replaced by elements of the Dutch Army and Navy.

Meanwhile the Indonesian nationalist leaders continue their policy of negotiations with the imperialists. The opposition to this policy of betrayal has increased tremendously among the workers and peasants who want an end to all forms of colonial oppression. Soekarno, Sjahrir and the other nationalist leaders fear the revolutionary masses more than they fear the domination of the Dutch imperialists—with whom they now seek to reach a compromise. In this light

the recent kidnapping of Sjahrir appears as a provocation aimed to justify the use of terror against the left-wing elements and the arrest of Tan Malakka, who leads a movement embracing one-third of the whole Indonesian population.

In their paper De Waarheid (The Truth!) the Dutch Trotskyists are very concerned about separating themselves from the Indonesian left wing. They even dare to say that this movement represents a "Fifth Column" and aids Dutch reaction! They find it necessary to spread such lies (in the same way that the Mensheviks did against the Bolsheviks) because it would place them in a difficult position to admit that it is Sjahrir and not Tan Malakka who acts against the interests of the Indonesian masses.

When, some months ago, Tan Malakka was secretary of the Indonesian Communist Party (Stalinist), De Waarheid praised him. Now that he has broken with Stalinism, no slander is too vile for use against him.

## Discipline Patterned On Model Of Despotic Prussian System

PARIS, July 26—The Swiss paper, Army and People, paints an instructive picture of military training and discipline in the Red Army today. Here are some facts, none of which has been challenged by the Stalinists.

Recruits are trained for two years in the military schools of the 16 Soviet Republics. During the first six months they are taught only military discipline and physical training. No furloughs are permitted during this period. The use of arms comes only in the second six months.

The "military drill," which is used extensively, is modeled on the Prussian drill. The Russian soldier must not move for 1 1/2 hours while at "attention."

An indication of how strict the discipline was given recently by a Russian officer asked for his opinion of Swiss Army discipline. He answered: "We would send a Russian soldier back 25 times if he saluted like a Swiss soldier."

In the Red Army today non-commissioned officers are saluted by the rank and file, just as in the German army.

When a subaltern calls upon an officer, the military code demands that he take three steps (Stechschritt—a form of goose-step), remain at attention, and report. When leaving he makes a half-turn to the left, and goes out with three more Stechschritts.

When subalterns and superiors meet, the subaltern has to step Stechschritts for five meters, salute and turn his head, with the left hand pressed to his trousers. In the garrison towns special patrols supervise the saluting. Of course junior officers have to salute seniors, etc.

Soldiers going on leave have to turn in all arms; only officers may carry a pistol. Officers may wear civilian clothes on leave; enlisted men may do this only after two years service. All forms of fraternization between officers and enlisted men are forbidden.

The post of political commissar, as it previously existed, has been abolished. The political commissar used to have the same rank and responsibility as the commanding officer. Today the political commissar is merely an adjutant under the orders of the commanding officer. His responsibility is to educate the troops in political and cultural matters. He has about the same function as the educational officer in the capitalist armies.

### Bulgarian Trotskyist In Prison Camp

(Special to The Militant)

PARIS, France, Aug. 2—Last month news was received here of the arrest of Dr. Gatchev of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, a well known Trotskyist and president of the Bulgarian League of the Rights of Man. Since then we have heard from Bulgaria that "Dr. Gatchev has been removed from prison and placed in a concentration camp where the regime is very severe. This means his life is in danger."

Infantry soldier	10 rubles
Corporal	100 rubles
Infantry Lt.	650 rubles
First Lt.	800-900 rubles
Major	1200 rubles
Commander	2500 rubles
Lt. General	3500 rubles

These are the normal peace payments. It should be added that officers' incomes are free of tax, and officers are permitted under a recent regulation to have permanent orderlies for their personal service.

Thus the Red Army has changed under the Stalinist regime to the point where it is hard to distinguish between it and a Prussianized capitalist army in any important respect.

## Teachers Union Votes For Rising Scale Of Wages

(Special to The Militant)

PARIS, Aug. 1—The progressive National Union of Teachers (S.C.I.), at its recent national conference in Grenoble, voted by a strong majority to join the struggle for a sliding scale of wages to meet rising prices. The delegates, representing 130,000 teachers, disregarded the leadership's call for passivity on this issue. They also voted to call a 24-hour national strike and to refuse to hold examinations unless their demands are met.

The Stalinists, led by Delanoue, representing the majority of the CGT, fought against the resolution on the sliding scale of wages as a "reactionary and illusory slogan." Delanoue tried, against severe criticism, to defend the policy of the CGT majority, which is a policy of capitulation to the bosses and the government. But when the resolution on the sliding scale of wages was put to a vote, the leadership was defeated by 774 to 482 votes.

Another important issue on the agenda was the decision on whether or not to participate in "pre-military training." For some time the Stalinists have been pushing this proposal. By watering down the resolution to read participation in the "social, moral and sports formations of the youth," they managed to obtain a small majority of 612 for, 544 against, and 125 abstaining.

The conference showed that the left wing is making important advances against the right wing leadership, which generally votes with the Stalinists despite "anti-Communist" declarations. The left wing is grouped around the "Ecole Emancipee" (Emancipated School) which at this conference took a progressive and courageous stand.

### Wages, Prices And Profits

## The Law Of Labor Value Controls Prices

By Warren Creel

Last week's column covered the fact that blind capitalist anarchy controls both the level of prices and the amount of production of commodities under capitalism.

It was pointed out that capitalist anarchy keeps the system swinging between two evils, surplus and scarcity. When there is too much of some commodity for the capitalist market, then the price of it goes down, factories close, workers lose their jobs. After production has gone down enough to suit the blind system it gives notice by a scarcity. Then prices go up and some people have to go without the goods. At the same time rising prices bring an increase in production.

So the amount of production of any type of goods is controlled by the price. When the price goes low, production in that line goes down, when the price goes up, the result is an increase in the amount of production.

This raises another question. Production goes up or down when prices go above or below what point? We assume that a high price is above the normal price, and a low price is below normal. But what sets the normal price? The origin of the normal level of prices can be seen best in an illustration from simple commodity production, in which the makers sell the commodities which they themselves make.

Suppose a producer on a simple basis makes a coat, and he has to spend one day of work in making it. The coat, then, contains one day's labor. Or we might say the labor-value of the coat comes to one day of labor time.

### Normal Rule Sometimes Modified

Suppose another producer has to spend one day to make a pair of shoes. The labor-value of the shoes also is one day's labor time. All other things being equal, in normal exchange the coat and the shoes would be of equal worth. That is, one coat would trade for one pair of shoes. For a short time it would be different. Coats might be

scarce, so that one coat would trade for two pairs of shoes. So long as that lasted, a tailor, by one day of work could get the fruits of two days of work by a shoemaker. This would mean that coats were bringing a high price. It would be good business to get out of shoemaking and move into tailoring, which was getting better prices, so producers would start changing to the better-paying trade. With more tailors making coats, soon the supply of coats would go up until they no longer were scarce, and the price would come down to normal. Then the shifting would stop.

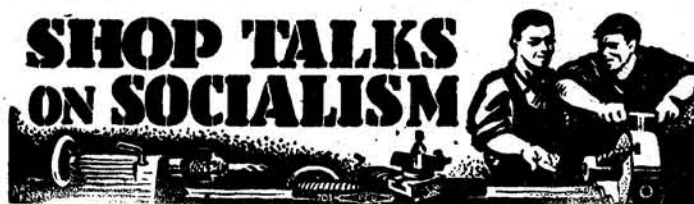
The "normal" price, or exchange-value, of goods is equal to the socially necessary labor time required in producing them. That is, roughly speaking, the product of a day's work in one line will trade for the product of a day's work in another.

In an earlier column it was said that we should begin by finding the normal rule of control of prices, and then go on to see how the rule is modified or stretched in particular cases. We have come to the basic normal rule of prices in the capitalist market. It is that exchange-values, or prices, are equal to the labor-value of commodities.

### Wages Are The Price Of Labor Power

This is the law of labor-value, out of which grows the control of prices and of the amount of production under capitalism. It springs from no regulation except the endless see-saw of the capitalist anarchy, shifting back and forth from surplus to scarcity. Prices swing around this normal point of labor-value, they do not stay on it. But it is this very shifting above and below normal, and the surplus and scarcity that come with it, that enforces the law of labor-value as the general tendency.

The illustration of tailors and shoemakers covered only simple commodity production. But it is easy to see that in modern factory production with hired wage workers the same general rule would operate, though in a more complex form. The factory owner must take into account



### By V. Grey The Machine

A machine is a product of labor just like a pocket watch or a pudding, but the first thing you usually think about a machine is how handy it is and what it can do. You don't stop to think that each part is cast, rolled or forged and machined just like the material it works on. You think instead of the wonderful things it can do—how ingenious and clever the machine is.

But the machine is not a human being. And it doesn't live by the same laws human beings do, or that labor power does. From the standpoint of value it is the sum total of all the castings, forgings and rolled products in itself, and the labor that put them there, plus the machinings, the close tolerances in it that other machinists put there. And that is all it is. It sells in the long run for how much these things will bring.

A modern machine seems to turn out riches for its owner like a sausage machine turns out sausages. When you see a twenty-ton press stamping out auto fenders at 600 per hour, or a hundred ton press stamping out the fuselage of airplanes, as young girls feed and handle the stock, you wonder if the machine isn't after all the creator of values and the coiner of wealth, instead of labor. That's how it seems on the surface.

But this isn't so. It is not the machinery, but labor which creates new value and surplus value.

Remember, when we discussed tools—like the crescent wrench, the lug wrench and the jack? How much could be done with them and how little they cost! Their usefulness was one thing; but their value was something else. For example, a garage man will jack up your car—change your wheel, and change your tire too—all for a dollar and a half. Without the right tools ten garage men couldn't do this in ten hours. Nevertheless it only costs you a dollar and a half. Why?

Because you do not pay for the magic of the tools. You do not pay for their tremendous efficiency in multiplying the productivity of labor. You pay only for the tiny bit of exchange value of the tools which gets used up as the mechanic uses the tools on your car. Approximately a dollar and a quarter of your money is paid for the labor.

Why is this? Because these tools are so common they are sold cheap. They are produced easily. It takes little labor to make them. They can be used a thousand times without wearing out. If a five dollar jack can be used a thousand times (by a garage man) he does not pay five dollars for its use the first time and nothing the rest of the time. The wear and tear of the jack amounts to about a half a cent each time.

As it is with a tool, so, too, with a machine. The machine is cheap or expensive depending on one thing, and one thing only, namely: the total amount of labor necessary to produce it. A welding machine costs several hundred dollars. A modern blast furnace, which is one big roaring machine fed by a lot of little ones, runs quite a bit over a million dollars!

And these large machines can be used thousands of times just like small tools. They give up their value to the product in the same way tools do—bit by bit, as they gradually wear out, or depreciate.

An electric welding job can save a thousand dollar casting from the scrap heap. During the life of the welding machine, the welder will perform thousands of such operations. But the welding machine does not for that reason cost a million dollars. Nor does it do a million dollars' worth of work. Welding machines are so common that even if there were none in the foundry the imperfect but still costly casting would merely be sold for close to its final price, say \$975, and someone else would weld it into the \$1,000 job.

Before the invention of welding such a repair job could never have been done at all. Now, owing to welding machines and welders, the work is done in a casual, off-hand sort of way, just like the moulders, pourers, chippers, grinders and sand-blast men do theirs. The welding machines are slung around the foundry by the crane like so much scrap iron. In a few years, these little machines are worn out. And the company gets some new ones.

The value of the old ones has finally worn away just like its parts. But there is a difference. The parts of the machine are still there for you to look at, while its value is no longer there at all. The old used-up machine is valueless. It is only a corpse. Its life has gone into the work it has done. Its value into the castings it has repaired. A tiny fraction of its value has gone out of the shop with each casting it repaired. The sum total of these fractions is just equal to the value of the machine. No more—no less. It creates no new value.

Besides creating new values, the hand of the workman welder preserved the value of the machine in the new product he created with the aid of the machine. Over a period of years he transferred the value of the machine over entirely to the sum total of his thousands of rapid and cheap jobs.

(Next Week: Machines Create No Value)

his expenses for machinery, for materials and so on, which in the end means the amount of labor in those things. Counting all that in, let us suppose the same situation in factory production that was supposed in simple production: In other words, suppose that temporarily the profits in clothing production rose above those in shoe production. Business activity and financing would shift at once from shoes to clothing. Fewer shoes would be made until scarcity of shoes equalized prices with labor-values and brought the price of shoes up again.

Wages are a price, the price at which we sell our labor-power. Next week's column will take up the effects of the control of wages by the law of labor-value.

Next week: Wages and Surplus-Value

### BOSTON

#### Memorial Meeting for ANTOINETTE KONIKOW

Speakers:

DR. J. CHESKIS A. MALDON

Personal friends of Antoinette Konikow

S. FRIEDMAN

Boston District Committee, Workmen's Circle

LARRY TURNER

Boston SWP Organizer

Chairman:

L. SCHLOSSBERG

Wednesday, August 28, 8 p.m.

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE CENTER

612 Blue Hill Avenue

Dorchester, Mass.

Auspices: Workmen's Circle Branch 927



# How Leon Trotsky's Assassination Capped Bloody Edifice Of Moscow Frameup Trials

By Joseph Hansen

(Twelfth in a series on the Moscow Trials and their significance.)

Throughout the Moscow Trials, Trotsky and his son Leon Sedov were named by Stalin's frame-up machine as the principal defendants. This fact was of sinister significance. It meant both these great revolutionaries had been marked for assassination. Stalin intended to cap the bloody edifice of the Moscow Trials with their bodies.

The GPU got Leon Sedov February 16, 1938, in a Paris hospital. He was so well on the way to recovery from an operation that the hospital left him unattended a short while. A few hours later he was found wandering in the corridors in a delirium that astounded the surgeons. He died without recovering from this mysterious delirium.

Stalin's professional killers had tracked Sedov for months, stole his letters, tapped his telephone and even rented an apartment next to his. At least one previous attempt on his life had failed, according to facts established by French and Swiss authorities. Undoubtedly the GPU had succeeded in dogging him to the hospital despite the efforts to get him there secretly.

Stalin's professional killers now began closing in on Trotsky. The Militant of April 16, 1938, (then called the Socialist Appeal) reported that "Mink, well-known GPU Assassin, is En Route to Mexico." "Trotsky's Life is Menaced!"

## UNEQUAL CONTEST

The contest was completely unequal. Stalin had a vast government apparatus. He had the most ruthless, powerful secret police in the world. He had national organizations ready to carry out his bidding. He had unlimited funds. He had the choice of a number of variants. He could try poison, machine guns, hand grenades, mines, or even a bomb from an airplane. If one means failed, he could try another. He could choose the time.

Trotsky on the other hand could find exile only in Mexico. He lived in poverty. His followers were few and lacked finances. Nevertheless, Trotsky organized the best possible defense under the conditions. He was a fighter to the marrow of his bones.

Step by step, the GPU inched its preparations forward. The Stalinist-controlled officials in the Mexican unions began a rabid campaign against Trotsky. They slandered the founder and defender of the first workers' state in history. Refusing to recognize the right of asylum, they called on the government to throw him out of Mexico. Lombardo Toledano led the pack.

They went so far as to accuse Trotsky of meddling in Mexican affairs. This drew a sharp rebuke from Cardenas, the president of Mexico, but the campaign continued. The official organ of the Mexican Stalinists called for "Death To Trotsky!" When Trotsky pointed out that this campaign was simply preparation for an attempt to murder him, the Stalinist press screamed that the founder of the Red Army was suffering from a "persecution complex!"

On May 24, 1940, the GPU struck. They succeeded in entering the guarded home early in the morning. A gang dressed as Mexican police, headed by the well-known artist David Alfaro Siqueiros, overpowered the police detail. While part of the gang placed bursts of machine gun fire at the rooms of the guards, others went directly to the bedroom of Trotsky and his wife Natalia.

They directed a cross-fire of machine gun slugs into the beds of Trotsky and Natalia. But the old couple had awakened at the shots in the patio. They lay flat on the floor in a corner while the assassins fired into the room.

Then as the assassins left,

they tossed incendiary bombs. They kidnapped the guard on duty, Robert Sheldon Harte, a member of the New York local of the Socialist Workers Party.

A month later the police found Harte in a shallow grave covered with lime. The GPU assassins had fired two bullets into the youth's head and buried him in the cellar of a cabin they had rented in the mountains nearby.

The Stalinist press immediately set up a howl that the murderous attempt on Trotsky's life had been organized—by Trotsky himself! They called it "international blackmail."

But the Mexican police succeeded in discovering the facts. Trotsky named David Alfaro Siqueiros as one of his possible assassins. Siqueiros went into hiding. Later when he was apprehended, he admitted leading the assault.

He was never punished. GPU gold goes far. The latest report from Mexico is that Siqueiros has made formal application to become a member of the Mexican Communist Party. This simply means he is no longer useful in the secret GPU apparatus.

## WELL KNOWN STALINISTS

The Mexican police soon arrested most of the members of the gang. The bulk of them were well-known members of the Mexican Communist Party! Two Stalinist women had rented lodgings near Trotsky's home to worm information from the police detail. One of these women was the wife of David Serrano, a leading figure of the Communist Party of Mexico. Pava Flores, member of the Central Committee of the Mexican CP, was detailed to defend these Stalinists in court.

Trotsky predicted that the Stalinist murder machine would make another attempt. What means they would use could not be predicted, of course.

Back in 1938 the Stalinists had succeeded in planting an agent among the Trotskyists. He went by the name of Jason. Although he never joined the Fourth International he succeeded in establishing himself as a sympathizer through a device successfully used by Czar's Okhrana against the Bolsheviks of Lenin's day. He married a devoted follower of Trotsky and lived as her husband. Through this treacherous means Jason was able finally to gain entry to the Trotsky household.

## SECOND ATTACK

On August 20, 1940, he brought an article he had written to Trotsky. Always ready to help a younger person who indicated interest in political questions, Trotsky agreed to give his opinion. As the great revolutionary leader sat down to read the article, Jason raised a pick-axe high in the air and buried its point in Trotsky's brain.

Even with this mortal wound, Trotsky still fought with all his energy. When the guards seized Jason, Trotsky asked them not to kill the assassin. He could better expose Stalinism alive than dead.

On August 21, 1940, Trotsky died from the blow that had been ordered by the monster in the Kremlin.

Jason had written a "confession" which the police found in his pocket. The GPU had prepared this in order to throw the blame for Trotsky's death on Trotsky himself in case Jason was killed. This "confession" like the "confessions" in the Moscow Trials is the most damning evidence of the GPU's guilt.

It follows the identical pattern of the "confessions" in the Moscow frame-ups. Jason claims as



After the May 24, 1940, machine-gun attack, Leon Trotsky predicted at a press conference, where this picture was taken, that Stalin's GPU would make another attempt to murder him. On August 20, the Stalinist assassin struck down the great revolutionary leader with a pick-axe.

did Zinoviev, Kameney and the others that he became a "devoted disciple" of Trotsky. He then claims the Fourth International ordered him to go to Mexico. Here a variant appears. In the Moscow Trials, these "devoted disciples" who had spent years cursing Trotsky were taken immediately to see the head of the Fourth International when they went abroad. But Jason was told, he says, "I must remain some distance from the house in Coyoacan in order to call no attention upon me." This was actually how Jason acted — he stayed away from the house, even while his wife visited Trotsky.

## FAKE "CONFESSION"

Then like the Moscow defendants who confessed according to GPU blueprints, Jason was filled with "disillusionment" and the "greatest contempt for

this man." Like the Moscow defendants "it was proposed to me that I go to Russia in order to organize there a series of attempts against different persons and in the first place against Stalin." The very wording of the Moscow "confessions" which the Dewey Commission proved were frame-ups!

How was Jason to get across the vigilantly guarded borders of the Soviet Union? Here is what he told the police under questioning: "Trotsky was going to send me to Russia with the object of organizing a new state of things in the USSR. He told me that I must go to Shanghai, on the China Clipper where I would meet other agents in some ship, and together we would cross Manchukuo and arrive in Russia. Our mission was to bring demoralization to the Red Army, commit different acts of sabot-

age in armament plants and other factories."

The same confession as the leading defendants in the Moscow trials, even though Jason is an unknown individual and doesn't speak a word of Russian! The mythical plane in which Pyatakov flew from Berlin to Oslo has now been converted into the China Clipper!

And then Jason inevitably reaches the same conclusion as all the defendants in the Moscow trials: "I came to the conclusion that perhaps the Stalinists were not so far from the truth when they accused Trotsky with preoccupied himself with the working class as if it were a dirty sock." The Moscow defendants were led out and shot by Stalin after thus confessing. Jason has met a better fate. Held in a Mexican prison, the GPU keeps him supplied with money.

# Egypt's Fight For Freedom Headed By New Leadership

By T. Cliff

During the last six months, when strike struggles in Egypt have reached a new high in militancy and numbers participating there has also been an important development in the political struggle of the workers. For the first time in history, the Egyptian workers have not only constituted the vanguard of the struggling masses but have also brought forth from their midst an independent leadership.

This leadership is centered in the Workers' and Students' Committee which is a popular democratic body; every faculty in the University and every trade union elected its delegate to a common council, from which the Committee was elected. The different quarters of Cairo also have their elected quarter committee.

February 21—Evacuation Day—brought the Workers' and Students' Committee a great victory. In Cairo 100,000 people demonstrated under its banner. In Alexandria the students, under the influence of Trotskyist members of the committee, approached the workers' quarters and together they marched in magnificent demonstration.

When the fascist leader, Ahmed Hussein, tried to speak to the masses, he was shouted down with cries of "Down with fascism!" The Moslem Brotherhood, a clerical-fascist organization, fiercely attacked the "Evacuation Movement," and told the masses not to take part in it—but to no avail. The workers and students remained triumphant throughout.

The spirit that prevailed in the demonstrations was clearly expressed in the slogans of solidarity between Christians, Moslems and Jews, of solidarity between Egypt and Sudan (Sudanese students declaring a common struggle against British imperialism were carried shoulder high).

The end of March and the first of May saw further large demonstrations of workers. Delegates from all trade unions of the country came to Cairo on May 1. Their meeting was prohibited by the police, but the delegates

organization whose aim is to bring one class to dominate another or to annihilate a social class or to change the basis of the social or economic system of the state, is liable to be arrested for ten years' hard labor and to pay a fine of 100 to 1,000 pounds.

A similar punishment is given to everyone participating in such an organization or spreading propaganda to change the existing constitution. The same fate awaits everyone who belongs to an organization of an international character. As judicial justification of the law, the Minister of Justice in Parliament quoted the Italian fascist Constitution of 1930.

The government did not satisfy itself with threats alone, but a few days after publishing the law, mass arrests were carried out against trade union leaders, left intellectuals, Trotskyists and Stalinists. Till now about 600 have been cast into prison.

The situation in Egypt is pre-revolutionary. The main task of the moment is to deepen the class consciousness and strengthen the organization of the workers.

In the wake of the strikes in Egypt there have been a large series of strikes in other countries of the Middle East. In Syria and Lebanon, strikes broke out in the big tobacco monopoly, the railways, the port of Beirut and the Electric Company. The strikes were suppressed with characteristic brutality. In the strike of the tobacco workers, for instance, the police did not refrain from shooting unarmed workers, killing one and wounding many.

The Syrian government arrested 700 railway workers in one day and threatened them with court martial. Iraq also experienced a large-scale strike in the petroleum works in July which led to a clash with government forces, five workers being killed. In face of these fierce struggles it is necessary for the trade unions of the Middle-East to realize the demand of the Egyptian and Palestinian Trotskyists to convene a conference of workers of the Middle East.

# Police Terrorism Rages Against Harlem Negroes

By C. Howell and H. Hill

NEW YORK, Aug. 12—Jim Crow brutality is rampant in Harlem. In the last few weeks a campaign of terror and intimidation has been unleashed by the Police Department against the Negro people of New York City.

On the morning of July 14, Mrs. Jossie Stewart and two women friends were refused service by a white cab driver who called the police when they insisted upon their rights. The policeman, Carmello Perconti of the 28th Precinct, yanked Mrs. Stewart out of the cab, kicked her and beat her with his nightstick. He split her lip, knocked out a tooth and shattered four other teeth and abused her with vile language.

Mrs. Stewart was dragged off to the Sydenham Hospital where seven stitches were taken in her lip and medical treatment applied to her bruised abdomen and legs. From the hospital Mrs. Stewart was taken to a police station where she was booked for "assaulting an officer!"

## WOMAN BEATEN

In the police station Mrs. Stewart was again beaten by two cops in a back room of the station house. They forced her to remove some of her clothing and kicked her and beat her with their clubs while subjecting her to a series of vile oaths. She was then thrown into a cell. Later her two women friends were seized and arrested when they attempted to visit her. Bail was arranged by Mrs. Stewart's husband and the three women were released at midnight.

Another case is that of Bonis E. Byrd who accidentally brushed against a cop while walking on the street. Byrd tried to apologize but was beaten on the head and body by the cop who swung his nightstick unmercifully. Mr. Byrd's eye was cut open severely that he will lose the full use of it.

Still another case — there are many more — is that of a musician, Mr. C. Powell, who was so savagely beaten by a cop that he is still in the hospital after several weeks. A member of the National Maritime union, Clyde A. Taylor, had an arm fractured by the police. These cases occur almost daily.

Protest meetings have been organized by many groups in Harlem. The Harlem Branch of the Socialist Workers Party has held several street meetings at which speakers denounced the police brutality and raised the proposal for the people of Harlem to organize a one-day stoppage of work to demonstrate against this police brutality.

At a meeting called by the Stalinist Benjamin J. Davis in the Harlem YMCA, representatives of the SWP proposed that a mass demonstration and a one-day stoppage of work be called. This proposal was enthusiastically endorsed by the meeting.

police commissioner and refused to see the delegation.

The police commissioner, Arthur W. Wallender, met with the delegation headed by Rep. A. Clayton Powell. Wallender denied that there was any racial bias in the Police Department despite the evidence presented by the delegation. The Stalinist representatives accepted this statement "at full value" and even announced that they were convinced of the commissioner's "sincerity."

The Socialist Workers Party, however, will continue to work for a mass demonstration to protest police brutality and for full justice for the victims of discrimination.

# Chicago Delegation Protests Wave Of Race Hate Attacks

By Robert L. Birchman

(Special to The Militant)

CHICAGO, Aug. 10—A mass delegation of 75 spokesmen for 37 labor, Negro, veteran, working class political organizations and civic and church groups, met in Mayor Kelly's office Monday afternoon to protest the laxity of Chicago's law enforcement agencies in the recent wave of terrorism against the Negro people here.

The delegation told Mayor Kelly of the 59 cases of bombings, assaults and vandalism in the past 27 months against Negro families who defied Jim-Crow restrictive covenants and moved into so-called white neighborhoods. They pointed out the failure of the police to properly investigate these outrages and to apprehend the criminals.

One delegate told Mayor Kelly that the restrictions which herd Negro people into black ghettos are largely responsible for the present situation. The Mayor said he would have the Chicago Plan Commission make a survey to determine the extent of restrictive covenants. Reports are that 80 per cent of the city has such covenants. The Mayor also said he would ask the Corporation Counsel to set up a special department to investigate all cases involving racial disturbances.

## STATEMENT SUBMITTED

The delegation submitted a statement that placed full responsibility for halting anti-Negro terrorism upon the Mayor and Police Chief Prendergast. They demanded from the Mayor and Police Commissioner a statement recognizing the right of Negroes to move anywhere in the city under the full protection of the law.

Other demands included appointment of a special prosecutor to obtain convictions in these attacks upon Negro homes, and revision of the building code to

obtain and build more housing immediately. The delegation demanded that the Mayor have the Corporation Counsel file a "friend-of-the-court" brief in some of the restrictive covenant cases now in litigation, on the ground that such covenants harm public welfare.

The Continuations Council of the Conference to Combat Terrorism Against Minorities at its meeting here Wednesday decided to start immediately mobilizing support from the trade union movement and other organizations for a mass protest march, to dramatically bring to public attention the whole issue of Jim-Crow ghettos, discrimination and terror.

## AMONG THE LEADERS

Among the leaders of the delegation to visit the Mayor were Lawrence Montague, Chairman of the Anti-Discrimination Committee of the CIO Council; Wesley Thompson, International representative of the United Automobile Workers, CIO; Herb March, district director of the United Packinghouse Workers, CIO; Charles Chikulas, president of Local 477, UAW-CIO; Pearl Reubens, of the Joint Board of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, AFL; Michael Bartel, Chicago organizer, Socialist Workers Party; Charles Stewart, American Civil Liberties Union; Gerald Bullock, chairman of CORE (Committee on Racial Equality); and Henry W. McGee, president of the Chicago Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who acted as spokesman for the delegation.

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.

ALBANY — BETHLEHEM — Open meeting every Thursday, 8 p. m., at Militant Labor Forum, S. E. corner Front and Hamilton Streets, Albion.

BALTIMORE — For information write Box 415, Baltimore 3, Md. Monthly forums to be announced.

BAYONNE — SWP headquarters, 62 W. 23rd St. Open house 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

BOSTON — Office at 30 Stuart St. Open Saturdays from noon until 5 p. m.; Wednesday and Fridays, 7:30 to 9:30 p. m.

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.

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

CONNECTICUT — Write to the Militant, P.O. Box 841, New Haven.

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

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

LOS ANGELES — Visit Militant Publishing Assn., 316 1/2 W. Pico Blvd. Open daily, 12 noon to 5 p. m. Phone Richmond 4644. Every Friday, 8 p. m. — Militant Workers Forum, 466 E.

MILWAUKEE — Visit the Milwaukee SWP branch, 424 E. Wells St., evenings from 7:30 to 9:30. Open house.

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

NEWARK — Visit SWP headquarters, 423 Springfield Ave. Phone Bigelow 3-2574. Library and reading room open week nights, 7-10 p. m.

NEW YORK — CITY HQ, 116 University Place, GR. 5-8149. Tues., 7:30, rehearsal of Militant chorus.

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

BROOKLYN: 1034 Prospect Ave., 1st floor, phone TT 2-0101. Reading room open Mon. to Fri., 7 to 10 p. m.

Current events discussion, Fridays at 8.

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

Mon. Class — "Program of SWP," 7 p. m.

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

OAKLAND, Cal. — Meetings Wednesday, Odd Fellows Temple, 410 - 11th St. For information write to P.O. Box 1351.

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

PITTSBURGH — Militant Reading Room, 141 S. Highland, Room 21 (corner Highland and Central Ave.). E. Liberty. Phone, EM. 4899. Open Wednesday, 7 to 10 p. m., Sunday 3 to 9 p. m.

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

Wed. night class on Socialism and current events, 8 p. m.

SAN DIEGO — P. O. Box 857.

SAN FRANCISCO — Visit the San Francisco School of Social Science, 305 Grant Ave., corner of Grant and Sutter, 4th floor; open from 12 noon to 4:30 p. m., daily except Sunday. Phone EXbrook 1926.

SEATTLE — Visit our Headquarters, 1919 1/2 Second Ave. Open Monday through Saturdays, 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. Tel. SE-0453. Library, Bookstore.

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.

ST. PAUL — 540 Cedar St., St. Paul 2. Phone Garfield 1137. Open daily 2:30-9:30.

TACOMA, Wash. — Meetings every Wednesday, 8 p. m., at Oddfellows Hall, 6th and Fawcett. Discussions on current topics. For information, write P.O. Box 1079.

TOLEDO — Visit our headquarters and bookstore at 213 Michigan St. Open Monday through Friday, 11 to 5. Saturday, forum 8 p. m. Open house 9:30 p. m.

YOUNGSTOWN — Youngstown School of Social Science, 235 N. Phelps St., open to public Tuesday and Saturday afternoon from 2 to 5; also 7:30 to 9:30, Monday to Thursday.

## Mail This Blank For Your Reservation At Mid-West Vacation Camp And School

Season June 30-September 2 Adults \$25 week, Children \$15

OSCAR COOVER, Manager Grass Lake, Mich.

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## Diary Of A Steel Worker

## The Plant And The People

By Theodore Kovalesky



Miles of it, sprawled and scattered along the dusty, glare-lit miles of the 'pike, heaped there in the weeds behind the barbed wire topped fences. Miles of twisted, tangled nightmares of iron-work, rusted, warped corrugated iron sheds, roaring blast-furnaces with tall cylindrical stoves lined next to them. Miles of gleaming track, polished by the locomotive wheels and the wheels of ladies and ingot buggies, scrap cars, dust cars, coke cars, limestone cars, and gondolas heaped with rails, slabs, rounds, and billets. Miles of bright yellow track rusted with disuse, rusted with the rains and snows and the iron dust of the blast furnaces. Miles of high tension wires and pipes for the air, steam, water, and gas of the steel mill. Miles of dirt, dust, heat, danger, and . . . wealth.

That is the steel plant. Out of its own red dust it rises, looming over the broken town, where almost the whole population ebbs back and forth through the gates at shift-changing time, in the good days when men may work and earn food for their children. And in the bad days — well, it stands with gaunt and naked stacks, with dead fires and cold furnaces, it stands like an empty husk, a symbol of hunger for all the angry and hopeless eyes of the town to look at.

At night savage yellow flames jab the blackness over the coke ovens. There are sweating, coughing men there at the lids. At the blast furnaces and the cinder dump the sky surges into a full orange glow high above the heads of tired, coughing men. Long rays of dull yellow shoot from the open hearths, and from the shops pour the broad blue flicker of the welding torches. More sweating men are there. Wherever the firelight swells from the mills there are men, and strewn throughout the darkness behind the

fence are thousands of other men with picks and shovels and wheelbarrows. Behind the dim windows of the shops are men at machines. On the trestles, bridges, cranes, larrycars, and engines are men. And out in the jagged light-and-dark of the town are more men, sleeping in their beds, drinking whiskey and beer in the taverns along the 'pike and up and down Main St., living through the brief hours on the better side of the gate.

There you have it, the sweating, grimy thousands who work and wait their turn to work, and the miles and square miles of steel and dirt and fire, the miles and square miles of money and common and preferred stock, of stacked-up, clustered, massed, golden wealth.

But this, in the world of today, cannot be the whole picture. The words to describe this society are "yours, his, theirs," and sometimes "mine," sometimes "ours." The great word is "ownership."

Not in the broken, dusty town are the owners of the steel plant. Nor are these owners within the barbed-wire topped fences, coughing in the sulphur fumes, straining muscles into quivering fatigue.

No. There are whip men to be had for pay, overseers to be hired. These, and the technicians who have brains for sale and intelligence far keener than those who employ them, can be counted upon to smelt and fuse the metals of the land.

The glitter of social functions claims the time of the owners. Palaces and yachts, vast, well-guarded estates all over the face of the earth give them shelter. Rare and delicate foods nourish them. And our labor, our sweat, our agony provide for them "in the manner to which they are accustomed."

Look once again at the picture, all of it. Look at us . . . and them. Then ask yourself, brother, how long will we, in our poverty and insecurity, support them? How long before we shall take possession of that which is rightfully ours?

## Crime In High Places

By Grace Carlson

Andrew J. May of Kentucky, Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, is providing considerable free entertainment for the citizens these days. His desperate efforts to avoid being connected with the Garson arms-production combine are funnier than what! Because witness after witness has told the Mead War Investigating Committee that Representative May was up to his neck in the graft, by which the Garson firm grew from a boron letterhead to a company with \$78,000,000 in war contracts.

But through all this, May denied that he had any but the most honorable, "business-like" relations with the Garsons. Then, the comedy went into high gear when the N. Y. Daily News published a picture of May and Garson's pretty, brunette daughter—with her arms around the Congressman's neck! At this stage, Representative May had a very convenient heart "attack" and could not be reached for comment.

But I know one group of citizens who are getting more than the average amount of enjoyment out of Congressman May's embarrassment — the girls who were sent to prison during the war as violators of the "May Act."

Introduced by the now thoroughly discredited Chairman of the House Military Affairs Com-

mittee, the May Act was designed to protect the "morals" of the soldiers. The law prohibited prostitution near Army camps. But the May Act violators whom I met in the Federal Penitentiary for Women at Alderson, West Virginia, were not professional prostitutes. (I should say that I was one of the 18 defendants in the Minneapolis Labor Case who served prison terms in 1944 because of opposition to imperialist war.)

At Alderson I met scores of young girls—14, 15 and 16 years of age—who had been rounded up by the FBI and thrown into prison as criminal violators of the May Act. But their "crime" lay only in being poor!

The big majority of the May Act violators who were sent to prison came from the South—from the poverty-stricken mill towns of North Carolina and Tennessee and from the miserable sharecroppers' farms of these regions. Many of them could not read or write; some had never even had a day of schooling. Although child labor has supposedly been abolished in the United States, I talked to dozens of girls and women who had gone to work in cotton mills when they were 10 and 11 years old.

There may be some who would look upon these girls as criminals for trying to get a little fun and excitement and perhaps a few cheap luxuries. I am not one of them. There may be some righteous souls who would raise their hands against the young May Act violators, but the crooked, grafting Congressman from Kentucky should not have thrown the first stone.

## Smear Campaign Against Veterans

By Alvin Royce

The capitalist press certainly is indicating a consistent interest in the veteran. A glance through the headlines of the Sunday papers, for instance, revealed such headlines as **VETS HELD IN CENTRAL PARK RAPE OR VET HELD ON ARSON CHARGE**. These headlines are pretty obvious reminders of a similar slander campaign against the Negroes. If this sort of caption was an exception, we might chalk it up to some sort of coincidence but a quick look through your morning paper will show it happens much too often to be coincidental.

These captions are part of a general campaign to discredit the veteran. Editorials have appeared throughout the country pointing to the 52-20 clubs and demanding that the veterans "get off the street and go to work." However, none of these editorials has indicated how to keep alive on the \$25 a week jobs that are available.

America's Sixty Families were quite sure that the veterans would be a willing reservoir of scabs after the reams of propaganda the Stars and Stripes had thrown at the GI's during the war. Instead, the story has been quite different. The vets lined up solidly with the workers in the great strike wave and, to top it all off, staged anti-brass demonstrations throughout the world even before they were discharged from the Army.

There's an old saying that the criminal always returns to the scene of the crime. Wall Street's most hideous crime was the second imperialist war and the veterans were its chief victims. Now, the veterans are not only beginning to realize that the war was fought for the profits of the corporations but are starting to think about what they are going to do about it.

That is why the capitalist press must slander the veteran. The veteran is made to look like some psychopathic fiend that refuses to go to work and only waits for sundown to rape the nearest woman or rob the nearest bank.

Yes, the veteran is a problem. But he doesn't need a psychiatrist. All the veteran needs is a decent job and a house to live in. Of course, many veterans may turn out to be mental cases before very long. The run-around that you get at the Veterans Administration or at the USSS is enough to make even a strong mind wilt.

Just as the Negro is the most oppressed worker, so is the vet fast becoming a second-class citizen. That is why the journalist stooges of Wall Street have singled out these two groups in our society for their smear campaign. They are afraid that the vets and the Negro people will rise together with the labor movement and sweep this rotten system from the face of the earth.

## Testing Push Buttons Of War III

By Joseph Hansen

People don't enjoy thinking what America's cities will look like when the sun goes down on the first day of World War III. After looking at the pictures of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, they prefer to think about something more pleasant.



Perhaps that's why they read about the Paris "Peace" Conference with the wish something could really be done there to assure enduring peace. Mankind can't stand much more bloodshed!

But while the Truman Administration carefully makes the record at Paris, its generals and admirals are busy trying out the push buttons of World War III.

On August 5 two drone bombers took off from Hawaii. One of these pilotless planes was loaded with dummy bombs. "Mother" planes conducted the robots anywhere from a few hundred feet to three miles behind.

For 15 hours this sinister fleet crossed the

open waters of the Pacific. They covered the 2,400 miles without the slightest mishap. Then off Santa Rosa Island, one of the robots opened its bomb-bays over the pre-determined target. The dummy could have been 5,000 pounds of TNT or an atomic bomb.

The flight ended as smoothly as if these drones were guided by the most skilled crews.

This experiment in push-button warfare proves that in a short time great swarms of robot planes can cross the Atlantic or Pacific loaded with atomic bombs.

As Brig. Gen. William L. Richardson, chief of the Army Air Forces guided missiles division remarked August 7, the American war machine has "just scratched the surface in guided missiles."

These few grim words speak volumes more about the future under capitalism than all the pious declarations of Truman's diplomats at Paris. Unless the workers take over in time, the push-button war now in the experimental stage will become a horrible reality.

## Lucas County Election Board Votes To Bar Independent Labor Candidates On Ballot

## BULLETIN

TOLEDO, Aug. 12 (By Wire)—The Lucas County Board of Elections today issued a ruling to bar the Socialist Workers Party candidates from the election ballot, although more than the necessary number of petitions had been filed last week. "We are going to appeal this discriminatory ruling and fight vigorously for the right of the workers in this area to vote for labor candidates and a labor platform," said the SWP candidates, Malcolm Walker and Paul Wylie, in a joint statement.

## MEET THE SWP CANDIDATES

Farrell Dobbs  
Candidate for  
Governor of New York

Farrell Dobbs has distinguished himself as a fearless and dynamic leader of American labor.

He was born in 1907 in Queen City, Missouri. From early childhood he lived in Minneapolis, where he graduated in 1928 from North High School.

Back in 1933, he was trying to support his wife and three young daughters on the miserable wages of a coal yard driver in open-shop Minneapolis. He saw—and he never forgot—what capitalism does to the workers.

He turned to the labor movement, to which all his energies have been devoted ever since. He was one of the first to join the organizing drive of the famous Minneapolis Drivers Local 544 led by the Trotskyists.

During the historic drivers strike of 1934, he quickly came to the fore as a cool, capable, fighting leader. This struggle made Minneapolis a union town and inspired organization of the whole Northwest.

The open-shop employers hated and feared Dobbs—but the workers loved and respected him. He was elected repeatedly as secretary-treasurer of Local 544. As secretary and chief spokesman of the AFL Teamster's Eleven State Area Committee, he led the negotiations which won the first union contract for 250,000 over-the-road drivers.

In 1940, he came with his family to New York City to devote his full time to work for the Socialist Workers Party, first as National Labor Organ-



er, then as editor of *The Militant*, the post that he now occupies.

He rose to even higher stature as an incorruptible workingclass leader during the war, when he, along with 17 other SWP leaders, held aloft the banner of socialist internationalism in the famous Minneapolis Labor Trial of 1941.

For militantly defending the right of labor to war as in peace, for refusing to recant his Marxist principles, Dobbs with his 17 comrades spent 13 months in a federal prison.

Since his release from prison in February 1944, Comrade Dobbs has plunged himself into revolutionary work with greater devotion than ever. Last year he ran as SWP candidate for Mayor of New York City.

New York's workers can have no finer and more qualified representative in the Governor's chair than Farrell Dobbs—former coal yard driver, militant union leader, organizer and editor, uncompromising battler for socialism.

## Paul L. Wylie

Candidate for Ohio General Assembly From Lucas County

Paul Wylie was born in 1908 in Louisville, Kentucky, and he received his education in the schools of Louisville and Knoxville, Tenn. He made the acquaintance of official Jim Crow and restricted opportunities for colored people early in life and first hand. As long as he can remember, he has rebelled against the injustice of discrimination and sought to combat it.

One of his first jobs was as a coal miner in the captive mines of United States Steel. He worked as a coal miner for six years where he learned the meaning, not only of back-breaking toil and low wages, but also of militant unionism.

In 1932 he moved to Toledo, Ohio, where he worked as a garage mechanic until the crash came in the early 30's. Finding himself on the street with no job, Wylie entered the movement of the unemployed where he played an active role in fighting for the rights of jobless workers thrown onto the scrapheap by the breakdown of U. S. economy.

Among the first to be drafted in 1940, he served for 11 months in the U. S. Army. Then he was discharged because he was overage and went to work in the Spicer Manufacturing Co. There he has served for three years as



a steward in his department, ably and conscientiously representing the workers who elected him. He has been an active union member ever since he started to work. He is also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Wylie has four children and his wife, Maggie, is giving capable and energetic support to his campaign.

After reading *The Militant* for many months, he came to the conclusion that the Socialist Workers Party was the organization which he had been seeking for many years. He joined it early this year to take part in the fight against capitalism and all its attendant evils. Wylie will appear on the ballot as an independent because of complications in the Ohio election laws.

Next Week: Grace Carlson and Joseph Hansen

## Join the Socialist Workers Party!

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

I would like:

☐ To join the Socialist Workers Party.

☐ To obtain further information about your organization.

☐ To attend meetings and forums of the Socialist Workers Party in my city.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

John Kelly, Democratic chairman of the Board of Elections, charged that some of the SWP petitions were circulated by enrolled Republicans. Malcolm Walker answered this slanderous statement in the Toledo Blade of Aug. 9:

"Most members of our organization were registered at one time or another as Republicans or Democrats because it is primarily from the two major parties we are able to recruit new members. Mr. Kelly asserts some of the petition circulators are enrolled Republicans. Mr. Kelly would also find if he examined the petitions more carefully that some of the circulators are also enrolled Democrats. In either case, it means that these individuals have changed their alle-

giance from a boss party to a workers' party."

In their effort to sling political mud at the SWP, the Democrats also tried to make a point of the fact that most of the petitions were notarized by a Republican clerk of the Board of Elections!

The reason for this was that the SWP, a workers' organization without the lush campaign funds of the Republicans and Democrats, had been able to reduce its expenses by having the petitions notarized at the Board of Elections. The capitalist politicians certainly make themselves ridiculous by trying to make something out of that.

The Election Board will meet tomorrow to rule on the validity of the Walker-Wylie petitions.

## SWP Candidates Gain Place On Washington State Ballot

By Clara Kaye

WASHINGTON SWP CAMPAIGN MANAGER

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 10—The Washington State Socialist Workers Party this week received official notice from the Washington Secretary of State that the party's candidates will appear on the November ballot under the designation of "Socialist Workers Party." The party has met all requirements of state election regulations.

Charles Swett, SWP candidate for U. S. Senator, greeted the good news by stating: "Now that our legal place on the Washington ballot is assured, the road ahead is clear. I shall campaign to reach as many workers as possible and acquaint them with our program—the only program that offers a practical solution to the evils of the capitalist system. It is a wretched system. I know that from bitter personal experience. Only under socialism can we live as truly free men and women."

## BEST OPPORTUNITY

Daniel Roberts, candidate for State Senator from the 31st District, a workingclass district, said: "This is the best opportunity we have yet had in this state to explain the crying need for labor representatives who are not connected with the rotten capitalist parties and who will fight for labor's demands against Wall Street and the bosses."

News stories from the big press syndicates have appeared in the local papers announcing the SWP's participation on the state ballot.

In addition to Democrats and Republicans, five minor parties besides the SWP are on the ballot: the Communist (Stalinist) Party, Socialist Party, Socialist Labor Party, Prohibition Party and Independent Progressive Party. No candidates of these parties are running for any posts contested by SWP candidates.

Indecision has marked the

SWP PROGRAM  
The SWP candidates are exposing the CP policy of backing capitalist politicians. The SWP is campaigning on a program calling for the building of an independent labor party.

SWP plans call for a big election campaign through the lumber and sawmill communities as well as major cities like Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and Bremerton. The campaign will use the radio, a sound truck, display posters and tours through the state. Friends of the SWP are showing a lively interest and campaign contributions are coming in steadily.

A combination Trotsky Memorial Meeting and Campaign Banquet will be held on August 24 at the Seattle SWP campaign headquarters, 1919 1/2 Second Avenue. Comrades Swett and Roberts will address this first SWP election rally, to which the public and especially *Militant* readers are invited. The young flourishing SWP branch in Tacoma is also making preparations for intense campaign activity.

## Our Program:

## 1. Defend labor's standard of living!

A sliding scale of wages—an escalator wage clause in all union contracts to provide automatic wage increases to meet the rising cost of living!  
Organize mass consumers committees for independent action against profiteering and price-gouging!  
Expropriate the food trusts! Operate them under workers' control!

## 2. Full employment and job security for all workers and veterans!

For the 6-hour day, 30-hour week! A sliding scale of hours—reduce the hours of work with no reduction in pay to prevent layoffs and unemployment!  
Government operation of all idle plants under workers' control!  
Unemployment insurance equal to trade union wages for workers and veterans during the entire period of unemployment!

## 3. Against all anti-labor laws and government strikebreaking!

No restrictions on the right to strike and picket!  
No injunctions! No compulsory arbitration!

## 4. Build an independent labor party!

## 5. Tax the rich, not the poor!

Repeal the payroll tax! No sales taxes!  
No taxes on incomes under \$5,000 a year!

## 6. An 18 billion dollar appropriation for government low-rent housing!

## 7. Full equality for Negroes and national minorities!

End Jim-Crow! End Anti-Semitism!

## 8. For a veterans' organization sponsored by the trade unions!

## 9. A working class answer to capitalist militarism and war.

Take the war-making powers away from Congress! Let the people vote on the question of war or peace!  
Against capitalist conscription!  
Abolish the officer caste system!  
Full democratic rights in the armed forces!  
Trade union wages for the armed forces!  
Military training of workers, financed by the government, but under control of the trade unions!

## 10. Solidarity with the revolutionary struggles of the workers in all lands!

For the complete independence of the colonial peoples!  
Withdraw all American troops from foreign soil!

## 11. For a Workers' and Farmers' Government!